JOHN NORQUAY ELEMENTARY

Norquay@vsb.bc.ca

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), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Fall is well underway, and there is wonderful energy throughout our school. As we spend time in classrooms and around the building, we continue to notice students sharing ideas, asking thoughtful questions, and finding ways to contribute to our school community.

One of the things we value at Norquay is the belief that learning is not something we do alone. When we learn together, we all grow. This year, our work continues to be guided by two important school goals: Reconciliation and Collective Efficacy.

Collective efficacy is built on the idea that we can accomplish more together than we can on our own. Throughout the year, staff have been learning alongside one another through Math Lunch & Learns, Task Basket Lunch & Learns, and Science of Reading Lunch & Learns and many other collaborative learning opportunities. We are also looking forward to our November 20 Professional Development Day, which will provide another opportunity for educators to come together, share practices, and reflect on how we can best support students.

One of the rewarding parts of this work is seeing how it shows up in our students. Throughout the year, we will continue sharing ideas from David A. Robertson's 52 Ways to Reconcile. The book encourages us to think about reconciliation through everyday actions and ongoing learning. As a result, students and staff have been exploring Indigenous words and teachings while thinking more deeply about what it means to acknowledge the land in meaningful ways. Each morning, students share land acknowledgements they have written themselves. Their words help us begin the day with reflection and remind us that important learning can come from students just as much as it can from adults.

Student voice is also showing up in ways we never planned. Our morning announcers have added a joke of the day, bringing smiles to classrooms throughout the school. Students helped create the warm atmosphere at Family Reading in the Dark and continue to contribute ideas that strengthen our sense of community.

One of our favourite examples can be found just inside the front doors. You may have noticed the message chalkboard featuring a "Question of the Day." Questions ranged from "What's your favourite movie?" to "What are your favourite wheels?" What has been most enjoyable is watching students gather around the board before school. They compare opinions, defend their choices, and often continue the conversation as they head to class. What started as a simple question has become a small but meaningful way to build community.

We are proud of the many ways students contribute to life at Norquay. Thank you for supporting a school community where learning is shared and every voice matters.



In the spirit of our student announcers...

Joke of the Day

Why did the student eat their homework?
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, November 17
PAC pizza day

Friday, November 20
Professional Development Day, classes not in session

Tuesday, November 24
PAC meeting at 6pm, virtual

Friday, November 27
- Intermediate and primary assemblies
- PAC photo fundraiser after school (line up outside activity room doors if you have signed up for a time)

Tuesday, December 1
Lockdown drill

Tuesday, December 8
PAC lunch day, more info to follow

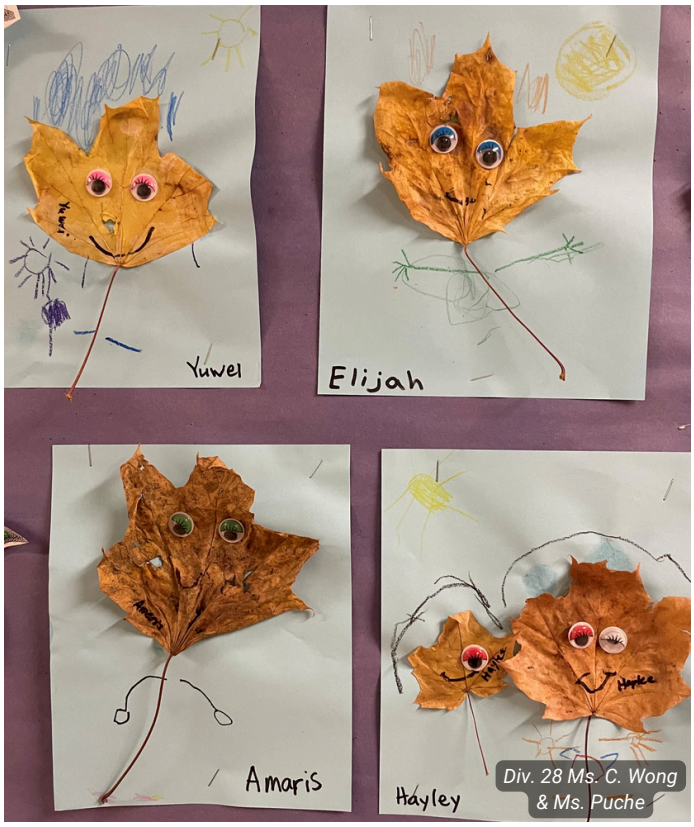
Thursday, December 10
K hearing screening

Tuesday, December 15
Learning updates available after 3pm on SPACES

Thursday, December 17
Winter singalong

Friday, December 18
Last day before winter break

Monday, January 4
School reopens



Div. 28 Ms. C. Wong & Ms. Puche

YEARBOOK INFORMATION AND PRIVACY NOTICE

We are excited to begin planning this year's Norquay Yearbook. Thank you to our PAC and teacher sponsor, Ms. Ba, for helping coordinate this special keepsake for students and families.

