



# MACCORKINDALE NEWSLETTER

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*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) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

MacCorkindale Families,

As we approach the end of 2024, I am amazed at how quickly this term has flown by! Our school has been buzzing with activity, especially as we prepare for our much-anticipated Winter Concert. The excitement and energy from our students and staff are truly inspiring.

This newsletter is packed with important information as we wrap up the year. In just a couple of weeks, written learning updates will be sent home. I encourage you to use these updates as an opportunity to talk with your child about their learning journey. Celebrate their brilliance, joy, and growth together.



December is a special time to reflect on family and the joy of sharing meals with loved ones. We hope you find moments of rest and celebration during the holidays.

From our families to yours, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and all the best for 2025.

## Winter 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



## Winter Concert

We're excited to announce our upcoming Winter Concert and share important details about ticket distribution and a special fundraising initiative.



### Ticket Distribution Timeline:

**December 5:** A notice was sent home with ticket request information.

**December 9:** Return ticket request forms to the office (due date).

**December 13:** Tickets will be distributed to families who requested them.

**December 16:** Extra tickets, if available, will be distributed to families who requested more.

Each family is entitled to **two tickets**. Please note, due to fire regulations, **everyone must have a ticket** to attend.

We're also fundraising for the local Food Bank during the concert. Donations can be made online at [this link](#) or by cash at the door. Your support will help families in need this holiday season.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher. We look forward to celebrating with you!

## Photography at School Events

With our Winter Concert around the corner, a friendly reminder for everyone about photography etiquette. When taking pictures (or video) during school and classroom events, please focus on photographing only your own child unless you have explicit permission from other parents.

In addition, when sharing these moments on social media, let's **be mindful of privacy and consent**. Kindly limit your posts to images of **your own child** unless you've received permission from other parents.



Let's continue to enjoy these moments together while respecting each other's boundaries.

## Lost and Found



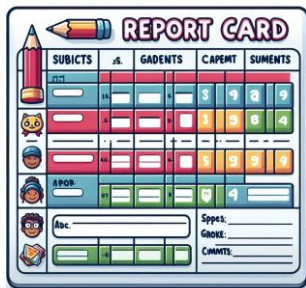
Items in the Lost and Found are located in the main hallway. Kindly collect any items belonging to your family before the winter break as items not collected will be donated to charity.

## New Lunch

We are now in week two of our "new" lunchtime routine, and students are doing a great job following the School's Code of Conduct. They have also been enjoying their outdoor playtime and engaging in positive interactions. So far, we've seen a noticeable decrease in incidents and injuries, which is encouraging!



## Report Cards



Written Learning Updates will be sent home with students on Monday, December 16, 2024. The school board will be providing an online information session about understanding the learning updates.

### Attention: Report cards are coming!

Got questions? Wondering what the proficiency scale means for your child? Looking for other ways to help your child learn? Join VSB's session for parents/caregivers: Understanding Elementary Report Cards!

When: December 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Where: [Online Information Session](#)

Got questions already? Submit them [here!](#)

## Respiratory Illness Season

The following information is provided for parents by Vancouver Coastal Health regarding things to consider if their child feels unwell.

Things to consider if your child feels unwell:

1. The wellbeing of your child. Without proper rest, a child may have a hard time fighting an illness or be at risk for other illnesses.
2. The ability of your child to actively take part and learn at school.
3. The school staff cannot care for a sick child and give them the support that they may need.
4. The protection of other children.



Please keep your child home if they:

- Have a fever
- Are too sick to take part in all normal school activities.
- Have a suspected or known communicable disease (i.e. strep throat, chicken pox, measles).
- Is vomiting or has diarrhea. It is recommended that students be symptom free at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Keep your child home until they are able to participate fully in normal school activities or as told by a health care provider.

Please let the school know your child's symptoms, as per the school's call back procedures.

If the school finds it necessary to send your child home because of illness, please make sure you have arranged an emergency contact if you are not available. Inform your school of these arrangements.

*If your child is too sick to go outside during break times, they/she/he is too sick to come to school.*

## Kindergarten Registration for 2025-26

### Kindergarten registration for children born in 2020 began on November 1

All kindergarten applicants are required to complete an online application for their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for District Choice programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or make a cross-boundary application to attend a non-catchment school. The priority registration period for kindergarten opens on **November 1** and closes on **January 31**. Students who submit an online application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for kindergarten is a **2-step process**:

**Step 1:** Online Application (ApplyNow)

- Completion of an online application form (<https://applynow.vsb.bc.ca/>) for the school year **2025-26**

**Step 2:** Verification of documentation

- Contact your English catchment school office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation
- Bring supporting documentation to your English catchment school office during your scheduled appointment

Supporting documents needed:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records
5. Court orders/documents (if applicable)

If you want to apply for a District Choice Program or cross boundary, you must **first apply to your English catchment elementary school**. District Choice Programs and cross boundary applications will be accepted in early 2025. For more information, go to: [govsb.ca/kchoice](https://govsb.ca/kchoice) and [govsb.ca/crossboundary](https://govsb.ca/crossboundary)

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space\* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

#### Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 31

1. **In-catchment** kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 31 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.
5. In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at either catchment site, students will be placed at a neighbouring school until space becomes available.

#### Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31<sup>st</sup>

In-catchment kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31 will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space, their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

**Note:** There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31.

In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at either catchment site, students will be placed at a neighbouring school until space becomes available.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit the VSB website: [govsb.ca/kindergarten](https://govsb.ca/kindergarten)

\* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedure 300).



1 Apply Online



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents

### Skating Field Trips

In the new year, all classes will enjoy at least two skating field trips between January and March. Notices with details and payment information will be sent home before the break. Please remember to check your child's backpack or agenda regularly, as this is a particularly busy time of year.



### Poppy Fund



Thank you to those families who contributed to this year's Poppy Fund. We were able to collect \$40.65 to support veterans and their families.

### Community Connections Programming

Community Connections programming will begin in January for Grades 5-7 students. This year's activity is quidditch, a game inspired by Harry Potter. Ms. Tricia has already connected with interested students. Response was overwhelming, families will be contacted to confirm participation due to limited enrolment.



### Important Dates

Tuesday, December 10	Killarney Band Performance
Thursday, December 12	Kindergarten and Gr 1 (pick up) Hearing Test
Monday, December 16	Learning Updates Sent Home
Wednesday, December 18	Winter Concert (1:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.)
Friday, December 20	BYB Assembly
Dec 23-Jan 3	Winter Break



### Planning Ahead



Monday, January 6	School Re-opens
Monday, January 20	Pro-D- NO School for Students
January 27-24	Just Dance Workshops
Monday, January 31	BYB Assembly

### PAC News

Happy December!

Thank you to the families that participated in our Purdy's fundraiser. It's initiatives like these that help us fund fun activities for the school community.

The next hot lunch session is now open for orders, please get your orders in before January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025.

Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help facilitate our hot lunch program. We are always looking for more people to help hand out hot lunches on Fridays so if you are available to help, please email us.

Our next PAC meeting will be on January 28th @ 6:30p.m and we look forward to seeing you there!

Warm regards, **MacCorkindale PAC**