

November 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) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

October has been a wonderfully busy and exciting month at Norquay!

Thanks to the generous support of the 1 to 1 Society, we hosted a Grade 1 Parent Reading Workshop. We were thrilled to welcome over 40 parents! A big thank you to Mr. Warkentin and Ms. Affleck for organizing this meaningful event.

We also wrapped up a fabulous cross-country season! Huge appreciation to Ms. Lam, Ms. Challenger, Ms. Julie, and Mr. Lucky for their dedication and energy. Our students had a blast participating in the final meet at Trout Lake.

A new seasonal highlight was the Norquay Pumpkin Patch, made possible by our amazing PAC! Students loved choosing their own pumpkins—some even did so with their buddy classes. Now, pumpkins are scattered throughout the school, creating a cozy and festive fall atmosphere.

We kicked off our first school-wide Family Read of the year, inspired by last year's student survey, "Do You Love Reading?" Students shared that they'd enjoy reading even more if they could read with stuffies, read with food, and read with their families. In response, we host themed reading events three times a year—like Camp Read, Picnic Read, and most recently, Fall Read, which took place last Friday and was wonderfully attended! A special thank you to LunchLAB for the delicious seaweed popcorn—it was a hit!

It was also heartwarming to see so many families at student-led conferences last week. Students set meaningful goals, such as persevering through challenges and building new skills. We're excited to support their growth in the months ahead.

As a quick reminder, the school parking lot is not available for pick-up or drop-off. To help reduce traffic congestion, we encourage you to "Drive to Five". This means to park about a five-minute walk away and walk your child the rest of the way. A short walk is a great way to start or end the day together. With the time change and shorter daylight hours, it's getting darker earlier. Please be extra cautious when driving near the school, especially during pick-up and drop-off. We'll also be encouraging students to head straight home after the bell rings, unless they're participating in a supervised activity with staff. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school safe, calm, and welcoming for everyone.

As we turn the page to November, we're looking forward to our Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day Assembly, the PAC Movie Afternoon, the start of Volleyball Season, a school-wide Pizza Day, and so much more!

Thank you for being part of our vibrant school community!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 6

Individual photo retakes

Friday, November 7

PAC Movie Afternoon at 3:15PM

Monday, November 10

- FSA closes

- Remembrance Day

Assembly/Indigenous Veterans
Day Assembly

Tuesday, November 11

Remembrance Day, schools
closed

Tuesday, November 18

PAC Pizza Day

Friday, November 21

District wide Pro-D Day, classes
not in session



LIBRARY CORNER

October is here...and almost over!

Students have been **learning to be Library experts**: finding 'just right books', choosing their class and home books for the week, and learning to enjoy different genres of books.

Monitors have been learning how to be **Library Managers**: checking books in and out, tidying, and helping other students.

Intermediate classes have started **ADST projects**: 'Box in a Box' and 'Tensegrity'.

And this week...we are **Reading In The Dark!!!**

See you soon!



EMERGENCY DRILLS

At Norquay, student safety is always a top priority. Throughout the year, we regularly practice emergency drills that include earthquake, fire, and lockdown procedures with all students from Kindergarten to Grade 7. These drills help ensure that everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency and can respond calmly, confidently, and safely.

We're proud of how ready, aware, and helpful our students are during these practices. Their cooperation and understanding help create a safe and supportive environment for all. We will continue practicing these drills throughout the year to strengthen our ability to respond to emergencies quickly and effectively.

Thank you for reinforcing the importance of these safety routines at home!

TERRY FOX

A huge thank you to the Terry Fox team—Ms. Challenger, Ms. Hughes, Mr. Warkentin, Ms. Affleck, and Ms. Adams—for organizing such a wonderful event! This year, Norquay raised an incredible \$2,800 online and \$646.45 in cash, for a total of \$3,446.45—far surpassing last year's total of \$2,017.00!

We're so proud of our school community for coming together to support Terry's legacy and contribute to cancer research. Thank you, Team Norquay, for your generosity, spirit, and commitment to making a difference!





