

April Newsletter

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), & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

We hope you had a wonderful break and are ready for an exciting Term 3.

We have some fantastic events lined up, starting with the learning conferences on April 23 and April 24. Remember, students will be dismissed at 2pm on these days. We love seeing families join their children to discuss growth, strengths, and goals for Term 3. It's a great opportunity to celebrate achievements and set new targets together!

Family engagement is all about actively and collaboratively involving families in their child's learning and development. It helps build a positive and supportive relationship between families and the school, where open communication, trust, and mutual respect are key. Here are some benefits of family engagement:

- A stronger educational foundation
- A positive learning environment
- Increased school success
- Strengthened relationships between children and caregivers

We can't wait to welcome families to the school for the conferences. Look for more information from your child's classroom teacher next week.

We're looking forward to making more connections and creating more opportunities during Term 3, for example, you may begin to see employees from the VSB Grounds department on the back field ... YES! The Nature Play playground is happening! Thank YOU PAC! This project started before COVID and is finally becoming a reality. More to come in the May newsletter.

A reminder that class photos are on Friday (April 4). Happy April!



Div. 9 Ms. Hughes & Ms. Ayers

UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, April 4
Class photos

Friday, April 11

PAC movie afternoon, starts at 3:15
PAC photo fundraiser
All school math festival (thanks PAC!)

Monday, April 14 to Wednesday, April 16
Arts Umbrella, Van Gogh

Tuesday, April 15
Pizza Day

Thursday, April 17

Camp Read (8:30-9:00AM in gym)
Please join us in the gym for hot chocolate and a story. Bring a book and something to sit on to read with your kids. Enter through the doors by the basketball court. Cozy clothes and stuffies welcome!

Friday, April 18

Good Friday, schools closed

Monday, April 21

Easter Monday, schools closed

Wednesday, April 23

Conferences, students dismissed at 2PM

Thursday, April 24

Conferences, students dismissed at 2PM

Monday, April 28

District-wide professional development day (Indigenous Focus), classes not in session



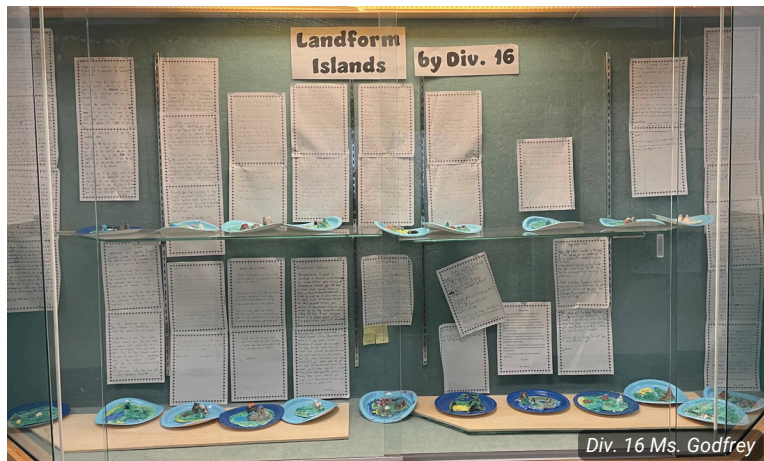


P/VP for a Day

PRINCIPAL/VICE PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

Ava and Elly (in grade 1) were principal and vice-principal for a morning. Some things they did were: photocopy, chose photos for the newsletter, helped a student who needed help by offering a snack, they did some shredding and wrote a morning announcement. They also got to say a morning announcement on the P.A. by wishing happy birthday to everyone with a birthday in April. They also gave all those students a birthday pencil.

Elly said "my favourite part of being principal for a morning was 'helping a student by offering a snack'" and Ava said "my favourite part of the morning was picking art for the newsletter." If your child would like to be principal/vice-principal for a morning please volunteer or attend a PAC meeting and their name will be put into a draw.



Div. 16 Ms. Godfrey

LIBRARY CORNER

As one of our favourite picture books says: "**Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring!**" (Kenard Pak). Students have been progressing so well in **Reading and Connecting** that many students are starting to read '**Next Grade Books**'! Grade 7 students have been planning, building, and finishing their **Red Cedar Boxes** based on West Coast Bentwood Boxes.

A couple of highlights for April:

- **Camp Read:** April 17 from 8:30 – 9:00 hot chocolate, cushions, buddy/family noisy reading! Please enter by the basketball court doors. Bring a book to read with your family!
- **Norquay Book Fair:** April 22 – 24 after school! **The lineup for families will be OUTSIDE** and Book Fair Rangers will bring families into the Library.

