



Director of Instruction: Mr. Christopher Wong

Principal: Ms. Harjinder Sandhu

Vice Principal: Mr. Scott Hughes

PAC Chairperson: Ms. Miriam Maxcy and Holly Flauto

School Liaison Trustee: Mr. Christopher Richardson



**With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).**



# Thank You for a Wonderful Year of Learning!

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end. It has been a very busy year! We have continued our learning journey through the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, and added many creative projects, lots of inquiries and sharing of histories and cultures, to engage and excite our learners. Each of us comes with our own unique gifts and it is the sharing of these gifts that makes us stronger.

This year has been full of exciting learning, projects and fun – the Grade 7 Collab Cafe, the “Rock” Musical, Henderson Fine Arts Showcase, AIRs and the display at ARTspeak gallery, Arts Umbrella Dance, Theme Days, Growing Chefs, Grade 7 Camp, Sports Day, overnight camping at school for Division 5, Grade 7 Book Tasting, Kindergarten Butterfly Release, Intermediate Baby Sitting Course, Cross Country at Trout Lake, Volleyball, Basketball, Track and Field at Swangard, Mara Fun, iPad Learning projects, Card Making, Kind Mind Project and the ConfIDANCE, Earth Day and our community clean up, CST Programs – Schools Out and Super Science Club, and ‘On Our Way to K’ sessions. . . It seems like just yesterday we began the school year and yet so much has happened!

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the students, staff, and parents for your contributions throughout this year. Because of you, there is this wonderful sense of community and an inclusive, respectful, nurturing environment for learning and teaching here at Henderson. I feel privileged to learn alongside you and I look forward to another year together filled with opportunities to engage and come together as a community of learners.

It never ceases to amaze me all the gains and growth we witness in the students over the course of a year. I am proud of all their perseverance and accomplishments. I hope all students are as proud of their achievements as we adults are. There is no greater joy than to watch our children discover their passions, solve problems, learn new skills, gain confidence, build knowledge, achieve their best, and enthusiastically participate in all the opportunities that have been provided. Learning requires patience, making mistakes, determination, persistence, support and motivation. We know that learning is hard work and challenging, but when we put in the effort, the results are so rewarding. Even when it takes more time to reach our goals, we must celebrate the progress we do make. We are pleased with the progress and how our students have risen to the occasion, even when there have been challenges.

To the families and staff that will be leaving Henderson this year, we will miss you and wish you all the best in your new communities, as you continue your learning journey.

Good luck to our grade 7’s as they begin their high school journey. We know they will take with them many fond memories of their years at Henderson. We wish them much happiness and success.

Wishing everyone a safe and fun filled summer! ❤️ Ms. Sandhu

**“We delight in the beauty of the butterfly but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.” – Maya Angelou**

# A FOND FAREWELL

The end of our year also means the departure of some staff. Leaving us this year from our teaching staff are Aubyn McTaggart, who will be consolidating her time at Shaughnessy. We are also saying goodbye to the temporary members of our SSA (School and Student Assistant) Team who have been on temporary assignment with us this year Glory Borines, Maiko Hsieh, and Sydney Frelick. We hope to see them back in September! We are also saying goodbye to Vice Principal and Resource Teacher, Mr. Hughes, who will be moving on to become the new principal of Nootka Elementary School.

We thank them for all their contributions to this learning community and wish them all the best as they continue their journey of teaching and learning.



And lastly, we have three Resource Teachers who will be retiring from teaching this year! Cher Farnham is finishing off her last year of teaching with us, spending one year at John Oliver Secondary, after a 33-year career in Quebec. Teresea Tomsics has been with us for 2 years and is retiring after a 36-year career with the Vancouver School Board. Teresa began her career in 1989 as a School and Student Assistant (SSA), and as a Youth and Family Worker (YFW). She began her teaching career in 1996. She has taught as an Inner-City Project Teacher, Classroom Teacher for grades 3-7 and as a Resource Teacher at several schools across the district. And Vicky Edmonds has been here at Henderson for the past 7 years helping steer our resource team and has spent 20 years in our district with stops at Lord Roberts, Sexsmith, Xpex and Mt. Pleasant, where she taught kindergarten, Grade 2, and Resource. Before joining us in Vancouver, Ms. Edmonds taught in Richmond for 9 years.

We congratulate all our retiring colleagues on their career accomplishments and thank them for all their service to our community and our school district. They now have time to pursue their other passions, but they know they are always welcomed back here...perhaps as TOCs! Happy retirement friends! We wish you all the best as you begin a new chapter.



## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our volunteers. We know that there were not as many opportunities to contribute this year, but thank you for pitching in when you could. Your involvement in your children's education has a positive impact on their success as a learner and enhances the learning experience of all our students, as well. Thank you for the very important role you play in our learning community.



**Thank you to our PAC!**

We would like to thank the 2024-2025 PAC Executive Members: **Miriam Maxcy** and **Holly Flauto** (Co-chairs), **Naveen Gopal** (Treasurer), **Simmi Gopal** (Communications Coordinator), **Monique Owusu** (Volunteer Coordinator), **George Owusu** (Community Engagement Coordinator), **Angela Yu**, (Hot Lunch

Coordinator), **Rash Rasoda** (Fundraising Co-ordinator) for your commitment and dedication to your roles and our school. We are lucky to have you! We appreciate all the little extras you provide to support teaching and learning. The families appreciate the leadership you provide!

"Each child is an adventure into a better life-an opportunity to change the old pattern and make it new."

-Hubert H. Humphrey

# Late Returning Students

If a student, who is currently enrolled in a Vancouver school, expects to return to their Neighbourhood School later than Wednesday, September 3, 2025, but prior to September 30th, the parent or legal guardian must fill in a form by June 27, 2025, for the student to remain enrolled in the school. Forms to indicate your late returning date were sent home in an email. If you for some reason did not receive one, please contact the school office.

Due to limited space and resources, all students' attendance must be verified by noon Thursday, September 4, 2025. If we are unaware that your child is returning late, they might lose their spot at Henderson and this spot may be filled with other students on the waitlist.

## School Opening 2025-2026

School is scheduled to re-open for the 2025-2026 school year on **Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**. On this first day of school all students going into **Grades 1 to 7** are expected to arrive at 9:00 am and report as follows:

- Last year's Grades K - 6 to last year's classrooms; All new students Grades 1-7 to the library
- All new Kindergarten students are to arrive at 9:30am. Please refer to the gradual entry schedule which will be sent out this month.



We will be in session for only a short time. **Dismissal will be at 10:00am**. We hope to have all students settled into their new classrooms by the second week. Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the first full day for students in grades 1 to 7 and students will need to bring a lunch. \* Should there be any changes, you will be notified.

In our school plan for 2024-2025 we identified the following inquiry question/goals:



- 1.What educational practices, strategies, programs and school wide common language might we implement to increase students' skill development in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to better self- regulate and thus be more equipped to engage in learning?
- 2.How can we make First Peoples teaching and learning more authentic?

We are currently updating our plan for next year and will be sharing it later this month. If you wish to provide any feedback on what you would like to see included, please email either [hsandhu@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:hsandhu@vsb.bc.ca) or [shughes@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:shughes@vsb.bc.ca)

## June is INDIGNEOUS HERITAGE MONTH

In Canada, June is designated as National Indigenous History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich history, heritage, and resilience of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. This month is an opportunity to learn about Indigenous cultures, traditions, and experiences, and to acknowledge the ongoing contributions of Indigenous Peoples to Canadian society. Each and every day at Henderson, we try to acknowledge and celebrate the history, heritage, and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, who have lived on this land since time immemorial. We are trying to weave indigenous principles of learning into our practice.



# School Calendar 2025-2026

Calendar 2025-26  
**JOHN HENDERSON**  
Elementary School



SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW

Number of Days in Session	187
Number of Days of Instruction	180
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	5 Professional Development Days 1 Non-Instructional Day 1 Administrative Day (June 26)

IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 13, 2025
Remembrance Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 19, 2025
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 22, 2025-Friday, January 2, 2026
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 5, 2026
Family Day	Monday, February 16, 2026
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 13, 2026
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 16-Friday, March 27, 2026
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday March 30, 2026
Good Friday	Friday, April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	Monday April 6, 2026
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18, 2026
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 25, 2026
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 26, 2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS  
(SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)

Friday, September 19, 2025	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 24, 2025	Professional Development Day (Province wide)
Friday, November 21, 2025	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Friday, February 13, 2026	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, April 20, 2026	Non-Instructional Day (District wide)
Friday, May 15, 2026	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)

PARENT CONFERENCE DATES

EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES

Wednesday, October 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	2:00 pm
Thursday, October 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	2:00 pm
Wednesday, April 22, 2026	2:00 pm
Thursday, April 23, 2026	2:00 pm

John Henderson Elementary School Bell Schedule 2025-2026	
9:00-10:30	Class Time
10:30-10:50	Recess
10:50-12:10	Class Time
12:10-12:55	Lunch
12:55-2:55	Class Time
2:55-2:58	Flexible Class Time

"A child's life is like a piece of paper on which everyone who passes by leaves an Impression."

