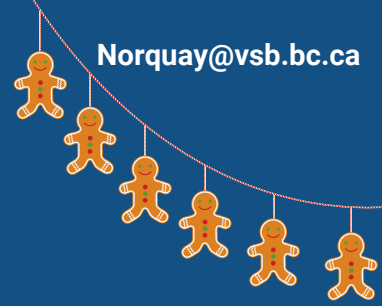


December Newsletter



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).

And then it was December! The first term has flown by. In the newsletter, we try to include many photos of the amazing work happening each month so you can see the growth in learning over the course of the term.

The written learning updates, that will go home on Monday, December 16th, will share more about your child's growth and will include:

- information on how your child is doing in each area of learning
- written comments (descriptive feedback) on your child's strengths and areas they need to work on, as well as their work habits and behaviour
- information on the communication, thinking, and social skills that your child needs to be successful (Core Competencies) and your child's goal setting
- information about your child's attendance

Please use this update to talk with your child about their learning and celebrate their brilliance, joy, and growth. Celebrate the gains they have made and think about goals for term 2.

As we head more into December we recognize the many different celebrations around the world. To get into the spirit of the holidays we have had a movie afternoon in the gym last week and we will have caroling in the gym and Santa will come and visit as well! We are also sharing celebrations around the world during the morning announcements. If you have a December celebration in your home, please let us know and we can share it with the school.

We recognize December as a time to think about family, light, peace, and sharing a meal with those you love. We hope you get time during the holidays for rest and celebration. If you are out and about with your family, please check out some of these free lights shows: <https://lifesincrediblejourney.com/free-light-displays-near-vancouver/>.

From our families to yours, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and all good things for 2025.



HAPPY Holidays!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, December 3

- School-wide pizza day, thank you PAC
- PAC meeting at 6pm, online only: <https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62272374717?pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVDk0dnY1UjBRRnFLUj09>

Thursday, December 5

Purdy's order pick up after school in lunchroom

Friday, December 13

Primary sing along

Monday, December 16

Written learning updates to go home, term 1

Friday, December 20

- Last day before the winter holidays
- Intermediate sing along
- PJ Day/Cozy clothes day

