

February Newsletter

With deep gratitude and respect, (we/I) (are/am) honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

February was an amazing month with many things to celebrate, honour, and recognize. Every day this month, we read a message about Black Brilliance to honour Black History Month. We started the month sharing about Mathiew Da Costa, a navigator and interpreter, who arrived in Canada in the early 1600s. We also had Daniel Duggan present to all the students. Daniel is a Scottish performing artist of African descent with roots in the Caribbean and South America. He is the original holder of the Official Guinness World Record for the Largest Djembe Drumming Ensemble, with 100's of elementary aged students playing one of his original compositions. He has followed his passion for rhythm and percussion by delving into his own personal eclectic and rich heritage. The theme of his presentation was "resilience." He was a true inspiration.

To celebrate Lunar New Year, Lunch Lab hosted a feast for the grades 6 and 7 students and many divisions participated in dumpling making and field trips to Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens. During the morning announcements, students from many divisions shared how to say "Happy New Year" in Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese. We also had Ms. Peng bring together students for a vibrant and collaborative art activity symbolizing the Year of the Dragon. Each student infused their creativity into every scale bringing the magnificent creature to life. The collaborative effort not only showcased the students' artistic talents but also fostered a sense of unity and shared joy, echoing the spirit of the Lunar New Year festivities. The resulting dragon became a symbol of collective inspiration and cultural celebration within the school community and is hanging at the top of the stairs by the office.

February will wrap up with a celebration of Pink Day. Pink Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students took a stand against homophobic bullying after a new grade 9 student was harassed and threatened for wearing pink. These students bought dozens of pink shirts and distributed them to their classmates to wear the next day in support of this student and to be active bystanders against gender stereotypes and bullying. The new grade 7 leadership group (Youth in Power) will be leading an activity for the whole school to participate in for Pink Day and this will be shared in the next newsletter. Please encourage your children to wear pink on Wednesday, February 28!

Our hope is that by sharing these significant days, it will show the connection we have to one another and teach us about joy, love, and harmony.

If there are any days of significance you celebrate at home that you would like us to share, please reach out. The more we know about one another, the more connected we become.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 23

- DIY Silkscreen Norquay Logo after school
- Deadline for Tsuen Tea orders
- Mosaic Meanderings in class presentations

Tuesday, February 27

School Wide Pizza Day

Wednesday, February 28

Pink Shirt Day - please wear pink!

Thursday, February 29

Leap Year!

Thursday, March 7

PAC Meeting at 6pm (online only)
<https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62272374717?pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVDk0dnYlUjBRRnFLUT09>

Friday, March 8

Family Movie Matinee at 3:15PM

Tuesday, March 12

- Term 2 written learning updates to go home
- Choral Festival at John Oliver at 7pm

Wednesday, March 13

- Gladstone band performance (grades 4 to 7)

