

February Newsletter



With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the $xʷməθkʷə́əm$ (Musqueam), $Sḵwxwú7mesh$ Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & $səlilwətał$ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Wow! February started off with a wintry storm!

On snowy days, we have three priority areas that are cleared: the main entrance, the south side where our buses pull up, and north parking entrances. Please prioritize those locations to enter and leave the school. Thank you for working with us to keep everyone safe while enjoying the beautiful winter weather.

At Vancouver schools, students go outside on most days. Please make sure students come to school with clothes that are appropriate for outside play and that would keep them comfortable for an extended period outside during an emergency. If you need financial support for these items, please reach out to the school office and speak with the principal or vice-principal.

January ended with the celebration of Lunar New Year! Every day, students learned a little bit about how different Asian countries take part in this important time of significance. Thank you to the PAC we were able to see the Lion Dance and a demonstration of Taekwondo featuring many of our Norquay students. If you are in the school you will see the Year of the Snake display, thank you Ms. Peng. We will be filling up the snake with special events celebrated throughout the school year. We will share photos in upcoming newsletters.

February is another month filled with many celebrations. For Black History Month we will be sharing a bit of information every day in February about Black Canadians who have ties to Vancouver! In February we also have Valentine's Day, Pink Day, Lantern Festival, and International Mother Language Day. These are just a few opportunities we have to learn more about each other and the rich culture we share. If there is a special celebration your family has, please let us know!

We wish everyone a happy February!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Tuesday, February 4

District Choice Program applications close at 4pm

Friday, February 7

Boogaloo Dance Performance

Tuesday, February 11

Do Bugs Need Drugs presentation (grade 2)

Wednesday, February 12

Offers for Kindergarten choice programs (by end of day)

Friday, February 14

District-wide Pro-D day, classes for students not in session

Monday, February 17

Family Day holiday, schools closed

Wednesday, February 19

PAC meeting at 6pm, online only:
[https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62272374717?](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62272374717?pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVdk0dnY1UjBRRnFLUjT09)
 pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVdk0dnY1UjBRRnFLUjT09

Tuesday, February 25

School-wide pizza day

Wednesday, February 26

Pink Day

Friday, February 28

Cross-boundary applications close



Salmon eggs



Div. 3 Ms. Pai

SALMON LIFE STAGES

On January 20th, Division 23, 24, and 25 received 55 Chum salmon eggs from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to raise in Ms. Paris' classroom. The students will get to see the salmon go through the life cycle stages of eyed egg, alevin, and fry. At the end of April, we will release the salmon fry into Spanish Banks Creek. We hope the students enjoy it!

- Ms. Affleck, Ms. Paris and Mrs. Gruger



Div. 22 Ms. Chang

Salmon in the Classroom
at **Norquay** OUR SCHOOL

We're studying salmon!

Our tiny salmon eggs have arrived! We are learning about the life cycle of Pacific salmon. In the fall, salmon return to spawn and leave thousands of eggs in the gravel of many B.C. streams and rivers.

Our salmon eggs are developing in a special classroom incubator. We provide cold, clean water and lots of oxygen for the salmon eggs. We monitor the aquarium each day, and record the temperature of the water. We are learning about salmon and salmon habitat, and how salmon are very sensitive to changes in their environment. We hope all our salmon eggs will hatch!

We are proud to announce the arrival of 55 QUANTITY tiny orange Chum SALMON SPECIES eggs to our classroom on Jan. 20 DATE

Sharing Support

"Salmonids in the Classroom" is supported and funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada in partnership with your school district. We are excited that your child is studying salmon. Learning about stewardship helps students contribute to our community, making a difference for salmon and for us all!

"... learning about one's natural environment while experiencing it can be a life-changing event that forever alters one's perspective and understanding."
David Guggenheim,
Vice President, The Ocean Conservancy

Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada

Canada

LIBRARY CORNER

We have had a **SPECTACULAR**, yet **SMOOTH START** to the new year at the Norquay Library!

We are busy designing, sanding, and adding colour to **RED CEDAR BOOKMARKS**.

We are **DIGGING DEEP** into books. Many Grade 1 and 2 students are discovering **EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS** and 'big kid' titles.

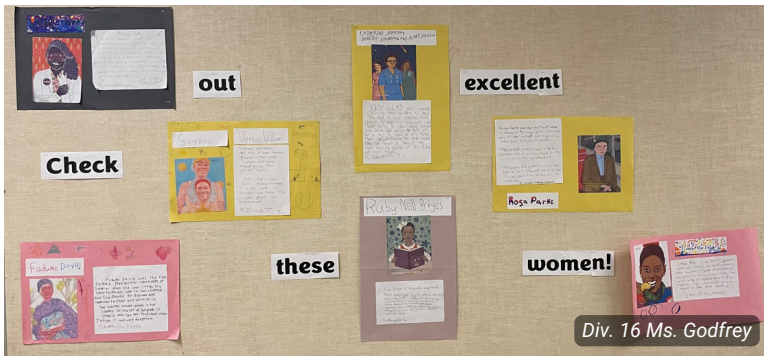
And several Intermediate classes are learning **INQUIRY** and **NOTETAKING SKILLS** as they work on Biography and Heritage Fair Projects.

