

# January Newsletter

Humbly acknowledging the traditional and ancestral territories of the ɬə́hʔqə́mihə́m speaking people of xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and sə́lilwə́təʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation.

Did you know that there is strong evidence that increased family involvement in the school results in increased student achievement, accomplishment, satisfaction, and bonding? It is true! Your voice is of tremendous value as your ideas and feedback enhance the school community.

One way to share your voice is by attending PAC meetings. The next PAC meeting is tonight from 6-7pm via the [PAC Meeting Zoom Link](#). PACs strive to represent the diversity within their communities and contribute to the benefit of all students by:

- providing opportunities to educate and inform families about the school;
- involving families in volunteer activities
- openly discussing aspirations for the schools
- organizing events that bring the community together

One of the fun PAC events coming up is the Welcome to 2024 Waffle Breakfast, which is tomorrow (Friday, January 26)! Over 1000 waffles will be served and too many marshmallows to count! We want to thank all the volunteers for taking the time to help make this event a success. A few reminders:

- bring your own plates/utensils/mugs so we reduce waste
- While you are at the breakfast, please take a moment to look through the lost and found. We have attached an excel spreadsheet to the email that itemizes everything. Thank you to Joanie, one of the fabulous supervision aides, for putting this together
- Remember we will be collecting cash donations for the food bank, every little bit counts

Other PAC initiatives:

- a Baby Sitting Course for the Gr 6/7's where over 20 students received certification
- the Adult Crossing Guard team will complete training with the VPD, so watch out for the attendants in the mornings and afternoons along Slocan and Duchess Street.
- the Walking School Bus is about to begin so keep your eyes out for the "Bus" of children going to/from the school.
- School wide Pizza day! All students, unless opted out, will receive a slice of pizza regardless of donation amounts on Tuesday, January 30. The school will be filled with pizza! Again thank-you to all the parents for being on the Pizza Delivery team.

And some upcoming PAC events to watch out for:

- Friday, February 9 Lunar New Year celebrations with Lion Dances sponsored by PAC
- Movie afternoon: more details to follow!

We have a wonderful group of dedicated parents that work hard to make all these amazing things happen at Norquay! We invite all interested families to get involved by attending PAC meetings or volunteering at an event.

See you tomorrow at the WAFFLE breakfast! Thank YOU PAC!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 25**

PAC meeting at 6pm online only: [Here](#)

**January 26**

- Welcome to 2024 Waffle Breakfast (first serving 8AM)
- Mosaic Meanderings (in class workshops)

**January 30**

School-wide pizza day

**February 1**

Cross boundary applications open

**February 2**

- K Choice program registration closes
- Mosaic Meanderings (in class workshops)

**February 7 & 8**

- Student-led Conferences - Early dismissal 2PM
- Book Fair

**February 9**

Lunar New Year assemblies (PM)

**February 16**

District-wide Pro-D Day, classes not in session

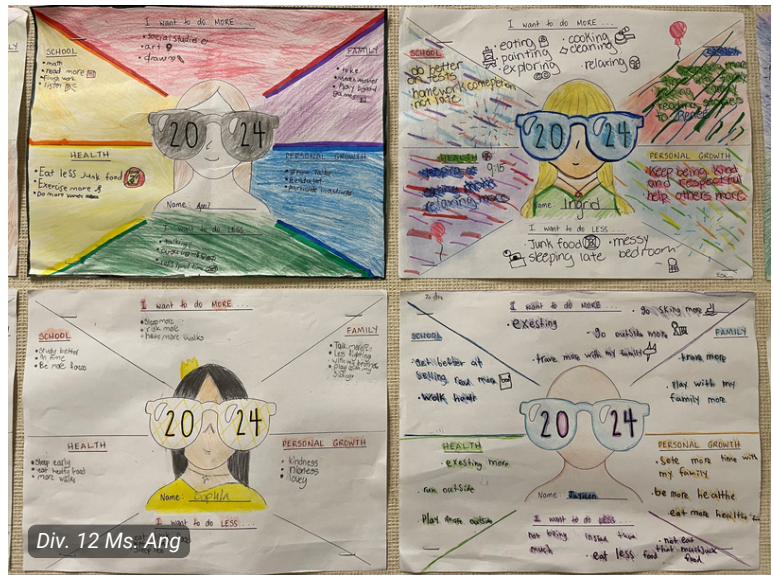
**February 19**

Family Day, schools closed

**February 28**

Pink Shirt Day





## STAFFING UPDATES

You may have noticed a few new faces at Norquay. We would like to welcome:

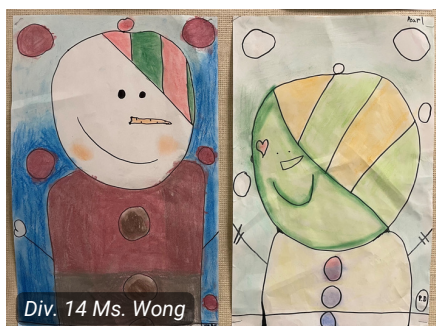
- Jasper Hodson who is teaching Division 6
- Chris Clinton who is working in a PE prep and resource role
- Balbinder Bhatia who is the new morning engineer
- Chantelle Ingram who is job sharing with Gary Loong in Division 5
- Eve Foster and Linda Jang who are working in Division 29

We look forward to welcoming these great new people to the Norquay team!

