

May Newsletter



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

Welcome to the May newsletter! It has been another busy month, and we look forward to a few more celebrations in June as well.

Did you know that our theme this year is intentional collaboration? Being part of a school with multiple programs, including the regular stream, Mandarin stream, and several district classes, means it is important to thoughtfully create opportunities to build community across all groups.

You may have noticed some colourful cookies displayed around the school recently, students and staff have been participating in a collaborative activity called Cookie People. Inspired by Monique Gray Smith (Cree and Scottish), "cookie people" are those individuals who uplift us, recognize our gifts, and support us along our life's journey. Throughout the month, students have had opportunities to reflect on and celebrate the people in their lives who make a positive difference.

We've also invited families to participate during conferences and are encouraging all staff to join in as well. Our goal was to fill our halls with the names and stories of those who inspire and support us every day, helping us strengthen connections across our entire school community.

We have also collaborated with Mosaic Meanderings to create artwork that will be displayed in our community. We are excited to share that, after a long construction delay, the Gather mosaic project is finally being installed along Kingsway near Earles Street. Installation is now underway, and if all goes smoothly, the mosaics should be completed within the next few weeks.

It has been a long journey from the original student workshops in early 2024 to seeing the artwork come to life, and we are so proud that our students' geometric designs are becoming part of this permanent public installation. Once everything is complete, we will share photos, and we encourage our school community to visit the mosaics in person. Thank you for your participation and support in making these projects possible.

Similarly, our Nature Play Playground has followed a meaningful journey from student design ideas to a vibrant, real space, made possible through the support of our families and community. This space has been years in the making, and it has finally opened.

To celebrate this milestone, we are excited to host a special Nature Play Read on Monday, June 8 at 8:30 a.m., which will also serve as the formal opening of the playground. There will be snacks, shared reading, and an opportunity to thank the many people who helped bring this vision to life.

We look forward to a wonderful June filled with Sports Day (weather dependent) the Grade 6/7 Leaving Ceremony, field excursions, the Spring Fair, and the Tug of Peace between families and staff. This year, we are excited to also include a special match featuring families and staff against our Grade 7 students.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in building such a strong and caring school community. We look forward to celebrating together in the coming weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 27

Book Exchange

Thursday, May 28

Book Exchange

Friday, May 29

Buy books at the Book Exchange! 9:00-10:30am

Monday, June 1 to Friday, June 5

Walk, Bike or Roll to School Week!

Wednesday, June 3

Track and Field meet at Van Tech

Monday, June 8

- NaturePlay READ: 8:30 to 9:00 – join us for the grand opening of the Nature Play playground
- Saleema Noon parent info session at 6:30 pm, [link to follow](#)

Wednesday, June 10 and Thursday, June 11

Saleema Noon sessions, scheduled by grade

Friday, June 12

Sports Day, weather dependent

Tuesday, June 16

Ultimate Frisbee Jamboree at Prince of Wales

Wednesday, June 17

Volunteer tea, invites coming out during the week from the classroom teacher

Friday, June 19

Spring Fair from 3pm to 7pm

Wednesday, June 24

- Summary of Learning (term 3 reports) home
- Grade 7 leaving ceremony

Thursday, June 25

- Last day for students, students dismissed at 3pm
- Tug-O-Peace (to be confirmed, more details to follow)
- Families versus staff
- Families and staff versus grade 7s

SPORTS DAY UPDATE - NEW DATE IS FRIDAY, JUNE 12

As many of you know, we made the decision to postpone Sports Day this year due to the weather. We understand that many families plan ahead for this special event, and we truly appreciate your flexibility and understanding.

Last year, we proceeded despite the rain and received feedback from families about that decision. This year, we chose to take a different approach and prioritize better conditions for our students and community. We recognize that this is not an easy decision to make.

The new date for Sports Day is Friday, June 12. Please note that this event remains weather-dependent. If it is raining, Sports Day will be cancelled. We will notify families the day before only if the event needs to be cancelled. Thank you for your understanding and support.



BOOK EXCHANGE 2026

The Book Exchange started today and runs until Friday! Students will receive one ticket for each book they brought and can "purchase" books in the gym during their class visit. Please remember to send a reusable bag with your child for their books.