Friday, March 15

Last day of classes before Spring Break

Tuesday, April 2

School starts after Spring Break/Easter

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

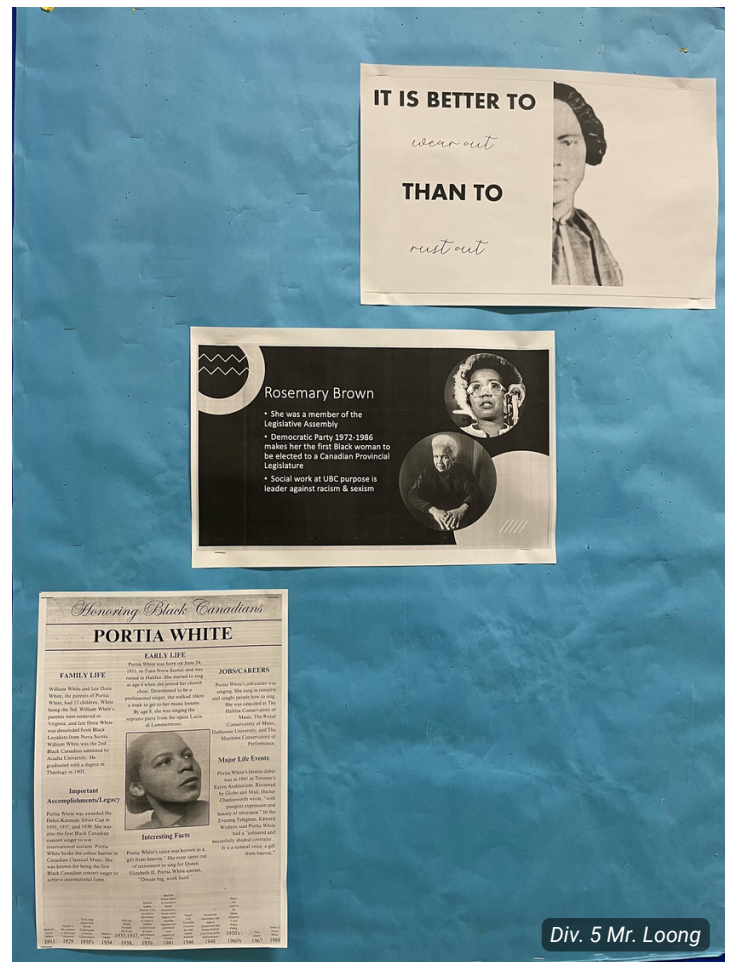
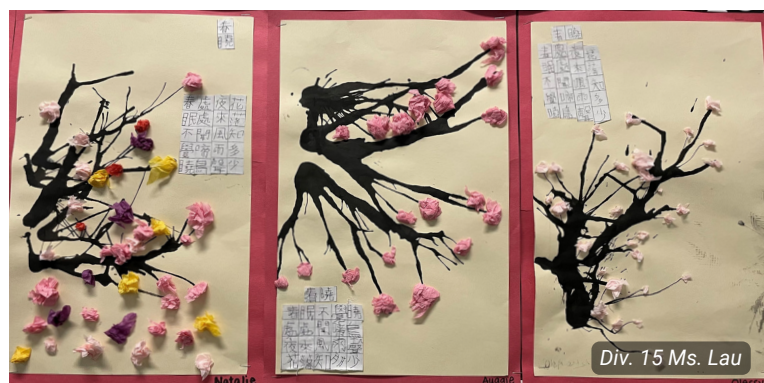
You may have noticed that the land acknowledgement in the newsletter has been updated.

This was done in consultation with the three host nations and out of respect for protocol. Indigenous protocols act as customary guidelines to retain history and pass down the knowledge from generation to generation. Coming to understand and practice protocols appropriately is a lifelong learning process. Following protocols is a significant sign of respect and awareness. It shows that you are taking the time to learn about Indigenous culture. In BC, recognition of that land is often unceded because BC is the only province in Canada in which 95 per cent of its land (nearly 900,00 km²) is unceded, or non-surrendered Indigenous territory. Thank you for being part of this learning and unlearning. As last year, divisions are writing land acknowledgements to give to the morning announcers which we will share in an upcoming newsletter.



