

January Newsletter

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

We hope you had a lovely holiday, and we wish you all the best for 2025! As December was winding up, we had two student-led activities take place.

The first was the students from the Power in YOUth club visited every classroom to teach about our new Deb Sparrow reconciliation blanket. Debra Sparrow, or $\theta \acute{a} l i x^w \acute{a} l^w \acute{a} t$ (Thelliawhatlwit), is a Musqueam weaver, artist, and knowledge keeper. She is self-taught in Salish design, weaving, and jewelry making. Debra Sparrow's dream is to blanket the entire city of Vancouver. As part of that journey, on October 14, 2023, District staff and many students watching from their schools, gathered to witness Debra and Chris Sparrow unveil the Reconciliation Blanket at the school board office. The ceremony was opened by Musqueam community member Alec Dan who explains the cultural significance of blanketing, "When we show acknowledgement and honor to individuals, we cover them with the blanket." The weaving and accompanying carving is Debra Sparrow's dream realized, "I didn't want to stop until I saw a blanket in every school in the city of Vancouver, so that when you walked into the hallway, you saw a blanket hanging there." In the fall, Norquay was gifted a reconciliation blanket and the Power in YOUth students took a poll of all students and staff at Norquay to decide where the blanket would go. The blanket unveiling will happen soon, and we will share photos in an upcoming newsletter!

The second activity was to support Black Excellence Day which takes place every January 15th. In honour of the great civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Norquay was invited to submit a video to the provincial celebration, and approximately 20 students from grades 2 to 6 volunteered to be part of the video. They worked closely with Mr. Hodson to put together a fabulous celebration which will be shared with participants across BC. We will share the link in an upcoming newsletter.

We look forward to even more great events during Term 2 starting with the welcome to 2025 waffle breakfast that will happen on Friday, January 17. Please RSVP by January 10 (link in attachment and below). Remember to bring your own dishes and cutlery (to be kind to the environment) and cash donations for the food bank (to be kind to our community). We look forward to beginning the year in a good way with all of you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 7

- District Choice Programs registration opens
- EMB info night at 6pm:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGFJMzgwNzltMWU4My00MGMxLWFJmZMtYWY4OGMzNWYwZGVh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220b8a2e58-7b30-4a08-bab7-d75559e0e3a5%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f26cb4a8-aaae-4d1e-bff9-1bac2aab4f2b%22%7d

Friday, January 10

RSVPs for waffle breakfast due:
<https://forms.gle/BdaH76PUjqLU662c9>

Tuesday, January 14

MDI survey for grade 6s opens

Wednesday, January 15

Black Excellence Day – Norquay student video featured

Friday, January 17

Welcome to 2025 breakfast, thank you PAC

Monday, January 20

Professional development day, classes not in session

Wednesday, January 29

Lunar New Year Lion Dance, thank you PAC

Saturday, February 1

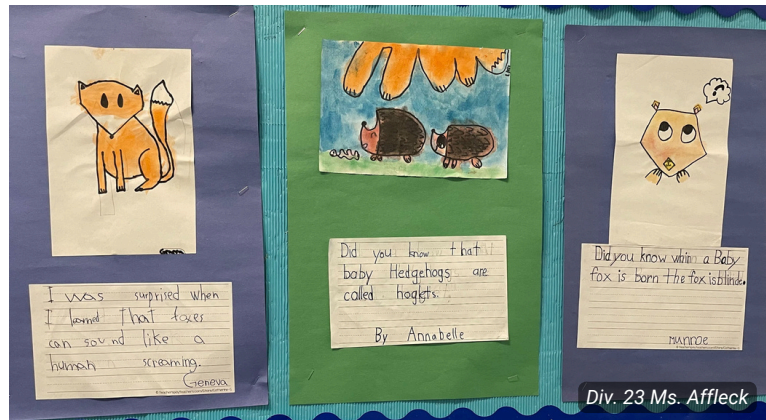
Cross-Boundary registration opens

Tuesday, February 4

District Choice Program applications close at 4pm

PLASTIC COLLECTION - FROM POWER IN YOUTH

Here's the write up for the plastic recycling program: Flexible Plastics Recycling Program – Norquay's Power in YOUth club has decided to join the Flexible Plastic School Collection program run by Recycle BC. This initiative encourages students to bring in any flexible plastics. These include items like bread bags, pasta packaging, chip bags, old zip-lock bags, woven fruit bags, product overwrap, etc. By doing this we can not only recycle these items, but also educate students about the importance of recycling, and earn money for our school. Each class will have a cardboard box for gathering the plastics that students bring, which will be emptied regularly into the large "super sack" located in the lunchroom. Thanks for your support to gather and send in your soft plastics.

