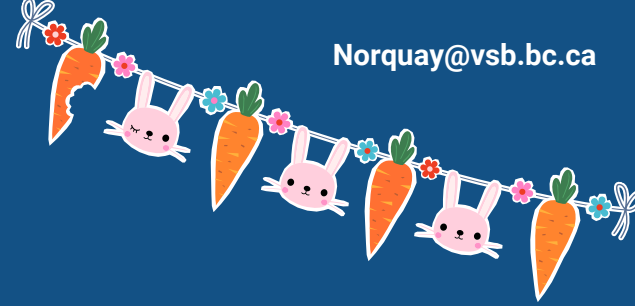


April Newsletter



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



April was a busy and engaging month at Norquay, filled with opportunities for creativity, movement, and community connection.

One highlight was Caps United, a free in-school soccer program offered by Vancouver Whitecaps FC and delivered by certified grassroots community coaches. Through fun, inclusive activities, students developed foundational soccer skills while building confidence, teamwork, and school spirit.

We were also pleased to welcome the VAN GO Arts Umbrella team, who worked with several classes to explore drama and creative expression. In addition, Lord Byng high school students partnered with classes to introduce different forms and styles of art. This collaborative learning will be celebrated in an upcoming art showcase, highlighting student creativity and growth.

Beyond the classroom, students participated in a variety of field experiences, we launched LunchLAB Launchpad, and Track and Field season began, bringing energy and movement to our school community.

We will close April with student conferences on Wednesday, April 29, and Thursday, April 30, students will be dismissed at 2pm. We look forward to welcoming families into the school to hear about, see, and experience the learning, accomplishments, and growth students have demonstrated throughout Term 2.

While you are here for conferences, we invite you to participate in a meaningful May community activity called Our Cookie People. This activity was created by our Power in YOUth crew, sponsored by Ms. Meghan, as a way to build connection, belonging, and gratitude across our school community.

The activity is inspired by Monique Gray Smith, an award-winning, bestselling Canadian author of *Cree* (Plains Cree) and Scottish ancestry. Her work centres on kindness, reconciliation, belonging, and amplifying Indigenous voices, and her stories encourage reflection, empathy, and care for ourselves and others. She shares that "cookie people" are those special individuals who come into our lives, sometimes briefly and sometimes over many years, and help shape who we become. They notice our strengths, believe in us, and support us along our journey.

As part of this activity, students will reflect on who their cookie people are and why those people matter. Families and caregivers are warmly invited to participate as well by creating a cookie for someone who has made a positive difference in their life, whether that is a family member, mentor, community member, or Norquay staff member. Cookie templates are available at the school office, and completed cookies will be displayed throughout the school in May as a visible celebration of the caring relationships that support and uplift our learners.

* All photography in this newsletter is taken by Halona, grade 6.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 28

- PAC pizza day
- Book Fair (library)

Wednesday, April 29

- Conferences, students dismissed at 2pm
- Book Fair (library)

Thursday, April 30

- Conferences, students dismissed at 2pm
- Book Fair (library)

Thursday, May 7

Big 1 at 2

Friday, May 15

Sports Day

Monday, May 18

Victoria Day, schools closed

Tuesday, May 26

- PAC AGM at 6pm, in person at Norquay
- On Our Way to K for incoming K students

Wednesday, May 27

Book Exchange

Thursday, May 28

Book Exchange

Friday, May 29

Book Exchange

BOOK FAIR! TUESDAY APRIL 28 TO THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Norquay Book Fair 2026!

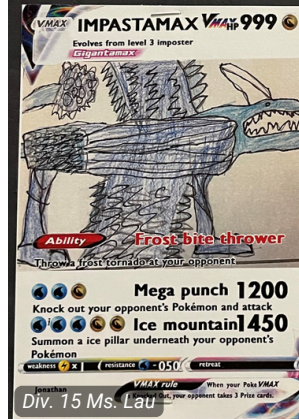
Book Fair Days: April 28 – 29 - 30: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Book Fair Times: After School Only, No Sales During The Day

