

March 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) & $s \acute{a} l i l w \acute{a} t \acute{a} \ddot{a}$ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Welcome to the last newsletter before spring break!

On Monday, March 10, students will receive their Term 2 written learning updates. Family engagement plays a pivotal role in a child's academic journey. As educators, our relationships with families, parents, and caregivers can significantly impact how students connect school and home to create a positive, supportive learning environment. We hope you use these written learning updates to speak with your child about school, their goals, accomplishments, and hopes for the future! We look forward to welcoming families to the school on April 23 and April 24 for student conferences to further discuss the growth and learning we have seen.

Some questions you can ask when discussing the written learning update are:

- "What efforts did you make that really paid off?"
- "Are there any surprises here for you?"
- "Is there anything you feel particularly proud of?"
- "What would you like to do differently in the coming months?"

We are very proud of the growth we have seen this term and we hope you get some time to celebrate the strengths and accomplishments as a family.

April is looking to be a busy and fun month with conferences, a whole school math festival, Arts Umbrella Van Gogh art, class photos, school-wide pizza day, and many other exciting field excursions and events!

The last day before spring break is Friday, March 14 and students return on Monday, March 31.

We wish everyone a restful and rejuvenating spring break.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 3 to Friday, March 7
Boogaloo Dance classes (Primary)

Wednesday, March 5
Choral Festival at John Oliver, opens at 6:30PM

Friday, March 7
Boogaloo Dance performance

Sunday, March 9
Daylight Saving Time starts, spring forward your clocks one hour

Monday, March 10
Written learning updates go home
Dental screening (kindergarten)

Wednesday, March 12
Hearing screening



Thursday, March 13
Hearing screening
Staff versus students volleyball game, rematch

Friday, March 14
Last day of school before spring break

Monday, March 31
School back in session



Friday, April 4
Class photos

Friday, April 11
PAC movie afternoon, starts at 3:15
PAC photo fundraiser
All school math festival

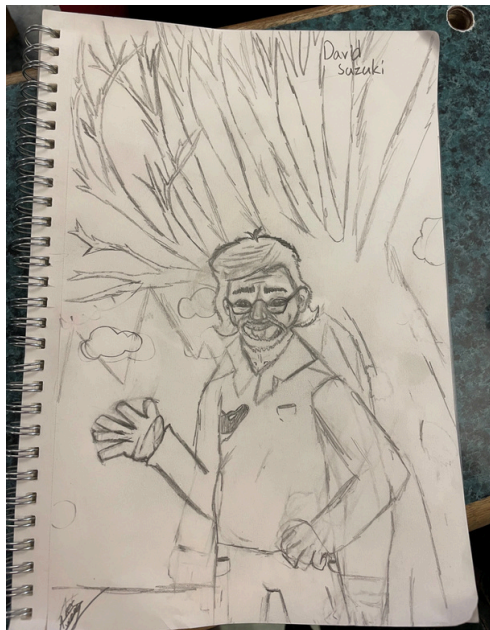
Monday, April 14 to Wednesday, April 16
Arts Umbrella, Van Gogh

Friday, April 18
Good Friday, schools closed



Monday, April 21
Easter Monday, schools closed

Monday, April 28
District-wide professional development day
(Indigenous Focus), classes not in session



Div. 29 Ms. Kwan

LIBRARY CORNER

We have had a **dusty, noisy-busy, and engaging** couple of months of learning at Norquay Library. Students have been:

- **Building Arctic animal habitats;**
- **Designing, changing the shape, and painting their Red Cedar Bookmarks;** and
- **Assembling Red Cedar boxes** based on Coastal First Nations Designs.
- And students have been **choosing and reading their favourite books** week-by-week.

We also had the **SECOND** visit by author Jeff Chiba Stearns! This time the primary divisions were able to hear this wonderful, local author speak. The students were engaged and inspired. Thank you to the PAC for supporting this literary event! The students and staff loved it.