Cross Country

SPACES EDU INVITE

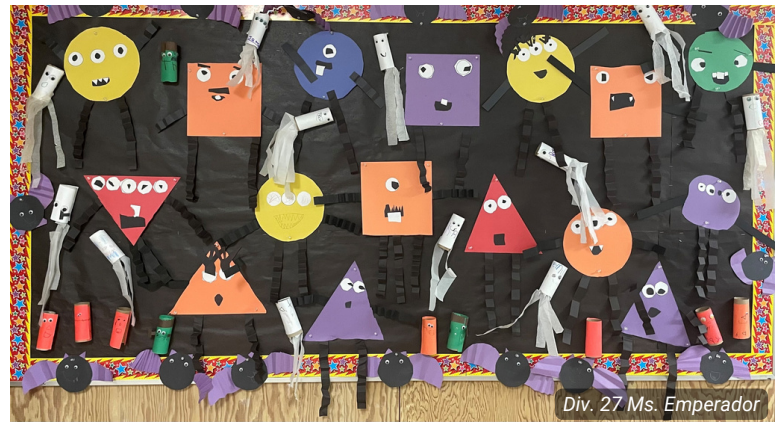
Yesterday, you received further information about SPACES EDU, our new student reporting platform. In the coming weeks, your child's classroom teacher will send you an invitation to set up your family account. Please watch for this invitation, which will arrive before November 14. We're excited to begin sharing student learning with you in this new and engaging way!



Cross Country

SCHOOL BELLS

You may have noticed a small change in our morning routine. Previously, we had just an 8:55 warning bell. Now, we have both an 8:55 warning bell and a 9:00 start-of-day bell. This adjustment helps our student safety patrol know exactly when the school day begins so they can come inside and start their day. The warning bell continues to serve as a helpful reminder for students and staff to wrap up morning activities and prepare for instruction. Thank you for your continued support in helping our mornings run smoothly!