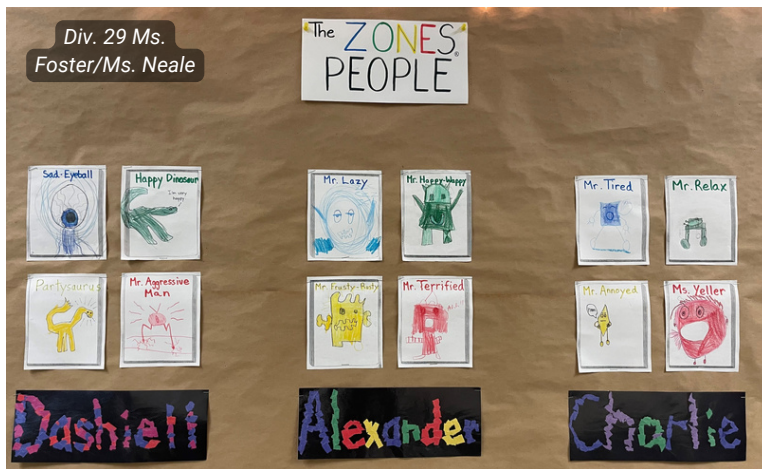


## STUDENT CONFERENCES

Conferences are coming on February 7 and 8! Research shows that when parents and caregivers are involved in their child's education, children do better at school, and conferences are one way of facilitating such involvement. These conferences are invaluable, and they contribute to a better understanding of children's learning. In addition, research shows that students reported that, as a result of student-led conferences, they felt more confident about their learning, more accountable for their own learning, and that there were more conversations at home about their learning. We look forward to seeing families on February 7 and 8. A reminder that students are dismissed at 2pm on both days.







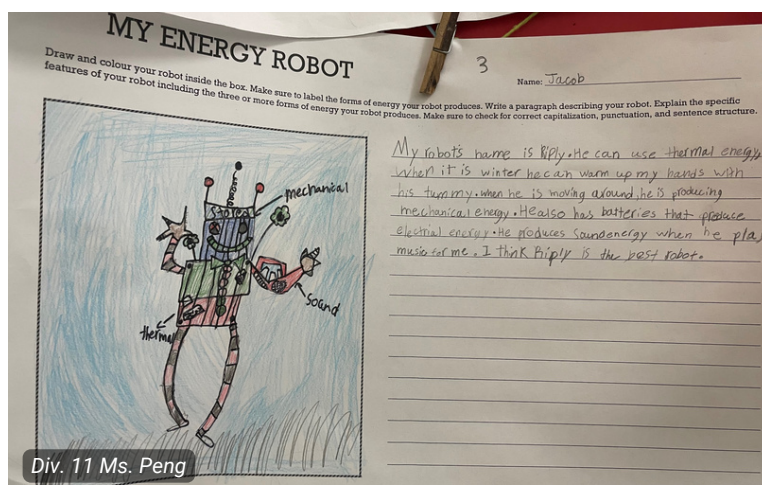
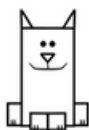
## LIBRARY CORNER

We have had a stellar start to 2024 in the Library!  
Connecting, making, searching, storytelling, problem-solving.

Two important notes for the next few weeks:

1. **TERM 2 Library Monitors start their shifts on Feb 1 (Feb – June).** Thank you Term 1 Monitors!
2. **NORQUAY BOOK FAIR is on February 6, 7, 8** during Conference Week after school. Families will line up **OUTSIDE.** More details to come...

See you soon!



## DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

We know many families celebrate many different holidays, customs and traditions. We highlight some of these days of significance through teachings in the classroom, morning announcements, class projects, presentations, and many other ways. Here is a sampling of some days of significance in February. If your family celebrates something special, please feel free to let us know and we will highlight it in an upcoming newsletter or morning announcement. The more we know about each other, the closer we become as a community.

