



John Norquay Elementary School

4710 Slocan Street

Vancouver, B.C. V5R 2A1

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We acknowledge that Norquay Elementary is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm / Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh / Squamish & səliłwətaʔ / Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Principal: Deena Kotak Buckley

Vice Principal: Steve Mulligan

School Liaison Trustee: Chris Richardson

Director of Instruction: Janis Myers

PAC Chairperson: Hannah Tan

Important Information – Please Translate

這是一份重要資訊 — 請找人為您翻譯 這是一份重要信息 — 請找人為您翻譯

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें

Información importante - Por favor traducir

重要な情報-翻訳してください

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

Opening Message

What a wonderful first week back. It was lovely to feel the energy in the school and the excitement of a new school year. As always attendance is key this week as we organize classes so please make sure to let the office know if your child will be away.

The staff work diligently to create classes that meet the learning and social emotional needs of the students. Friendship pairings, learning styles and resource support are some of the considerations. Each teacher at Norquay is an excellent educator so we are confident that wherever your child is placed will be an environment in which they will flourish.

We do have some new staff and returning staff at Norquay, we would like to welcome:

- Steve Mulligan, new vice-principal
- Angela Leung, new in the office working with Ms. Lowe
- Robin Chaplin, teaching Kindergarten with Ms. Cynthia Wong
- Helen Zhang returning to EMB Grade 6
- Wendy Wang, returning to EMB Grade 5
- Erin Edwards, new support staff working Thursdays/Fridays

We will have a few positions to fill so will continue to update families. As soon as the staff list is confirmed we will share it in an upcoming newsletter. We look forward to a wonderful 2023 – 2024 school year!

Pick Up/Drop Off and Break Times

At Norquay we will continue to use the **division signs** posted throughout the playground for pick up and drop off for classes for dismissal at the same spot. We have found this routine has helped us start off our day smoothly and quickly.

- Again, this year, all students will go outside during break times. Recess is from 10:30 to 10:50 and lunch from 12:10 to 12:57. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather! There will be no indoor rainy-day options.
- Please make sure your child has a recess snack and lunch each day. There is no sharing of food amongst students. We have a number of students and staff who are allergic to nuts. Please refrain from bringing food that contains nuts.
- For those students who participate in the Food4School Program, we ask that you bring a lunch for Wednesday, September 7th. We will not be distributing school lunches until Thursday.

- The Food4School Program is available to help children who require nutrition services at school. The program does not provide for special diets. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact us in the office.

Student Packages

Every September a package of information is sent home to families. This year information will be going home sometime next week. Please make sure to read all the information and sign and send back the relevant documents as soon as possible.

New this year the VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this product are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured. Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below:

- <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>
- <http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com>

Meet the Staff and PAC Barbecue – Thursday, September 21

PLEASE mark your calendars! This year we will be hosting Meet the Staff/PAC barbeque (by donation). We wanted a fun way to bring community together. More information will be coming out on Monday (from the PAC) with details of the event, so please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Lunch Routines

Last year we piloted the 'play first, then eat' routines. We also had grade 7 lunch buddies eat together with younger grades. What we found during this pilot was:

- Improved student behaviour on the playground
- Fewer accidents during the lunch break
- Students are more relaxed and focused on eating rather than thinking about getting outside to play
- Less litter on the school ground and inside the school
- More food eaten; increased fluid intake

We also found that the younger students bonded with their older buddies which created a greater sense of community. We will be starting off the school year with a similar lunch routine but will be making changes during the month of September and will share the updates in upcoming newsletters.

Respectful Workplace Posters

The Vancouver School Board is committed to fostering safe schools that promote mutual respect, cooperation, and social responsibility. There is zero-tolerance for violence, harassment, or disrespectful behaviour in the school community. We strive to make our schools and sites welcoming places for everyone in our community.

As we begin a new school year, we ask that you pause and remember VSB staff are valued community members. Be considerate, and ask, will my actions or words hurt someone?

It is our shared responsibility to ensure interactions are conducted calmly, safely and respectfully. Students learn here, and together we can be models for those that are watching.



PAC Corner

Families play an important role in the school and we encourage parents to participate as much as they can. The first PAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 26th online from 6 to 7pm. Look for more details coming to you on Monday from the PAC.

Dates to Note – Please Mark Your Calendars!

- **Wednesday, September 13**
 - o First full day for all Kindergarten students
- **Thursday, September 21** - Meet the Staff and PAC barbeque
 - o Meet the Staff: 6 to 7pm in the classrooms
 - o Barbeque: 5:30 – 7pm on Gravel Field
- **Friday, September 22** - Terry Fox Run
 - o Details and date to be confirmed shortly
- **Monday, September 25** - Student photos
 - o please do not wear green
- **Tuesday, September 26** - PAC meeting
 - o 6 to 7pm on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88373984532?pwd=N3JSbkRQUVcycWdkVHdaa3BLaDIOUT09>
- **Friday, September 29** – professional development day
 - o Classes not in session
- **Saturday, September 30** – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
 - o **Monday, October 2**: Schools closed in observance

A Sampling of Upcoming Days of Significance

As last year we are looking to build community by learning more about one another and what we celebrate as a family and how. If there is ever a day your family would like highlighted in an upcoming newsletter, please let us know! We include links (where we can) if you and your family would like to learn more:

- **September 10:** [World Suicide Prevention Day](#)
- **September 21:** [International Day of Peace](#)
- **September 25-27:** [Rosh Hashana](#)
- **September 30:** [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) | [Orange Shirt Day](#)

If you are looking for a fun family event this weekend (September 9 and 10), *Light Up Chinatown!* is a **free two-day outdoor festival** with special live performances, Vancouver's favourite food trucks, colourful lights and lanterns, and fun activities for all ages. This is presented by RBC and produced by the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation. For more information: <https://www.chinatownfoundation.org/light-up-chinatown/>