

# January Newsletter

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

As we continue integrating technology into learning, both in our classrooms and at home, helping children become safe, responsible digital citizens is more important than ever. Our students are growing up in a world where communication, creativity, and play often take place online, and with these opportunities comes the need for awareness and guidance.

Understanding how to protect personal information, identify trustworthy websites, practice kindness online, and speak up when something feels uncomfortable are essential skills. Just as we teach students to be safe and respectful in our school hallways, we want them to feel confident and secure as they navigate the digital world.

To support families in this learning, here are some helpful digital safety tips:

## Digital Safety Tips for Families

- Talk openly about online experiences. Ask your child what apps they use, what games they enjoy, and who they communicate with. Regular conversations build trust and awareness.
- Set age-appropriate boundaries. Review ratings for apps, games, and videos. Many platforms offer easy-to-use parental controls that can support safe exploration.
- Keep personal information private. Remind children not to share their full name, school, address, photos, or passwords online without checking with an adult.
- Use strong, memorable passwords. A mix of words, numbers, and symbols works well. A simple password phrase can help children remember their login information.
- Model healthy tech habits. Children learn by watching us—show balance by unplugging during meals, conversations, and family time.
- Encourage kindness online. Digital interactions should reflect the same respect and empathy we expect in person.
- Let them know to speak up. If something online makes them uncomfortable—an ad, message, or video—they should tell a trusted adult right away.

We will also be hosting workshops for students in Grades 4–7 on February 23, led by Safer Schools Together, to help children build healthy, responsible digital habits they can use for years to come. The VSB website also offers many helpful resources: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/digital-literacy-and-safety>. Thank you to the PAC for the partial funding of these very important sessions!

Thank you to all of you for partnering with us to support students in using technology in a positive and safe way.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, January 27**

PAC meeting CANCELLED, next PAC meeting March 3

**Sunday, January 31**

Priority K registration closes

**Monday, February 2**

Cross-boundary registration opens at 9AM

**Tuesday, February 3**

- District choice program registration closes at 4PM  
- PAC pizza day!

**Friday, February 13**

District-wide Professional Development Day, classes not in session

**Monday, February 16**

Family Day, schools closed

**Wednesday, February 18**

Prosperity Salad Toss (more details to follow)

**Friday, February 20**

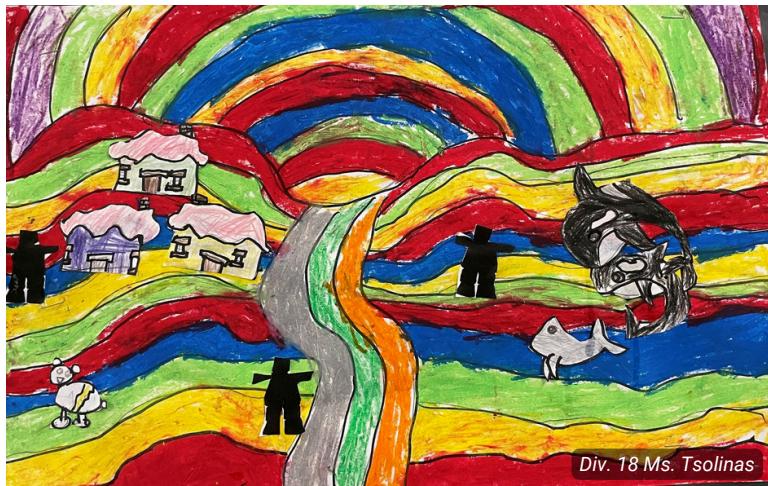
- New Year READ! 8:30 to 9:00 am in the gym.  
- Author Talk (am) Donna Seto  
- Lion Dance (pm), thank you PAC

**Wednesday, February 25**

Pink Shirt Day

**Friday, February 27**

Cross-Boundary registration closes at 11:59pm



## P/VP FOR A DAY

Thank you to Grayson, Griffin, and Theo, who served as Principal and Vice-Principal for the morning! They helped us tackle some "urgent" tasks around the school, including gardening. We needed to remove some soil, so they teamed up with Mr. Mathewson in the garden. They also made the morning announcements, including wishing all the January birthdays a very happy birthday! When we asked them what their favourite part of the morning was, they all agreed... **GARDENING!** If your child would like the chance to be Principal or Vice-Principal for a day, please volunteer at an event or attend a PAC meeting and your child's name will be entered into the draw.

