



L'ÉCOLE BILINGUE

Friday January 9, 2026

Newsletter #9

Evelyn Harcus, Principal
Louise Plante, Vice-Principal
Christopher Wong, Director of Instruction



Dear LEB Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2026 stretch of the school year! We hope that you and your family enjoyed a restful and joyful two-week winter break.

Please note that **Monday, January 12** is a professional development day for staff, and **there will be no school for students**. On this day, staff will be continuing to work toward our school-wide math goal and will be learning alongside **Janice Novakowski**. We invite families to explore her website to learn more about her work; there are also family resources available here: [Team 1 – Early Family Math](#)

For more ideas for family math games and activities, as well as numeracy-related suggested storybooks, please check out Janice's site.

In this first newsletter of the year, we are also pleased to share the **VSB Diversity Calendar for 2025–26**. While Christmas is widely celebrated, we recognize and honour that many of our families and staff observe a variety of special holidays throughout the year. Whatever holidays you celebrate, the LEB team wishes you health, happiness, and every good wish for the 2026 new year.

We look forward to continuing to support your child's learning and development in the months ahead.

All our best,
Evelyn Harcus, Principal
Louise Plante, Vice-Principal

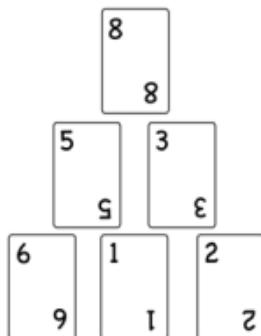
Grades
1-2

Part-Whole Triangles

Math Concepts: Add numbers from 1 to 10, number bonds**Materials:** deck of playing cards**Players:** 2

Set up: Use playing cards from 1 to 10. Each player is dealt 6 cards face up, and these cards are placed in a pyramid from top to bottom in the order they are dealt - 1 card in the top row, two cards in the second row, and three cards in the third row. There is a draw pile with one card turned over to start a discard pile.

Play: During a turn, a player chooses the top discard card or the unknown card at the top of the draw pile. The chosen card must replace a card they already have, and the replaced card is put in the discard pile.



Goal: The goal for each player is to create a 6-card pyramid where each card is the sum of the two cards below it. The example above is almost complete - the player just needs to fix the left-hand corner to be a 4 so that the 5 will be the sum of 4 + 1. The first player to achieve a completed pyramid wins.

– DISCUSSION AND TIPS –

Discuss strategies for the best place to put a card you don't want to use. Also, discuss strategies for what to do when you know that your opponent needs one of your cards - how do you avoid discarding it?

Discuss strategies for what to do with small or large cards early in the game.

– VARIATIONS –

Experiment with smaller or larger ranges of cards to accommodate the skills of younger or older players.

Use a difference pyramid instead, where each card is the difference of the two cards below it.

Use a ten-card pyramid for a longer game.

For more ideas for family math games and activities and even numeracy related suggested storybook – please check out Janice's site.

OUR VSB Diversity and Inclusion Calendar 2025-2026

September

5 Mawlid-al-Nabi ☪
 7 - 13 Mennonite Heritage Week
 21 - 27 Gender Equality Week
 22 - 28 International Week of the Deaf People
 22 - 24 Rosh Hashana ☪
 22 - 2 Navratri ☪
 23 International Day of Sign Languages
 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day



November

Indigenous Disability Awareness Month
 Transgender Awareness Month

1 Musqueam Day
 2 Trans Parent Day
 5 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib ☪
 7 International Inuit Day
 8 Indigenous Veterans Day
 11 Remembrance Day
 13 - 19 Trans Awareness Week
 16 International Day for Tolerance
 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance
 20 World Child Day
 22 Holodomor Memorial Day
 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tebh Bahdur ☪

January 2026

Tamil Heritage Month

1 Ochetookeeskaw - Kissing Day - Hand Shaking Day (Métis) New Year's Day
 3 Mahayana New Year ☪
 7 Eastern Orthodox Christmas ☪
 13 Maghi ☪
 15 Black Excellence Day
 17 Raoul Wallenberg Day, 1st Canadian Honorary Citizen Shevat ☪
 20 - 5 Guru Gobind Singh Birthday/Praakash ☪
 21 Lincoln Alexander Day
 23 Vasant Panchami
 24 World Day for African and Afrodiasporan Culture (A UNESCO adopted day)
 27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day
 29 National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia