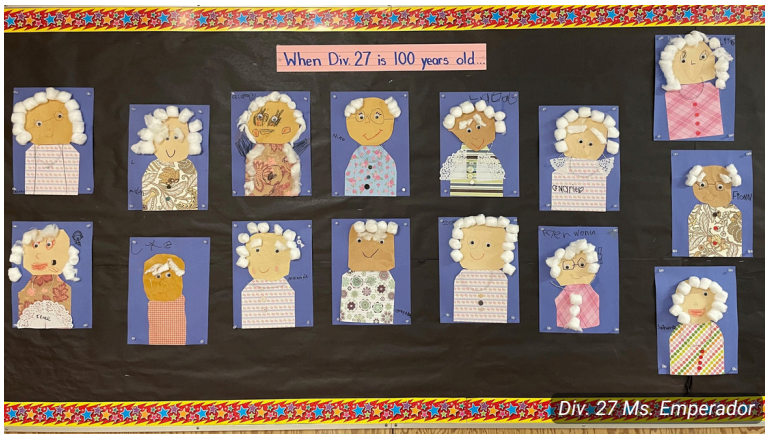
Div. 24 Ms. Gruger

BOOGALOO DANCE

We are very grateful to have had Boogaloo Dance come to Norquay and teach all the primary and intermediate students. Intermediate lessons took place from February 3 to 7, and primary lessons are happening this week! We were able to provide these lessons for only \$5 per student thanks to a **VERY** generous donation from an anonymous donor, along with a successful grant application. We hope your children enjoyed learning about hip hop and taking part in the performance. Thank you again to the generous patron who made this wonderful opportunity happen.



Div. 23 Ms. Affleck



100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Did you know February marked 100 days of school? 100 days, 2,400 hours, and 144,000 minutes. Why do we celebrate 100 days of school? This milestone marks a point in the year where students are more than halfway through the school year. It is a time to reflect on all the learning that has taken place so far. The celebration began in 1979 by a California teacher who wanted to help her students understand the concept of the number 100. Many primary divisions continue this tradition by drawing themselves as centenarians, engaging in counting activities, and reflectively thinking about the learning that has taken place so far. Fun Fact: Did you know that if you count to 100 by ones, it takes about 90 seconds? It's a great way to practice counting and patience! You can do this with your children at home.



POWER IN YOUTH - BLANKETING THE SCHOOLS

Our Power in YOUth group has been very busy this term. They organized a soft plastic collection fundraiser and presented on Musqueam artist Debra Sparrow's dream to blanket Vancouver. Debra Sparrow (θəliɣwəlwət) began weaving 35 years ago, transforming her life and perspective.

The Power in YOUth crew visited every classroom to explain the significance of Debra Sparrow's dream and how it brought Call to Action 83 to life: "We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process."

All 650 students voted on where to hang the blanket, and it is now proudly displayed in front of the library for everyone to see. Students were excited and felt proud to be part of this meaningful project. Please make sure to take a look the next time you are at the school. For more about Debra Sparrow's story:



You will also see the 'diversity stick people' around the school. For Pink Shirt Day this year, the Power in YOUth group led an activity where students designed a stick person that showed what they loved about themselves and what made them unique and brilliant! The logo this year was "different yet united." Students enjoyed expressing their individuality and seeing their creations displayed around the school.