# SCHOOL ORGANIZATION 2025-2026

We are unable to comment on the placement of students for the upcoming school year. One of the main reasons for this, currently, is the ebb and flow of students in and out of the school. We will be unsure of the exact placement of students until the children are **all counted** on the first day in September. As well, although we know that everyone is anxious to know who their classroom teachers may be next year, any changes that take place due to enrollment may not only affect the students, but the teachers teaching a particular grade. **Currently**, the division of classes and the classroom teachers are as follows:

Division 1, Gr. 7: Mr. Kevan Chao - Room 206  
Division 2, Gr. 7: Ms. Emily Griffiths- Room 209  
Division 3, Gr. 6/7: Mr. Daniel Wong - Room 204  
Division 4, Gr. 6: Mr. Greg Alstad - Room 113  
Division 5, Gr. 5/6: Ms. Ineke Lievens - Room 114  
Division 6, Gr. 5: Ms. Katie Smith - Room 117  
Division 7, Gr. 4/5: Mr. Robyn Craigie - Room 210  
Division 8, Gr.4: Ms. Mahima Parmar - Room 210  
Division 9, Gr. 4: Ms. Katie Muller - Room 116  
Division 10, Gr. 3: Ms. Joan Jung - Room 115  
Division 11, Gr. 3: Mr. Ian Poole - Room 176  
Division 12, Gr. 3: Mr. Rod Ratzlaff —Room 181  
Division 13, Gr. 2/3: Ms. Elaine Li - Room 174  
Division 14, Gr. 2: Ms. Marnie Candido – Room 101  
Division 15, Gr. 1/2: Mr. Darion Lung - Room 205  
Division 16, Gr. 1/2: Ms. Sheri Hawksworth - Room 106  
Division 17, Gr. 1: Ms. Marguerite Leahy – Room 104  
Division 18, Gr. 1: Ms. Juliene Marquenda - Room 180  
Division 19, Kindergarten: Ms. Jennifer Marsland-Root - Room 103  
Division 20, Kindergarten: Ms. Megan Guenter - Room 102  
Division 21, Kindergarten: Ms. Amanda Bonetti/Ms. Michelle Martin - Room 105

Prep Teachers: Ms. Teala Mackowetsky,  
Ms. Sarah Walker  
Ms. Kimberly Matterson

Teacher Librarian: Ms. Kimberly Matterson

Curriculum Enhancement Teacher:  
Ms. Birgid Lehmann

Resource Teachers: Ms. Kim Seto  
Ms. Leslie Roosa  
Ms. Jas Grewal  
Ms. Katherine  
Ms. Andrea Shelford  
Ms. Katherine Itakura  
TBA  
TBA

Counsellor: Ms. Baylee Wilkinson

These grades are subject to change based on our enrollment in September. This is one of the reasons it is imperative for us to know if students are returning to the school, moving, or returning late. Thank you for your consideration.

**"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present, touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life."**

# INSPIRING the CHEF in students throughout the year

Cooking is a valuable life skill that teaches children about nutrition and food safety, as well as building math, science, literacy, fine motor skills and exposure to other cultures. Many of the teachers have been teaching students how to cook safely and encouraging the students' interest and excitement in healthy foods and cooking. This has happened in classrooms, in ADST, through Growing Chefs program and with our SSAs in small group settings.

Cooking is a great activity to participate at home as well. There are many resources out there to help families get started. The website [Eat Right](#) has some great age appropriate tips for teaching kids to cook.

There are so many reasons to have your child start cooking at home! Here are just a few:



- Cooking together provides quality family time and gets children away from their devices.
- Preparing food helps child appreciate the effort it takes to make delicious home cooked meals and thus appreciate their family cooks
- Cooking expands their palates as they are more willing to try new foods when they prepare them.
- Making meals helps boost confidence as they see a finished and taste a finished project after each effort.
- Following a recipe helps with reading and math skills.
- The cooking process demonstrates lessons in chemistry.
- Shopping for the grocery teaches financial literacy and where our grocery comes from.
- The recipes you choose can also teach about different cultures.
- Cooking is a life skill, when done together requires teamwork.

Have we convinced you to start cooking together this summer? You can also check out summer programs available for students such as: [Little Kitchen Academy](#), [West Coast Food](#), and [Nourish Vancouver](#)



Education is the  
passport to the  
future, for tomorrow  
belongs to those who  
prepare for it today.



# What to Do this Summer with Your Child

## THE VALUE OF PLAY FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

“Children need the freedom and time to play. Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.” – Kay Redfield Jamison

Children learn to interact in the world around them through explorative play. Through play children develop their creativity, imagination, dexterity, coordination, curiosity, and problem-solving skills. Play is important to a child’s development of physical, cognitive, and social emotional learning skills.