- February: Black History Month: [link for more info](#)
- February 10: Lunar New Year: [link for more info](#)
- February 14: Valentine's Day: [link for more info](#)
- February 19: Family Day: [link for more info](#)
- February 19 – 23: Heritage Week: [link for more info](#)
- February 28: Pink Shirt Day: [link for more info](#)





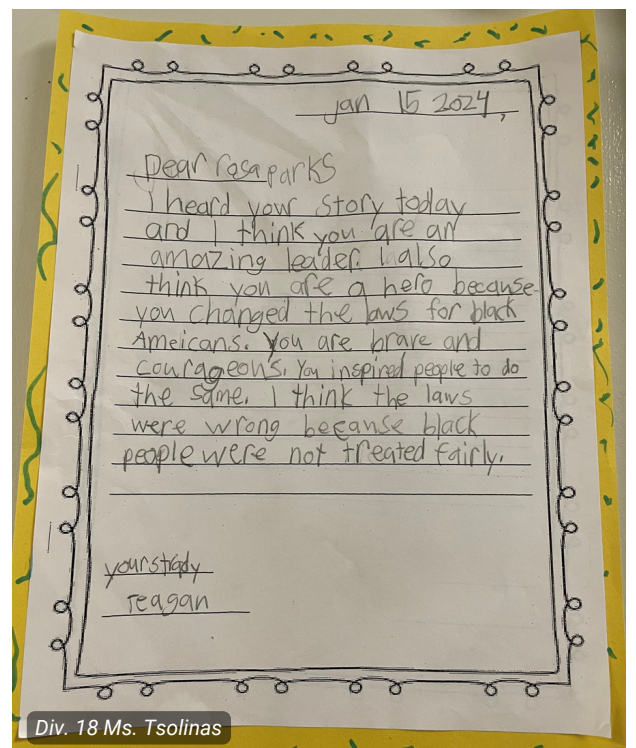
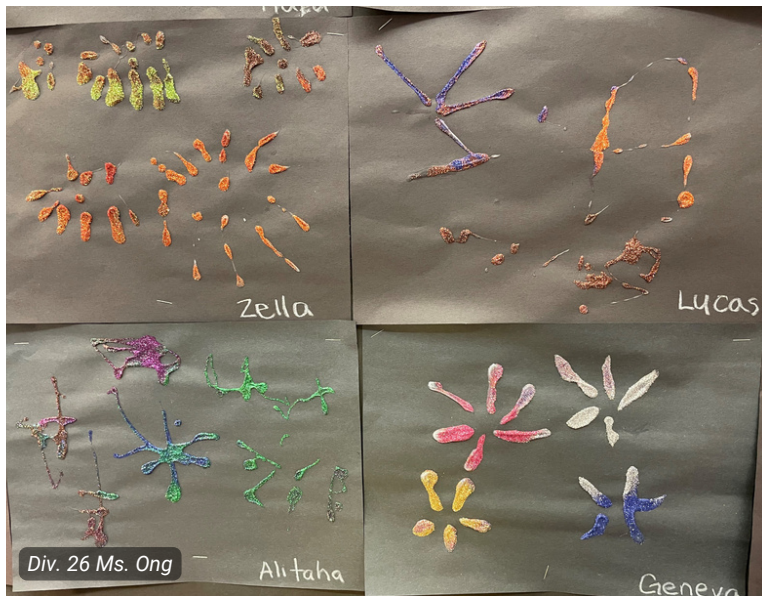
# SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

Safer Schools Together is putting on a FREE event for families: Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities. This session is recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up as a way to facilitate the conversation of safe and caring use of technology at home and in the community. This 60 minute session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sextortion. It will take place on Wednesday, February 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Please use the following link: [erase Family Sessions \(saferchoolstogether.com\)](https://saferchoolstogether.com) to register.



## MOSAIC MEANDERINGS

Some Norquay classes have been invited to be involved in pattern making workshops with Mosaic Meanderings. These workshops will involve students using coloured cardboard triangles as placeholders for the actual mosaic pieces to create unique patterns and shapes. The process will be documented thoroughly, and the final design will be a collage of the patterns made by many people, a collective effort of the community. The goal is to collectively gift Norquay Village with a stunning and vibrant mosaic that reflects the community's engagement with nature and creativity. The finished series of mosaics will wrap around the benches in the public plaza of the future development at the intersection of Earles St and Kingsway. With colours inspired by nature and the vibrant and diverse community surrounding Norquay Village, this project aims to transform a series of benches along Kingsway with a colourful mosaic pattern that celebrates the combination of community engagement and deep appreciation for nature. We look forward to what comes together!

