



# 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

With the arrival of autumn, we're seeing the changing colours of the season—and the return of rainy days! Please remember to send your children to school with weather-appropriate clothing, including rain boots, jackets, and umbrellas, to help keep them warm and dry throughout the day.

Our cross-country team has been training with great energy and commitment. Although the first meet was cancelled due to rain, we're looking forward to the upcoming mini-meet and the final event at Trout Lake on October 21st.

In recognition of Orange Shirt Day and our ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, every class contributed to our beautiful "Every Child Matters" bulletin board, now on display in the main hallway.



October is full of exciting events at MacCorkindale! We're looking forward to our Pumpkin Patch, the always delightful Halloween Parade, and our Goal-Setting Conferences, where families and teachers come together to support student learning and growth.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a welcoming and caring place for all.

## Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome Ms. Jamie to our SSA team at MacCorkindale! She is excited to join our school community, and we look forward to the care and support she will bring to our students.



## Arriving to School On Time!



Arriving to school on time sets the tone for a successful day of learning. When students are late, they miss valuable instructional time, disrupt the flow of the classroom, and often feel rushed or unsettled. These missed moments—whether it's morning routines, announcements, or the introduction of new concepts—can add up and impact a child's academic progress and confidence. Being punctual helps students start the day with a sense of calm and readiness, reinforcing responsibility and respect for learning. Let's work together to ensure every child begins their day on the right foot!

## Concern at School?

Your child's teacher is your first point of contact. If parents have any questions or concerns regarding activities occurring in their child(ren)'s classroom, please discuss these concerns directly with the classroom teacher. Please contact the school via telephone, email or by putting a note in your child(ren)'s agenda requesting an appointment. Most concerns are resolved at this point of contact.

After having spoken to the classroom teacher, if the issue is unresolved, an appointment with the Principal is the second step. Again, please contact the office to book an appointment in order to speak about matters privately.

If you have a concern about a child other than your own, please reach out to school staff. Only VSB STAFF are allowed to speak to that child. You may only speak to your own child.



Our school offers various programs to teach children diverse strategies for conflict resolution. We request that you allow our staff to guide and support your child in these matters.

## Terry Fox Run

We were fortunate to have the weather cooperate for the 45<sup>th</sup> Terry Fox Run. The primary students ran around the school following our first Be Your Best Assembly; some completing as many as 10 laps around the school! The intermediate students took part in the Terry Fox run at Central Park later in the afternoon. Together, we raised \$590 for cancer research, supporting this important cause.



## Student Safety



Student safety is always our top priority. To help us maintain a secure environment, we ask that parents and guardians come directly to the school office if they need to drop off items for their child or if they need to speak with their child during the school day. For safety reasons, adults should not approach or attempt to communicate with students through the schoolyard fence or on the playground. Unknown adults doing so may lead us to contact the police. Thank you for supporting a safe and caring environment for all students.

We would like to remind families that our school is a nut-aware environment. For the safety of students with severe allergies, please do not send any food items containing nuts in your child's lunch or snacks. Thank you for helping us keep our school safe for everyone.



## Pets on School Grounds

We love seeing our school grounds enjoyed by families outside of school hours, and we welcome you to continue using the space for play, gathering, and exercise. If you are bringing your pets in the evenings, please remember that dogs **must remain on a leash at all times** while on school property. It is also very important to clean up after your pets, as children are constantly playing on our fields and playgrounds. This helps ensure that all members of our community feel safe and comfortable while sharing the space. For information about designated off-leash areas nearby, please visit the City of Vancouver website.



## ASSAI (AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS AND ARTS INITIATIVE)



We're excited to announce a new after-school opportunity for students in Grades 5 to 7! Starting Thursday, October 23rd through December 11th, MacCorkindale will host a dynamic Sports and Arts Initiative led by MoreSports. Each Thursday after school, students will engage in skill development activities including soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Space is limited to 16 students — contact Ms. Tricia as soon as possible to sign up and secure a spot!

## Grade 8 District Programs

Families of Grade 7 students are invited to attend upcoming information sessions about Grade 8 district programs, continuing throughout October and November. These sessions provide valuable insights into available options and help guide your child's transition to secondary school. For full details, please refer to the program brochure [here](#).