Monday, January 6

School reopens

Friday, January 17

Welcome to 2025 breakfast, thank you PAC

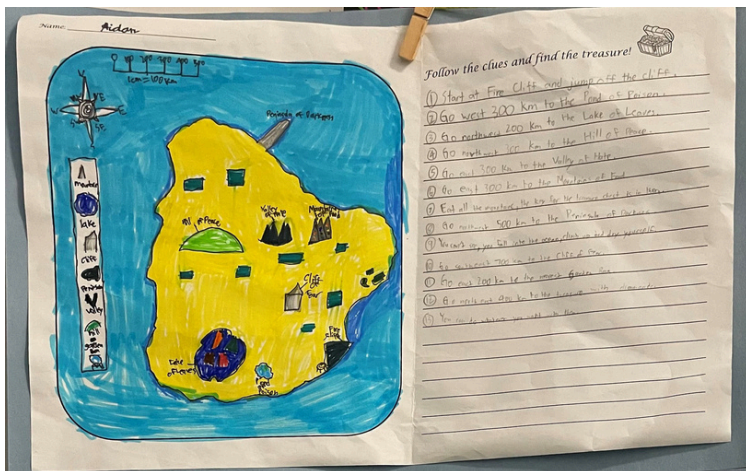
Monday, January 20

Professional development day, classes not in session

Wednesday, January 29

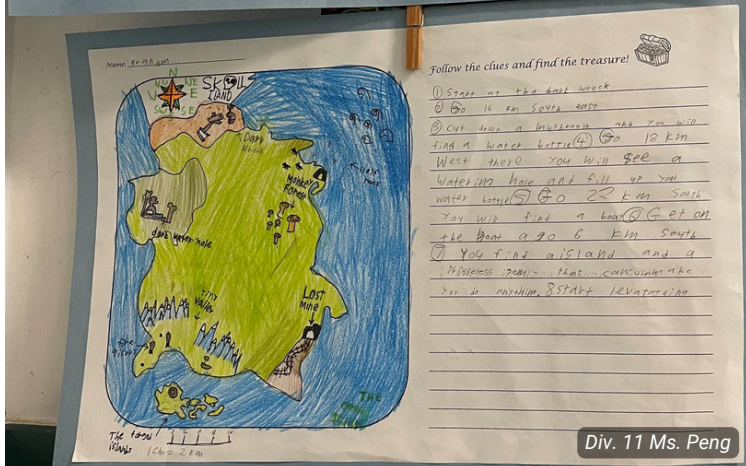
Lunar New Year Lion Dance, thank you PAC





Follow the clues and find the treasure!

- Start at Five Cliffs and jump off the cliff.
- Go west 200 km to the Pond at Pecos.
- Go northwest 100 km to the Lake at Lewis.
- Go northwest 100 km to the Hill at Hill.
- Go east 100 km to the Valley at Hill.
- Go east 100 km to the Mountain at Hill.
- Go west 100 km to the Mountain at Hill.
- Go west 100 km to the Mountain at Hill.
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- Go west 100 km to the Mountain at Hill.



Follow the clues and find the treasure!

- Start at the end west.
- Go to the end west.
- Go to the end west.
- Go to the end west.
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- Go to the end west.

Div. 11 Ms. Peng



Div. 18 Ms. Tsolinas

JOIN OUR SCHOOL CHOIR!

Calling all students from Grade 3 to 7! Come join this year's Norquay Choir and let your voice be heard! Our theme this year is: Love ❤️. We will explore songs that celebrate love in all its forms – love for music, love for foods, love for friends, and love for our community. Practice starts in January, 2025 and will be held during lunch time at the Music Room. This is a fantastic opportunity to make new friends, learn new songs, and have a lot of fun! We have an exciting list of songs for our choir this year, including:

- "Doughnut" by Stephen L. Lawrence – a delightful tune that will surely bring a smile to your face.
- "More Than Words" by Extreme – a beautiful 90's soft rock ballad that touches many of our hearts.
- "Yo Vivo Cantando" by Jerry Estes – a lively song that celebrates the joy of singing.
- "Cherokee Morning Song" arranged by Michael Yannette – a powerful and moving piece that blends traditional Cherokee melodies with contemporary choral elements.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be part of something special. We will perform these songs at the VSB Elementary Choral Festival on March 4-5 at 7pm at John Oliver Secondary School. Can't wait to sing our heart out! For more information, please contact Ms. Ba at rba@vsb.bc.ca.

LIBRARY CORNER

First, a big thank you to our Library Monitors who eagerly arrive, work hard, and are becoming wonderful citizens all around the school!

Second, primary students have been busy working on their **Not-A-Block...an ADST project** involving woodworking and art.

Finally, we will be having **three-, two-, and one-book weeks** as we approach Winter Break. We will also be calling for **all overdue books** to be returned to renewed.

See you soon!

