

# December Newsletter

Vol. 2

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 are almost at winter break—only six more school days to go! The coming week is filled with exciting events, including the staff versus Grade 7 volleyball game, our winter read, holiday singalong, a visit from Santa, multiple theme days, and all the wonderful activities happening in classrooms.

Another major milestone happening next week: first-term learning updates will be released to families after 3:00 PM on Tuesday, December 16. You will receive a notification when your child's report is ready to view. All updates will be shared through the SPACES EDU platform. Please make sure your account is activated before the 16th so you can enjoy reading about your child's growth and learning journey—we are so proud of their accomplishments!

We want to take a moment to celebrate Norquay students who have represented our school at the district level. Eliza from Division 8 had her artwork selected as the Superintendent's holiday card this year—a tremendous honor! In addition, Jacob and Marcus from Ms. Zhang's class are the only elementary representatives on the district's Equity and Anti-Oppression Working Group, working alongside trustees, staff, and secondary students on important goals.

Finally, as winter weather approaches, please review our inclement weather procedures by listening to the VSB After the Bell Podcast: [VSB After the Bell Podcast- Inclement Weather](#) and checking the provided graphic for details.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership, we look forward to seeing you on Friday at 8:30AM for winter read. The theme is red and green and yes, red and green snacks will be provided! Thank you PAC. Please line up at the basketball court gym doors!

On behalf of all the staff at Norquay, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season. School will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026!



## 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



### 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

### Monday, January 5

School reopens

### Tuesday, January 6

- EMB info night 6PM
- District choice program registration site opens (9AM)

### Tuesday, January 13

- MDI window opens for Grade 6

### Friday, January 16

Welcome to 2026 Waffle Breakfast (more info to follow)

### Monday, January 19

Professional development day, classes not in session

### Friday, January 23

BC Lions Energy Presentation (primary)

### Tuesday, January 27

PAC meeting at 6PM (online only)

### Sunday, January 31

Priority K registration closes

### Tuesday, February 3

District choice program registration closes at 4PM



## VOLLEYBALL

A huge thank you to Coach Ba and Coach Julie for an excellent volleyball season! Our Grade 7 teams played in the finals last week and demonstrated incredible growth, talent, and sportsmanship. We are so proud of their teamwork and care for each other and the sport. Their dedication during practices and diligence in learning were evident throughout the season. Congratulations to our senior teams for representing Norquay in such a positive way! We also want to extend our gratitude to all the volunteer drivers and spectators—your support made this season possible. We look forward to the excitement of basketball season just around the corner. Thank you for being part of our Norquay community and cheering on our students as they learn, grow, and shine!

## CHOICE PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is well underway! Many families have inquired about choice programs (Mandarin Immersion, French Immersion, etc.). The District Choice Programs application site will open at 9am on January 6, 2026 and closes on February 3, 2026 at 4pm. This is for all students in kindergarten to grade 7 interested in a choice program for the 2026-2027 school year. For more information:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/26694/elementary-programs>.



## P/NP FOR A DAY

This week, Acacia and Savannah stepped into the roles of Principal and Vice Principal for a morning—and they were amazing!

They accomplished so much:

- Populated a school map with staff numbers from across the district
- Returned all the lost balls from the roof to their classes
- Wrote the daily bulletin (complete with a joke!)
- Created something special for staff
- Handed out December birthday gifts
- Made the morning announcements

Savannah's favorite task was preparing something for the staff, while Acacia loved giving out birthday pencils. When asked what it was like to be P/VP for a morning, they said... "BUSY!"

If your child would like the chance to be Principal or Vice Principal for a day, please volunteer or attend a PAC meeting—their name will be entered into a draw! Thank you, Acacia and Savannah, for all your hard work!

## EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADE 6 STUDENTS – MDI QUESTIONNAIRE

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Vancouver School Board will be participating in the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) questionnaire. This important tool gives children a chance to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences, both inside and outside of school, so we can better understand and support their well-being. Our Grade 6 students will be taking part in the MDI soon! Tomorrow, families of Grade 6 students will receive an email with more details, including a passive consent form. Thank you for partnering with us to help every child feel supported, connected, and ready to flourish.





