

# February Newsletter

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the  $\chi^w m \theta k^w \acute{a} y \acute{a} m$  (Musqueam),  $S k w x w \acute{u} 7 m e s h \acute{U} x w u m i x w$  (Squamish Nation) &  $s \acute{a} l i l w \acute{a} t \acute{a} \ddot{a}$  (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

February was a beautiful month of celebration, learning, and connection at our school. As we step into March, our hearts are full from the many moments that brought our community together.

Throughout the month, students explored and honoured Black History Month through powerful displays of artwork, storytelling, and learning about remarkable Black artists and leaders. Their creativity filled our hallways with pride and inspiration. One kindergarten bulletin board highlighted a piece inspired by artist Reginald Laurent, who reminds us: "My canvas is the only place I know where every color can coexist in harmony and maintain its own individuality."

We also came together for Pink Shirt Day, lifting up the values of kindness, inclusion, and standing up for one another. These messages echoed across classrooms, reminding us how strong compassion can be when we practice it together.

Our community embraced a rich diversity of cultural celebrations as well. We shared warm and joyful greetings for Lunar New Year, Ramadan, and Maha Shivratri, celebrating the many traditions that make our school such a vibrant place to learn and grow. A highlight for many was the prosperity salad toss led by Chef Chris from LunchLAB. It was an energizing, laughter-filled moment that brought students and staff together around food, culture, and joy. The best part was that we ate salad as snow fell! Thank you to Chef Chris for bringing this wonderful tradition from his home town of Singapore to Norquay.

February truly showcased the beauty and strength of our diverse school community. Thank you to all students, staff, and families for lifting one another up and celebrating the many cultures, histories, and traditions that shape who we are.

Here's to a wonderful March ahead filled with more learning, connection, and continued community spirit!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, March 3**

PAC meeting at 6pm (online only)

**Tuesday, March 4**

Choral festival at 7pm (John Oliver)

**Friday, March 6**

Hora Del Café (9AM)

**Sunday, March 8**

Spring Forward

**Tuesday, March 10**

Written learning updates go home

**Friday, March 13**

Last day before spring break

**Monday, March 30**

School resumes

**Wednesday, April 1**

Class photos

**Friday, April 3**

Good Friday, school closed

**Monday, April 6**

Easter Monday, school closed

**Friday, April 17**

PAC movie afternoon

**Monday, April 20**

Non-instructional day (Indigenous Focus)

**Thursday, April 23**

K immunization

**Tuesday, April 28**

- PAC pizza day  
- Book Fair, library

**Wednesday, April 29**

- Conferences, students dismissed at 2pm  
- Book fair, library

**Thursday, April 30**

- Conferences, students dismissed at 2pm  
- Book fair, library

## WHAT A FABULOUS FEBRUARY IN THE LIBRARY!

Students were busy connecting stories to their own experiences and learning to visualize characters in their settings.