NEW THIS YEAR: Book Sale – Friday, May 28 (9:00–10:30 AM) Families are invited too! Picture books are \$0.25 and chapter books are \$1.00. This is a great opportunity to pick up books for summer reading. Proceeds will go toward next year's exchange.

FROM THE LIBRARY

And here we are...the end of May!

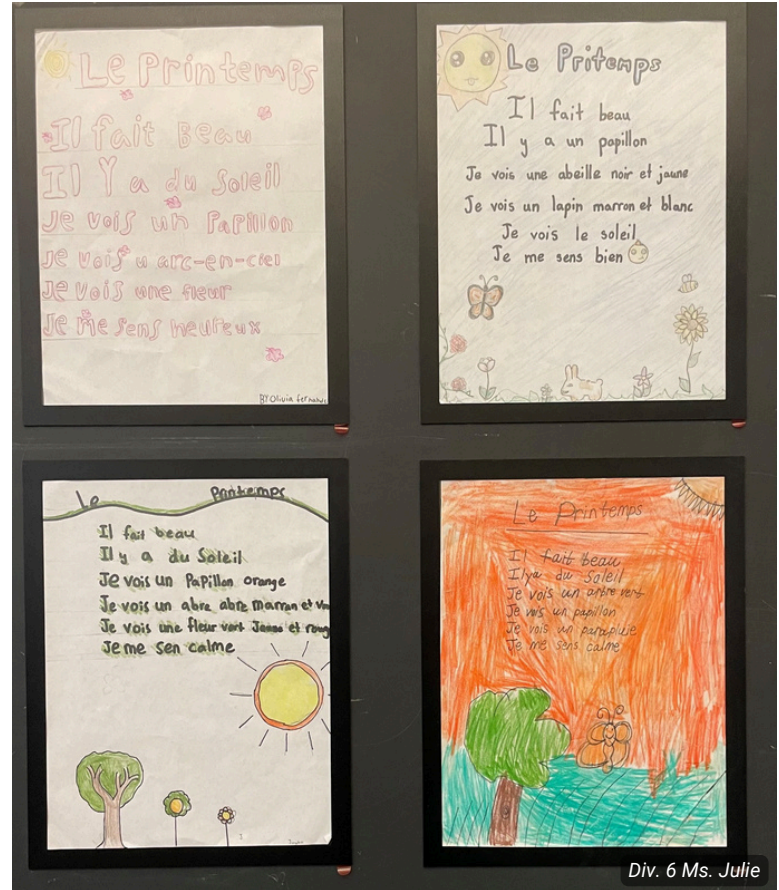
Norquay Library will be full of connecting, reading, making, presenting, music and art!

Students are finishing up **ADST and Inquiry Projects**...and starting to check out their 'next grade books'.

We will have 3, 2, and 1 - book borrowing weeks as we approach June 12.

*****ALL BOOKS ARE DUE JUNE 12.** Students can borrow books for a day or a night after June 12.***

See you soon!



LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER 2026

We are beginning to look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year ... an exciting time for our school community!

Please see attached for the following important information:

- 2026–2027 School Calendar
- 2026–2027 Bell Schedule
- Notice of Late Return
- If your child will be returning to school later than the start of September, please complete a Notice of Late Return as soon as possible. Please note that spots cannot be held without this notification.

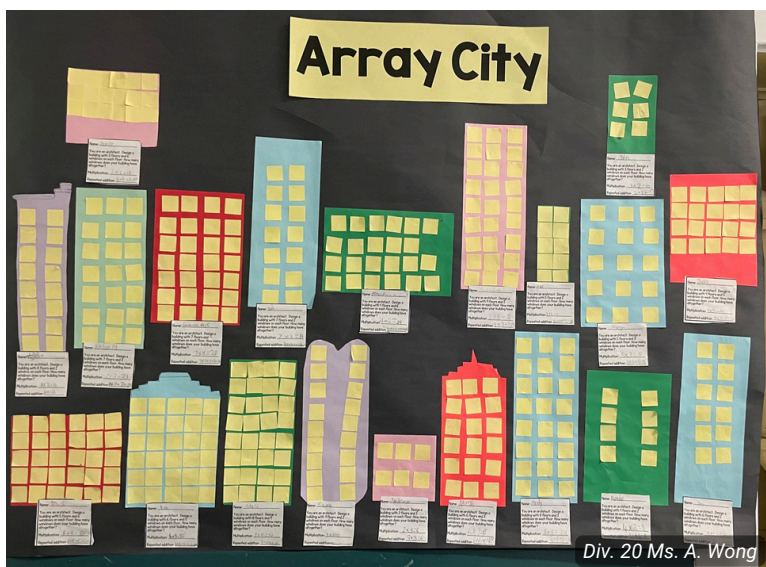
Thank you for your attention to these important updates as we plan for the year ahead!