As part of the yearbook creation process, student names, school photographs, class composites, and other school-related images may be included.

If you do not wish for your child's personal information or photographs to be included in the yearbook, please notify the school by December 1, 2026.

Production of this year's yearbook will be coordinated by our PAC. Students whose families choose to opt out will not have their image or personal information shared for yearbook purposes.

Thank you for your attention to this notice.


Reading in the Dark

LIBRARY LEARNING AT NORQUAY

November is here!

We had a super week **Reading-In-The-Dark** in October.

This month, 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.

Library 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 and Literature Circles**.


Reading in the Dark

SPACES LEARNING UPDATES

If you remember, last year we transitioned to the SPACES platform for student learning updates. We are excited to continue using SPACES this year to share and celebrate your child's learning.

In the coming weeks, your child's classroom teacher will send an invitation email with instructions for setting up your family account. Please keep an eye on your inbox, as all families should receive their invitation by November 23.

We know families enjoy seeing learning through their child's eyes, and we look forward to sharing examples of growth, reflections, projects, and classroom experiences throughout the year.

Thank you for partnering with us in supporting your child's learning journey. If you have any questions, please reach out to your classroom teacher.

REMEMBRANCE DAY AND INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY

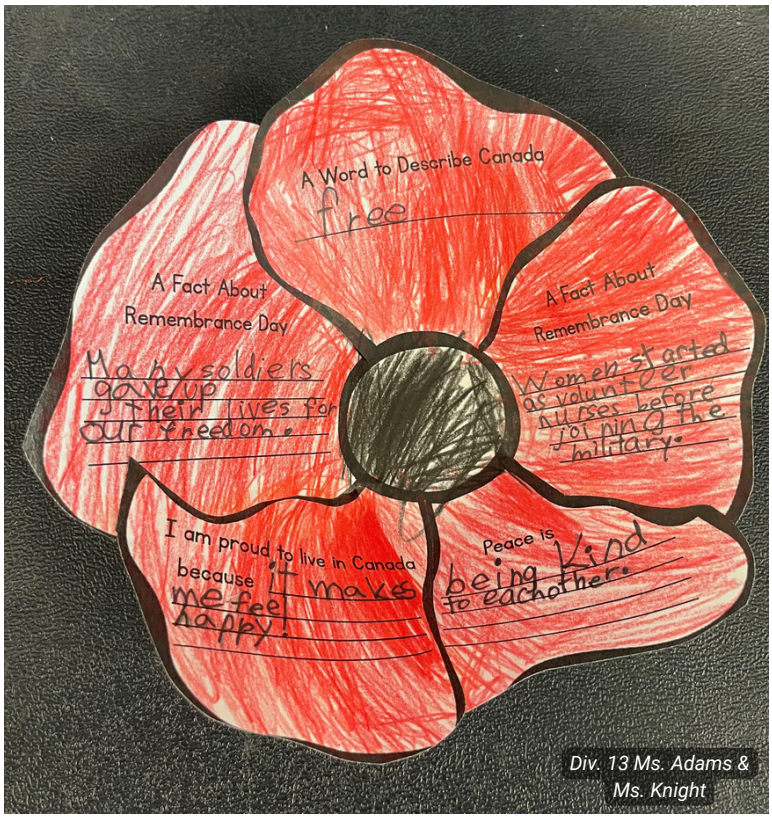
Over the past two weeks, students have been learning about the significance of Remembrance Day and Indigenous Veterans Day. Through classroom discussions and acts of reflection, students explored the contributions and sacrifices of those who have served our country, including Indigenous veterans whose stories and service have not always been widely recognized.

These conversations help students better understand courage, service, and the importance of remembering the many individuals who have helped shape the communities we live in today.

A huge thank you to our families and community for supporting the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign. Together, Norquay students and families raised $260.85 in donations to support veterans and their families.

As we reflect on these important days of remembrance, we are grateful for the opportunity to learn from the past and carry forward the values of respect and service.

Lest we forget.



Div. 13 Ms. Adams & Ms. Knight

VOLLEYBALL SEASON

Our volleyball teams have been hard at work developing their skills, building teamwork, and representing our school with pride. Thank you to our coaches Ms. Ba and Ms. Julie for volunteering their time to invest in creating positive experiences for our student-athletes.