- All Students and Families will **LINE UP OUTSIDE, receive a token**, and walk to the Fair in groups of 10 with the Book Fair Rangers!
- 2pm Dismissal on Wednesday and Thursday for **Conferences** and Book Fair
- We will **keep Calm and Cool**, include all students, and change things as needed
- Families can purchase books for their child's classroom. Wishlists in Library
- Classes can **preview books** during the week of the Book Fair
- No Re-Orders:** 'we have what we have'
- Adults can bring **cash, credit card, debit card, Apple Pay, or a cheque** to 'Norquay Elementary School'



See you next week at the Book Fair! Students, Volunteers, Mr. Warkentin



YEARBOOK

Thank you to the yearbook team the YEARBOOK SALE IS ON!
Please purchase your yearbook before deadline May 10, 2026.
Price: \$30 if purchased through YB website
Deadline: May 10, 2026

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

BOOK EXCHANGE 2026

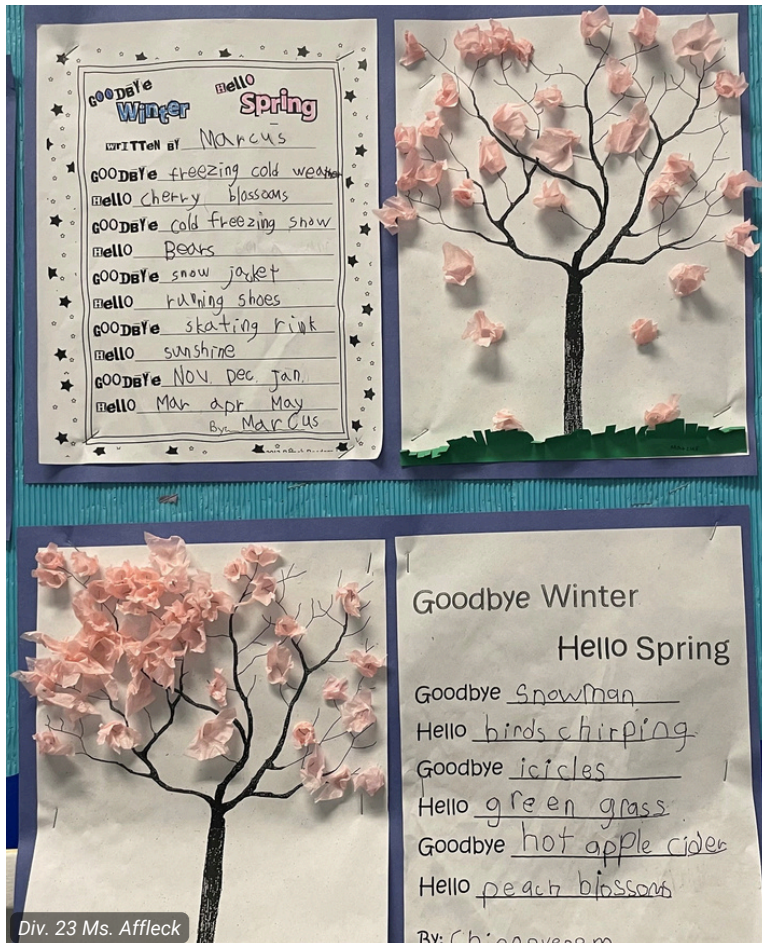
The 32nd Annual Book Exchange will be held on Wednesday May 27th, Thursday, May 28th and Friday, May 29th. Children may bring in their gently used children's books beginning Tuesday, May 19th. For each book brought in, your child will receive a ticket to exchange for a book on Wednesday, May 27th and Thursday, May 28th. On the morning of Friday, May 29th, from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. the remaining books will be available for purchase, to help buy books for next year. Picture books will be \$0.25 and chapter books will be \$1.00.