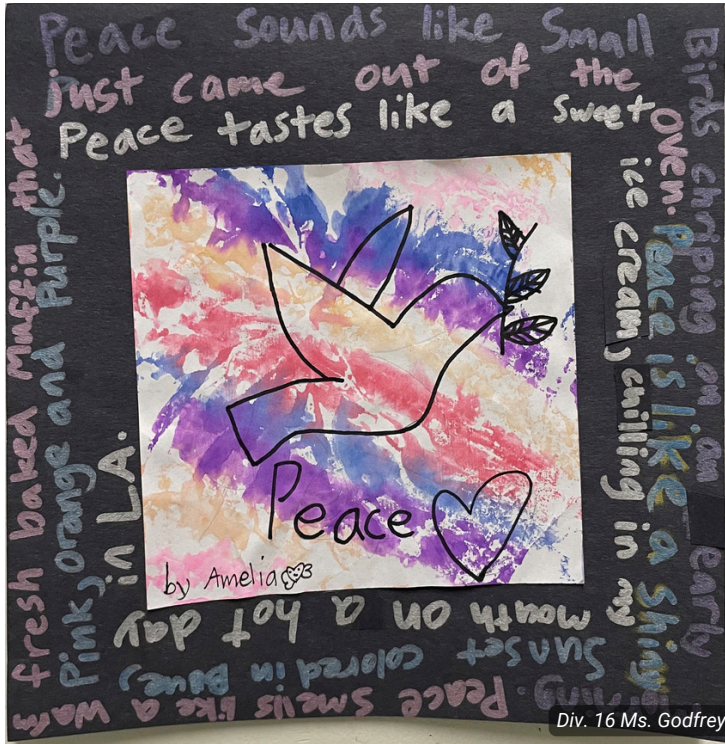


Div. 26 Ms. Ong



YEARBOOK

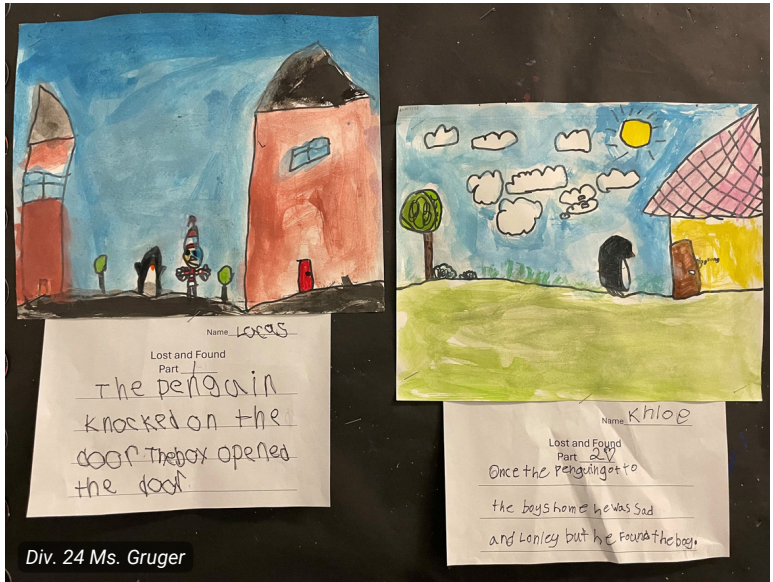
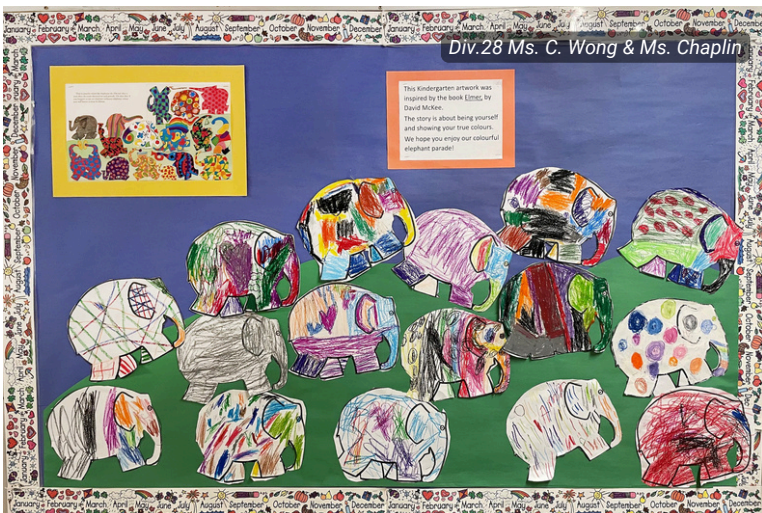
The Yearbook Planning Team (sponsored by Ms. Ba and Norquay PAC) is already hard at work designing and preparing the 2024/2025 memory book. For your child to be part of this legacy please make sure to sign the consent form that went home last week and return it to the classroom teacher. If you have any questions, please reach out to the school. Please note the online consent forms for the yearbook have been discontinued.