VSB Vancouver School Board

September 2025 **Grade 8 PROGRAMS**

## Individual Picture Day

Individual student photos will be taken on **Wednesday, October 15**. Please ensure your child arrives on time and ready for their photo.



## Halloween

As Halloween approaches, many students are excited about choosing costumes. While dressing up is meant to be fun, it's important to remember that some costumes can be hurtful or offensive, especially those that imitate or stereotype cultures. We encourage families to talk with children about making thoughtful costume choices. (Please see the attached poster from the Indigenous Education Department on cultural appropriation.)

On Friday, October 31st, we look forward to celebrating Halloween together! Parents are invited to watch our Halloween parade in the gym, beginning at 9:15 a.m.



A few reminders about costumes:

- Costumes are optional, but many students (and staff!) enjoy dressing up.
- Costumes must follow our Code of Conduct: they should not promote discrimination or include culturally insensitive themes.
- No weapons (real or pretend) are allowed at school. Please keep items such as toy guns, swords, knives, or axes at home for evening festivities.
- Leave fragile or delicate costume parts at home so they're ready for Halloween night.
- Extra-scary costumes may frighten our youngest students (some are only 4 years old), so please keep this in mind.
- Students go outside for all breaks. If costumes aren't weather-appropriate, please ensure your child has rain gear or is prepared to change out of their costume before heading outdoors.

We're excited to celebrate Halloween safely, respectfully, and with lots of fun!

## Everyday is an OUTSIDE day!



A friendly reminder that every day is an outside day; so please ensure your child(ren) comes to school dressed for the weather, whether it's rain or shine. We also recommend sending an extra change of clothes in case your child needs to change during the day. Thank you for helping to keep our students comfortable and ready for outdoor activities!

## Safe Arrival

Student safety is of paramount importance. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist the school, we ask parents to notify us of student absences. If your child will be late or absent, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents can call the office number at 604-713-4775, you may call any time 24 hours a day. Messages are checked in the morning. If you are coming in late, please report to the office to sign-in to receive a late slip before sending your child(ren) to class.



## After the Bell Podcast



The last episode of the VSB After the Bell Podcast focused on the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSAs). If you missed it, don't worry- all podcasts are archived and available on the Vancouver School Board website. You can explore past and current podcasts by visiting: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/60332/podcast>

## Cybersecurity Awareness Month

As we focus on digital safety this October, families are encouraged to explore resources provided by the Vancouver School Board to support safe and responsible online use with children (see QR codes below). In addition, ERASE continues to offer free Family Sessions on topics such as *Establishing Safe, Caring, and Respectful Digital Communities*. A new session is also available: *Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion*. These virtual trainings are offered once per month. If you're interested in attending, please follow this [link](#) to learn more and register.

## Parent Engagement Opportunity - Raising AI Ready Youth

The Vancouver School Board is pleased to present a free virtual session for parents:  
Raising AI-Ready Youth: Safety, Privacy, Ethics, and Success Plans

 Date: Tuesday, October 7

 Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

This live online event is open to all VSB parents. To register, please **complete the [form](#) by October 3, 2025**. You'll be asked to provide your email and your child(ren)'s school(s). A video conference link and password will be sent closer to the event date.

On the day of the session, simply click the link, enter the password, and join via the SLIDO platform. We recommend saving the link and signing in 10 minutes early, as the session will begin promptly.

*Please do not share the access link or password outside your family unless authorized by the White Hatter.*

## Carleton Elementary School Engagement

The Vancouver School Board is inviting community input regarding the proposed closure of Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School. The school was severely damaged by fire in 2016 and has not been used for student learning since. Families and community members are encouraged to share their thoughts between October 2 and December 2, 2025.



### We want to hear from you

1. Email [engage@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:engage@vsb.bc.ca). Your feedback will be included as part of the engagement summary report and submitted to the Board for consideration.
2. Attend an in-person or online information session in October (dates/times will be shared prior)
3. Participate in an online survey (October 23 - November 26, 2025)
4. Request to [make a presentation](#) to the Board at the Public Delegation Board meeting on November 24, 2025.

More details about upcoming engagement opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks. For background information and additional resources, please visit: [govsb.ca/carletonclosure](https://govsb.ca/carletonclosure).