We look forward to seeing you at a library event in April!



Div. 5 Mr. Loong

NORQUAY IN THE NEWS

We want to share some exciting news: Norquay's staff and students are making waves! The Norquay music program was featured by CBC, thanks to the amazing work of Ms. Ba. Plus, Mr. Hodson supported a group of students in creating a fantastic video for Black Excellence Day. Well done, Norquay!

If you missed it, check out the links below:

Black Excellence Day video:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/john-norquay/_ci/p/79131

Music Program at Norquay on CBC (at 14:59):

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-4-bc-today>

CBC Article:

<https://vancouver.sun.com/entertainment/juno-awards-2025-musiccounts-brings-sweet-sounds-to-vancouver-john-norquay-elementary-school>

CBC interview with Ms. Ba:

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-46-on-the-coast/clip/16136932-b.c.-junos-block-party-part-four>

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE

You may have heard that a 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit the country of Myanmar a few days ago causing widespread damage. While rescue efforts are continuing, hospitals are overwhelmed in this small, developing country.

Norquay's Power of YOUth group is hoping to collect donations from our school community which will be donated to the Red Cross/Red Crescent to help those impacted by the earthquake as quickly as possible. Money raised will enable the Red Cross/Red Crescent to provide immediate relief, ongoing recovery efforts, resiliency and preparedness activities due to compounding humanitarian crises.

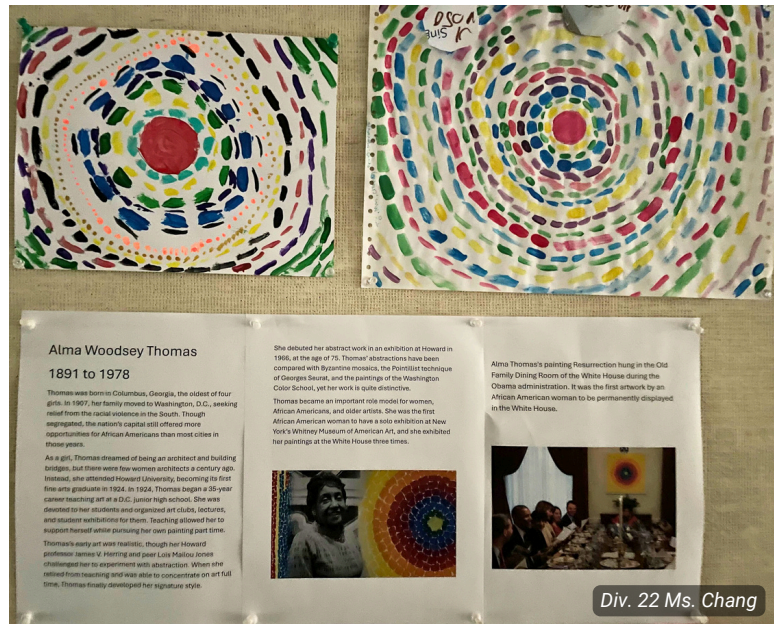
Students will be visiting classes for the next week to collect coins and cash donations and families can donate through our School Cash Online account. Thanks for your support! Donate here:

<https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/159380/196/False/True>



THANK YOU PAC

Did you know the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is the official voice of parents at Norquay? Our PAC is incredibly active and supportive, making a huge difference in our school community. Recently, thanks to the PAC and an anonymous donor, the whole school got to learn some new dance moves with Boogaloo Dance! "It was so much fun! We all danced together and had a blast," said one student. Plus, the PAC provided new jerseys for our sports teams. With so many dedicated staff volunteering to coach, we have big teams, and now everyone has a jersey. "Seeing all the students in their new jerseys was amazing. It really brought us together." It was fantastic to see all our students proudly representing Norquay at the March basketball jamboree. The PAC is also sponsoring the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival ([Home | JRME](#)) covering the \$800 fee so the entire school can enjoy a magical day of math. "We're excited to dive into math activities and learn in a fun way," said teacher organizer Ms. Zhang. Be sure to check the PAC section for more exciting events brought to you by our amazing volunteers from the PAC!



YEARBOOK

Yearbooks are for sale at a reduced price of \$24 per book from now until April 14th only! After April 14th, the price will be \$30! All online sales end by May 18th with a very limited amount of books for sale during the last week of school before summer so get them now!