March

Irish Heritage Month

1 Zero Discrimination Day
 2 - 3 Purim ☪
 3 Lantern Festival
 3 Magha Puja Day ☪
 4 - 6 Holi ☪
 8 International Women's Day
 15 International Day to Combat Islamophobia
 19 - 27 Chaitra Navratri ☪
 20 Two-Spirit Indigenous Celebration Day (BC Only)
 20 Nowruz - Iranian (Persian) New Year
 20 - 23 Eid-al-Fitr Celebration
 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
 21 World Down Syndrome Day
 25 International Day of Remembrance of Slave Victims and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
 26 Ram Navami ☪
 31 International Trans Day of Visibility

May

Asian Heritage Month

Canadian Jewish Heritage Month

1 Vesak
 5 Cinco-de-Mayo
 5 Dutch Heritage Day
 5 Red Dress Day
 10 Bear Witness Day
 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT)
 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
 21 - 23 Shavuot ☪
 23 Anniversary of Komagata Maru
 24 Buddha's Birthday ☪
 24 - 29 The Hajj ☪
 26 - 30 Eid-al-Adha
 30 Guru Arjan Martyrdom ☪

July

Disability Pride Month

1 Sant Jeja Day
 14 International Non-Binary People's Day
 18 Nelson Mandela Day



September

Canadian Islamic History Month
 Community Inclusion Month
 German Heritage Month
 Latinx Heritage Month
 25LGBTQIA+ History Month
 Women's History Month

1 National Seniors Day
 1 - 2 Yom Kippur ☪
 2 Dussehra ☪
 6 - 13 Sukkot ☪
 10 World Mental Health Day
 11 International Day of the Girl
 11 National Coming Out Day
 14 - 15 Simchat Torah ☪
 15 International Pronouns Day
 16 Spirit Day
 18 Persons Day
 20 Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth ☪
 20 Diwali/Bandi Chhor Divas
 24 Climate Action Day
 26 Intersex Day of Remembrance

October

Canadian Islamic History Month
 Community Inclusion Month
 German Heritage Month
 Latinx Heritage Month
 25LGBTQIA+ History Month
 Women's History Month

1 National Seniors Day
 1 - 2 Yom Kippur ☪
 2 Dussehra ☪
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 24 Climate Action Day
 26 Intersex Day of Remembrance

December

1 World AIDS Day
 2 International Day for Abolition of Slavery
 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
 8 Bodhi Day ☪
 9 International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime
 10 Human Rights Day
 14 - 22 Hanukkah ☪
 21 Winter Solstice (Northern Hemisphere)
 24 Quivisukvik Begins (Inuit Winter Festival)
 25 Christmas ☪
 26 - 1 Kwanzaa

January 2026

Black History Month

1 World Hijab Day
 15 Nirvana Day ☪
 15 Maha Shivaratri ☪
 16 Louis Riel Day
 17 Lunar New Year/Têt - Year of the Horse
 17 - 21 Ramadan ☪
 18 Ash Wednesday ☪
 20 World Day of Social Justice
 21 International Mother Language Day
 25 - 1 Pink Shirt Day
 27 - 28 Hoobieye Niaga's New Year

February

Black History Month

1 World Hijab Day
 15 Nirvana Day ☪
 15 Maha Shivaratri ☪
 16 Louis Riel Day
 17 Lunar New Year/Têt - Year of the Horse
 17 - 21 Ramadan ☪
 18 Ash Wednesday ☪
 20 World Day of Social Justice
 21 International Mother Language Day
 25 - 1 Pink Shirt Day
 27 - 28 Hoobieye Niaga's New Year

March

Autism Acceptance Month

Genocide Remembrance, Condemnation & Prevention Month

Sikh Heritage Month

1 - 9 Pesach (Passover) ☪
 2 Hanuman Jayanti ☪
 2 World Autism Acceptance Day
 3 Good Friday ☪
 5 Easter Sunday ☪
 6 Easter Monday ☪
 8 International Day of Pink
 13 - 19 BC Bangla Heritage Week
 13 - 14 Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) ☪
 14 Vaisakhi ☪
 19 Non-Binary Parents Day
 28 Day of Mourning

