

# December Newsletter

Humbly acknowledging the traditional and ancestral territories of the ɬə́hʔqə́mihə́m speaking people of xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and sə́lilwə́təɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation.



2023 has been a fantastic year!

Connection is the theme that we are focusing on as research shows that feeling a sense of connectedness to family, peers, school, and community is one of the most important assets for a child's well-being, health, and success in life (Masten, 2018, Thomson et al., 2018). This was felt recently when The John Norquay Elementary Alumni Association (JNEAA) hosted a Back to Norquay event on December 7 commemorating the school's 110th birthday. Past and present students were invited to walk through the school, visit rooms displaying memorabilia, watch a legacy video, and enjoy some refreshments. The event was organized by a passionate planning committee and volunteers (students, high school alumni, and adult alumni) led by Nana Hamilton (JNEAA founder and coordinator). Just under 400 alumni attended the event, including notable alumni David Harlow, who was also Norquay's last Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Chair and founder of the current Norquay Parent Advisory Council (PAC). Eileen Sue, founder of the Early Mandarin Bilingual (EMB) program was delighted to attend our celebrations. At 97 years old, Doreen Grundy was the eldest alumni guest. Vancouver School Board Trustee, Chris Richardson, and our Director of Instruction, Janis Myers, were also in attendance. The event was recently shared on the VSB website: [Exploring childhood memories of the 80s as Norquay celebrates 110 years \(vsb.bc.ca\)](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/news/exploring-childhood-memories-of-the-80s-as-norquay-celebrates-110-years). Events like this build the connection from the past to the present looking ahead to a bright future.

We hope the students have enjoyed the movie afternoons, Santa visits, the Van Tech Outreach Band, staff versus grade 7 students volleyball tournament, and all the special events happening in the classrooms as we celebrate this festive season of light, peace, and happiness.

From our families to yours, we wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and all the best for 2024. See you back on Monday, January 8!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### December 22

- Last day of classes for 2023
- Last day for Lego collection
- Last day to sign up to volunteer for adult crossing guard program: <https://forms.gle/qeSRqRv4A4REUCXf6>

### January 8

Classes resume for 2024

### January 19

Welcome to 2024 Waffle Breakfast

### January 22

Professional development day, classes not in session

### January 24

Clean Up Your Act presentation (K to 3)

### January 25

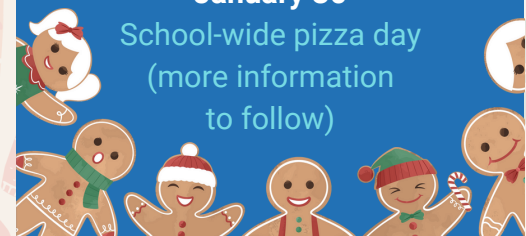
PAC meeting at 6pm online only: [Here](#)

### January 26

Mosaic Meanderings (in class presentations)

### January 30

School-wide pizza day (more information to follow)







## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The BC curriculum focuses on the core competencies: personal and social competency, communication, and thinking. While leadership is included in all these areas, it is a focus in the Personal and Social competency, which is the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals, and as members of their community and society. Personal and Social competencies encompass what students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world. Some of the opportunities available this year are:

- Lunch buddies
- Office monitors
- Student leadership team (playground buddies)
- Student chefs lunch lab
- Library monitors

The grade 7s recently formed a Social Justice Club (name may change) which is being sponsored by Ms. Ba, Ms. Ong, and Mr. Mulligan. We look forward to the events they bring forward to understand and bring us closer to each other.

For more information about the personal and social core competencies [click here:](https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies/personal-and-social)



Div. 13 Ms. Adams / Ms. Wong

## LET'S DANCE!

On the drizzly Monday the students in Division 11 (Ms. Peng), 8 (Ms. Liu/Ms. Wang), and 7 (Ms. Zhang) put on their dancing shoes and entertained us all! Two times! The choreography was stellar and the excitement was palpable. It takes a lot of training, dedication, and patience to put together a dance routine and we are so proud of the students. So many students and families got to watch the dance and one student said, "I didn't know my friend could move like that." Opportunities like these help us learn more about each other and connect in different ways. Thank you to Ms. Liu for organizing this great learning opportunity for the students.