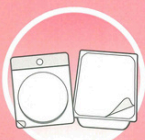


NORQUAY CLUBS

As January begins, we have some new clubs happening at Norquay. Basketball season begins in January. Thank you Coach Julie and Coach Lucky for your support! More information about practices and games will be coming soon. In addition, school choir will be starting soon, thank you Ms. Ba! We also have a new math club, thank you to Ms. Zhang. Some of the other clubs that will continue from Term 1 are: floor hockey club (Mr. Lonnie and Coach Lucky), board game club (Ms. Chang), drawing club (Ms. Chang), and Power in YOUth club (Ms. Meghan). Thank you to the staff sponsors for volunteering your time! If your child is interested in any of these clubs, they can reach out to the staff sponsor.

TIME TO RECYCLE

During the collection event, bring your flexible plastics from home to school for recycling.



Flexible Packaging with Plastic Seal



Protective and Squishy Cushion Packaging



Outer Bags and Overwrap



Zipper-lock and Stand-up Pouches



Crinkly Wrappers and Bags

The more you collect the more \$ for your school.
\$2 for every kilogram collected.

Plus \$200 for your school just for joining!

JOIN THE FUN AND RECYCLE WITH US!



Plastic Bags



Woven Plastic Bags

SCHOOL DROP-OFF LOCATION:



It doesn't stop there. Keep recycling by taking your Flexible Plastics to a Depot or London Drugs. Search RecycleBC.ca/Depots to find one near you.



MDI - GRADE 6

The Vancouver School Board has partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC to invite students to take part in completing the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI). The MDI is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in Grades 4 to 8 about their thoughts, feelings and experiences in school and in the community. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies. The questionnaire will be administered between **January 14th and March 14th, 2025**. For more information and to view the questionnaires: <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/mdi-overview/>.

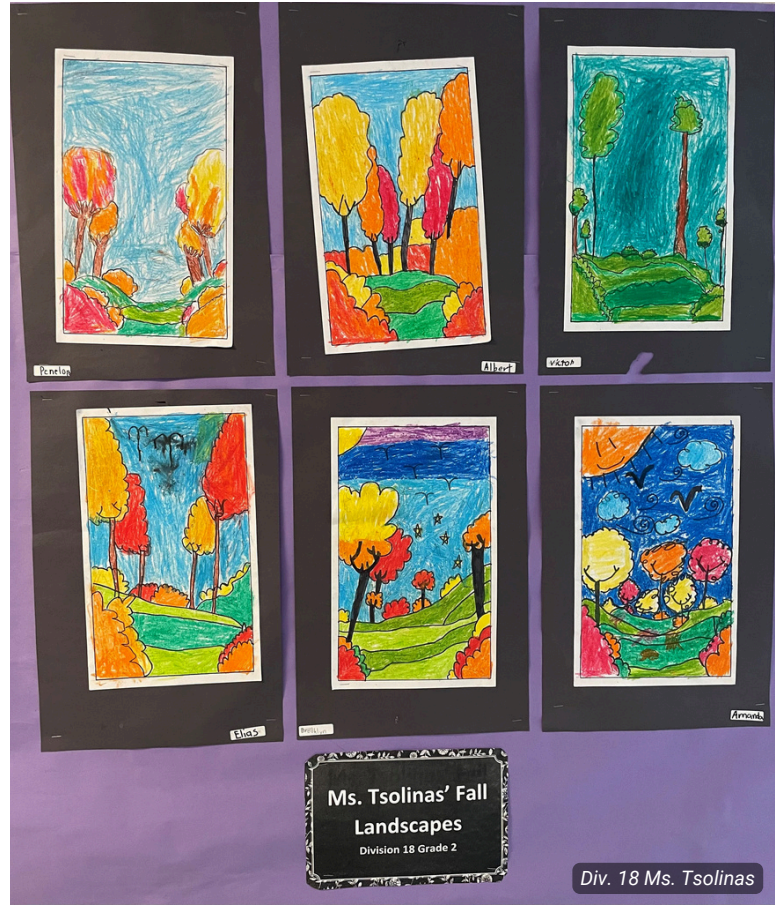
Parent FAQs : <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/parent-caregiver-info/>.

If you DO NOT wish your child to participate, please contact the classroom teacher or contact the project staff at mdi@help.ubc.ca. The MDI is voluntary; your child can choose whether they would like to complete the questionnaire.