New this year, the Book Exchange closes at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, not 12:00 and parents are welcome to come into the gym Friday at 9 a.m. to buy books.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

- Please make sure that the books being brought to the school are in good condition, (i.e. no rips or scribbles inside) and that they are appropriate for children.
- Volunteers are needed to help set up on Wednesday, May 27th in the morning. Also, we will need help during the daytime on all three days of the Book Exchange. If you would like to volunteer to help at this event, here is the link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/0B4WRS804wkw2ZzJjWkN5U0ZJLVE/edit?usp=sharing&oid=1182359861301...>

Thank you from the Book Exchange Committee



Div. 23 Ms. Affleck

By: Chinoverem

DIVISION 7 PITCH DAY HIGHLIGHTS

Div. 7 had an exciting experience working with JA British Columbia to explore entrepreneurship. Students developed business ideas, built prototypes, conducted market research, and much more. The experience was truly priceless and highlighted students' creativity, teamwork, and confidence. Thank you Ms. Zhang for hosting such an amazing opportunity for students!



NEW LUNCHLAB PROGRAM! LUNCHLAB LAUNCHPAD

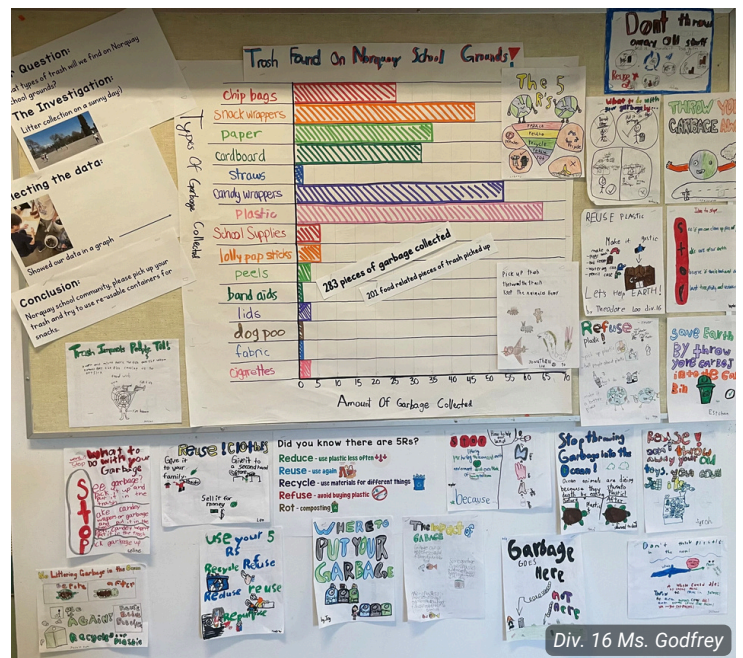
We're excited to share a new addition to the Norquay school community this year: LunchLAB Launchpad. This program brings the spirit of LunchLAB into Grade 4 and 5 classrooms, helping students feel excited, curious, and ready to step into their future roles as LunchLAB student chefs.

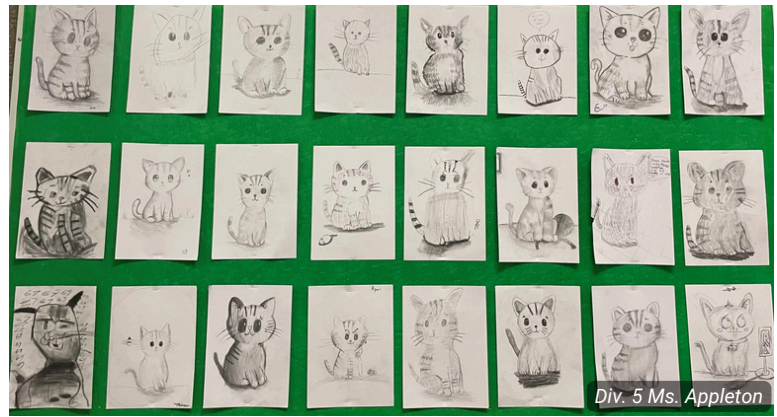
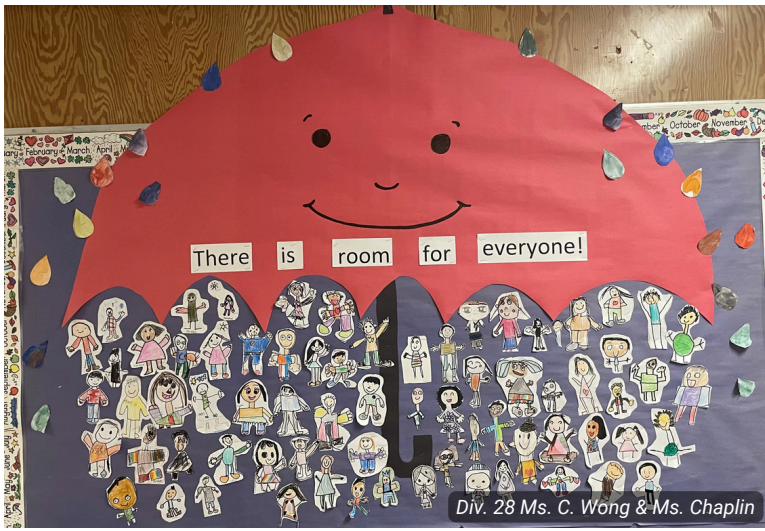
Chef Chris and Chef Maria will lead the program, supported by volunteers from the school community. Chef Chris & Maria will guide students through three engaging, curriculum-connected lessons. Students plant a windowsill garden, pickle seasonal vegetables, and prepare a classroom stir fry. Along the way, they explore where food comes from, build practical cooking skills, and gain confidence in the kitchen.