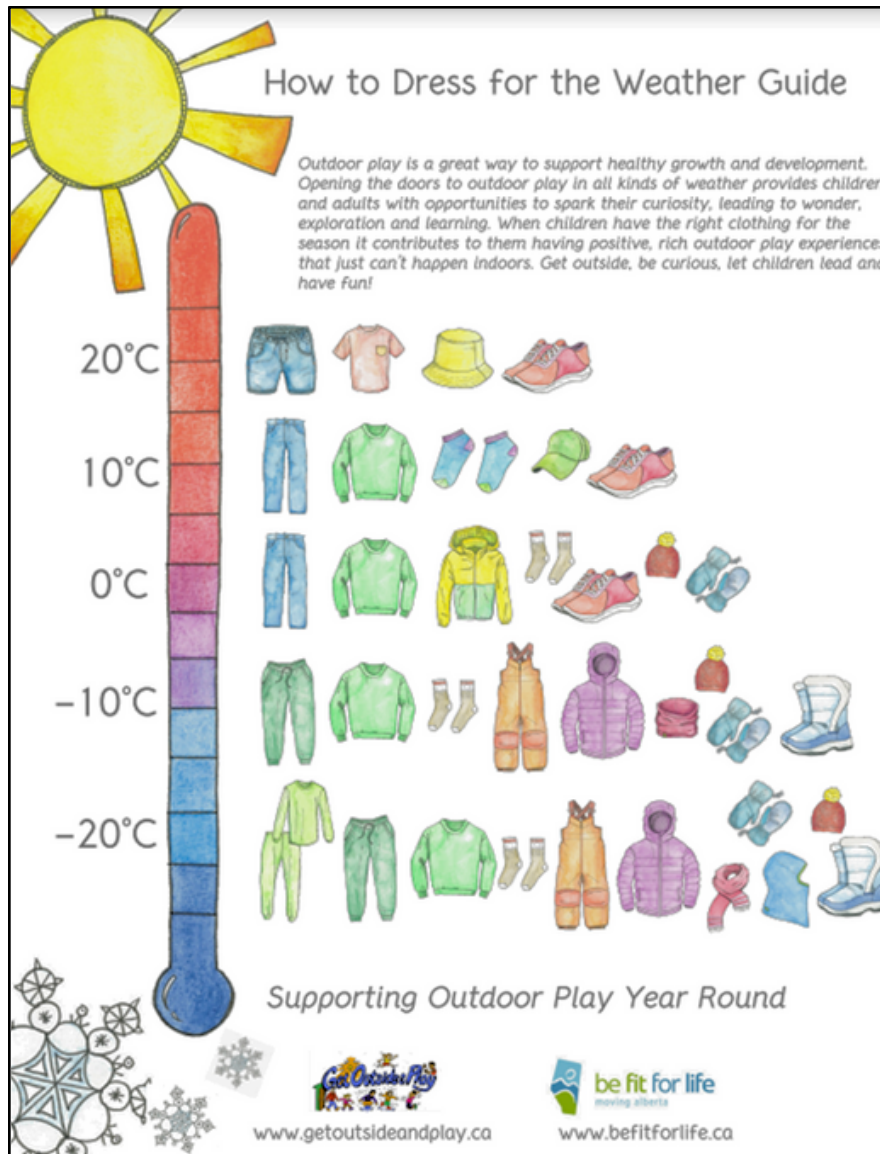


## GET OUTSIDE AND PLAY

A simple strategy for improving chances of future health and success is spending plenty of time playing outside. There are so many benefits to being outside, here are 6:

- **Sunshine:** Our bodies work best when they get daylight everyday. Benefits include vitamin D and better sleep and mood.
- **Exercise:** Children should be active for at least one hour everyday.
- **Executive functioning:** Being outside builds skills that help us plan, prioritize, troubleshoot, negotiate, and multitask.
- **Taking risks:** Taking risks and learning to fail and succeed builds confidence and bravery.
- **Socialization:** Being outside together builds the ability to work together, make new friends, and cooperate.
- **Appreciation of nature:** The future of our planet depends on the youth, being outside helps them learn to appreciate the beauty of the Earth.

You can help us by reminding students of the benefits of outside play and also sending students with clothing for the different seasons. It can be helpful for students to have extra clothing at school in case of too much puddle play. Please see image from Canada's Get Outside and Play guide.



**Office Administrative Assistant:** Sandy Lowe  
**Principal:** Deena Kotak Buckley  
**Vice Principal:** Steve Mulligan  
**PAC Chairpersons:** Hannah Tan  
**School Liaison Trustee:** Chris Richardson  
**Director of Instruction:** Janis Myers

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

Telephone: 604-713-4666  
Fax: 604-713-4668  
Safe Arrival: 604-713-5159 ext. #61



# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN BORN IN 2019 BEGINS ON NOVEMBER 1

All kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for 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 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 **2024-25**

*If your child was born outside of Canada, you will need to complete your registration online through the VSB - Newcomer Welcome Centre (NWC).*

**Step 2:** Verification of documentation

- Contact your English catchment school office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation
- Bring supporting documentation to your English catchment school office during your scheduled appointment

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 Choice Program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice Programs and Cross Boundary applications will begin to be accepted in early 2024.

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. Between January 31 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as 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:** There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5195/priority-kindergarten-registration>

\* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedure 300).