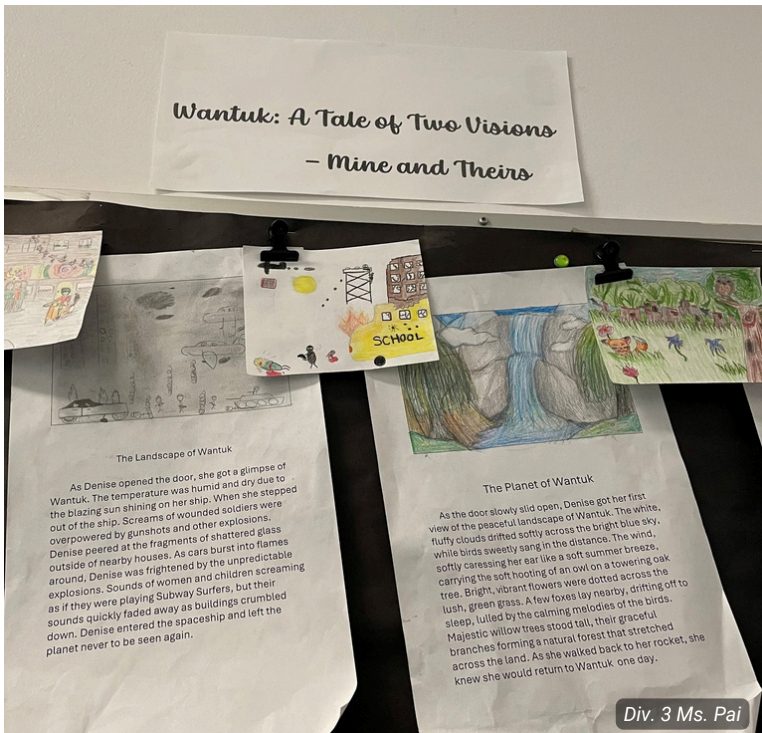
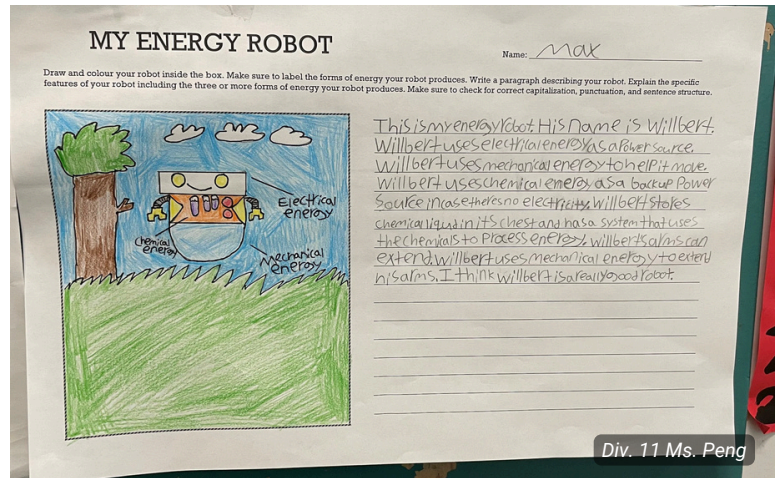


UNDERSTANDING AND GUIDING YOUTH IN ONLINE GAMING

A learning opportunity from Public Safety Canada: This session will explore strategies to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse within online gaming environments, providing practical guidance and expert perspectives. The webinar is facilitated by GamerSafer, a safety tech company focused on protecting players and gaming communities from digital risks and harms. This session will be hosted on Zoom. To register, please click on the link below. You will then receive a confirmation email with login details.

Understanding and Guiding Youth in Online Gaming, March 5, 2025 from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm PST. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). Targeted participants: Parents, caregivers, educators and civil society organizations.

For any questions about the event, please do not hesitate to email Public Safety Canada at: onlinecseeseenligne@ps-sp.gc.ca.



PARKING AND TRAFFIC SAFETY (DAYLIGHT SAVINGS)

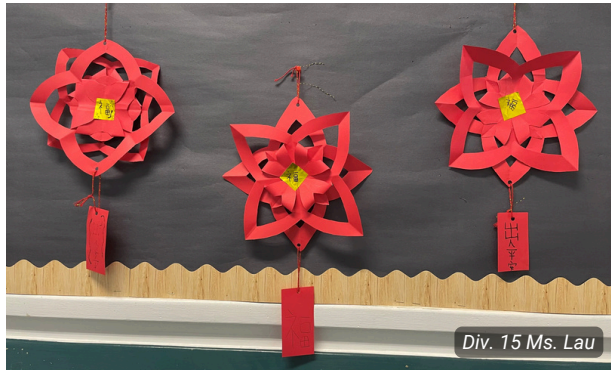
On Sunday, March 9, daylight saving time begins—remember to spring forward your clocks one hour. Mornings will be darker, and evenings will have more light. This is a great time to remind families of road safety. Please review these safety practices with your child:

- Always look both ways before stepping into the street, even at a crosswalk.
- Make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you before crossing.
- Avoid distractions like phones or headphones while crossing.
- Never assume vehicles will stop—be cautious and aware at all times.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.