Div. 16 Ms. Godfrey

LOST AND FOUND

We encourage families to take a look at the lost and found in the basement before the winter holidays. There are many mittens, hats, coats, and water bottles. If you notice one is lost, please take a peek there. We hope you find your missing items. Once a year we pack up all the remaining items and send it to a local charity.



Div. 24 Ms. Gruger

GRADE 7 TO 8

As term 1 is coming to a close, we are getting the grade 7s ready for grade 8! A reminder that registration for District Mini Schools closes Dec 19. For more information, please visit the VSB website link: [Mini School Programs](#). You can also visit: [Preparing for Grade 8/What to know during the Grade 7 year.](#)



Div. 27 Ms. Emperor

TRAFFIC SAFETY

We have a new traffic officer who has been doing regular patrols around the school to support safety. To help us, 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 8:15 and 9:00AM and 3:00 and 4:00PM).

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

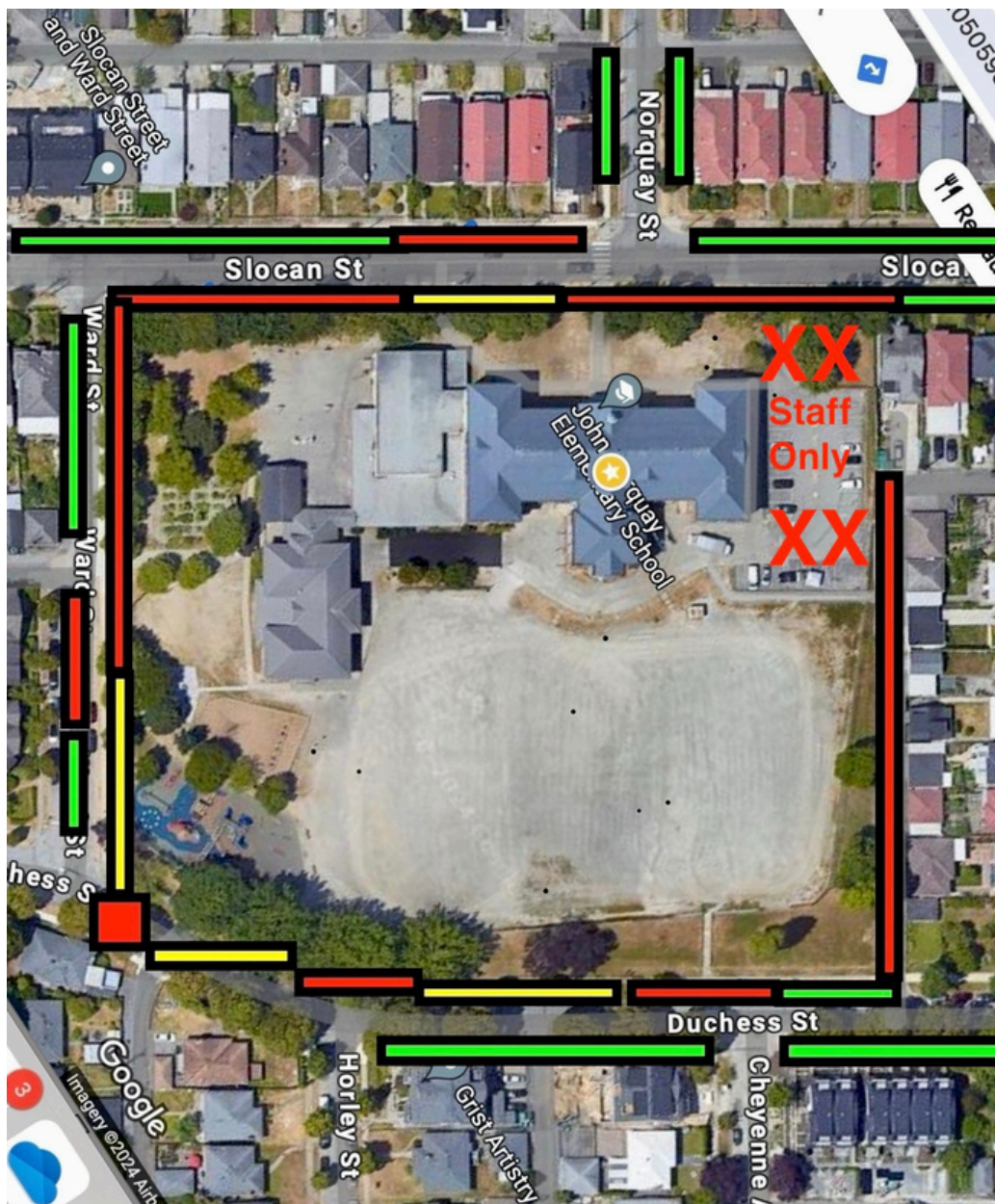
- If you are leaving your car for any reason during pick up and drop off, please park in a space designated for general parking (30min Green P, 2 hour green P, unrestricted).
- Pick up and drop off zones (red P, 3min Green P) are designed to accommodate several cars trying to get to the same location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