A reminder that students can check out **3 BOOKS PLUS** their class books for projects. And students can renew books any time!

See you soon!



Div. 29 Ms. Kwan



PRINCIPAL/VICE-PRINCIPAL FOR A MORNING

We were lucky to have Liam and Alexandra from grade 1 as P/VP for a morning! They were very busy with soft plastic recycling, which they had fun dunking into the bin! They also did the paper shredding, and when the bucket got full, they walked to the big blue bin and properly recycled it for us. Then they filled up the apple bowl, did morning announcements, celebrated the February birthdays by singing and handing out birthday pencils, and filled up all the photocopier machines with paper. When we asked them what their favourite part of the day was, they said the same thing most students do, they said 'filling up the apple bowl!' If you would like your child to participate in P/VP for a morning, please volunteer for a PAC event or join a PAC meeting!

PLASTIC COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting and submitting their soft plastic for recycling! The Power of YOUTH group is thrilled with the response. We have filled our second giant bag of plastic that will become other products and not sit in landfill for generations. This project has been so successful that the organizers are overwhelmed and asking us to pause collection for now. You can always drop off your soft plastic at Vancouver's Zero Waste Centre, 8588 Yukon St., Vancouver. Thanks for your help to encourage all these environmentally responsible kids!





FREE PARENT, GUARDIAN AND CAREGIVER SESSIONS ON SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

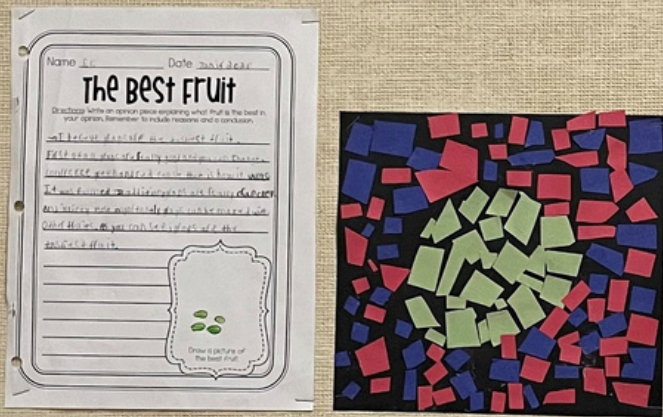
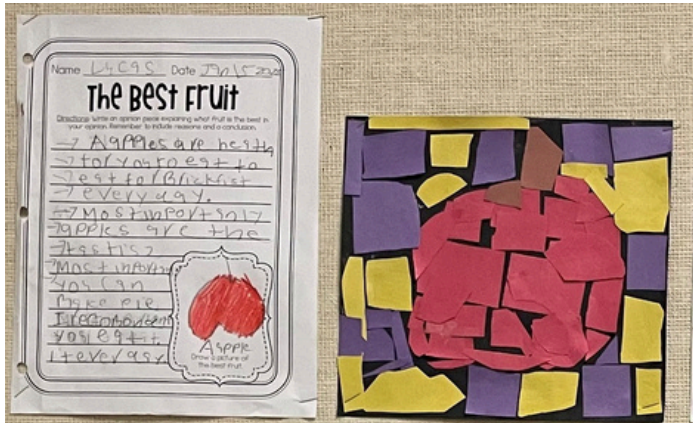
The Ministry of Education and Child Care, in partnership with adolescent clinical psychologist Dr. Hayley Watson, will host three, free virtual sessions for parents, guardians, and caregivers that will focus on practical skills you can teach your child and youth (ages 0-19) to prevent substance use and mental health needs. These sessions will build on a previous presentation, which focused on practical conversation tools for speaking about substance use prevention with your children/youth. The [previous session](#) is not a pre-requisite for this session.

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL RESOURCES

Please see link for a print friendly map [Free and Low Cost Food Programs Map - English](#) produced by the City of Vancouver identifying free and low cost food programs across the City - program updates are published on a rolling basis. If your family needs support, please contact the school. If your child is needing support, our school counsellor can be contacted by calling the school or by email: jivey@vsb.bc.ca.

Key takeaways for participants during this session:

- Learn the factors that lead to substance use and mental health needs from a trauma-informed lens
- Focus on prevention rather than intervention/response
- Applies to parents, guardians and caregivers of all age groups (youth aged 0-5, 6-10, and 11-18)
- Learn ways that these skills can be applied to yourself and the rest of your family to support the mental health of parents, guardians and caregivers
- Participants must register in advance. Session dates are:
 - [February 20, 6:00-7:30 pm PST](#)
 - [February 25, 6:00-7:30 pm PST](#)
 - [February 26, 6:00-7:30 pm PST](#)



Div. 14 Ms. S. Wong

SAFER SPACE PRESENTATION

On January 27, grades 4 to 7 students participated in the Safer Space interactive workshop by Children of the Street, designed specifically for youth to better understand how to stay safe when using apps and social media. By using real life examples, students walked through online exploitation in a familiar and accessible way. Students also received numbers they can call if they need support. Please see below.