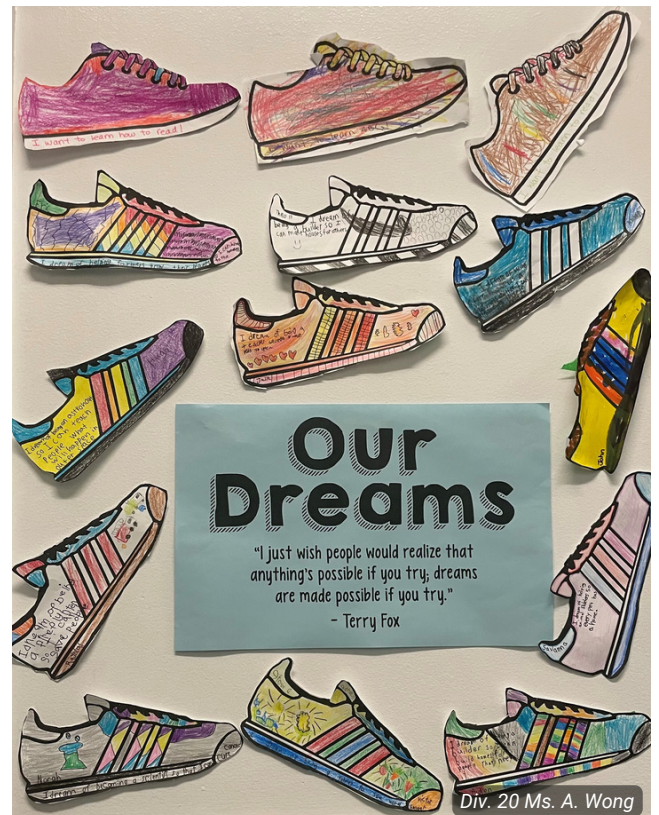
Div. 27 Ms. Emperador

SCHOOL GOALS

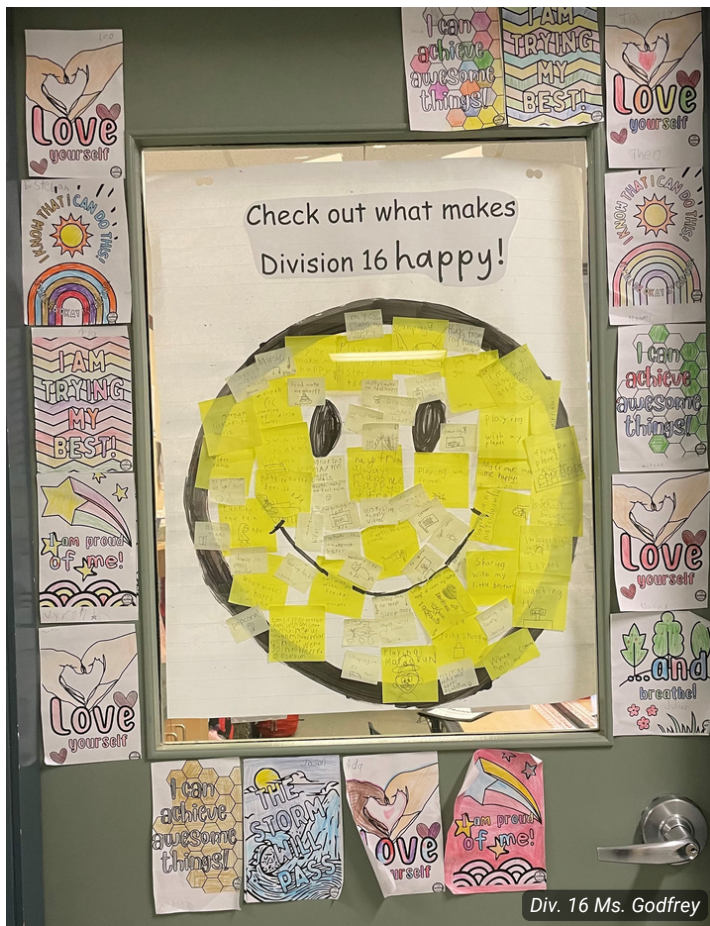
At Norquay, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that is inclusive, collaborative, and responsive to the needs of our students, staff, and families. This year, our school is focusing on two key goals that guide our collective efforts and professional learning:

- Will moving from strong relational connections to intentional collaboration among staff, students, and families to co-design strategies enhance student learning and success?
- How can we continue to decolonize our world and transform our practices to reflect more inclusive, relational, and reconciliatory ways of knowing and being?

These goals reflect our dedication to deepening relationships, amplifying student voice, and embracing practices that honour diverse perspectives and lived experiences. We look forward to working together as a community to explore these questions and create meaningful change for all learners. To read the full plan: <https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/2025-norquay-slp.997d8e83987.pdf>



Div. 20 Ms. A. Wong



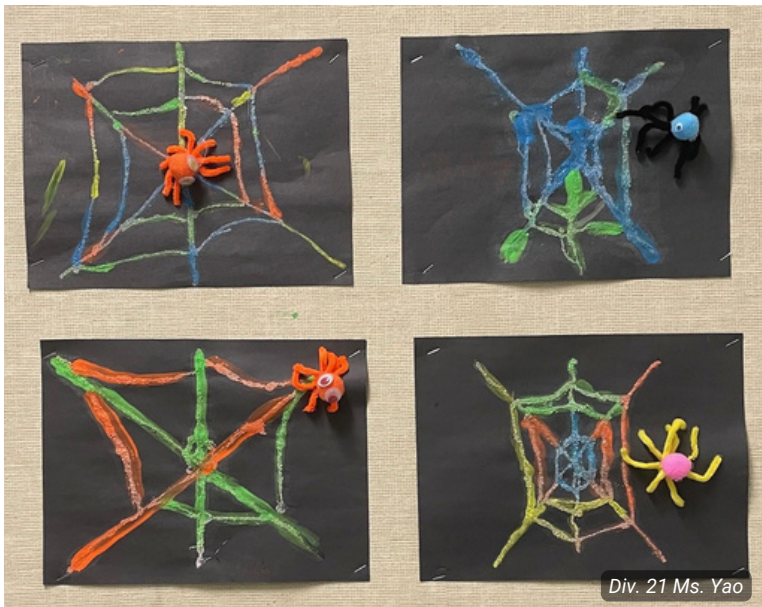
RAISING DIGITALLY RESPONSIBLE YOUTH

This Parent's Guide from Safer Schools Together: Raising Digitally Responsible Youth will equip you with the knowledge you need to stay in the loop about the most popular applications and trends. Correspondingly, this guide will give you a better understanding of your child internet usage so you can relate to the digital world they live in: <https://saferschoolstogether.com/raising-digitally-responsible-youth-a-parents-guide-2/>

DISTRICT CHOICE/MINI SCHOOL APPLICATION

For the 2026-2027 District Choice/Mini School Application process, the District Registry and School Application deadline will be 3 pm, Dec 18, 2025 (extended from previous deadline of Dec 15). Please let us know if you have any questions.