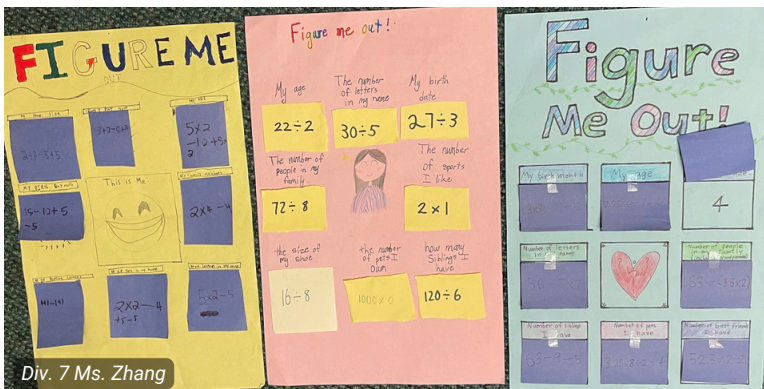
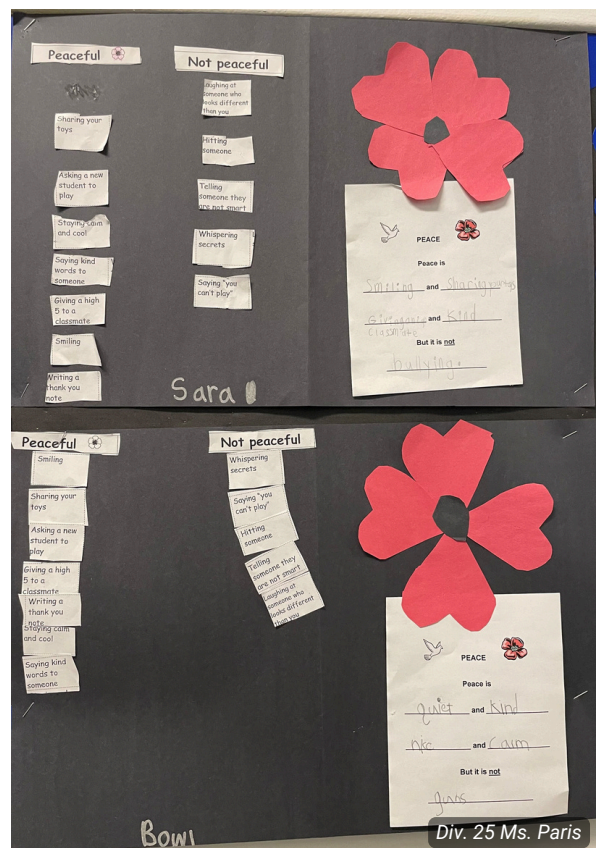
THE NORQUAY COMMUNITY ART GALLERY