PRINCIPAL & VICE PRINCIPAL FOR A MORNING

Evan and Adelina, both in Grade 4, were Principal and Vice-Principal for the morning in May! They completed many important tasks, including shredding documents, running the fire drill, ringing the all-clear bell outside, delivering and unpacking the Jump Math materials, and helping with the Cookie People display. They also handed out May birthday pencils and even made an announcement.

In addition, they helped with the apples, making sure to properly dispose of any compost ones. As a thank you for their hard work, they received Norquay stickers.

Adelina's favourite part was shredding, while Evan especially enjoyed doing different work outside the classroom and helping in the office. If your child would like to be principal/vice-principal for a morning, please volunteer or attend a PAC meeting and your family's name will be entered in the draw!



SALEEMA NOON SESSIONS ON BODY SCIENCE

We are very grateful to the Saleema Noon Foundation for providing a grant that allows us to offer these Body Science sessions free of charge. The Foundation is widely recognized for delivering content in ways that are accessible and developmentally appropriate for students.

This message is a follow-up to the information sent home on Monday, May 25. We are pleased to share that a parent session will be held on June 8, and a registration link will be sent out shortly. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you again to the Saleema Noon Foundation for sponsoring Norquay's participation in this important learning opportunity.

BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK: JUNE 1-5

Please join us for Bike to School Week from June 1-5! This is a great opportunity to encourage healthy, active transportation while helping reduce traffic around our school.

Students are invited to bike, scooter, or roll to school if they are able. Please remember helmets and safe riding practices.

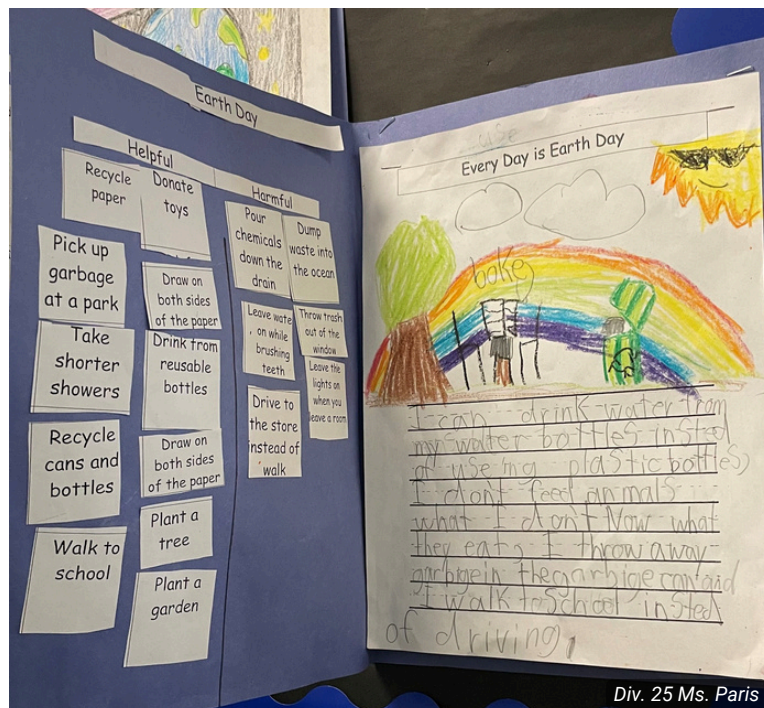
We hope to see many students rolling into school this week!



DIRECT DRIVE - TECHNOLOGY

We will continue to advertise our Direct Drive regularly, see below for a snapshot. If you would like more information, please let us know, we can resend the information to you. As we see money coming into the account, we will update you here! For now, please see how to donate:

- Link: [John Norquay Elementary - PAC DIRECT DRIVE TECHNOLOGY PLAN](#)
- Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more.
- All donor information is kept confidential.