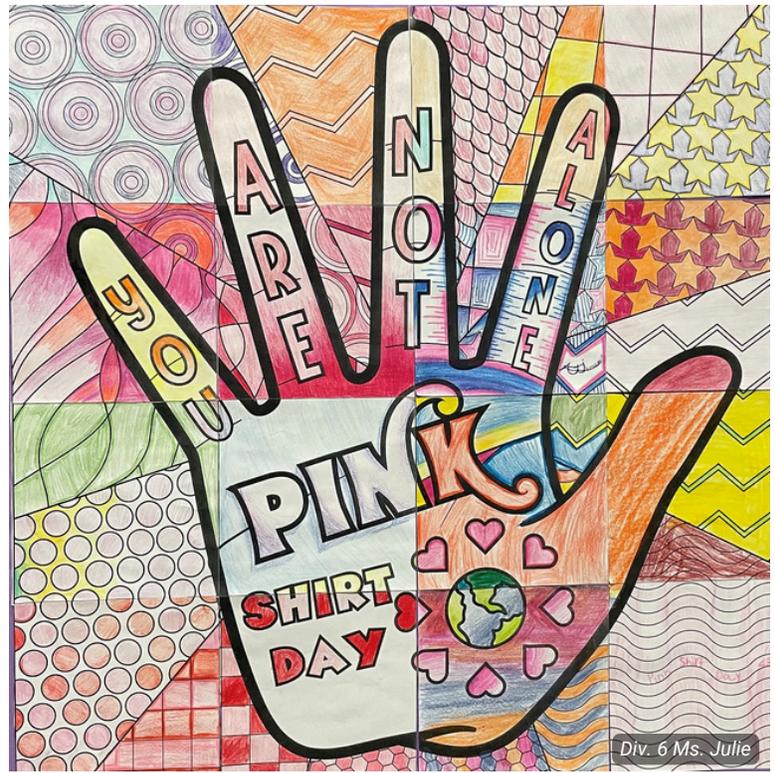
- Kindergartens were imagining, designing, identifying, building, and choosing materials for their animal habitat.
- And we had some Grade 3 and 4 classes building wood boxes with all sorts of tools and techniques.
- Donna Seto, author of *Chinatown Vancouver*, stayed for a whole morning with us to talk to Intermediate students about art, place-based learning, settlers and immigrants, and the joy of learning!

Way to go Norquay! See you soon!



## KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATES 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL!

Our kindergarten students reached an exciting milestone this month, 100 days of school! To mark this special moment, our littlest learners spent the day exploring all things 100 with wonder, laughter, and lots of creativity. Classrooms were buzzing as children rotated through fun, hands-on activities such that celebrated 100! The day was filled with joy as students practiced their counting skills, celebrated their hard work, and realized just how much they have grown since September. Reaching 100 days is a big achievement and our kindergarteners showed us that learning is magical when it includes curiosity, collaboration, and play.



## CHUM SALMON WITH MS. AFFLECK, MS. PARIS, AND MRS. GRUGER

Division 23, 24, and 25 received 55 Chum salmon eggs from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, to raise in Ms. Paris' classroom. During the week of February 17th, the eggs hatched into alevin. The students check on the salmon every day and will get to see the salmon go through the life cycle stages of eyed egg, alevin, and fry. At the beginning of May, we will release the salmon fry into Spanish Banks Creek.



## CALENDARS FOR 2026-2027

At the Board meeting last week, Trustees approved the school calendars for 2026-2029. The VSB website has been updated with the approved calendars and it can also be found here: [School Calendars 2026-2029](#).

## HORA DEL CAFE

We are excited to share that we will begin hosting 9:00 a.m. coffee gatherings for the Latin American and Filipino families with the Multicultural Home School Workers and Settlement Workers. The hope is to provide a warm, welcoming space where parents can connect culturally and socially. We have seen firsthand how meaningful it is for families to feel a true sense of belonging within their school community. Our first one will take place on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.



## A FEW SCHOOL REMINDERS

As we head into Term 3, a few important reminders to keep us learning well:

- Technology needs to stay put away during the school day.
  - This includes smart watches, cell phones, and other personal devices. Keeping these items away helps students stay focused and fully engaged in learning.
- Personal games and toys should remain at home.
  - This includes Pokémon cards, playing or poker cards, sports trading cards, and personal board games. Trading or losing high-value cards or favourite toys can be upsetting for students. The school provides many opportunities for play and offers all the materials students need.
- Gum is not allowed at school.
  - Gum can be distracting and is often not disposed of properly, which creates cleanliness issues. Your support in helping us keep our school community clean is greatly appreciated.



## TERM 2 LEARNING UPDATES ON SPACESEDU

Term 2 Learning Updates will be available on SpacesEDU on March 10<sup>th</sup> after 3pm. We encourage families to take a moment to sit down together, read through the updates, and celebrate your child's growth and learning. We have noticed excellent progress of students this term and they have a lot to be proud of and excited for!

This is a wonderful opportunity to:

- Talk with your child about what they are proud of
- Notice their progress, strengths, and next steps
- Celebrate effort, improvement, and the joy of learning

Reading these updates together helps students feel seen, valued, and motivated as we head into Term 3.