You might wonder how this is possible. Think about watching your child soon after they learned to move. Remember when everything they came across, they used their five senses to make sense of them: seeing (curious of everything they come across), touching (grabbing, shaking, manipulating), tasting (everything went into their mouth), smelling (maybe things went under or into the nose), listening (if it made noise, they continued to make it). Maria Montessori believed, “*The hands are the instrument of a man’s intelligence.*” And as young children struggle to create a desired effect with a toy, they discover that it isn’t always easy. They realize that there is perhaps a problem to be solved and that they must practice acquiring and improve the skills necessary to achieve their goal.

Play becomes a social enterprise once you add another child.

We hope that this summer that you will be able to enjoy all the natural beauty we have at our fingertips here in Vancouver. Enjoy the mountains, hiking trails, beaches, parks, and water parks. Following are links for some ideas, places to go and things to do:

<https://www.destinationvancouver.com/inspiration/family-and-kids>

<https://vancouver.kidsoutandabout.com/content/top-20-places-take-kids-and-around-vancouver>

<https://healthyfamilyliving.com/low-cost-free-summer-activities-in-metro-vancouver/>

## THE POWER OF STORIES – Mirrors, Windows & Glass Doors

We need diverse books because we need books in which children can find reflections (mirrors) of themselves. Books also allow them to see others in the world around them (windows), and the books allow them to enter those other worlds (glass doors) – the sentiments of Rudine Sims

Bishop **Visit the Vancouver Public Library (VPL)**

## HOW I CAN HELP MY CHILD READ:

- Get your child to talk
- Help your children understand the story
- Praise your child
- Encourage your child by listening
- Relate the book to your life
- Ask your child good questions while reading
- With younger children, point to words when you read
- With older children, take turns reading
- Let them practice
- Choose books carefully
- Let your child re-read favourite stories to you over and over again
- Have fun!



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# Community Programs for the Summer

## Ethos Lab Programs

Youth involved with Ethos Lab are empowered with core skills and self belief to pursue post secondary education and follow career paths in innovation. Our curated programs expose youth to a wide range of STEAM activities, inspiring creativity and critical thinking.

Register them today for one of our immersive, fun, and trajectory changing programs!



If you want to register your youth or know any youth who may be interested [learn more here](#) or email them at [community@ethoslab.ca](mailto:community@ethoslab.ca).



The **KL Soccer Club** will be hosting inclusive summer programs and camps, starting June 17th, for youth of all skill levels, from beginners to advanced players. The goal is to create a fun and supportive environment where every child can enjoy the game and grow through sport. Financial assistance is available to help make participation possible for all families. For more information, visit [www.klmsoccer.ca](http://www.klmsoccer.ca) or reply to the email.



## Sunset Youth Day Camp (12-16 yrs)

The leaders will be planning weekly activities, out-trips involving community engagement, leadership development activities, interactive workshops baking, team-building activities, and game shows that revolved around the week's themes.

Themes will revolve around issues we believed to be pertinent to youth. We aim to create a safe, fun and welcoming environment to allow the youth to freely and openly express their views and perspectives. Activities and planned workshops are provided to give youth the opportunity to have a deeper understanding on each topic and promote positive learning outcomes.

For more information, please contact Community Youth Worker 604 718-6514, [rosa.aravena@vancouver.ca](mailto:rosa.aravena@vancouver.ca). (A program flyer will be home as an attachment to the newsletter!)

# Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parents and Caregivers play an important role in the school and we encourage them to participate as much as they can. Henderson School is well supported by our PAC. The PAC provides wonderful support in many areas of the school— planning and organizing special events, fundraising for field trips and school needs, and communicating with parents, caregivers, and the school. They are always open to new members and welcome both new families and returning families to become involved. For more information you can contact the PAC Executive at [johnhendersonpac@gmail.com](mailto:johnhendersonpac@gmail.com)

### Upcoming meetings (no RSVP needed to attend):

Meetings are on Mondays in the Nest (school library). Doors open at 6:00 pm and childminding is provided. The last meeting of the year is June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. This will be the AGM when voting will be held for next year's executive.

# Mark Your Calendars



- **June 11<sup>th</sup>** - Theme Day - Rainbow Day
- **June 13<sup>th</sup>** - Mara Fun 2025
- **June 16<sup>th</sup>** - PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm library
- **June 20<sup>th</sup>** - Theme Day - Fancy Friday
- **June 20<sup>th</sup>** - Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony @ 10:15 am
- **June 25<sup>th</sup>** - Learning Summaries go home for the last term
- **June 26<sup>th</sup>** - Last day of School for Students