DIVISION 16 CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Written by division 16 students: "Division 16 wanted to know what types of trash we would find on Norquay schools grounds. We found tons of garbage around our school and would like to inform you that most of the garbage was snack wrappers and plastic. Please try your best to send food to school in reusable containers. Also please encourage your children to use the garbage can on the playground. Thank you."

LunchLAB Launchpad is designed to spark curiosity and support hands-on learning, while strengthening students' connection to their school's LunchLAB program and community. It has been so fun so far, we are so lucky to work alongside LunchLAB and love all the opportunities and experiences they bring us!





PAC CORNER

SUMMER LEARNING REGISTRATION - OPENS AT NOON THURSDAY APR 30

It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the movie matinee together. Events like these are a great way to build community spirit and shared joy at Norquay. With that in mind, we are excited to share that planning is well underway for Norquay's annual Spring Fair, which is just around the corner.

The Vancouver School Board will once again be offering **Summer Learning programs in 2026** for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Summer Learning provides students with opportunities to strengthen academic skills, explore new interests, and remain connected to learning over the summer months in a supportive and engaging environment. Programs typically include literacy and numeracy support, enrichment opportunities, and options for secondary students such as course completion or advancement. Summer Learning is open to students who may benefit from additional academic support as well as those looking for a flexible and enriching learning experience. Course descriptions: [VSB Summer School Brochure](#)

As we prepare for this much-loved event, **we are currently seeking donations for our Spring Fair Silent Auction**. If you, your family, or a local business are able to donate gift certificates, vouchers, gift baskets, or new giftable items, we would be very grateful. Proceeds from the Silent Auction will support funding for our new computer lab. Please email norquaypacteam@gmail.com if you are able to contribute. Thank you for helping make this event a success!

- Registration details:
- Registration opens on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 12:00 pm (noon)
 - Registration closes on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 11:59 pm
 - Registration link: <https://summerreg.vsb.bc.ca/>

Finally, pizza day is on Tuesday! The students tell us they love all having pizza together. It takes a huge group of volunteers to deliver pizza to more than 600 students in such a short amount of time, and we're so grateful for everyone who helps make it happen. Thank you for supporting this community event, sharing a meal truly brings people together.

- To register, you will need:
- An email address (for confirmation and receipts)
 - Your child's PEN (Personal Education Number). If you do not have this, it can be requested through the PEN Request portal: <https://penrequest.vsb.bc.ca/>
 - Your child's date of birth



Families are encouraged to register early, as some programs may fill quickly. If you have questions about whether Summer Learning is a good fit for your child, please connect with your child's teacher or school staff.

Office Administrative Assistant: Sandy Lowe
Principal: Deena Kotak Buckley
Vice Principal: Curtis Mathewson
PAC Chairpersons: Hannah Tan
School Liaison Trustee: Victoria Jung
Director of Instruction: Amy Van Vliet

4710 Slocan Street
 Vancouver, B.C. V5R 2A1
 Telephone: 604-713-4666
 Safe Arrival: 604-713-5159 ext. #61