Div. 21 Ms. Yao

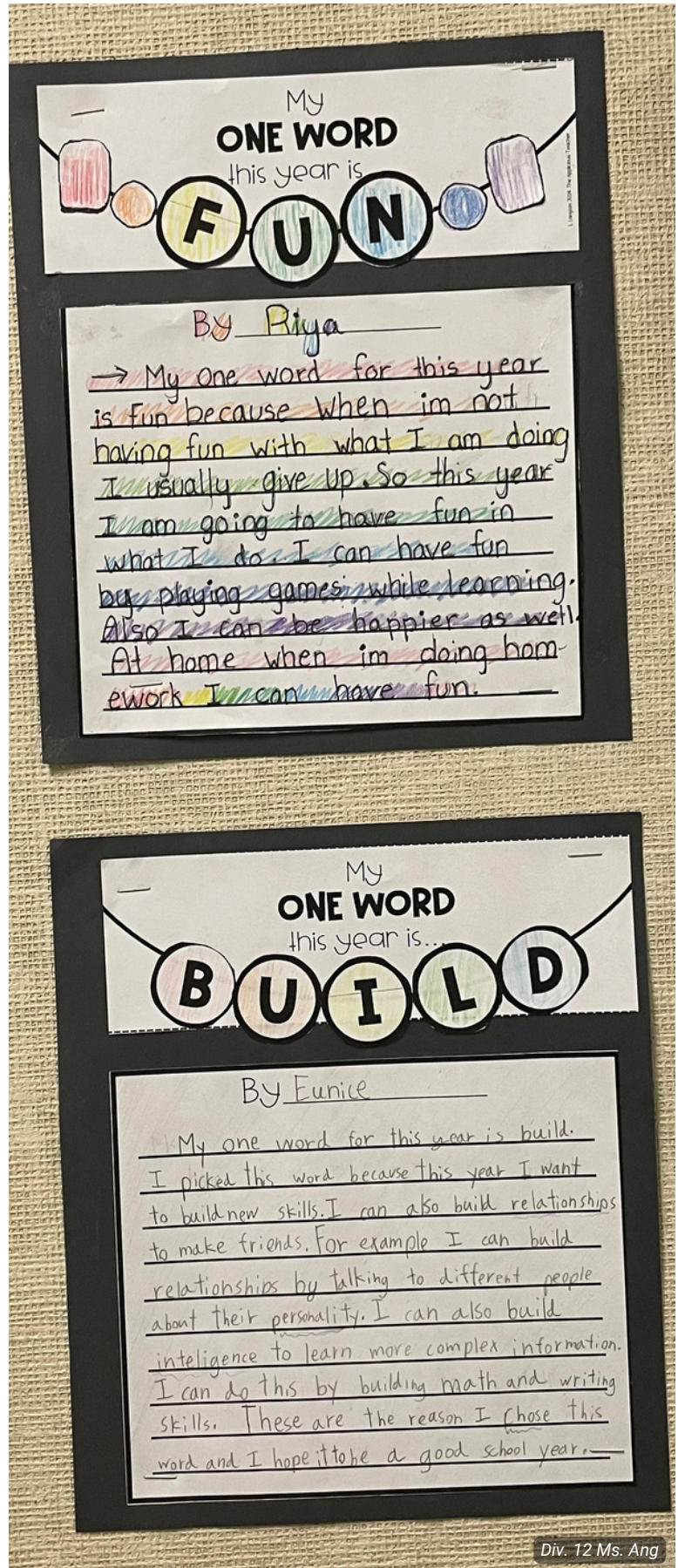
BEAVER COMPUTING CHALLENGE (BCC)

The Beaver Computing Challenge (BCC) is an international competition organized by the University of Waterloo, designed for students in Grades 5 to 7. This engaging contest introduces students to the world of computer science through problem-solving activities that emphasize computational and logical thinking. This year, Norquay students will have the exciting opportunity to participate in the BCC online at school during regular school hours on Thursday, November 13. The challenge features questions inspired by computer science concepts, but no prior programming experience is required. All problems are based on skills found in the BC mathematics curriculum, making the contest both accessible and enjoyable for all participants.

To prepare, our enrolled students have been practicing with past BCC questions every Thursday at lunch. Their enthusiasm and dedication have been truly impressive, and we look forward to seeing them apply their learning in this fun and enriching experience. A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Wang for making this opportunity possible for our students!



