

June Newsletter

Vol. 2

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷə́yəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), & səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

As we come to the end of the 2024–2025 school year, we want to take a moment to reflect on the many moments of learning, laughter, and connection that have shaped our time together.

Thank you to our incredible parent volunteers who made the Spring Fair on Friday such a joyful and memorable event. The students had a fantastic time, the rain held off, and the day was filled with warmth, community spirit, and fun. Your time and energy made it all possible!

This year, our school learning plan focused on two key goals: Reconciliation and Literacy. In support of Call to Action 83, we partnered with the Power in YOUth leadership group to showcase a stunning blanket created by acclaimed Musqueam weaver Debra Sparrow. The Power in YOUth group led meaningful learning around the significance of the blanket and Debra Sparrow's vision to "blanket the city." All 655 students participated in this project, and the completed blanket is now proudly displayed at the entrance of our library—a lasting symbol of Indigenous joy, creativity, and our shared commitment to reconciliation.

Our school-wide literacy inquiry centered on building intentional connections among staff, students, and families, as we know strong adult connections are a key factor in student achievement and success. Through storytelling, student voice, and data collection, we learned that these efforts have led to school-wide improvements in literacy, which you'll see reflected in both report cards and our school learning plan.

As we close out the year, we also say goodbye to some cherished members of our community. Mr. Mulligan and Mrs. Kwan are retiring after remarkable careers. We wish them all the best as they begin a new chapter—free of alarm clocks, bells, and report cards! Congratulations to Mr. Loong and Ms. Robertson, who have completed their counselling degrees and will be joining the VSB counselling team. We also extend our heartfelt thanks and farewells to Ms. Rajbeer and Ms. Sarah (SSSAs), Ms. Boswell (Speech and Language Pathologist), Ms. Foster (SELC teacher), Ms. Smith and Ms. Bailey (Grade 7 job share), Ms. Natasha (supervision aide), and Ms. Hong (Reading Recovery teacher). Also, to all students moving on to new schools, we wish you all the best. All your contributions have left a lasting impact on Norquay, and you will be deeply missed.

And of course, congratulations to the Grade 7 Class of 2025! We look forward to celebrating you at tomorrow's ceremony and wish you all the best as you move on to new adventures.

We hope everyone finds time to relax, recharge, and enjoy a good book or two over the summer. For some free and fun activities around town, check out this list: <https://miss604.com/2025/06/free-events-around-downtown-vancouver-this-summer/>

To all the staff, families, and students, thank you for being such an important part of this community. Your support, kindness, and partnership make Norquay a truly special place to learn and grow. Wishing you all a safe, joyful, and restful summer.

Please see the attached documents: the 2025–2026 fee schedule, bell schedule, and calendar. See you in September!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 25

- Grade 7 leaving ceremony
- Written learning updates go home

Thursday, June 26

- Last day for students, dismissed at 3pm
 - Staff and parents Tug O Peace at 2:45PM on the gravel field, dismissal at 3pm from the gravel field

Tuesday, September 2

First day of school:

- Grades 1-7 attend from 9:00-9:30am, returning students, please go to your last year's classes
- Incoming Ks attend from 10:00-10:30am, please meet in gym

Wednesday, September 10

First full day for new K students

September 16-22

Hub cycling lessons grade 6 and 7

Tuesday, September 23

Individual photo day

Thursday, September 25

Meet the Staff and PAC BBQ from 5 to 6:30pm

Friday, September 26

Professional Development Day, classes not in session

Tuesday, September 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, schools closed

