

October Newsletter

We acknowledge that Norquay Elementary is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh/Squamish, and səliłwətał/Tsleil-Waututh Nations.



October has seen students and staff actively engaged in learning. While each classroom teaches to the diversity of children in the classroom, there are key documents that guide the work in schools:

- *Ministry of Education Curriculum*: At the heart of British Columbia's redesigned curriculum are the Core Competencies, essential learning and literacy and numeracy foundations. All three features contribute to deeper learning. For more information on the BC curriculum: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/overview>.
- *VSB Education plan*: The Board approved a new Education Plan, that will guide the District's work through to 2026. The plan centers students' needs – their learning, well-being and voices – in programming and supports at schools, operations and management by staff as well as decisions by the Board. For more information: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/4996/education-plan-2026>
- *Norquay's school plan*: The inquiry question that guides our work this year is: If we continue to focus on building community, will we see increased engagement in learning? For more information: <https://sbvsbstorage.blob.core.windows.net/media/Default/media/b/03939062.d764c845132.pdf>

With goal-setting conferences around the corner, we hope these foundational documents are helpful to you in learning more about education, learning, and teaching. We also hope you have signed up for a conference on November 1 or 2 to learn more about your child's learning at school. A reminder that students are dismissed at 2pm on both those days. We look forward to November, full of more learning opportunities!



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 26

Soccer City Championships! Good luck Norquay! Thank you Coach Lucky and Coach Thomas!

October 27

PAC costume and movie night

November 1

Student conferences, early dismissal at 2PM

Kindergarten registration opens

November 2

Student conferences, early dismissal at 2PM

November 7

Photo retakes

November 10

Remembrance Day Assembly

November 13

Schools closed in observance of Remembrance Day

November 23

Grade 6 immunizations

November 24

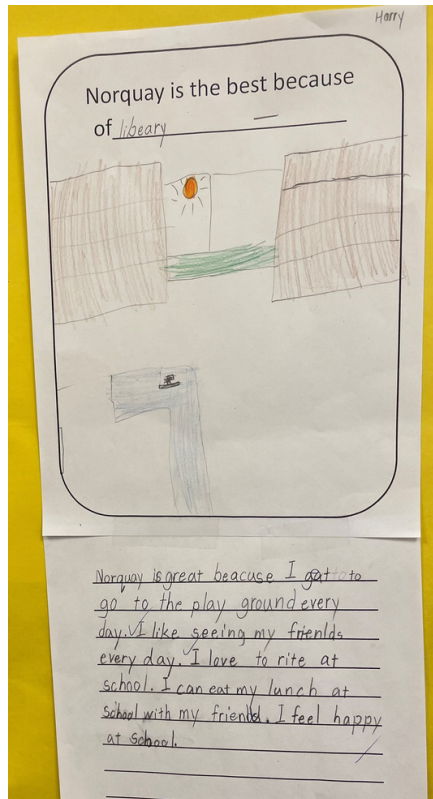
Pro-D Day, classes not in session

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

On Sunday, November 5, Daylight Saving comes to an end and we set our clocks one hour back. This usually signals less daylight. With this in mind, we want to remind the community of road safety:

- Cross only at marked crosswalks or traffic lights. Don't cross in the middle of the block or between parked cars. Make sure drivers see you before you cross. If the driver is stopped, make eye contact before you step onto the roadway.
- Be Seen. If possible, wear bright, light-coloured or contrasting clothing and when possible, wear clothing with reflective strips, especially at dusk, when it's dark, raining or snowing.

We will work together to keep each other safe.



PRACTICE DRILLS

During October students practiced important drills and learned how to be safe during emergencies:

- Fire drill: Students and staff leave the building as quickly as possible and congregate on the back field.
- Lockdown: This is used to protect school occupants if there is a dangerous person within the school.
- Great shake out: Students participated in a mini earthquake drill.

These are very good procedures to practice during calm times so that in the event of a real emergency students know what to do.