Online Storefront:

<https://products.edgeimaging.ca/yearbooks/order/NYK>

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REMEMBER THESE YEARS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

These school years have been an amazing time filled with growth, fun, and exciting new experiences. As you move onto your next adventure, Edge Imaging is honoured to help you remember this special time with a Yearbook.

It's never been easier to order your Yearbook! Follow these simple steps to get yours today:

1. Visit [edgeimaging.ca/order](https://products.edgeimaging.ca/order)
2. In the Yearbooks section, enter your school's name or school code **NYK**
3. Fill in the prompts and reserve your copy today



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DIGITAL SAFETY IN AN ONLINE WORLD

We hope families have had the chance to join some of the sessions we shared in the March newsletter. There is also one coming up, hosted by the PAC, on April 22, see below for details. Here are also some guidelines:

Guidelines for Kids:

1. Follow family and ISP rules.
2. Don't post or trade personal pictures.
3. Keep personal information private.
4. Use screen names and keep passwords private (except with parents).
5. Don't meet online friends in person without parental approval.
6. Ignore and report threatening messages.
7. Tell a trusted adult about any scary or hurtful communications.

Guidelines for Parents:

1. Spend time online with your kids to teach appropriate behavior.
2. Keep computers in common areas and monitor device usage.
3. No electronic devices within two hours of bedtime to improve sleep.
4. Bookmark favorite sites for easy access.
5. Check credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar charges.
6. Know the online protection measures at your child's school and other places.
7. Take reports of uncomfortable exchanges seriously.

Warning Signs of Online Predators:

- Long hours online, especially at night.
- Phone calls from unknown people.
- Unsolicited gifts.
- Sudden device shutdowns when you enter the room.
- Withdrawal from family and reluctance to discuss online activities.

Communication:

- Keep an open line of communication with your kids.
- Ensure they feel comfortable coming to you with online problems.

By following these steps, we can create a safer online environment for our children.



Div. 18 Ms. Tsolinas

VOLUNTEER WITH LUNCHLAB - WIN A PRIZE IN APRIL!

LunchLAB is celebrating **Volunteer Week (March 31–April 4)** by inviting families and community members to get involved and give back! In April, bring a friend to volunteer with you, or sign up for your first shift, and you'll be entered to win a prize! LunchLAB volunteers help with setting up, assisting student chefs, and serving lunch—no experience needed. It's a fun, hands-on way to support the school and share a delicious meal with students: [Norquay LunchLAB Volunteer Shift Sign-Up](#). We appreciate you!



Div. 2 Ms. De Jardin



Div. 2 Ms. De Jardin

TRAFFIC SAFETY

As a reminder, we are resending the information about traffic safety that we have shared in previous newsletters. Thank you for your support in keeping the community safe!

We want to remind families that the **STAFF parking lot is not for drop off or pick up (even for the day care), especially during peak times (between 8:15AM and 9:00AM, and 3:00PM and 4:00PM).**

Some other key messages about pick up and drop off flow:

- If you are leaving your car for any reason during pick up and drop off, please park in a space designated for general parking (30min Green P, 2 hour green P, unrestricted).
- Pick up and drop off zones (red P, 3min Green P) are designed to accommodate several cars trying to get to the same location at the same time, which only works if everyone keeps the flow of vehicles moving.