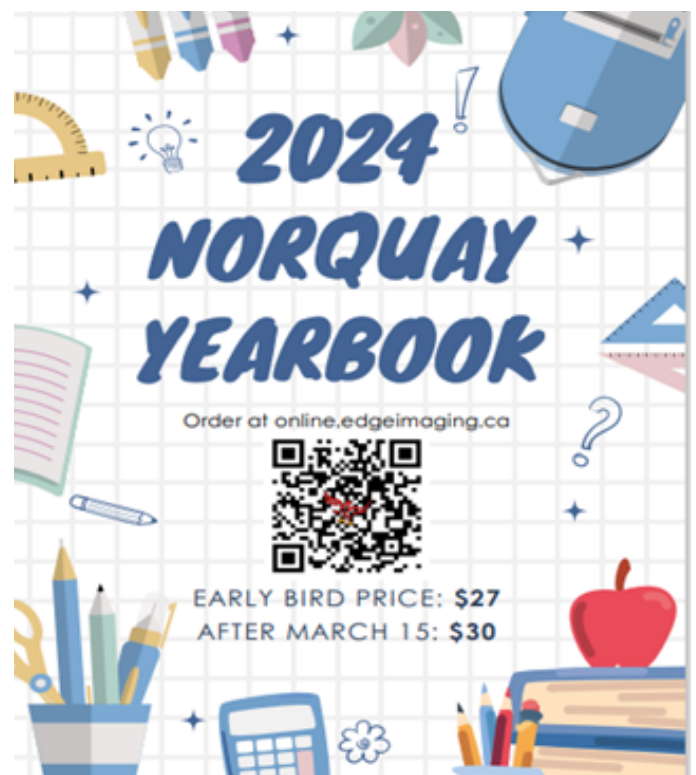
MOSAIC MEANDERINGS

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, Mosaic Meanderings has been doing workshops in many divisions and will be at Norquay Elementary again this Friday! Here is the link to view the albums from the workshops so far: [Mosaic Meanderings Photos](https://fb.me/e/d4v4FblYa). The ones from this Friday will be added some time next week. They will be hosting our public events (everyone is invited) this Saturday, February 24, and Saturday, March 9 - at the fieldhouse in Slocan Park - here are the event details: <https://fb.me/e/d4v4FblYa>.



YEARBOOK

It is that time of year when the yearbook committee is moving full steam ahead! If you are interested in purchasing a 2023-2024 Norquay Yearbook please use the QR code. Thank you yearbook planning team, we look forward to seeing your creation.



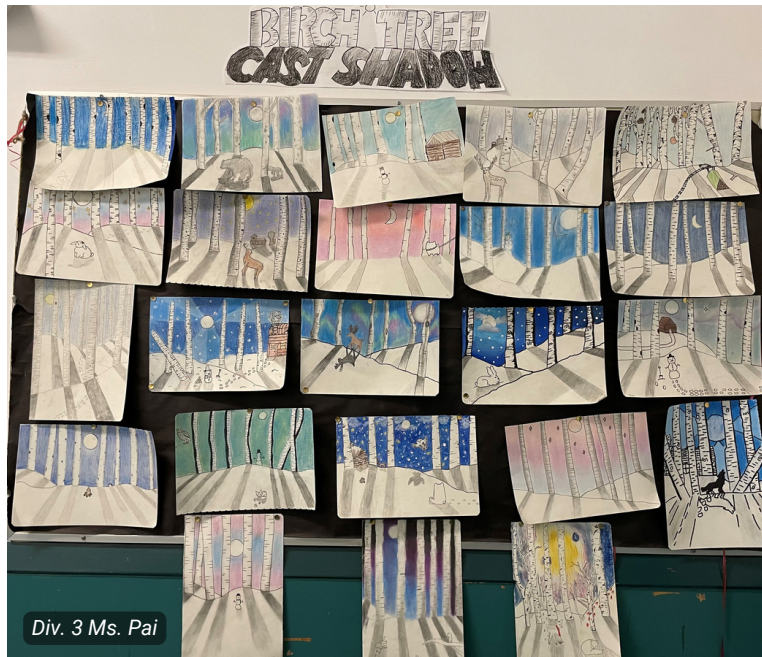


DIGITAL AWARENESS

Every year, students sign a digital responsibility contract. This agreement is the guideline for how our students use technology and devices both during and outside of school hours. We do remind students of online safety, and last year, the PAC hosted White Hatter that also shared positive messaging for responsible use of technology. You can help us by:

- Having frequent discussions with your children about online safety (e.g. stranger danger, online bullying, etc.)
- Understanding what social media sites they use (particularly the ones with direct messaging)
- Letting your kids know that you can do regular device checks (and follow through)
- Agree on a time each night to shut down devices and store them outside of their bedrooms
- Remind your kids that they should not write anything to anyone that they would not say in person

A good resource for more tips for online safety is: <http://commonsensemedia.org>, under parent tips and FAQ.



Div. 3 Ms. Pai

CELL PHONE USAGE

On Friday, January 26, the provincial government announced measures to improve student safety online. This included information about restricting cell phones in schools to be put in place by the next school year. Currently, in the VSB, several measures are in place to guide appropriate use of cell phones and other devices. These including the District Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of Technology administrative procedures. Staff will work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to ensure that any necessary changes are implemented ahead of September 2024. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Learn more about the provincial government's announcement.

NEW MINISTRY RESOURCE - SOGI

Many families have questions about SOGI and with Pink Day coming, the ministry has created a new resource to help parents understand the non-truths and truths when it comes to SOGI in B.C. schools. Visit the Resources section of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) web page for a copy of this document, which is available in multiple languages.