Have you seen the art? The Norquay Community Art Gallery is a new student led club that aims to celebrate, inform, and connect Norquay students, staff, and families through art! All classes are welcome to submit art work to be displayed and enjoyed on the bulletin boards leading into the New Wing, and are invited to learn about different artists from around the world and throughout history each month. Come check it out! Thank you to Ms. Whitcroft for sponsoring this club! We look forward to the beautiful creations!



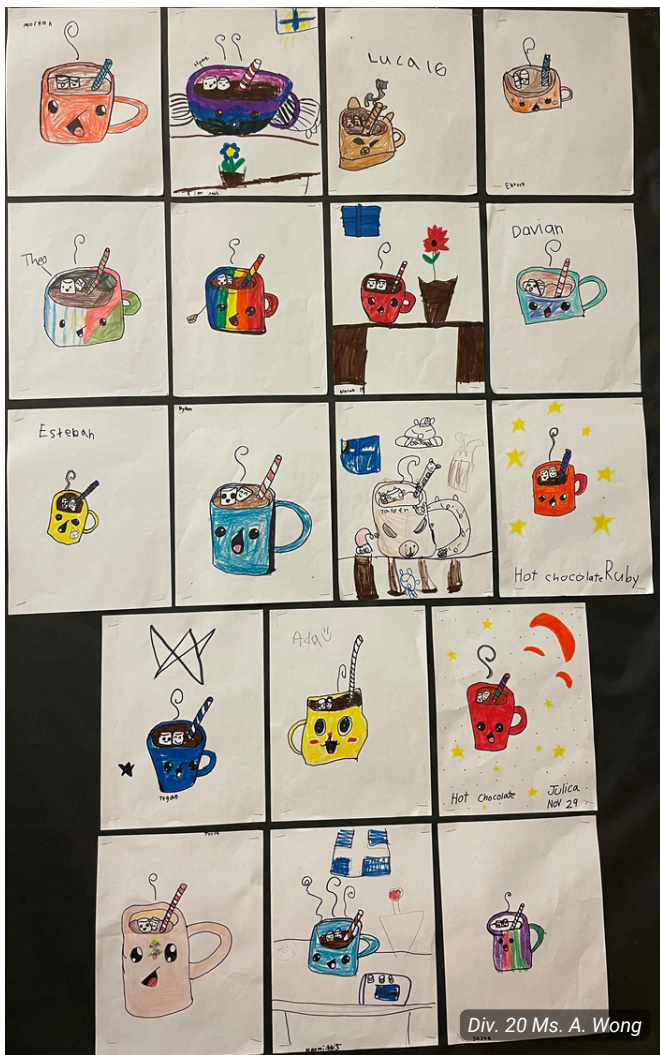
POPPY FUND

Thank you to Mr. Loong and division 5 for all their work collecting money for the poppy fund. We raised \$516.00 in cash and \$147.00 online. Poppy funds are used for things such as grants for food, heating costs, clothing, prescription medication, medical appliances and equipment, essential home repairs and emergency shelter or assistance for Veterans and their families in need. Thank you for contributing to such a worthy cause.



NORQUAY CLUBS

We have had a busy term with soccer, cross country, and volleyball. We also have a floor hockey club on Fridays at lunch, the board game club, and drawing club. The Power in YOUTH Club continues and we have a new art club. Staff volunteer their time to put on these opportunities for students. Thank you so much for all your help! We love seeing students engaged and having a great time. Stay tuned for a new math club starting soon!