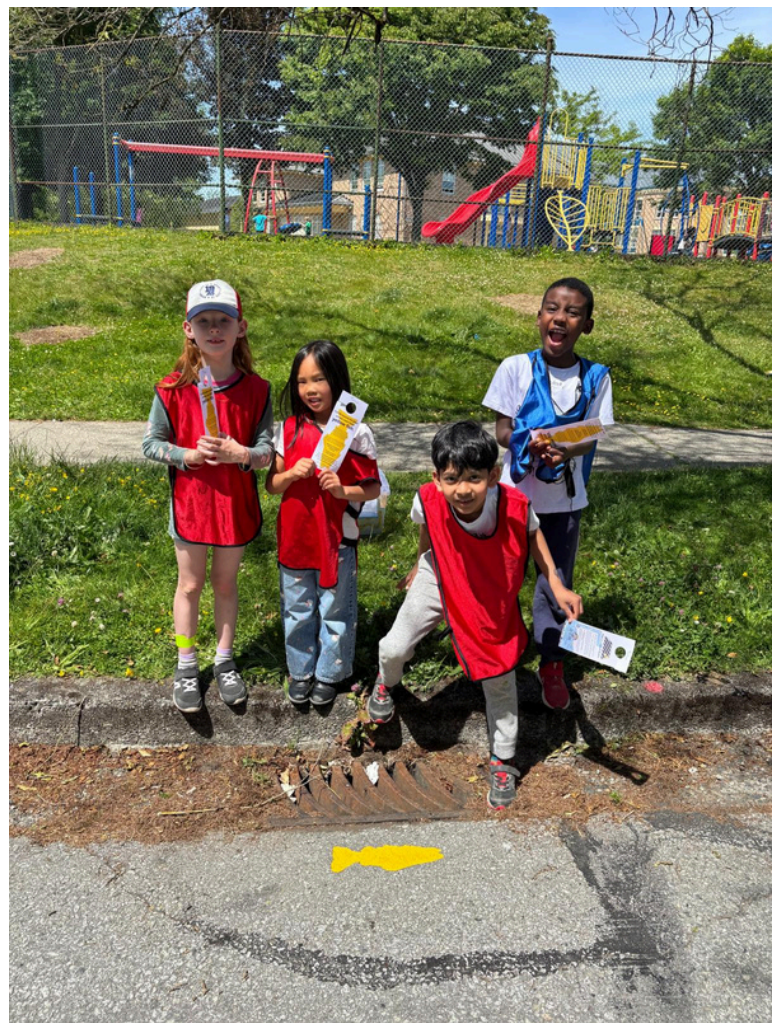


YELLOW FISH PROJECT

Have you spotted the yellow fish painted next to catch basins around our school? These cheerful reminders were created by Ms. Affleck's Grade 1 students, with help from some amazing Norquay parents! So, why yellow fish... they're there to remind us that storm drains flow directly into our local waterways—untreated. That means anything harmful like litter, pesticides, or car wash soap can end up in rivers and streams. Let's all do our part to protect our environment:

- Keep harmful substances out of storm drains.
- Share this message with friends and neighbors.

Get involved! Over the summer, your family can join the fun by painting yellow fish on catch basins around Vancouver. Sign up today at <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/yellow-fish-program.aspx>. A big thank you to Helen, our dedicated parent volunteer, for making this meaningful project possible!



LIBRARY CORNER

Aaaaaand....it's the end of June!

We have had a **SUPER YEAR** full of curiosity, good questions, messy making, and laughter.

We hope all students and families have a **SUPER SUMMER**.

See you on the bike path!

A reminder that you can **RETURN ANY AND ALL BOOKS** any time this week.

See you soon!





MS. HELEN ZHANG'S GRADE 6 CLASS ON CBC!

Keep an eye out for Ms. Zhang's class who are representing VSB on CBC this Canada Day, July 1! Division 7 students were asked, "What do you love about Canada?" and "What makes you proud to be Canadian?" Their responses reflect deep ties to the country, their collective sense of belonging, and remind us all why we are lucky to live in Canada! CBC's Canada Day coverage will be available on all the CBC platforms, CBC News on TV, Youtube, Gem, and CBC News Network. Happy Canada Day, Norway!



HERITAGE FAIR NATIONAL SHOWCASE - VOTE FOR SOFIA!

We're thrilled to share some exciting news from the Heritage Fair! Thanks to Ms. Helen Zhang (Grade 6 EMB teacher), we received a special link showcasing Sofia's incredible heritage project, which has been selected for the National Showcase! Sofia has worked hard to represent our school and community, and now she needs your support. You can view her project and cast your vote to help her shine on the national stage! Voting is open until July 1st.