We look forward to cheering on our teams throughout the season.


Cross Country

CROSS COUNTRY CELEBRATION

Our cross-country season has come to an end, and we are incredibly proud of all our runners for representing Norquay with determination, sportsmanship, and school spirit.

Students challenged themselves throughout the season and demonstrated perseverance at the district meet. A special congratulations to Lola, who placed first in her division!

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr. Haley, our parent coach, for volunteering his time to lead practices, support students, and encourage our runners every step of the way. We would also like to thank the families who drove students and came out to cheer on our team. Your support helped make the season such a success.

Well done, Norquay runners!


Cross Country



Div. 8 Ms. Wang

SAFE ARRIVALS AND DISMISSALS

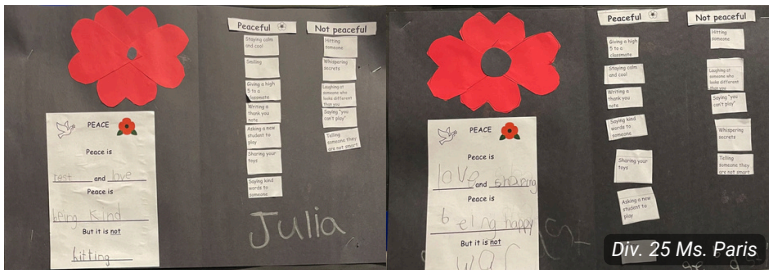
Morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up are some of the busiest times of day at Norquay. Thank you to all families for helping create a safe environment for our students.
A few extra moments of patience and attention go a long way in keeping everyone safe. Please remember to:

- Follow all parking and stopping regulations.
- Avoid stopping in crosswalks or no-stopping zones.
- Watch carefully for students crossing the street.
- Respect our neighbours' driveways and property.

Thank you for helping ensure every child arrives at and leaves school safely.



Div. 7 Ms. Zhang



Div. 25 Ms. Paris

EXTENDED ABSENCES

As families begin making plans for holidays and travel, we would like to share an important reminder regarding extended absences.

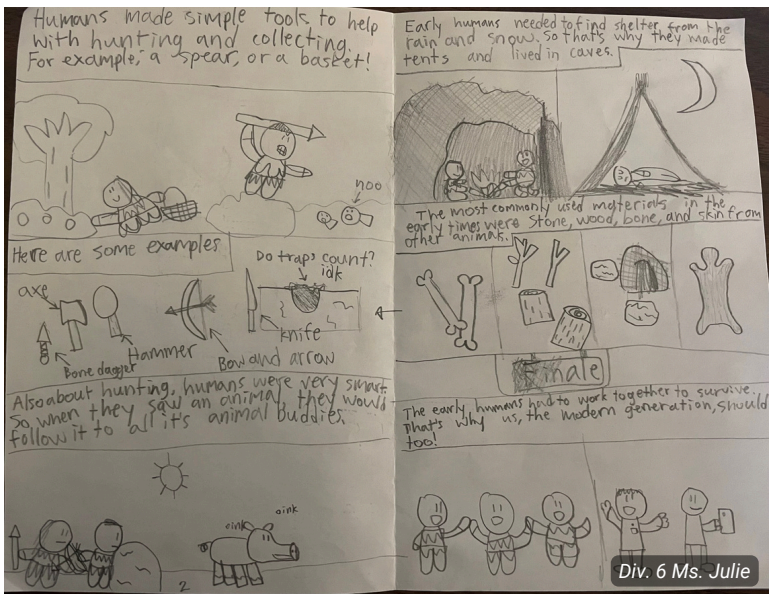
Under VSB Administrative Procedure 300, students who are absent for 20 consecutive school days may be unenrolled from their school. As Norquay currently has a waitlist, families are encouraged to keep this in mind when planning extended vacations.

While staff are not required to provide work packages for extended absences, we encourage students to continue learning while away by:

- Reading each day
- Checking Teams when appropriate
- Writing in a journal
- Exploring and documenting new experiences

Please note that projects, assessments, and classroom learning opportunities that are missed during an absence may be reflected in assessments and in the student Learning Updates. This is a district-wide process that applies to all Vancouver School Board schools.

If you are planning an extended absence, please contact the school office as early as possible so that we can discuss the process with you.



Div. 6 Ms. Julie



JULIA ROBINSON MATHEMATICS FESTIVAL RETURNS TO NORQUAY!

We are excited to share that, thanks to the support of our PAC, the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival will be returning to Norquay this April!