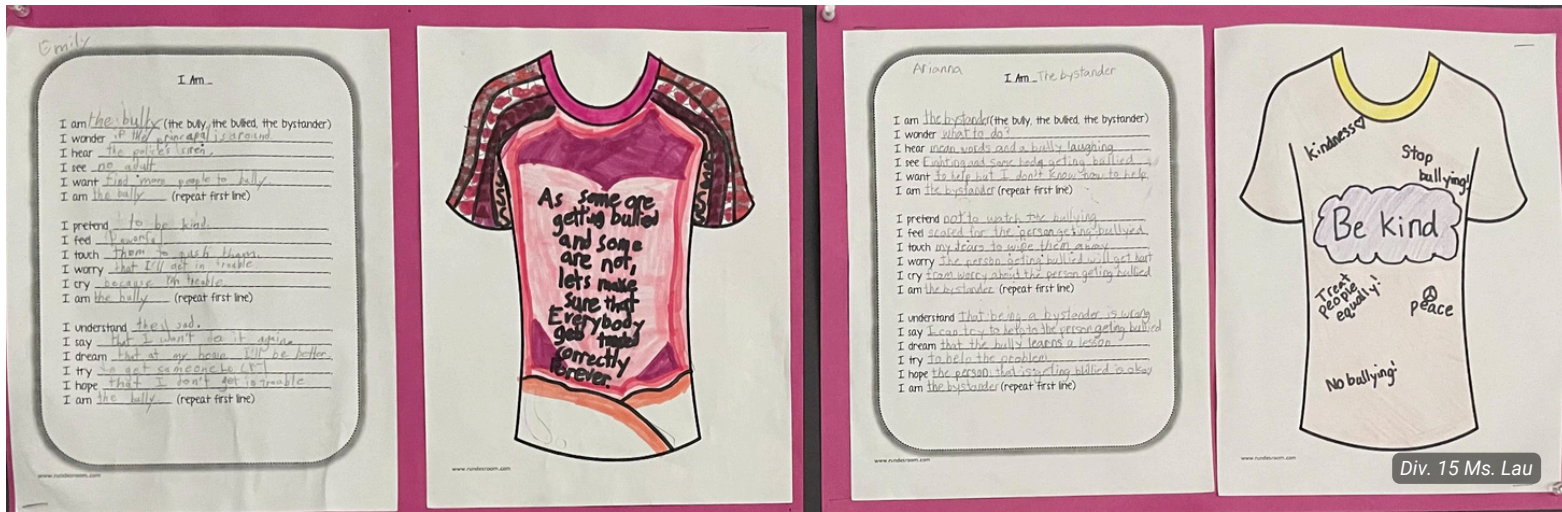
Key message about not obstructing laneways:

- There is very clear no stopping signage posted in the lane to the north of the school. ([Street and Traffic Bylaw 2849 section 17.6\(a\)](#)).
- Do not park or stop in any way that obstructs travel through a lane or along a street ([Street and Traffic Bylaw 2849 section 19.1\(d\)](#)).

If you notice anything that does not follow these key messages you can contact

- For parking violations: Call 311 or online reporting: <https://van311.ca/services/parking-enforcement>
- For street lighting request or maintenance: Call 311 or online: <https://van311.ca/services/street-lights>
- For unsafe driving behaviours: Call: (604) 717-3321 or online https://app.vancouver.ca/PoliceCitizenReporting_net/?_ga=2.2721271.652501999.1623779109-895808560.1614715896





PAC CORNER

We are so excited about the number of events we have coming up during term 3! Please see below for some highlights:

- **Spring Photo Fundraiser:** back by popular demand! Take family photos for Mother's or Father's day. April 11th 3:45-8pm. Flier included, sign up by April 4th with the following link and e-transfer \$25 to secure your spot:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vyr7IGILWc5w5T5CR-ZIdAuXMC1Tlc2nTrsUO65TLaE/edit?usp=sharing>
- **Movie Matinee:** Come join us for a movie! Friday April 11th 3:15pm. Line up at basketball courts. Flier details included, RSVP by April 4th to vote for your movie choice
 - RSVP: <https://forms.gle/rsnWx2ZjGojVvVVQ9>
 - Volunteer sign up: <https://forms.gle/ZfH26jhxPBjXzcBm7>
- **April 15 Pizza day:** Online ordering on Munch a Lunch www.munchalunch.com/available for those who did not submit an order, deadline April 9th, e-transfer norquaypacorders@gmail.com.
 - "Volunteer to deliver pizzas on Tuesday April 15: <https://forms.gle/8rVdwX4Q3CaPziyH9>
- **BC Children's Hospital Foundation 2km or 5km Family Fun Run June 8th:** Help raise funds and have a great time to run or walk around QE Park. Sign up with John Norquay Elementary's School team
 - <https://fundraise.bcchf.ca/join/JohnNorquayElementary>.
 - Early bird registration before April 9th \$30 or commit to fundraiser \$50 and enter for \$5.
- **April 22nd 6-7pm: Keeping Kids Safe Online.** Parent workshop held online free of charge discussing topics such as sexual exploitation, red flags, app literacy and how to talk to children about online exploitation and safety tips.
 - <https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/workshops/adult-workshops/safer-space-for-adults/>
 - Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82054853245?pwd=ne15VqDva5MS41Y9cug60vOPKEEzPz.1>
 - Meeting ID: 820 5485 3245
 - Passcode: 114197
- **Spring Fair Silent Auction:** call out for silent auction donation items.
 - If you have gift baskets, gift certificates for items or services, products, tickets and/or items suitable for a silent auction, please email norquaypacteam@gmail.com.
 - Donation items/services will be vetted by the Spring Fair committee members.
 - We encourage businesses who donate to also provide fliers and business cards to be displayed next to the donated items.

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

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