Thank you for partnering with us in your child's learning journey!



## THE IMPORTANCE OF DAILY MOVEMENT

As we reviewed the latest ParticipACTION findings, we were reminded that many children and youth are not getting enough daily physical activity. Movement is essential for healthy bodies, focused minds, and overall well-being.

A few key points from the report:

- Only 39% of children and youth (ages 5–17) get the recommended 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity activity per day.
- Only 22% get more than two hours of unstructured play each day.
- Only 27% meet the recommended maximum two hours of recreational screen time.

Outdoor time matters as it:

- Naturally increases physical activity
- Helps improve focus and self-regulation
- Supports positive mental health
- Boosts creativity and problem-solving

So ... with spring break around the corner and the weather warms and days get brighter, it's a perfect opportunity to get outside and play. Whether it's a walk, a bike ride, park time, or simply exploring nature, every bit of movement helps children learn, grow, and feel their best.

## PAC CORNER

February has been full of exciting events and community building! Our PAC was thrilled to support:

- Author Visits with Lauryn Ma (Primary) and Donna Seto (Intermediate)
- PAC Pizza Day
- Lunar New Year Family Read
- Prosperity Salad Toss

Thank you to all the families who joined in and helped make these events special!

Please join us at the upcoming PAC Meeting on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00–7:00 PM: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/83393296297?pwd=tVLHaTLdFRf6LpriV0WeOHgfza60wP.1>

Meeting ID: 833 9329 6297

Password: 4710

Your voice matters so we hope to see you there!



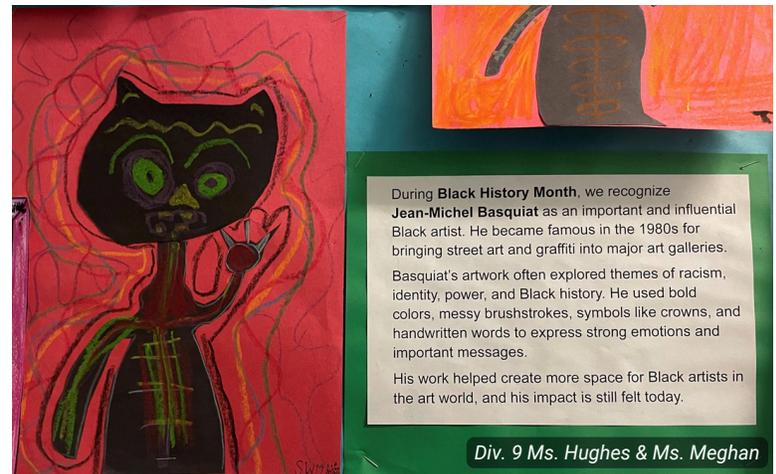
Div. 3 Ms. Pal

## VSB EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT DIPLOMA PROGRAM OFFERING

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 VSB schools. The next session of the VSB EA (SSA) Program will begin, April 1, 2026. Applications are accepted beginning January 12, 2026. Apply at Burnaby Community & Continuing Education at <https://www.burnabyccce.ca>.



Div. 16 Ms. Godfrey



Div. 9 Ms. Hughes & Ms. Meghan

## COYOTES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

We've received reminders that coyotes have recently been spotted in the neighbourhood. While coyotes are generally timid and avoid humans, it's important that families and students stay aware and follow a few simple safety tips:

- Walk in groups when possible, especially to and from school.
- Do not run if you encounter a coyote. Instead, stand tall, make yourself look big, and back away slowly.
- Never feed wildlife, as this can make animals more comfortable approaching people.
- Keep small pets close and supervised.

Report sightings to the BC Conservation Officer Service or the City of Vancouver if the animal is acting boldly: [Urban coyotes | City of Vancouver](https://www.vancouver.ca/city-services/urban-coyotes) – call 311. Thank you for helping keep our community safe and informed!



Prosperity Salad Toss

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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