COUNSELLING CORNER

We are very lucky at Norquay to have Ms. Ivey (area counsellor) at the school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Area Counsellors' services facilitate the educational, personal, social and emotional development of elementary students in schools. Area Counsellors provide support to individual students, groups of students, and classes in response to the current needs of the school. If your child is needing support, please feel free to reach out to the school or email: jivey@vsb.bc.ca.



ADAM'S APPLES FOUNDATION

Did you know that we are part of the Apple Program supported by the Adam's Apples Foundation? The Apple Program, operating in over 50 locations across the Lower Mainland. Apple Bowls are filled daily and students are encouraged to "take two" – one for themselves, and one for a friend, and share a healthy snack and a healthy conversation. This simple concept facilitates face-to-face connection in a tech-driven world where youth are more disconnected than ever. According to psychiatrist and Adam's Apples Board Member Dr. Muffy Greenaway, "although it may seem simple, the impact of one apple, leading to one connection, can be a turning point for one student who is struggling". We love seeing the students come and ask for an apple with and for their friends.

PAC CORNER

Thank you for all your support this year! We have had many exciting events such as the Welcome Back BBQ, movie night, photo fundraiser, and so many more! We love supporting the community in making connections to each other.

A few reminders:

- PAC meeting Tuesday Dec 3rd 6pm online Zoom: <https://ubc.zoom.us/j/6227237417?pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVDk0dnY1UjBRRnFLUT09>
- Purdy's Chocolates Pickup: Thursday, December 5, 3:00-3:30 pm @ Norquay Lunch Room
- Jan 17th Welcome Back Breakfast: Volunteers needed!! Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/JPEp1AaePdC6oERS7>. RSVP link will be sent later in December
- Lunar New Year Celebration: moved to Wed Jan 29th. Assemblies will be held during school hours. Due to occupancy restrictions, the assembly is not open to families to attend.
- *New for 2025* Baby Sitting Course for Gr 6 & 7's: First Aid Hero will be running a Babysitting Course at the school. Friday February 14th 8:30-4:30pm (ProD day). There are limited spots available (max 25 students). Students must bring a doll or teddy to practice on as well as a lunch and drink. Please see the website for more information: [Babysitting Training – First Aid Hero](#). To Register:
 - Step 1: Sign up with the following link: <https://forms.gle/VX24ugCk46VCpm8X6>
 - Step 2: \$80/student. Send e-transfer payment to: norquaypacorders@gmail.com to confirm your spot. Cheque is also accepted, please drop it off to the PAC box at the front desk office.
 - ** Please email Principal Kotak if financial support is needed to attend the course



Div. 14 Ms. S. Wong

WEATHER

As we head into the colder weather, please be reminded that IF schools are closed, this information will be shared by 6:30 in the morning. Please check the news, VSB website, or VSB social media (facebook, X, Instagram).



Be in the know, winter is coming!

Follow VSB on social media to stay updated about school closures due to severe weather.

During extreme weather conditions (heavy snowfall, extreme cold, freezing rain, extreme heat, etc.) VSB schools will remain open if possible.

If a District-wide closure is necessary, it will be announced by 6:30 a.m.

Stay updated:

Facebook: Vancouver School Board

Instagram: @vsb39

X: @vsb39

VSB website: vsb.bc.ca



Div. 22 Ms. Chang

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

4710 Slocan Street
 Vancouver, B.C. V5R 2A1

Telephone: 604-713-4666
 Safe Arrival: 604-713-5159 ext. #61

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN BORN IN 2020 BEGINS NOVEMBER 1

All kindergarten applicants are required to complete an online application for their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for District 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 online 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 **2025-26**

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 District Choice Program or cross boundary, you must **first apply to your English catchment elementary school**. District Choice Programs and cross boundary applications will be accepted in early 2025. For more information, go to: govsb.ca/kchoice and govsb.ca/crossboundary

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.
5. In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at either catchment site, students will be placed at a neighbouring school until 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.

In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at either catchment site, students will be placed at a neighbouring school until space becomes available.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit the VSB website: govsb.ca/kindergarten

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