## MESSAGE FROM POWER IN YOUTH

Thank you to Ms. Meghan for leading an excellent leadership program at our school! The Power in YOUTH group meets weekly to discuss issues and ideas that matter in today's world. This December, the group has been exploring inclusivity—asking important questions about stereotypes and representation while sharing personal experiences, hopes, and aspirations across race, gender, culture, and identity. As communities celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Bodhi Day, and more, we are reminded of the richness in our differences and the strength in unity. Let's continue to learn from one another, share traditions, and ensure everyone feels seen and valued. May this season bring connection, kindness, and inclusion.



## VSB VOICES - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Parents and caregivers, are you interested in sharing your voice and shaping important decisions for VSB schools? This district is looking for volunteer participants to join VSB Voices, a trusted group of students' families and caregivers who provide feedback about different topics through surveys, focus groups and panels. Your voice matters and it is vital in shaping important decisions for our schools. To join VSB Voices for the 2025/2026 school year, please take five minutes to complete the [following questionnaire](#) by December 15, 2025. More information on VSB Voices can be found [here](#).

## VSB EA PROGRAM

Are you looking for a rewarding job working in a school setting supporting children and youth with special needs? There is an ongoing need for qualified Educational Assistants in B.C. schools. The VSB EA Program, operating through Burnaby Community and Continuing Education is a reputable 6-month program designed to prepare you for the role and provide you with the needed diploma.

Our next program opens for applications on January 12, 2026, for classes that begin March 30, 2026.

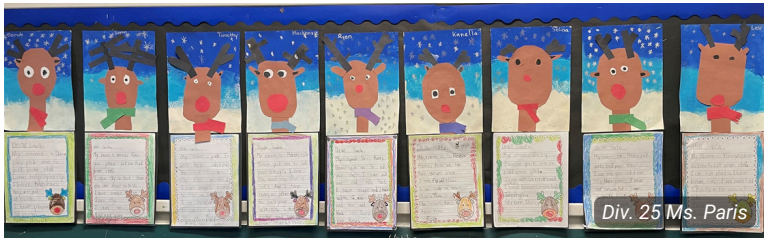
To register for a free online Information Session, from 7-8:30 PM, go to [www.burnabyccce.ca](http://www.burnabyccce.ca). Scroll to EA Programs and select VSB EA Information Sessions. We use the ZOOM platform to deliver the session. Sign up for one of the following dates and bring your questions.

- Wednesday, December 17, 2025
- Tuesday, January 26, 2026
- Wednesday, February 11, 2026



## FREE AND LOW-COST RESOURCES

The City of Vancouver shares free and low-cost resources and updates this list regularly. For more information: [Free and low-cost resources](#) | [City of Vancouver](#).



## PAC CORNER

With December wrapping up, we look forward to welcoming you to 2026!

### The PAC Welcome Back Waffle Breakfast:

- Friday Jan 16th before school - more RSVP details to come.
- Call out for volunteers to help with the school wide breakfast! Various volunteer times available (eg: Thurs, Jan 15th table set up, Fri, Jan 16th 6:30 am waffle cooking or 9 am clean up, etc). Sign up link:

<https://forms.gle/XfbkyEBAEg1qmT6UA>

**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/AzVyKQwXjRtBgn2r9>
  - Step 2: \$80/student. Send etransfer payment to [norquaypacorders@gmail.com](mailto: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

On behalf of the PAC executives, we wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone at Winter Read on Friday, December 12 and on Friday, January 16 at the Welcome to 2026 waffle breakfast!

## TIPS FOR STAYING HEALTHY OVER THE HOLIDAYS

As we shared in our last newsletter, here are some ideas to keep children healthy and active during the holiday season! Fresh air and physical activity are so important, plus, they're fun! Try these outdoor activities:

- 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.

Find **50 more ideas here:** <https://ourdaysoutside.com/50-easy-outdoor-activities-for-kids/>

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/>

All the best for a happy, healthy and active break full of fresh air and fun festivities!



**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



# 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](https://govsb.ca/kchoice) and [govsb.ca/crossboundary](https://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](https://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).