## LIBRARY CORNER

We are excited to share some **VERY BIG NEWS!** As part of our ongoing work to upgrade the computer lab and enhance digital learning across the school, we have developed a three-year technology improvement plan. The first phase of this plan is to upgrade the computers in the library and Learning Hub. The current library computers will then move into the lab, giving both spaces a much-needed refresh. A **HUGE THANK YOU** to the PAC for generously funding this major upgrade. Their support means that students will have access to updated technology that enriches their learning in meaningful ways. We invite you to follow along as these changes unfold and we'll be sharing photos and updates in upcoming newsletters. We truly appreciate the PAC for being such a strong supporter of the work we do each and every day.

In other library news ... a new month and a New Year bring all sorts of energy, joy, and learning at Norquay Library!

Students are choosing their 'next grade' books and planning their learning-to-read and reading-to-learn.

Classes are starting up new Inquiry and ADST and Reading Connections projects.

And Term 1 Library Monitors are finishing their successful term!

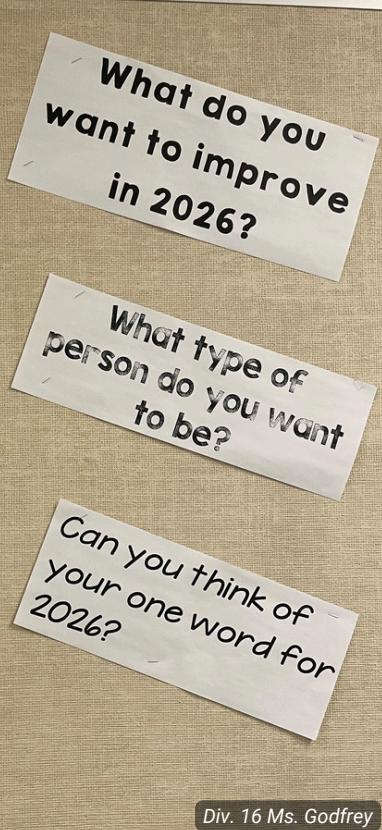
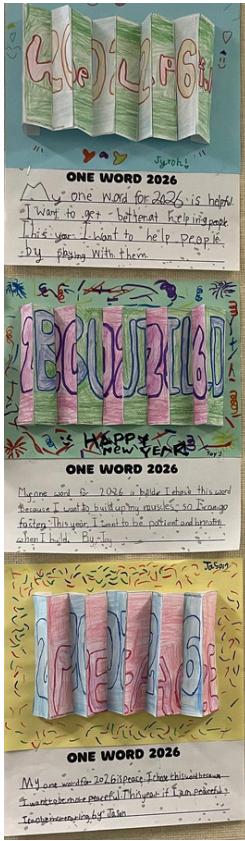
Term 2 Library Monitors START at the beginning of February!

See you soon!



## FAMILY READ - FRIDAY, FEB 20

After our last Winter Read, one of our Grade 4 students asked if we could do another one because they found it "so fun." We loved their enthusiasm, so we asked them what theme and timing they had in mind. After thinking it over, they decided they wanted another Family Read to celebrate Lunar New Year! LunchLAB will be helping us mark the celebration by providing cookies from various Asian cultures, along with mandarins. Please join us by lining up at the gym doors by the basketball court. Bring your favourite book, wear comfy clothes, and pack something cozy to sit on as we read together as families and welcome the Lunar New Year in community. We can't wait to see you there!



