wəkʷaṅəs tə syaqʷəm
Elementary School Weekly Newsletter

October 30, 2026 / #8 | Website / Phone 604-713-4686

wəkʷaṅəs tə syaqʷəm School Community,

Halloween Safety Reminder

With Halloween taking place tomorrow, we encourage all families to help make the evening safe and enjoyable for everyone. A few simple precautions can go a long way:

- **Young children should be accompanied by an adult** while trick-or-treating.
- **Older students should review their route with family members** and agree on a return time before heading out.
- **Stay alert while walking.** Avoid using phones, texting, or wearing headphones that may distract from traffic and surroundings.
- **Use crosswalks and cross at designated intersections** whenever possible.
- **Be aware of vehicles** and make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
- **Choose well-lit routes** and consider adding reflective materials or flashlights to costumes to improve visibility.

We wish all our students and families a fun and safe Halloween!

Artist in Residence Spotlight: Liz Oakley

As part of our Artist in Residence program this year, we are pleased to introduce Liz Oakley, an interdisciplinary artist originally from New York City who is currently completing a Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts at Simon Fraser University.

Liz's artistic practice is rooted in an expanded and creative approach to puppetry, exploring how objects, materials, spaces, and everyday items can be brought to life through art. Their work includes sculptures, drawings, puppets, installations, video, books, and performances. They are particularly passionate about creating with accessible materials such as cardboard, newspaper, and papier-mâché, and enjoy helping others discover the creative possibilities found in everyday objects.

Through their work, Liz encourages curiosity, imagination, and creative problem-solving. They are interested in how art can help us see familiar things in new ways, ask thoughtful questions, and explore new possibilities. When working with students, they value hands-on collaboration and enjoy creating opportunities for learners to dream, design, build, and create together.

Students will have opportunities to participate in engaging artistic experiences that celebrate creativity, experimentation, and teamwork. We are excited to see how Liz's playful and imaginative approach inspires our learners this the year.

Be sure to watch for our next newsletter, where we will introduce the third Artist in Residence who will be working alongside our students this year.

PAC Apple Fundraiser

The wəkʷaṅəs tə syaqʷəm PAC is excited to announce their **November Apple Fundraiser**! These farm-fresh apples are exceptional in quality and available at prices lower than many grocery stores. Each box sold raises **$8–$10** for our school, helping support resources and opportunities that enrich students' academic, physical, and social growth.

Ordering is completely online, and the deadline to place your order is **Saturday, November 7, 2026**. All orders must be picked up after school on **Thursday, November 19, 2026**.

Please feel free to share the order link with family and friends and thank you for helping make this fundraiser a success!

Order here: https://tinyurl.com/58hxkrh3

Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child born in **2022**? Kindergarten registration for the **2027-2028 school year** opens on **November 1, 2026**. Families are encouraged to register during the priority registration period to support school planning and placement.

Children born in 2022 are eligible to begin Kindergarten in September 2027. Priority registration runs from **November 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027**.

For information about eligibility, required documentation, and the registration process, please visit the Vancouver School Board Kindergarten Registration page: HERE

We look forward to welcoming our newest learners and families to our school community!

Musqueam Day – Honouring Strength and Justice

Each year, November 1 marks Musqueam Day, a time to recognize the strength, leadership, and perseverance of the Musqueam people in protecting their rights and lands. Musqueam Day commemorates the landmark *R. v. Guerin* (1984) Supreme Court of Canada decision, an important milestone in the advancement of Indigenous rights in Canada. The *Guerin* decision confirmed that the Crown has a legal duty to act in the best interests of First Nations when dealing with their lands, making it a cornerstone of modern Indigenous rights law in Canada. The Guerin decision teaches us that it is important to be honest, respectful, and to listen to others. As we learn about reconciliation, we work together to build caring relationships with Indigenous peoples and create a school where everyone feels welcome, valued, and included.

Have a safe and restful weekend,

Brad Toews
Principal
wəkʷaṅəs tə syaqʷəm Elementary School

Important Dates 2026 -2027

- **Sunday, November 1, 2026:** *Kindergarten Registration Opens (students born in 2022)*
- **Wednesday, November 11, 2026:** *Remembrance Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Friday, November 20, 2026:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Thursday, December 10, 2026:** *Winter Concert – 11am in the gym*
- **Friday, December 11, 2026:** *Pancake Breakfast and PJ Day*
- **Tuesday, December 15, 2026:** *Report Card #1 is accessible*
- **Friday, December 18, 2026:** *Last Day of School Before Winter Break*
- **Monday, January 4, 2027:** *First Day Back from Winter Break*
- **Monday, January 11, 2027:** *Saleema Noon Parent Night – please see newsletter post*
- **Tuesday, February 9, 2027:** *Grade 6 Immunizations*
- **Friday, February 12, 2027:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Monday, February 15, 2027:** *Family Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Tuesday, March 9, 2027:** *Report Card #2 is accessible*
- **Friday, March 12, 2027:** *Last Day of School Before Spring Break*
- **Monday, March 29, 2027:** *Easter Monday Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Tuesday, March 30, 2027:** *First Day Back from Spring Break*
- **Monday, April 19, 2027:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Tuesday, April 27, 2027:** *Composite/Class Photo Day*
- **Wednesday & Thursday, April 28 & 29, 2027:** *Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm*
- **Thursday, May 6, 2027:** *The Big One @ 2! – Earthquake Drill*
- **Thursday & Friday, May 6 & 7, 2027:** *Grade 7 Camp Summit*
- **Thursday, May 20, 2027:** *Sport's Day*
- **Friday, May 21, 2027:** *Professional Develop Day – No School*
- **Monday, May 24, 2027:** *Victoria Day Stat Holiday – No school*
- **Wednesday, May 26, 2027:** *On Our Way to K! – New Kindergarten Welcome*
- **Wednesday, June 2, 2027:** *Spring Concert @ 11am and 4pm*
- **Thursday, June 3, 2027:** *Kindergarten Immunizations*
- **Wednesday, June 23, 2027:** *Grade Seven Moving Forward Ceremony*
- **Thursday, June 24, 2027:** *Report Card #3 Go Home*
- **Tuesday, June 29, 2027:** *Last Day of School!*
- **Tuesday, September 7, 2027:** *First Day for Students – (9:00-10:00am, One Hour Only)*

Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent or late, please call ***604-713-5159 Ext. 12*** or Email ***begsafearrival@vsb.bc.ca*** by 9:00 AM.

Please do not call the school office.

PAC News

The PAC is a great way to become involved in your child's educational and school life and contribute to the school. The PAC's main roles are to promote the education and welfare of students, encourage parent involvement in the school, advise the school on matters relating to the school, and contribute to a sense of community within the school and between the school, home, and neighbourhood. Meetings are typically held once a month, from September to June.

The next PAC meeting of 2026/2027 is November 18 in the library and online

Childminding is provided for parents attending in person. Please arrive a few minutes early to drop off your child(ren).

PAC Information and meeting minutes can be found: HERE