## Free Confidential Emotional Support

S.U.C.C.E.S.S Helpline services offer confidential emotional support and information referral services, aimed at supporting individuals-especially non-English speakers- who are experiencing emotional distress or facing life challenges. Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

## Important Dates

Monday, October 13	Thanksgiving Day (No School)
Wednesday, October 15	Individual Photo Day
Wednesday, October 15	Early Dismissal at 1:58 p.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, October 16	Early Dismissal at 1:58 p.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, October 16	Great Shakeout
Tuesday, October 21	Cross-Country Meet at Trout Lake
Tuesday, October 21	VCH presentation for Grade 6/7 classes
Friday, October 24	Pro-D Day (No School for Students)
Wednesday, October 29	Grade 6 Immunizations
Thursday, October 30	Be Your Best Assembly
Friday, October 31	Halloween Parade



## Planning Ahead

	Thursday, November 6	Individual Photo re-takes
	Monday, November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly (11am)
	Tuesday, November 11	Remembrance Day (No School)
	Friday, November 21	Pro-D Day (No School for Students)

## PAC News

Thank you to all the parents that came to our AGM in September, our new executive team is looking forward to a fun year ahead! The order deadline for our Sun-Oka Apple Fundraiser is Monday Oct 6th; these really are the best apples around! Keep your eyes peeled for our Neufeld Farm fundraiser coming soon. All fundraiser details will be up on our website: <https://maccorkindalepac.square.site/> Our next PAC meeting is Oct 28th at 6:30pm in the library. For the latest updates about PAC events please follow us on Facebook and Instagram

LOG IN

LINKS

# DIGITAL FOUNDATIONS

	<p>Screen Use and Young Children Guide</p>	<p>Helping Young Kids Get a Healthy Start with Devices</p>	
	<p>Digital Literacy &amp; Safety: Family and Student Resources</p>	<p>Parent Guides</p>	<p>What is...? Video Series</p>
	<p>iPad/iPhone Screen Time</p>	<p>Apple Parent Controls</p>	<p>iPad/iPhone Screen Time Control (YouTube Video)</p>
	<p>Google Family</p>	<p>Microsoft Family Safety</p>	<p>Android Screen Time Limits (YouTube Video)</p>
	<p>Responding to Kids' Excessive Device Use</p>	<div>Quality Platforms</div>	

October 2024



## VSB – INDIGENOUS EDUCATION SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

RAISING  
AWARENESS

# CULTURE IS NOT A COSTUME

## HOW NOT TO CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HALLOWEEN

The autumn season is upon us, and soon it will be Halloween. This time of year brings with it decisions on costume choice. While dressing up is meant to be fun and exciting, it also runs the risk of offending others with costumes that are offensive to other cultures. Halloween offers the opportunity to discuss costume choices with both colleagues and students. It is important not to inadvertently mimic culture by culturally appropriating racial or ethnic groups.

### CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

- 1) The taking – from a culture that is not one's own – of intellectual property, cultural expressions or artifacts, history and ways of knowledge (Ziff & Rao, 1997).
- 2) Any instance which means commonly associated with and/or perceived as belonging to another are used to further one's own ends (Shugart, 1997).
- 3) To take parts (symbols, artifacts, dress, words, practices, etc.) from a culture that is not your own. This can happen in a variety of forms but often around Halloween it involves wearing 'costumes' that may have some significance to other cultures.
- 4) A particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systematically oppressed by that dominant group.

#### Engage in dialogue

Bring up subjects like cultural appropriation with your colleagues and students. See what their views are and share your own knowledge and experiences. Dialogue is collaborative and about people working together to find a common understanding. It is about exploring, listening, and re-examining your positions, values, and assumptions.

#### Examine your own practices

*Are you wearing a costume during Halloween? Ask yourself some critical questions about your costume. Is my costume based on someone's race, ethnicity, or culture? Am I reinforcing stereotypes with the image I am portraying? Is my costume exploiting another culture?*

#### Be an advocate

If you see a costume that doesn't sit right with you, start a conversation with that person. Begin a respectful dialogue with that person at an appropriate time and place. Ask them about their costume choice. Your conversation should be about having the person think through their choice, not about right and wrong.

#### LINKS (Click on headline)

[CBC : Teacher finds teachable moment about cultural stereotypes](#)

[Statement on Halloween by the Legacy of Hope](#)

[My Culture is NOT a Costume](#)