Div. 14 Ms. S. Wong



Div. 15 Ms. Lau

VSB AFTER THE BELL: LIVE AN ONLINE LEARNING SERIES FOR FAMILIES

Introducing VSB After the Bell: Live, a new series of information sessions designed to provide families with direct access to educators and experts on key topics affecting student learning and well-being. As an extension of our [podcast, After the Bell](#), the learning series is designed to be accessible and informative, featuring education subject matter experts, live Q&A and practical takeaways for families. For March, we will be exploring how to navigate social media, AI and online safety:

Topic: Helping kids navigate social media, AI and online safety

Date: March 11, 2025 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Who: Jeff Spence, VSB District Principal of Information technology and Christina Walker, VSB Digital Literacy Mentor Teacher

In an increasingly digital world, understanding how to be a responsible and informed online citizen is more important than ever. Join VSB After the Bell: Live for an engaging session on digital literacy, where we'll explore how students can safely and responsibly navigate the online space.

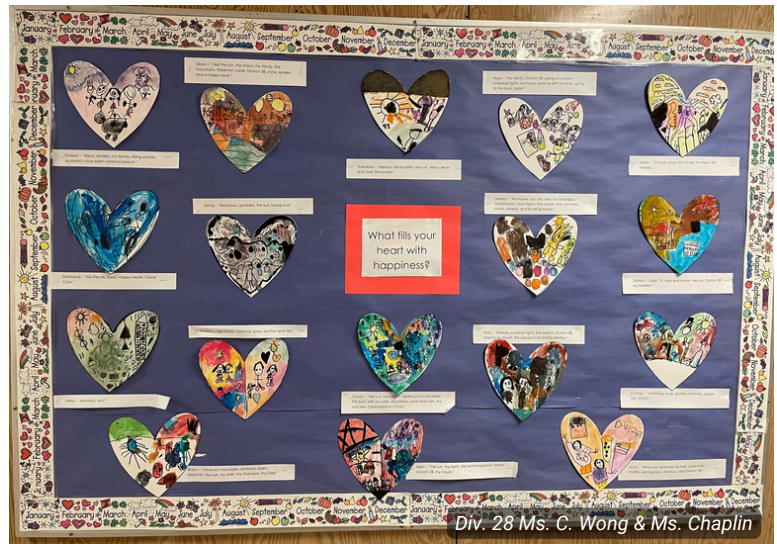
Join experts in the field to discuss key topics including navigating social media platforms (Snapchat, Discord, Instagram, TikTok), the impact of Generative AI (Copilot, ChatGPT) and essential student online safety strategies. Learn how VSB is supporting both students and educators on this journey and gain practical insights to help your child thrive in the digital age.

Have questions? Ask ahead of time to get them answered live. Submit questions [here](#).

A link to the information will be sent a day before the event.



Div. 18 Ms. Tsolinas



Div. 28 Ms. C. Wong & Ms. Chaplin



Dear Norquay/Renfrew Community/Community Business:

The Norquay School Spring Fair is just around the corner, June 20, 2025, and we're gearing up for an exciting day of fun and fundraising! This year, we'll be hosting a silent auction to help raise funds for Norquay Team Jerseys. With your generous support, we can provide our students with the resources they need to succeed both on and off the field. Every donation, big or small, (e.g. gift certificate for salon services, gift baskets, products, tickets to local events, etc.), will make a difference in the lives of our amazing students.

Please email us with any support you can provide to norquaypacteam@gmail.com.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend the auction on June 20th, 2025.
Time: 3pm to 7pm
Location: Norquay School (4710 Slocan Street, Vancouver BC)

Thank you in advance for your support of this important event. Together we can make a difference!