SUPPORT WITH CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION MATERIALS

Cybertip.ca – to report CSEM

NeedHelpNow.ca – for help to remove CSEM

CONFIDENTIAL AND ANONYMOUS SUPPORT LINES

Youth Against Violence Line – 1.800.680.4264

Kids Help Phone – 1.800.668.6868 OR TEXT 68.68.68

Children of the Street Confidential Textline – 604.866.6779
(Mon-Fri 9AM-4PM)

IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL 911.

PAC CORNER

Welcome to February!

Please see below for upcoming events:

- **Spring Fair Friday June 20th:** We are looking for helpers for planning/organizing committees. Areas that need help:
 - Silent auction: find/vet donations for items/services
 - Carnival games: either DIY to create some simple games or find ones to purchase and keep for future events
 - Banner committee: painting/creating signs, leading a team of student artists

If you are interested in helping organize the biggest PAC event of the year, please connect with your class rep or email

norquaypacteam@gmail.com

Call out for volunteers for the day of Spring Fair Friday June 20th will happen at a later date.

- **Adult Crossing Guard:** Join the team in 2025! Training for new guards is ongoing
 - sign up sheet: <https://forms.gle/4k567aJsLmk2vdGm6>
 - WhatsApp group link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KBKrBuQtQkkKyd8JIW5Abr>
- **Pizza day:** Together as a community we will enjoy some pizza again on Tuesday Feb 25th and Tuesday April 15th! Suggested donation is \$2.50/slice however everyone will be offered some pizza regardless of donation amount. *Please note: if no order is received and your child does NOT return the form to opt out, one cheese slice will be allocated to your child.* Paper order forms and online ordering will be available starting Feb 12th.
- **PAC meeting:** next meeting Wed Feb 19th online 6-7pm
[https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62272374717?](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62272374717?pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVDk0dnY1UjBRRnFLUT09)
[pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVDk0dnY1UjBRRnFLUT09](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62272374717?pwd=ZHVOL2c4djZlVDk0dnY1UjBRRnFLUT09)



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:

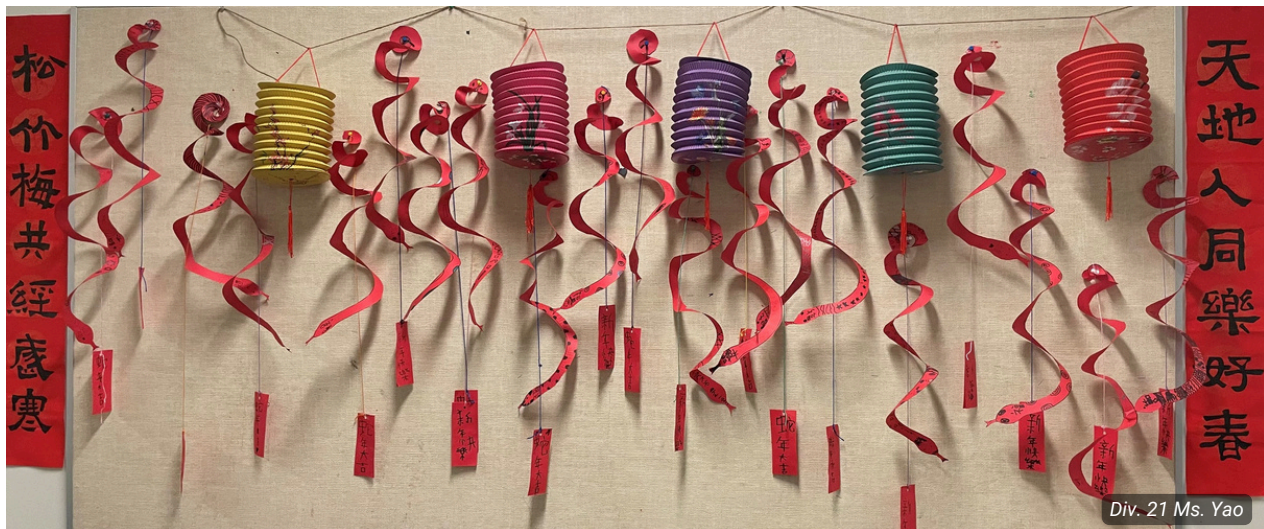
Facebook: Vancouver School Board

Instagram: @vsb39

X: @vsb39

VSB website: vsb.bc.ca

VSB Vancouver School Board



Office Administrative Assistant: Sandy Lowe

Principal: Deena Kotak Buckley

Vice Principal: Steve Mulligan

PAC Chairpersons: Hannah Tan

School Liaison Trustee: Victoria Jung

Director of Instruction: Janis Myers

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

Telephone: 604-713-4666
Safe Arrival: 604-713-5159 ext. #61
Email: Norquay@vsb.bc.ca