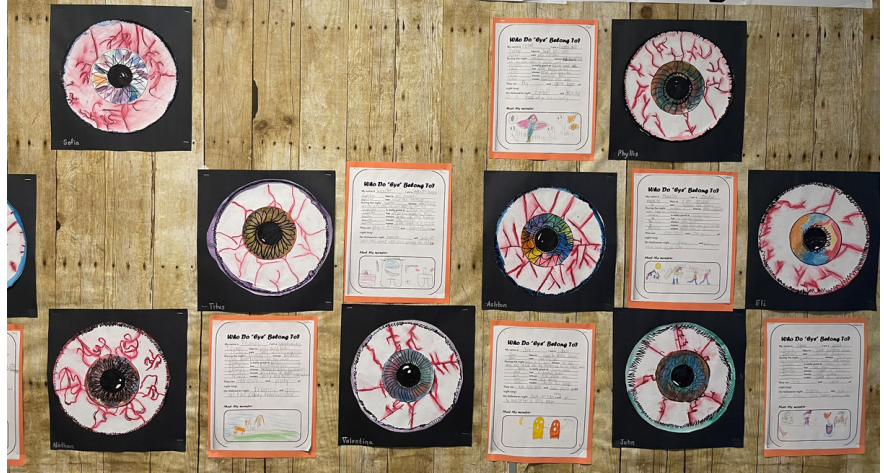


LOST AND FOUND

While families are here for conferences on November 1 and 2 (Wednesday and Thursday), we encourage families to browse through the lost and found in the lunchroom. With the days getting darker earlier and temperatures getting colder, students will need to be bundled up to be outside at recess and lunch. If you have lost any winter items, please take a look downstairs.



Who Do "Eye" Belong To?



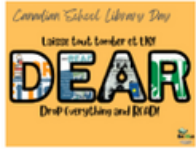
TERRY FOX

Thanks for the contributions! We raised \$1875.86 for the Terry Fox Foundation! That is over the goal! We raised \$831.85 in cash donations and \$1045.00 online. Thank you so much for continuing such a worthwhile legacy.



LIBRARY CORNER

Norquay Community -- A couple of Norquay Library Events starting next week:



Monday, October 23: D.E.A.R.: Drop Everything and Read Day!

You will NEED a book in-hand all day. Get ready!

Monday, October 30 – Friday November 31: RITD!

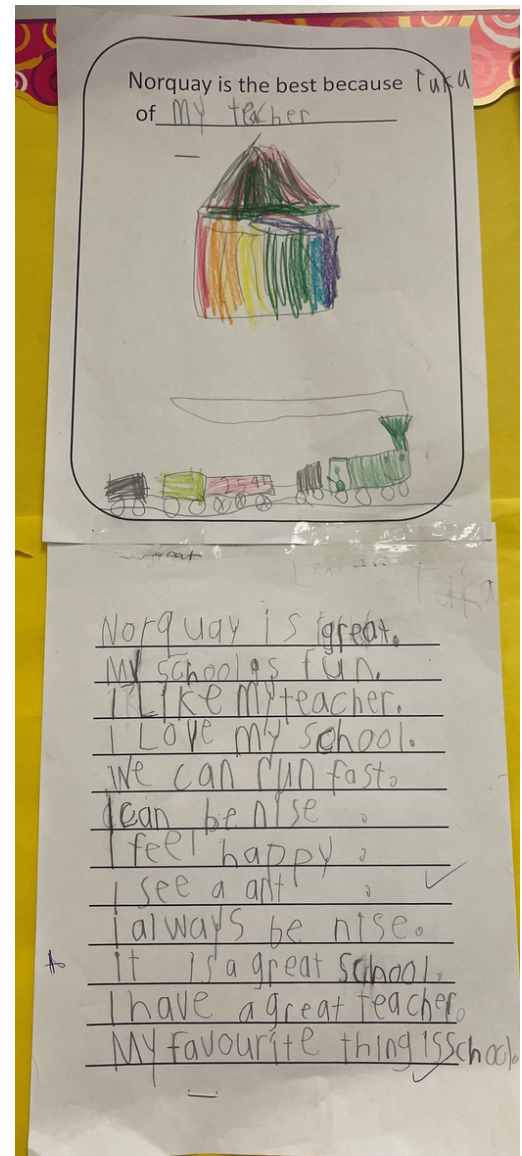
Reading In The Dark!

Students can bring a SMALL L.E.D. bike light or reading light to Read in the Dark. This is optional. We have lots of small lights as well. Students will come to their regular Library time, or their teacher will sign up.

See you soon!



Div. 25: "All the leaves are falling."