[https://www.canadashistory.ca/youth/heritage-fairs-en/heritage-fair-national-showcase/2025-heritage-fair-national-showcase?](https://www.canadashistory.ca/youth/heritage-fairs-en/heritage-fair-national-showcase/2025-heritage-fair-national-showcase?utm_source=Canada%27s+History+Newsletter&utm_campaign=23b2c258d9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_05_14_02_51&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-23b2c258d9-591283953)

[utm_source=Canada%27s+History+Newsletter&utm_campaign=23b2c258d9-](https://www.canadashistory.ca/youth/heritage-fairs-en/heritage-fair-national-showcase/2025-heritage-fair-national-showcase?utm_source=Canada%27s+History+Newsletter&utm_campaign=23b2c258d9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_05_14_02_51&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-23b2c258d9-591283953)

[EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_05_14_02_51&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-23b2c258d9-591283953](https://www.canadashistory.ca/youth/heritage-fairs-en/heritage-fair-national-showcase/2025-heritage-fair-national-showcase?utm_source=Canada%27s+History+Newsletter&utm_campaign=23b2c258d9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2025_05_14_02_51&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-23b2c258d9-591283953)

Let's show our support and help Sofia get the recognition she deserves—every vote counts!





MOSAIC MEANDERINGS

I believe many of you participated in making the mosaics last year, the geometric patterns the students created in early 2024 have now been combined with other community contributions to form a vibrant glass mosaic—soon to become a permanent part of the Norquay neighbourhood! While the working title was **Mosaic Meanderings**, the final title of the artwork will be **Gather**, reflecting both the collaborative process and the creation of a welcoming public gathering space. The mosaics will be installed on the vertical sides of 21 benches along Kingsway (near Earles Street, across from Norquay Park) in August and September. The team will be in touch again in the fall with more updates.