April

Filipinx Heritage Month

Italian Heritage Month

National Indigenous Heritage Month

Portuguese Heritage Month

Pride Month

16 - 17 The Islamic New Year (Arabic New Year or Hijri New Year) ☪
 21 National Indigenous People's Day/Métis Day
 21 Métis Nation Day (also called "Joseph's Day")
 23 National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism
 24 St. Jean-Baptiste Day
 27 Canadian Multiculturalism Day
 28 Stonewall (Origins of Pride)

May

June

July

August

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Disability Pride Month
 1 Sant Jeja Day
 14 International Non-Binary People's Day
 18 Nelson Mandela Day



We acknowledge there are more religions than represented here. If you do not see your religion represented, please email to info@vsb.bc.ca.

Symbols for Religious Days of Significance
 The symbols in the table below are widely known to represent International organized religions.

●	Buddhism
●	Christianity
●	Hinduism
●	Islam
●	Judaism
●	Sikhism

School Closures in the event of extreme weather:



Be in the know, winter is coming!

Follow VSB on social media to stay updated about school closures due to severe weather.

During extreme weather conditions (heavy snowfall, extreme cold, freezing rain, extreme heat, etc.) VSB schools will remain open if possible.

If a District-wide closure is necessary, it will be announced by 6:30 a.m.

Stay updated:

Facebook: Vancouver School Board

Instagram: @vsb39

X: @vsb39

VSB website: vsb.bc.ca

VSB Vancouver School Board

Headlice

Please be advised that there have been some cases of headlice that have been reported to the office. If your child is in a class where headlice has been reported, then you will receive specific notification.

Please be reminded that headlice is not a medical condition and is quite common in elementary-aged children. We realize it can be an inconvenience to treat, so here are some tips in helping to mitigate:

- Tie up long hair
- Add 10-15 drops of tea tree oil to your family's shampoo bottles (the scent repels lice)
- Remind your child to be mindful in **reducing head-to-head contact** (this is the ONLY way headlice is spread)
- As a precaution, check your child's hair regularly, particularly behind the ears and around the base of the neck.

Punctuality

A friendly reminder to all that **school starts at 9:00am** and we would like to emphasize the importance of punctuality. Arriving at school on time is crucial as it sets a positive tone for the day and helps establish good habits that will benefit our students throughout their lives.

Please note that if you are late for school, the clipboard for late sign-in is on the table outside the office. Parents/students are asked to say goodbye by the office area and students are expected to walk to class on their own. Thank you for your understanding.

Dress for the weather

The rainy and cold weather upon us! Students are expected to be outside during our two recesses, therefore, please ensure that your child is coming to school dressed to play outside. Sending a change of clothes is a good idea.

Cold & Flu Season Reminder

Cold and flu season is here, we ask that families keep children home if they are feeling unwell, especially if they have a **fever, persistent cough, or excessive nasal congestion**, as these symptoms can be highly contagious.

Your help in keeping our school community healthy is greatly appreciated.

LEB PAC NEWS

PAC Updates - Subscribe!

The school newsletter shares official school information only. Updates from the LEB Parent Advisory Council (PAC) - such as early notice of lunch and after-school programs, PAC-led events and initiatives, volunteer and fundraising opportunities, and how PAC funds support LEB students come through the PAC bi-weekly newsletter.

Subscribe at <https://lebpac.ca/newsletter> so you don't miss out on important updates. Join other LEB families and stay in the loop. Questions? Contact the PAC at hello@lebpac.ca.

Important Dates:

Monday, January 12 – Pro-D Day – No school for students

Wednesday, February 4 – Saleema Noon Body Science parent workshop via Zoom at 6:30pm (Note: session will not be recorded for privacy reasons. More information to come)

Friday, February 13 – Pro-D Day – No school for students

Monday, February 16 – Family Day holiday – No school

Tuesday, March 10 – Learning Update #2 goes home

Friday, March 13 – Last day before spring break

Monday, March 30 – First day back after spring break