

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) & səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Thank you for a wonderful November! It was an exciting month filled with activities—an energetic volleyball season, the Beaver Computing Challenge, a fun movie night, a school-wide pizza day, and so much more.

As we move into December, our school community is focusing on the themes of kindness, peace, and togetherness. This month gives us many opportunities to learn about important days of significance and to celebrate the rich diversity that makes our world so special. We'll explore topics such as World AIDS Day, Human Rights Day, and traditions like Hanukkah, Bodhi Day, and the Winter Solstice—reflecting on values of compassion, inclusion, and respect.

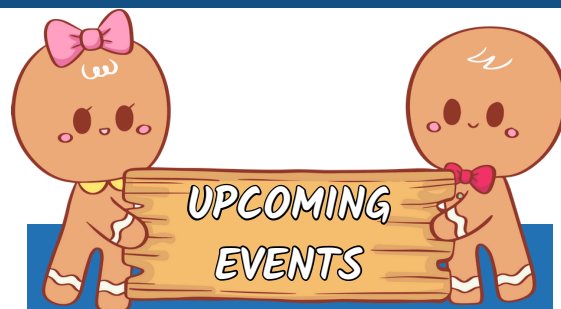
Each day, students will consider thoughtful reflection questions like:

- "What is one way you can show kindness to someone who is having a hard day?"
- "How can we make our school a place where everyone feels safe and valued?"

We invite you to share any celebrations your family observes in December so we can learn and celebrate together. As we approach winter break, we'll also recognize holidays such as Kwanzaa, Christmas, and New Year's Day, and many more. Whatever traditions you hold dear, we wish you a season filled with joy, peace, and new beginnings.

We look forward to seeing families at the Winter Read on Friday, December 12 from 8:30 to 9:00AM. The theme will be red and green, and even the snacks will match! Please bring your favorite book, something comfy to sit on, and a water bottle. We can't wait to read together and celebrate the holiday season.

Thank you for partnering with us to create a caring and inclusive school community. Here's to a wonderful December and an amazing start to 2026!



Tuesday, December 2

PAC Meeting at 6PM

Friday, December 5

Theme Day: Seasonal Sweater or Onesie

Thursday, December 11

Staff vs. Grade 7s Volleyball game

Friday, December 12

- Last day for LunchLAB for Term 1
- 8:30-9:00AM Winter read in Gym (Please line up at the basketball courts)
- Theme Day: Wear Red and Green

Tuesday, December 16

Written learning updates available after 3:15PM, notifications will be sent to families

Thursday, December 18

- Mini school applications close at 3:00PM
- Singalong (PM)
- Theme Day: PJ or Cozy Clothing

December 22 to January 2

Winter Break

Friday, January 16

Welcome to 2026 Waffle Breakfast (more info to follow)





Div. 15 Ms. Lau

LIBRARY CORNER

First, a big thank you to our Library Monitors who arrive eager, work hard, and are becoming wonderful citizens all around the school. Second, many classes have begun ADST projects: tree cookies and 'Tensegrity' (Gr 7). 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 or renewed.



Div. 25 Ms. Paris

REMINDER: NEW REPORTING FORMAT - SPACES EDU

This year, student report cards will be shared through SpacesEDU. You should have received an invitation from your child's classroom teacher to create an account. An account is required to view your child's report card, so please sign up as soon as possible. If you did not receive an invite, please check your junk or spam folder. If you still cannot find it, contact your child's teacher for assistance. Thank you for helping us make this transition smooth!



Div. 29 Ms. Chang



Div. 13 Ms. Adams & Mr. Mercer

ARTWORK SUBMISSION

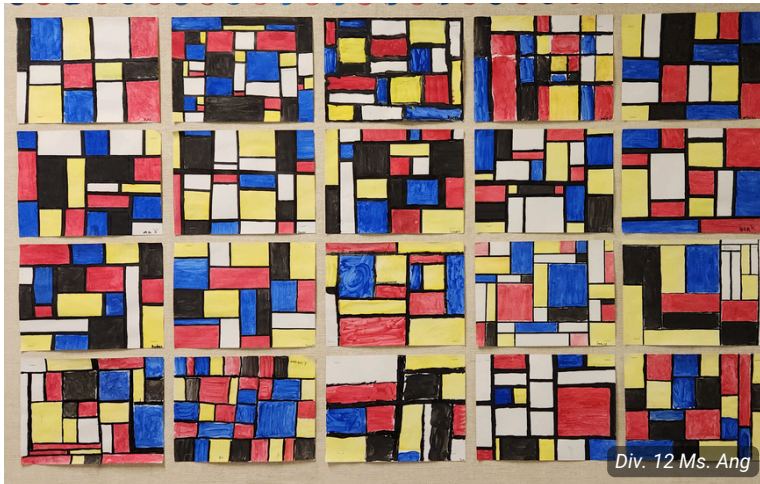
We are excited to announce that a Norquay student's artwork was submitted for this year's VSB Winter Art Contest! The submissions were exceptional, making the selection process very challenging. Congratulations to the winner ... Eliza from Ms. Wang's class!!!