Sincerely,
The Norquay PAC Team



norquaypacteam@gmail.com

norquaypac.ca

PAC CORNER

As we head into spring break we wanted to share a few things happening when we return:

- **Spring Photo Fundraiser:** back by popular demand! Take family photos for Mother's or Father's day. April 11th 3:45-8pm. Flier included, sign up with the following link: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vyr7IGILWc5w5T5CR-ZldAuXMC1TLc2nTrsUO65TLaE/edit?usp=sharing>
- **Movie Matinee:** Come join us for a movie! Friday April 11th 3:15pm. Line up at the basketball courts. Flier details included, RSVP by April 3rd to vote for your movie choice:
 - RSVP: <https://forms.gle/rsnWx2ZjGojVvVVQ9>
 - Volunteer sign up: <https://forms.gle/ZfH26jhxPBjXzcBm7>
- **April 15 Pizza day:** online ordering will be open April 1st for those who did not submit an order, e-transfer norquaypacorders@gmail.com
- **April 22nd 6-7pm: Keeping Kids Safe Online.** a FREE parent workshop held online discussing topics such as sexual exploitation, red flags, app literacy and how to talk to children about online exploitation and safety tips:
 - <https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/workshops/adult-workshops/safer-space-for-adults/>
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82054853245?pwd=ne15VqDva5MS41Y9cug60vOPKEEzPz.1>. Meeting ID: 820 5485 3245, Passcode: 114197
- **BC Children's Hospital Foundation 2km or 5km Family Fun Run June 8th:** Help raise funds and have a great time to run or walk around QE Park. Sign up with John Norquay Elementary's School team
 - <https://fundraise.bcchf.ca/join/JohnNorquayElementary>.
 - Early bird registration before April 9th \$30 or commit to fundraiser \$50 and enter for \$5.
- **Spring Fair Silent Auction:** call out for silent auction donation items.
 - If you have gift baskets, gift certificates for items or services, products, tickets and/or items suitable for a silent auction, please email norquaypacteam@gmail.com.
 - Donation items/services will be vetted by the Spring Fair committee members.
 - We encourage businesses who donate to also provide fliers and business cards to be displayed next to the donated items.
- **Spring Fundraisers:** Tsuen Tea, Dicky's Dumplings, and Samosas will be available for order in late April. Stay tuned for details and fliers.

From all of us on PAC executive, we wish you a happy and energizing spring break!



John Norquay Elementary School

NORQUAY SPRING PHOTO FUNDRAISER

HELP US RAISE \$3000 FOR BRAND NEW NORQUAY TEAM JERSEYS.

Photo session includes

- Access the exclusive online gallery featuring your images.
- Browse and purchase additional photos directly from the photographer.
- 1 - 8"x10" colour photo
- 15 mins per session

SCAN TO BOOK

Friday, April 11, 2025
3:45PM - 8PM
Norquay Activity Room
(next to the gym)

\$25 per session
Payment eTransfer to:
norquaypacorders@gmail.com

PROUDLY PARTNER WITH... **Made the Grade PHOTOGRAPHY INC.**



MOVIE MATINEE

RSVP Deadline: April 4th 3pm

movie time!

FRIDAY APRIL 11TH
Matinee Movie 3:15-5pm

Admission: Suggested donation \$5/student or \$15/family



RSVP ONLINE

- Due to capacity limits attendance must RSVP online by April 4th 3pm (scan QR code)

- This is NOT a drop off event, an adult must be present and supervising

- Bring your own blankets or yoga mats. Low sitting chairs are allowed. Camping chairs will be asked to move to the back or side.
- Vote for your preferred movie choice:

- Concession stand will be available, however students are welcome to bring their own snacks. No nuts please.

- Suggested donations \$1 for chips, popcorn, cookies or juiceboxes. RSVP your order choice and bring small change (loonies/toonies)

Entrance by the doors next to the basketball courts.
Email norquaypacteam@gmail.com with any questions.
We look forward to seeing everyone at the movies!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sign up online norquaypac.ca or scan QR code

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

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