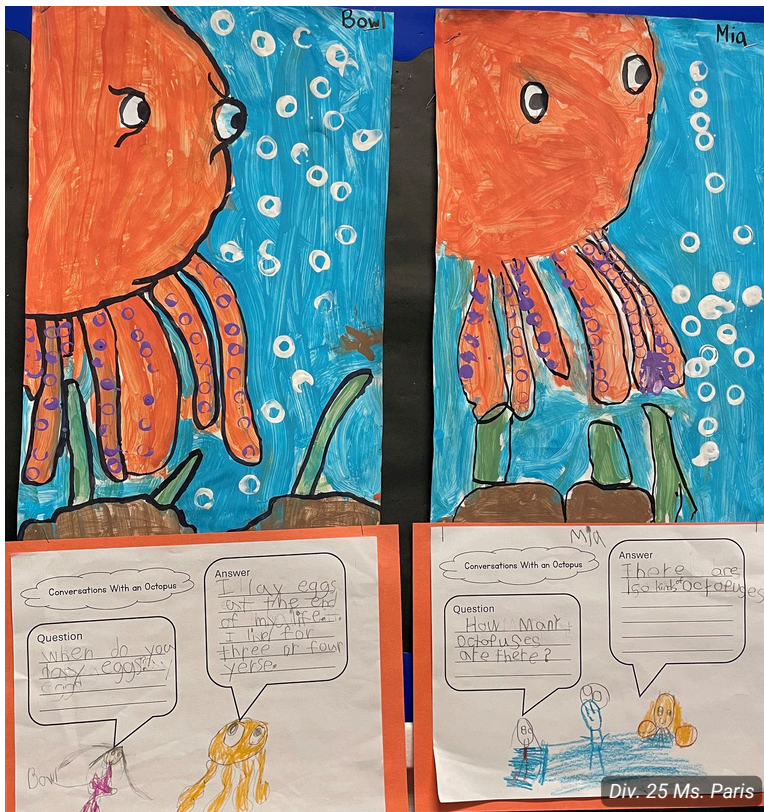


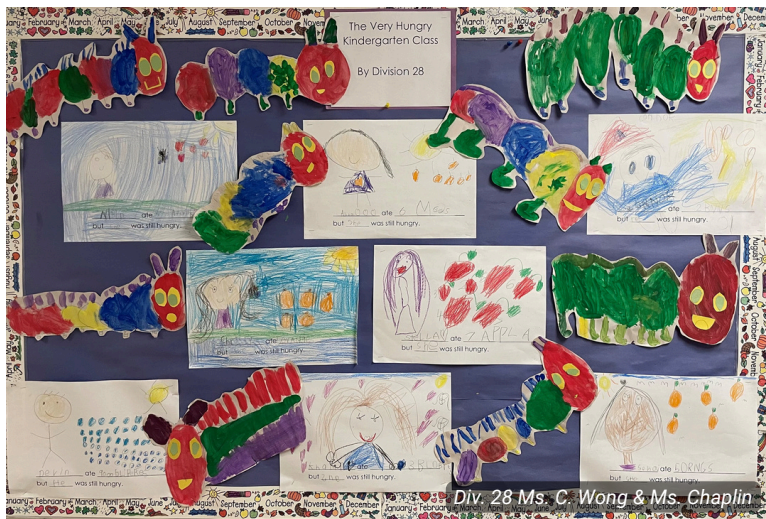
WATCHING THE GARDEN GROW

A reminder that it is that time of year when we recruit help for the garden! We need families to sign up to help us water the garden over the summer to keep it happy and growing strong. Please sign up here if you are in town and able to help us: "summer watering schedule sheets link":

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fh0ncgfN2d9q-r5WFdV3l8MPrtOgOq-rdQFzNEyRzMM/edit?usp=sharing>.

We will email the final schedule to everyone on the last day of school. Thank you for ensuring that our garden continues to grow. You may know that because of all the work done on our garden, our school was referred by Grounds/Facilities staff to receive one of 20 "Spark Grants" from BC Parks Foundation's Learning by Nature initiative to contribute to the Nature Learning Garden at Norquay. We have been approved! Congratulations Norquay! The grant will provide \$3000 directly to VSB Grounds to fund this project.





CHECK THE LOST & FOUND!

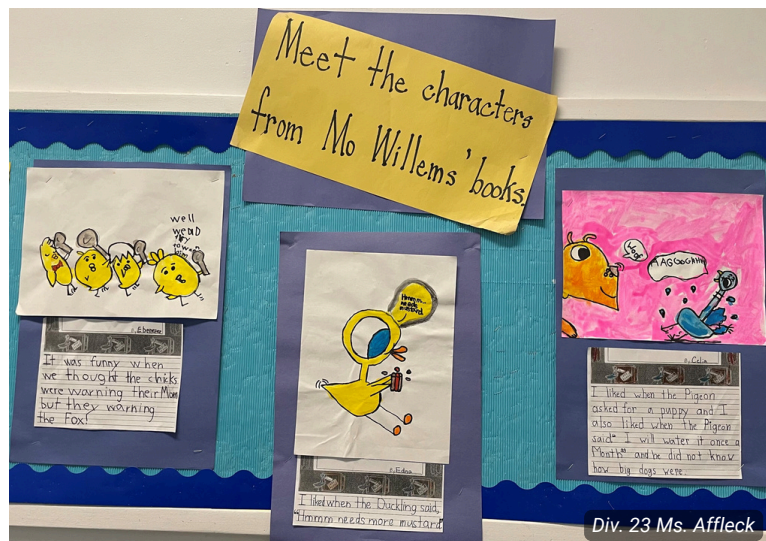
Before you head off for summer break, don't forget to check the Lost and Found! It's filling up with jackets, water bottles, lunch containers, and more—just waiting to be reunited with their owners.

You'll find it all in the lunchroom, with a sign that says lost and found. Let's help these lost items find their way home before the holidays begin!



NOTICE OF LATE RETURN

As we look to the 2025/2026 school year, please complete the attached form if your child(ren) will be returning to school after 12:00 PM on Friday, September 5, 2025, but before Monday, September 29, 2025. Thank you!



PAC CORNER

Thank you to everyone who donated items for our silent auction—your generosity helped us raise over \$1,500! We truly appreciate your support. We're also excited to announce that, although we didn't quite reach our fundraising goal of \$655, the first-ever Norquay Parents vs. Teachers Rope Pull (Tug o Peace) is still happening this Thursday to celebrate the end of the school year. We're still looking for more participants to join Team Parent, so if you're interested, please sign up! The event will take place on the gravel field with all students attending. Please arrive by 2:30 PM, as the event will begin at 2:45 PM. Don't forget to bring gloves! You can sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/nVaLVJXth487xABRA>.

Finally, a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who has organized, participated in, or volunteered their time to support PAC initiatives this year. It's been a full and joy-filled year, packed with fun memories for our students.

We wish you a relaxing and sunny summer, and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

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