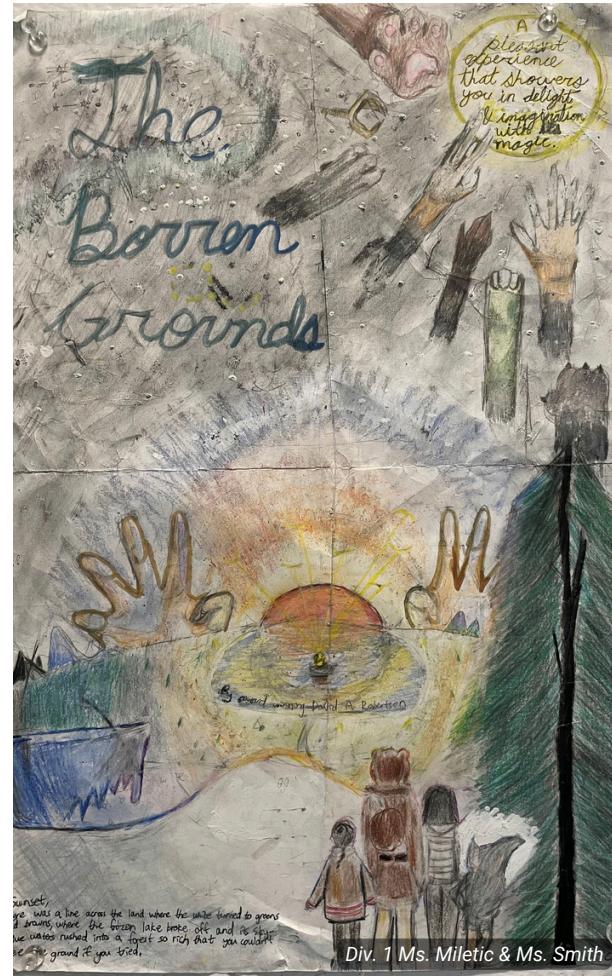
Div. 16 Ms. Godfrey

## BASKETBALL SEASON

Basketball season is beginning at Norquay, and we are excited to focus on building strong skills while emphasizing fair play, teamwork, and positive attitudes both on and off the court. Families can support their child by encouraging sportsmanship, reinforcing the importance of working together, celebrating effort and improvement, and helping students arrive prepared with runners, comfortable clothing, and a water bottle. Light practice at home (dribbling, passing, or coordination activities) can also boost confidence. As a reminder, photography and video recording are not permitted during games in order to maintain student privacy. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our dedicated coaches: Ms. Hughes, Ms. Challenger, Mr. Mercer, and Ms. Julie, whose support and enthusiasm make this season possible.



Div. 11 Ms. Peng



Div. 1 Ms. Miletic & Ms. Smith

## STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The staff at Norquay continue to be active, reflective learners committed to keeping their practice current and responding to present student needs. Throughout the year, teachers do their own research and learning as needed. In addition, this year, staff have engaged in a broad range of organized group learning, including:

- Participating in a Math Fluency Residency
- Deepening relational connections to support intentional collaboration and its impact on student learning and achievement
- Engaging in a Literacy Fluency Residency

In addition, our primary staff, resource teachers, and school administration attended District Literacy Days to further their understanding of literacy development in children and youth. We are also proud to highlight that several Norquay staff members will be sharing their expertise at a math workshop in February, presenting to their peers.

We also have a team currently planning a session on selecting classroom resources that are, representative, responsive, and reflective and another team preparing a lunch n learn on story workshop.

We are grateful for Norquay's ongoing dedication to strengthening practice in ways that directly support student learning and growth.



## UPCOMING IMPORTANT REGISTRATION DATES

We are excited to share that we already have many new Kindergarten registrants confirmed for next school year! Please note the following important timelines:

- Priority Kindergarten registration closes on January 31, 2026.
- District Choice Program applications close on February 3, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. More information can be found at: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/26694/elementary-programs>
- Cross-boundary applications open on February 2, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

If you have any questions about registering at Norquay, please contact the school office, our team is happy to help.