LUNCHLAB PROGRAM!: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're Looking for more LunchLAB Volunteers!
As our LunchLAB community continues to grow, we're looking for more helping hands in the kitchen to support students and our chef team.

Volunteers work alongside our chef team and student cooks to prep ingredients, serve lunch, and help create a welcoming community around food. No professional kitchen experience needed – just a willingness to jump in and be part of the fun!

Why volunteer?

- Connect with the school community
- Learn or build kitchen skills
- Enjoy the meal you helped create
- Take home yummy leftovers when available
- Support hands-on food education for students

Interested in joining us? Check out our volunteer opportunities [here](#) or email us at volunteer@growingchefs.ca

Need more convincing? [These are some reasons](#) our volunteers love being a part of the LunchLAB community.

Thank you for helping make LunchLAB possible!

LUNCHLAB SURVEY

For families that have participated in LunchLAB we invite you to complete the survey!

- Caregiver Survey: <https://forms.gle/xY2CvqL8fZzFq7bcA>

We are VERY lucky to be one of a few school that get to be part of this great community partnership! Share your voice!



WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Please support the Walking School Bus (WSB) program evaluation by filling out this year's End-of-Year survey.

- SCY would like to hear from all families, whether your child(ren) participated or not in the Walking School Bus.

This survey helps SCY and our funders better understand interest in the program, along with school equity and transportation-related needs – invaluable information that helps maintain funding for the WSB programs.

<https://forms.office.com/r/t6YyaExtU>



PAC CORNER

Happy JUNE! We are gearing up for our biggest event of the school year!

- **Spring Fair Early Bird Wristband + Food ticket purchase:** Purchase your wristband and food tickets ahead of time to save money and lineups. Early Bird pricing May 18-29. Regular price May 30th onwards. Pre-purchased wristbands/tickets will be distributed to students on Wed June 17th. Please see flier attached for details. Purchase wristband and tickets online Munch a Lunch. Credit card payment will be accepted for Fair orders.
 - Early Bird pricing May 18-29th:
 - \$15/ wristband
 - \$10/ 12 tickets (food or rides)
 - Regular Price Online purchase May 30 - June 12th
 - \$20/ wristband
 - \$1 per ticket (food or rides)
 - Pre purchased tickets not picked up will be available at the Spring Fair Ticket booth No pre purchase online available between June 13th-18th. Day of tickets/wristbands available at the Fair June 19th
- **Spring Fair Marketplace:** Call out for marketplace vendors for our Spring Fair event! Come and sell your crafts, hobby items, or trinkets at the Spring Fair! NO food and NO "garage sale" items to be sold.
 - Friday June 19th
 - 3-6pm (set up starting at 2pm)
 - \$20/table or \$10/table for students
 - Sign up online, deadline May 31st: <https://forms.gle/f4Q3aHKjCYknHzqB6>

Spring Fair Volunteers Call Out: come and join the fun! Parents, Guardians, Norquay Alumni and others with a willing hand, sign up to help with the school's biggest PAC event of the year!

- Friday June 19th:
 - various time commitments available
 - Sign up before May 29th to be entered into a draw for a FREE Norquay hoodie sweater customized with your name
 - All volunteers will receive a hot dog or pizza on the day of spring Fair
 - Student Volunteers (Alumni Grads) can be provided with a certificate of volunteer hours upon request.
 - Gr 6/7 Student volunteers can sign up to help with parental permission.
 - Sign up online: <https://forms.gle/KQQuakcA4Y7dKdXd8>

BC Children's Hospital Foundation 2km or 5km Family Fun Run June 7th:

- T-shirt and Bib pick up will be Friday June 5th at 3pm next to the playground by the spider web structure. Only those registered before May 20th will be part of this pickup
- Meeting spot on run day June 8th 8:30am: look for team sign "John Norquay Elementary" in the designated team meeting area
 - 8:30am at team meeting spot
 - 8:40am Team Photo
 - 8:45am Walk over to the start line together.
- Please arrive early as parking will be VERY busy and allocate enough time to arrive for the photo.



Office Administrative Assistant: Sandy Lowe
Principal: Deena Kotak Buckley
Vice Principal: Curtis Mathewson
PAC Chairpersons: Hannah Tan
School Liaison Trustee: Victoria Jung
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