FROM LUNCHLAB

We hope you had a wonderful winter break! As we start Term 2, we want to thank everyone for making Term 1 such a success. Together, we served an incredible 7,380 meals! Whether you volunteered, participated, or cheered us on, your support made it all possible, and we're so grateful. We have a lot of volunteer shifts available and would love your help to make Term 2 a success! Whether you're a returning volunteer or new to LunchLAB, this is a great opportunity to support our program, connect with the community, and eat a delicious meal! Sign up today to secure your spot—your time and energy make a huge difference! For more information, [Growing Chefs Volunteer with Us](#). Chef Dallen and the team are excited to jump into Term 2 with fresh energy and continue growing as a community. Thank you for being part of the LunchLAB family—we're looking forward to another great term ahead!



TRAFFIC SAFETY

As we begin the new year, we are resending the information about traffic safety that we shared in the December newsletter. We thank you for your support in keeping the community safe!

We have a new traffic officer who has been doing regular patrols around the school to support safety. To help us, we want to remind families that the **STAFF parking lot is not for drop off or pick up (even for the day care), especially during peak times (between 8:15AM and 9:00AM, and 3:00PM and 4:00PM).**

Some other key messages about pick up and drop off flow:

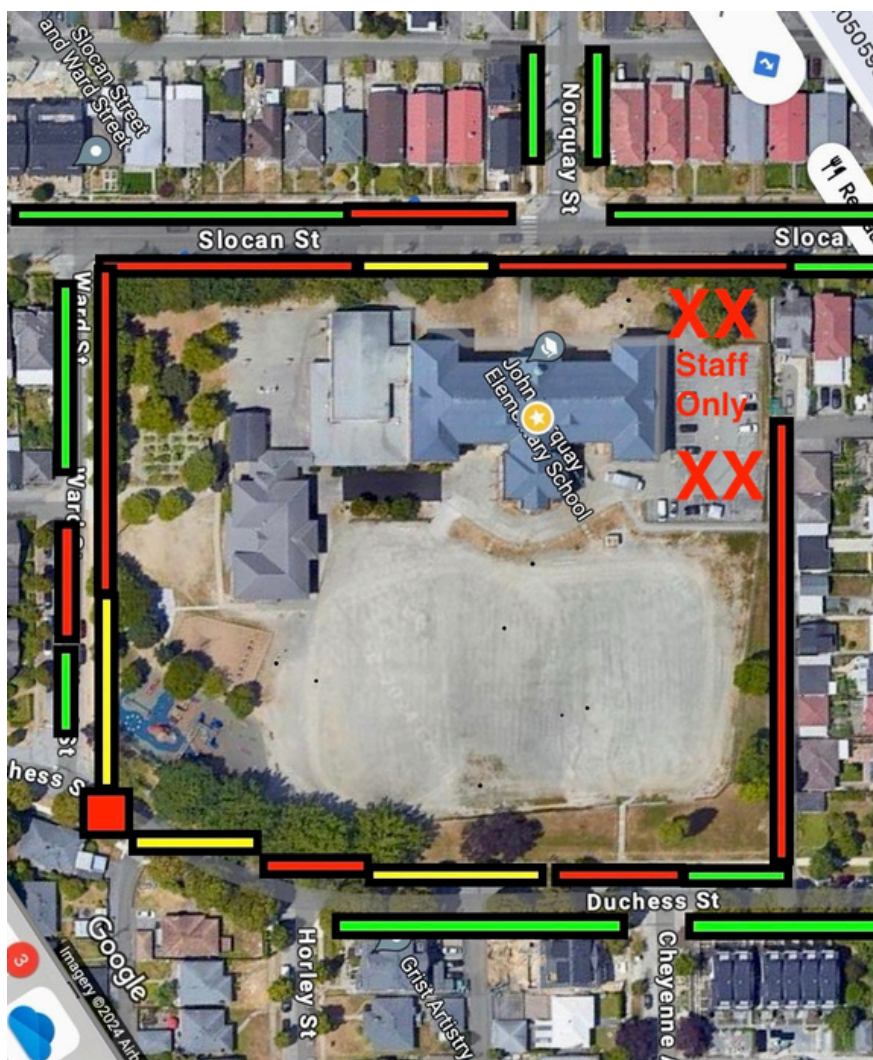
- If you are leaving your car for any reason during pick up and drop off, please park in a space designated for general parking (30min Green P, 2 hour green P, unrestricted).
- Pick up and drop off zones (red P, 3min Green P) are designed to accommodate several cars trying to get to the same location at the same time, which only works if everyone keeps the flow of vehicles moving.