MESSAGE FROM DIVISIONS 20 (MS. PARIS), 23 (MS. AFFLECK), AND 24 (MS. GRUGER)

On Thursday, October 12th, Divisions 20, 23, and 24 went to the Capilano River Salmon Hatchery. We were able to see salmon swimming up a fish ladder to spawn. We saw lots of salmon in the river, as well as people catching fish. The whitewater from the Cleveland dam made a beautiful rainbow and we enjoyed a hike in the forest to see the tree of life. This field trip begins our study of the salmon life cycle. We hope you like the photos!



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN BORN IN 2019 BEGINS ON NOVEMBER 1

All kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for 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 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 **2024-25**

If your child was born outside of Canada, you will need to complete your registration online through the VSB - Newcomer Welcome Centre (NWC).

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 Choice Program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice Programs and Cross Boundary applications will begin to be accepted in early 2024.

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.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

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.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5195/priority-kindergarten-registration>

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





HALLOWE'EN

We wanted to share some tips for safety with Hallowe'en around the corner:

- Choosing a costume, that you can see and hear while wearing. Also, please remember that culture is not a costume.
- Avoid danger when decorating.
- Stay secure while trick or treating and be cautious with candy and toys.

A reminder that we encourage NO full face masks or costumes with weapons if you are dressing up at school.

For more information, please see flyer from the VSB Indigenous Education Department (see last page) and the government of Canada website: [Halloween safety - Canada.ca](https://www.halloween-safety.ca/).

If you notice anything worrisome please Make the Call: [VSB - You Make the Call \(Hallowe'en information\)](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/you-make-the-call).



FREE ONE TO ONE LITERACY WORKSHOP

This fall, ONE TO ONE is hosting a virtual workshop for interested parents/caregivers of beginning readers in Grade 1 (and 2) called Come Read with Me. This virtual workshop is open to all families, regardless of whether or not they are currently in, or have been in the ONE TO ONE reading program in the past.

The session is:

- Wednesday, November 8 at 7 p.m.
- On Zoom

The workshop will run for approximately 60 minutes with time for questions after. To register for the virtual session and/or for more information: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/one-to-one-literacy-society-32436852611>



PAC CORNER

We are excited to see Norquay families at Movie night! We hope everyone has a fun time and as always, please email norquaypacteam@gmail.com with any feedback. *Note only families that registered can attend as we are being mindful of fire safety occupancy loads. Please enter from the back gym doors by the basketball court.

A few items of note:

- Winter PAC Fundraiser: stay tuned for more information about Purdy's Chocolates and Gift Card sales. We are finalizing details so more information will come in the next few weeks.
- Seymour Ski/Snowboard: Dates for group lessons are Jan 11, 18, 25, Feb 1, 2024 at 4:30-6:30pm. Please note, parents are responsible for transportation to/from the ski lessons. The registration link and more information will be available in early November.

The next PAC meeting will be in person (at the library) as well as on zoom. Join us Tues Nov 21st 6-7pm. Zoom link [Here](#).

Office Administrative Assistant: Sandy Lowe
Principal: Deena Kotak Buckley
Vice Principal: Steve Mulligan
PAC Chairpersons: Hannah Tan
School Liaison Trustee: Chris Richardson
Director of Instruction: Janis Meyers

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VSB - INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

CULTURE IS NOT A COSTUME

HOW TO NOT CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HALLOWEEN

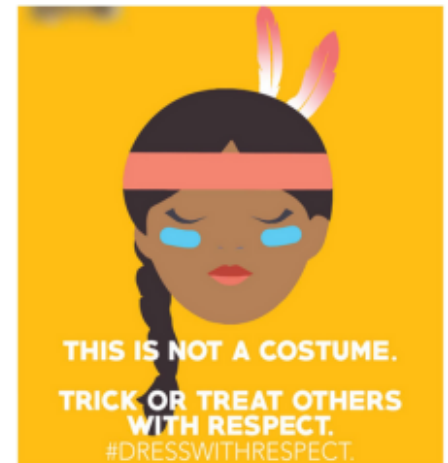
The autumn season is upon us, and soon it will be Halloween. This time of year brings with it many costume choice decisions. While dressing up is meant to be fun and exciting, it also runs the risk of offending others if costumes are offensive to other cultures. Halloween offers the opportunity to discuss 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. Listen to their views 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. 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

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

[Huffington Post: Student group takes a stand against racist costumes](#)

[My Culture is NOT a Costume](#)