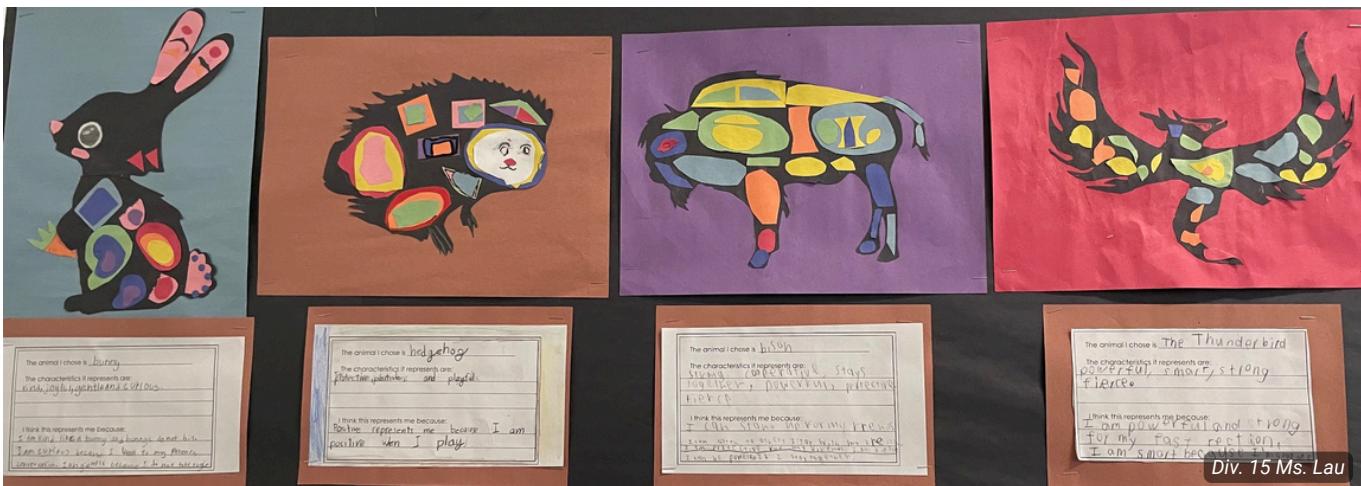


## WAFFLE BREAKFAST 2026

A huge thank you to our PAC and LunchLAB teams for hosting such a smooth and welcoming Welcome to 2026 Breakfast! It was wonderful to see our community sharing food, reconnecting, and starting the year together. As the saying goes, "When we eat together, we grow together." Research continues to show that shared meals strengthen relationships and build a sense of belonging. The impact of this event was felt across our school. One student shared that it was the day they "look forward to all year," and a parent commented that it is a "longstanding Norquay legacy" they are thrilled to see continue. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised \$1,122.30 in cash for the food bank. The online donation form: <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/184099/196/False/True> will remain open until January 30, 2026, and we will share the final total in our next newsletter.

Thank you again for your kindness, community spirit, and continued support, it truly makes Norquay special.





## BUDGET SURVEY

Your voice matters: Share your ideas for VSB's 2026-2027 budget.

The Vancouver School Board (VSB) is preparing its budget for next school year. Your input will help trustees make the best decisions about how to use funding to support students.

Complete the survey and share your ideas!

Survey link: <https://ca.research.net/r/FGM857B>

Learn about other ways to share your thoughts. See our [website](#) for more details.



## FREE AND LOW-COST RESOURCES

The City of Vancouver shares free and low-cost resources and updates this list regularly. For more information: [Free and low-cost resources | City of Vancouver](#).

**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

## PAC CORNER

Thank you to everyone for making the Welcome to 2026 waffle breakfast so special. These community moments create core memories for students.

A few upcoming dates to note:

- **Tuesday, January 27:** PAC MEETING CANCELLED.
- **Pizza day:** PAC's next school wide pizza day will be on Tuesday, Feb 3rd! The goal of the PAC run pizza day is to provide the opportunity for all to enjoy a meal together in an equitable, environmentally sustainable, and economical way.
  - **Order deadline:** Wed, Jan 28th, 3pm
  - Volunteer to deliver pizzas on Feb 3rd, various time commitment between 11:30-1:15pm: <https://forms.gle/kjG7fH5wf86gcyP6>
- **Save the date:**
  - PAC AGM - May 26 at 6PM will be in person. More details to follow.



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# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN BORN IN 2021 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 **2026-27**

**Step 2:** Verification of documentation

- After applying, you will receive instructions on how to schedule your in-person appointment
- Bring supporting documentation during your scheduled appointment for verification

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 2026. For more information, go to: [govsb.ca/kchoice](http://govsb.ca/kchoice) and [govsb.ca/crossboundary](http://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. In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at their catchment school, students will be placed at another school as close to the catchment as possible 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:** Sibling priority **does not** apply to registrations received after January 31.

In the event there are more in-catchment registrants than can be accommodated at their catchment school, students will be placed at another school as close to the catchment as possible until space becomes available.

**For more information on kindergarten registration visit the VSB website: [govsb.ca/kindergarten](http://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).