Key message about not obstructing laneways:

- There is very clear no stopping signage posted in the lane to the north of the school. ([Street and Traffic Bylaw 2849 section 17.6\(a\)](#)).
- Do not park or stop in any way that obstructs travel through a lane or along a street ([Street and Traffic Bylaw 2849 section 19.1\(d\)](#)).
-

If you notice anything that does not follow these key messages you can contact

- For parking violations: Call 311 or online reporting: <https://van311.ca/services/parking-enforcement>
- For street lighting request or maintenance: Call 311 or online: <https://van311.ca/services/street-lights>
- For unsafe driving behaviours: Call: (604) 717-3321 or online https://app.vancouver.ca/PoliceCitizenReporting_net/?_ga=2.2721271.652501999.1623779109-895808560.1614715896





DISTRICT CHOICE PROGRAMS - REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 7

Applications for District Choice Programs in Grades 1 to 7 will be accepted online between January 7 and February 4, 2025. The Elementary District Choice Programs Application site will be open at 9am on January 7, 2025. Before applying for District Choice programs students must first register at their neighbourhood school.

- District Choice Program (Gr 1 - 7) online application website: <https://elemchoice.vsb.bc.ca/>
- Kindergarten District Choice Program information: [learn more about Kindergarten Choice application.](#)

For information about the different District Choice Programs available: [https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5318/information-sessions.](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5318/information-sessions)

If you have any questions about District Choice Programs, please reach out to the school office.

JOIN OUR SCHOOL CHOIR!

Calling all students from Grade 3 to 7! Come join this year's Norquay Choir and let your voice be heard! Our theme this year is: Love ❤️. We will explore songs that celebrate love in all its forms – love for music, love for foods, love for friends, and love for our community. Practice starts in January, 2025 and will be held during lunch time at the Music Room. This is a fantastic opportunity to make new friends, learn new songs, and have a lot of fun! We have an exciting list of songs for our choir this year, including:

1. "Doughnut" by Stephen L. Lawrence – a delightful tune that will surely bring a smile to your face.
2. "More Than Words" by Extreme – a beautiful 90's soft rock ballad that touches many of our hearts.
3. "Yo Vivo Cantando" by Jerry Estes – a lively song that celebrates the joy of singing.
4. "Cherokee Morning Song" arranged by Michael Yannette – a powerful and moving piece that blends traditional Cherokee melodies with contemporary choral elements.

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to be part of something special. We will perform these songs at the VSB Elementary Choral Festival on March 4-5 at 7pm at John Oliver Secondary School. Can't wait to sing our heart out! For more information, please contact Ms. Ba at rba@vsb.bc.ca.





PAC CORNER

Welcome to 2025! We have a few events just around the corner. 2025 is going to be another great year:

- Jan 17th Welcome Back Breakfast, remember to bring your own cutlery and plate to be kind to the environment. Also, cash donations to the food bank will be collected.
 - RSVP by January 10: <https://forms.gle/BdaH76PUjqLU662c9>
 - Volunteers needed!! Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/JPEp1AaePdC6oERS7>.
- Lunar New Year Celebration: moved to Wed Jan 29th. Assemblies will be held during school hours. Due to occupancy restrictions, the assembly is not open to families to attend.
- *New for 2025* Baby Sitting Course for Gr 6 & 7's: First Aid Hero will be running a Babysitting Course at the school. Friday February 14th 8:30-4:30pm (ProD day). There are limited spots available (max 25 students). Students must bring a doll or teddy to practice on as well as a lunch and drink. Please see the website for more information: [Babysitting Training – First Aid Hero](#). To Register:
 - Step 1: Sign up with the following link: <https://forms.gle/VX24ugCk46VCpm8X6>
 - Step 2: \$80/student. Send e-transfer payment to: norquaypacorders@gmail.com 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

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



Welcome Back Breakfast
 Friday Jan 17th

Seating 1: 8-8:25 am
 Seating 2: 8:30-8:55 am

Volunteer Sign up to help be a chef or server

RSVP by Jan 10

RSVP and Volunteer Online [Norquaypac.ca](https://forms.gle/VX24ugCk46VCpm8X6)

Cash donations will be collected for the Food Bank

Waffle + syrup + whip cream
 Hot chocolate + marshmallows
 Juice Boxes
 Coffee

Bring your own plates cutlery and mugs

[Norquaypac.ca](https://forms.gle/VX24ugCk46VCpm8X6)
norquaypacorders@gmail.com

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
 Safe Arrival: 604-713-5159 ext. #61

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN BORN IN 2020 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 **2025-26**

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 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 2025. For more information, go to: govsb.ca/kchoice and 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. Between January 31 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.
5. In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at either catchment site, students will be placed at a neighbouring school 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: There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31.

In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at either catchment site, students will be placed at a neighbouring school until space becomes available.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit the VSB website: 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).