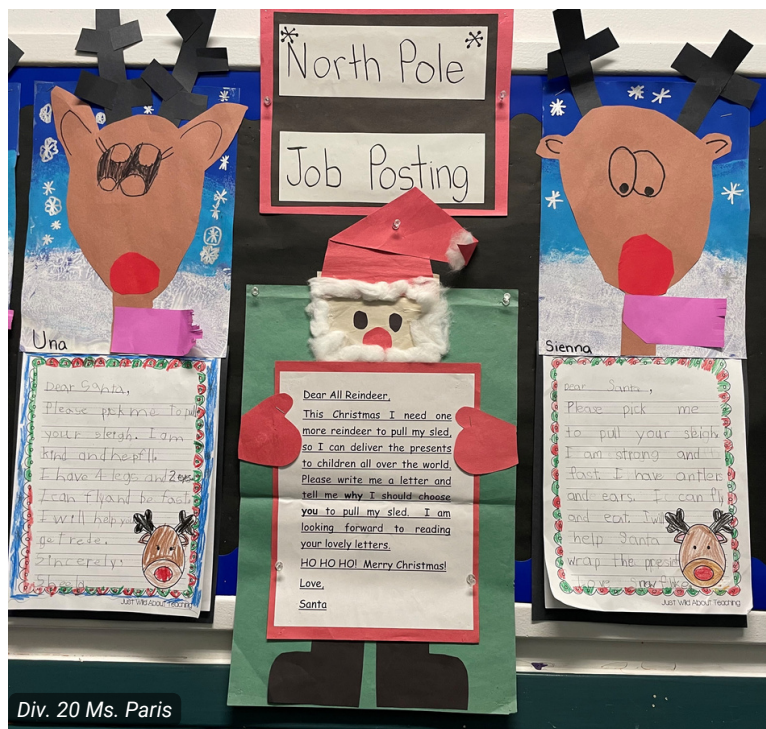


Div. 7, 8, 11



Div. 24 Ms. Gruger





## SAFETY REMINDERS

As we are headed into the winter season we want to share a few reminders to keep everyone safe during the darker days:

- **Parking:** the school parking lot is **FOR STAFF ONLY** please do not do drop off and pick up in these spaces.
- **Supervision:** There is only general supervision before and after school. Please make sure to drop off your child as close to 8:55am as possible and pick them up at 3pm.
- **Street signs:** Please pay attention to all city street signs. It is prohibited to stop in the alleyway at any time, so student drop-offs are not permitted there.

Given the busyness of this area, traffic enforcement does make regular check ins around the school. They will be around Norquay this week. We are still looking for volunteers to support the adult crossing guard program, the time commitment is very little, please consider signing up at: <https://forms.gle/qeSRqRv4A4REUCXf6>. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.



Thank you Van Tech Outreach Band for brightening up our morning with fantastic holiday music!







## WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST

Thank you to the PAC for starting to organize the Welcome to 2024 waffle breakfast! This year it will be on Friday, January 19th. Please bring your own plates, cutlery, and mugs for hot chocolate/coffee. To RSVP for breakfast: <https://forms.gle/BPWqQnpz8Dex5kpy6>. There will be two seatings:

- 8:00 – 8:25am or
- 8:30 – 8:55am

Once again, volunteers will be needed. We are hoping for 30 helpers to help with various tasks to feed over 700 meals! Tasks include: cooking waffles, pouring syrup, tending to the hot chocolate, clean up, and more. There are various time slots available between 6:30am – 9:30am. All help is greatly appreciated, to sign up to volunteer: <https://forms.gle/pnsrAjWAdM6dXhe38>.

\* A reminder that we will be collecting cash donations for the food bank at the breakfast, every little bit counts. We are hoping to raise more than last year!

## AFTER THE BELL

With priority kindergarten registration beginning in November, this month's episode of VSB: After the Bell focused on everything related to kindergarten. They covered a variety of topics from registration to program options families can enroll in. VSB spoke to District choice program teachers Eva Lin (Montessori), Alexis Lefebvre (Late French Immersion), Mary Leman Viggers (Indigenous Focus), and Norquay's Ms. MELISSA PENG! Thank you Ms. Peng for representing. For more information: [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/\\_ci/p/69553](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/_ci/p/69553)



Staff vs. Grade 7 students volleyball game



**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 Myers

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# 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).