Eliza's beautiful artwork will be featured as the Superintendent's e-card, spreading joy to many recipients. She will receive a thank-you note, a copy of the e-card, and a special gift of appreciation. Thank you, Eliza, for representing Norquay in such an amazing way!



MOSAIC PROJECT

You may remember that Norquay participated in a community project last year to help create a mosaic for the Norquay neighbourhood in East Vancouver. This artwork was designed through community involvement and includes patterns created by our students. The installation has been delayed due to ongoing construction at the site. The new expected installation window is Spring 2026. We are excited to see the students' designs come to life and will share updates as soon as the mosaic is ready to be unveiled!



Div. 12 Ms. Ang

POPPY FUNDRAISER

Thank you for your generous donations to the Poppy Fund! Through your support, the Legion is able to help Canada's Veterans and their families. Norquay raised \$138.25 in cash and \$165.00 online. We truly appreciate your contribution to this worthy cause.



Div. 11 Ms. Peng



Div. 20 Ms. A. Wong

MATH CLUB FOR GRADES 4 & 5

Starting in December, a math club will meet every Thursday at lunchtime for students in Grades 4 and 5 who enjoy solving puzzles and exploring math in fun ways! Students will work with engaging manipulatives and tackle exciting challenges designed to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts. A big thank you to Ms. Wang for supporting our students in their love for math and helping make Math Club possible!

MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI)

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a questionnaire designed for children to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences both inside and outside of school. It is not used to assess individual students. Instead, it helps us understand how groups of children are doing in areas related to social and emotional well-being, health, and academic achievement. The information collected supports schools, communities, and governments in creating better programs and resources for children during middle childhood. This year, the Vancouver School District will be working with Grade 6 students on the MDI. Families of Grade 6 students will receive more details soon, including a passive consent form. Thank you for partnering with us to support the well-being of all students!



Div. 8 Ms. Wang



STAYING ACTIVE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

With the holidays around the corner, we encourage families to help students get outside and limit screen time. Fresh air and physical activity are so important! This website shares 50 fun outdoor activities for kids:

Some outdoor activity ideas: <https://ourdaysoutside.com/50-easy-outdoor-activities-for-kids/>

- Go on a nature scavenger hunt.
- Build a snow fort or create snow art (if weather permits).
- Try birdwatching or look for animal tracks.
- Have a family walk or bike ride.
- Play classic outdoor games like tag or hide-and-seek.

We are also resharing a helpful resource to support healthy technology use. It's important for students to use these powerful tools responsibly, with adult guidance and supervision. Access the guide here: <https://saferschoolstogether.com/raising-digitally-responsible-youth-a-parents-guide-2/>



PAC CORNER

Thank you so much for all your support! We had a very successful school-wide pizza day and movie night. A few more exciting events around the corner:

Baby sitting course: Grade 5, 6, 7's (Note: only Gr 5 students who are turning 11 before March 31st 2026 may register). First Aid Hero will be running a Babysitting Course at the school.

- Monday, January 19th 8:30-4:30pm (ProD day)
- Students must bring a doll or teddy to practice on as well as a lunch and drink
- Website for more information: [Babysitting Training – First Aid Hero](#)
- To Register:
 - Step 1: Sign up with the following link: <https://forms.gle/AzVyKQwXjRtBqn2r9>
 - Step 2: \$80/student. Send etransfer payment to norquaypacorders@gmail.com within 48 hours 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

PAC Meeting Tuesday, Dec 2nd 6-7pm: All parents/guardians are invited to join. Click the online link <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/83393296297?pwd=tVLHaTLdFRf6LpriVOWeOHgfza60wP.1>. Meeting ID: 833 9329 6297. Password: 4710

Be a part of the PAC team! We are looking for dedicated parents/guardians to join PAC's team in various areas, please email norquaypacteam@gmail.com and indicate your area of interest.

- **Fundraising Committee:** Help to create a vision and direction for where the PAC fundraising efforts will go towards. Time commitment ~2-3 hours/month
- **Crossing guards:** help with cone placement before/after school. Various time commitments, ~15 mins a week
- **Fliers copy/distribution:** help with cutting/distributing PAC fliers that promote PAC initiatives. Time commitment: ~1-2 hours/month

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events! On behalf of the entire PAC executive team we wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and all the best for 2026.

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

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 Vancouver, B.C. V5R 2A1

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN BORN IN 2021 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 **2026-27**

Step 2: Verification of documentation

- After applying, you will receive instructions on how to schedule your in-person appointment
- Bring supporting documentation during your scheduled appointment for verification

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 2026. 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. In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at their catchment school, students will be placed at another school as close to the catchment as possible 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: Sibling priority **does not** apply to registrations received after January 31.

In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at their catchment school, students will be placed at another school as close to the catchment as possible 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).