Div. 23 Ms. Affleck



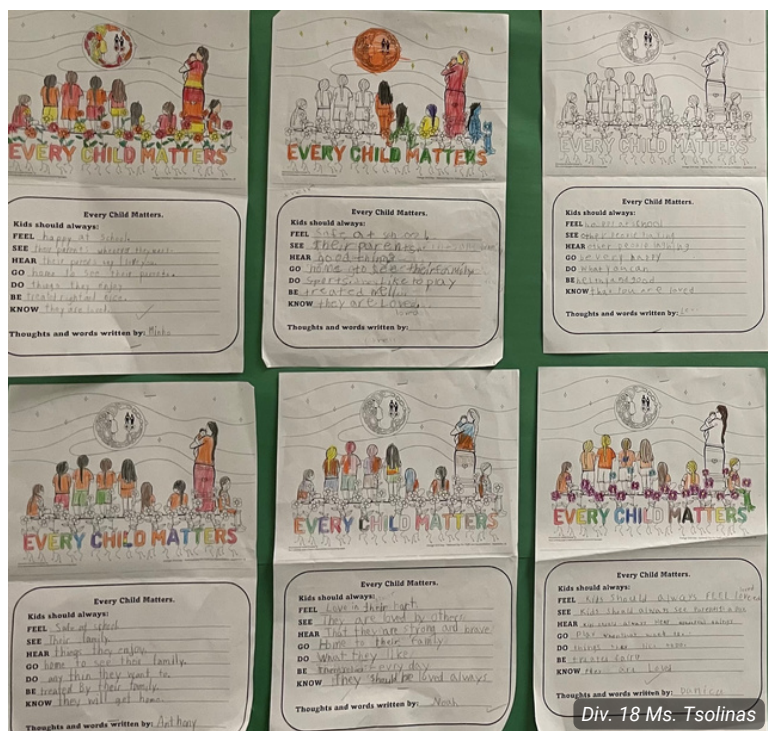
Div. 12 Ms. Ang

NEWS FROM LUNCHLAB AND GROWING CHEFS

A huge congratulations and heartfelt thank you to the six incredible student chefs from Norquay—Daphne, Halona, Jeremy, Sophie, Hailey, and Jodi—who did an outstanding job representing our school at the LunchLAB/Growing Chefs fundraising gala in October.

Thanks to their energy, enthusiasm, and leadership, we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$150,000! The students impressed guests not only with their thoughtful speech, but also through their active participation—handing out canapés, encouraging volunteerism, and beautifully plating dishes at the LunchLAB station alongside Chef Tasha and Chef Chris.

We are so proud of their contributions and grateful for the way they showcased the spirit of Norquay. Bravo, chefs!



VSB FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION PAGE

Did you know? VSB now has a central location for family and community information.

Find what you need, all in one place. Explore programs, policies and school supports through VSB's [Family and Community Information page](#).

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

Be a part of the PAC team! We are looking for dedicated parents/guardians to join PAC's team in various areas, please email norquaypacteam@gmail.com and indicate your area of interest.

- **Fundraising Committee:** Help to create a vision and direction for where the PAC fundraising efforts will go towards. Time commitment ~2-3 hours/month
- **Crossing guards:** help with cone placement before/after school. Various time commitments, ~15 mins a week
- **Fliers copy/distribution:** help with cutting/distributing PAC fliers that promote PAC initiatives. Time commitment: ~1-2 hours/month

Pizza Day: PAC's school wide pizza day will be on Tuesday Nov 18! 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. Please see attached order sheet for more details.

- **Order deadline** Wed Nov 12th 3pm
- **Volunteer to deliver pizzas** on Nov 18th, various time commitment between 11:30-1:15pm

<https://forms.gle/WpaZTqJzmveEZBcc6>

Norquay PAC Holiday Fundraisers: Please see attached fliers for more details:

- Family Photo sessions
- Friday December 5th 3:45-8pm time slots. \$25 per 15 minute session includes 1 printed 8x10 and access to purchase additional images from the photographer.
- Sign up at the link below and etransfer norquaypacorders@gmail.com to secure your spot!
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wSPKUKtQ5fiFYlCyErEOc2e6E3JsuU6F2-Xlq3cwXPp/edit?usp=sharing>

Purdy's Chocolates:

- Order and payment deadline: November 18th
- Order pick up time: Friday Nov 28th 3-3:30pm Norquay Lunch Room
- Order campaign link: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/join.aspx/1571651-130823>
- Browse the online Purdys Holiday Fundraising Catalogue : <https://www.purdys.com/media/wysiwyg/GnF/Xmas2025/support-materials/FR-Catalogue-Winter-2025.pdf>

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 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 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. 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

* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedure 300).