Div. 9 Ms. Hughes / Ms. Eastwood

#4 Abigail, Emma, Vivian and Seaira



2024

Ms. Peng and school community



PAC DESK

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Welcome to 2024 Waffle Breakfast! It was a great turnout and wonderful to see families and staff together. We shared more than 1300 food items and raised \$689.76, double what we raised last year, for the food bank! There are many ongoing and upcoming PAC initiatives, and the greatest way to show your appreciation is to participate and volunteer your helping hand.

DIVISION 8 DOES ANIMATING HISTORY

On February 2, 2024, Division 8 went to a one-day workshop at the Museum of Vancouver called Animating History. A short animation demonstration taught students how to do cut out animation. Sound was recorded separately after groups had completed their second scene. Animating History is a partnership of the Museum of Vancouver and the Reel 2 Real International Film Festival for Youth. Thank you to Ms. Wang and Ms. Liu for organizing such a fun opportunity. To watch: https://youtu.be/n_UfKDPeXI8



- Adult Crossing Guard: Thank you parents for being crossing guards on Slocan Street and putting out safety cones along Duchess St! Please consider committing only 30 minutes 1x/week or every other week to help fill the gaps on Tues-Thurs mornings and afternoons. Sign up here <https://forms.gle/qeSRqRv4A4REUCXf6>
- Silkscreen DIY: PAC has sponsored silkscreening the Norquay Logo for 80 pinnies for the Kindergarten classes. The K's will wear this for their field trips! Come and make your own Norquay Logo swag on Friday Feb 23rd after school from 3-4pm in the lunch room. Bring your own cloth items, participation by donation.
- Tsuen Tea Fundraiser: order deadline Friday Feb 23rd 10pm. Order on Munch a Lunch and e-transfer payment to norquaypacorders@gmail.com
- Just Mulch Fundraiser: Spring is around the corner and it's time to prep your garden! 10% discount and another 10% goes towards PAC. Order online with "JOHNNORQUAY" coupon code. <https://justmulch.ca>
- PAC meeting March 7th 6-7pm: Please note updated Zoom link: <https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62272374717?pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVDk0dnY1UjBRRnFLUT09>
- Movie Matinee Friday Mar 8th 3:15-5pm. Vote for your movie choice and RSVP <https://forms.gle/VHQ5rkAes571kBk78>. Volunteers needed! Please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/HzGAGK7cNeiAAkBo6>
- Pizza day Tuesday April 9th: watch out for forms the first day back to school from Spring Break as ordering will close on Thursday April 4th 10pm.

As always please reach out at anytime, PAC contact information:

- Website: <https://norquaypac.ca/>
- Email: norquaypac@norquaypac.ca
- Instagram: @norquaypac
- Facebook: Norquay Elementary PAC



TRAFFIC SAFETY

We had two exciting initiatives start at Norquay this month to help keep the community safe: Walking School Bus and the adult crossing guard program. This is in addition to the slow down pilot started by the city of 40 km/hour on Slocan.

The adult crossing guards started in January and they are currently supporting the crosswalk in front of the school on Slocan. We are hoping to expand the program to behind the school at the Duchess Street crosswalks but need more volunteers to do this. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill in this form: <https://forms.gle/qeSRqRv4A4REUCXf6>. The Walking School Bus program started on Thursday. The volunteers pick up and drop off students from designated locations and walk them to school in the morning and walk them back to the designated spot in the afternoon. The route takes about 30 minutes. They have a few more spots available if you are interested in registering, please reach out to the office.

Some more traffic safety tips, reminders and resources as unsafe driving puts students at serious risk, so please:

- Ensure that you are following all rules of the road including the Motor Vehicle Act and the Street and Traffic Bylaw
- Ensure that you are following all posted signs. This page provides some common examples of signage around schools.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Cross at intersections, where you are more visible to drivers.
- Do not use the staff parking lot for pick up/drop off.
- Consider parking 1-2 blocks from the school and walking over to the school ("Drive to 5"). This can simplify your morning routine by finding a less busy place to park temporarily.
- Please be kind to everyone in your school community.

The attached map shows marked zones for parking. Please note that bylaw enforcement makes regular checks at Norquay, and cars not following the posted signs will be ticketed. Thank you for keeping our community safe.



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Principal: Deena Kotak Buckley
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PAC Chairpersons: Hannah Tan
School Liaison Trustee: Chris Richardson
Director of Instruction: Janis Myers

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