The festival offers students and families an opportunity to experience mathematics in a fun, engaging, and collaborative way through puzzles, games, and hands-on problem-solving activities. More details will be shared in the coming months, but we wanted to thank our PAC for helping bring this wonderful event back to our school community.

In the meantime, each month, the Julia Robinson Mathematics Festival community hosts an online Math Circle where participants can explore a new mathematical challenge or revisit a favourite activity. Students work in small breakout groups and are supported in a welcoming environment that encourages curiosity, creativity, and mathematical thinking. If you are interested in joining, see information below:

Virtual Math Circle
Sunday, November 15
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. PT
Registration Link: [JRMF Community Math Circle | JRMF]

PARENT READING WORKSHOP

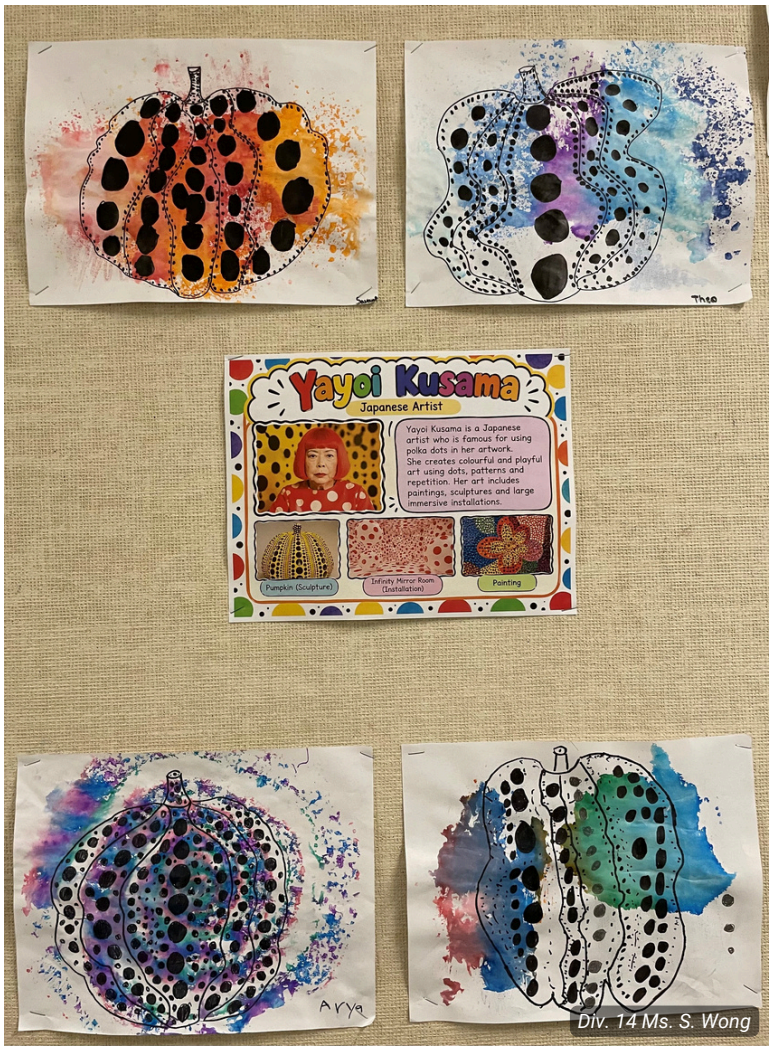
We are pleased to share an opportunity for families to participate in a free virtual Parent Reading Workshop on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m.

The session will provide practical, evidence-informed strategies that parents and caregivers can use at home to support reading development. While the workshop is especially relevant for families of primary-aged students, all parents and caregivers are welcome to attend.

If you were unable to attend a reading workshop at your child's school, this is an excellent opportunity to learn more about supporting literacy at home.

Register here: [https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/virtual-parent-reading-workshop-tickets-2003536006128]

Thank you for helping us strengthen literacy partnerships between home and school.



DIRECT DRIVE TECHNOLOGY CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Direct Drive Technology Campaign. To date, our school community has raised $4500.00 toward our goal of $30,000 to $35,000.

We are grateful for every donation received. While we still have a long way to go, each contribution brings us one step closer to providing students with the modern technology they need for learning, creating, collaborating, and building essential digital skills.

Technology plays an important role in today's classrooms. From researching and problem-solving to creating presentations and developing digital literacy skills, access to reliable devices helps ensure all students can fully participate in learning opportunities. If you can help, we would greatly appreciate your support. No gift is too small, and every dollar has a direct impact on the opportunities available to our students.

Donation Link:

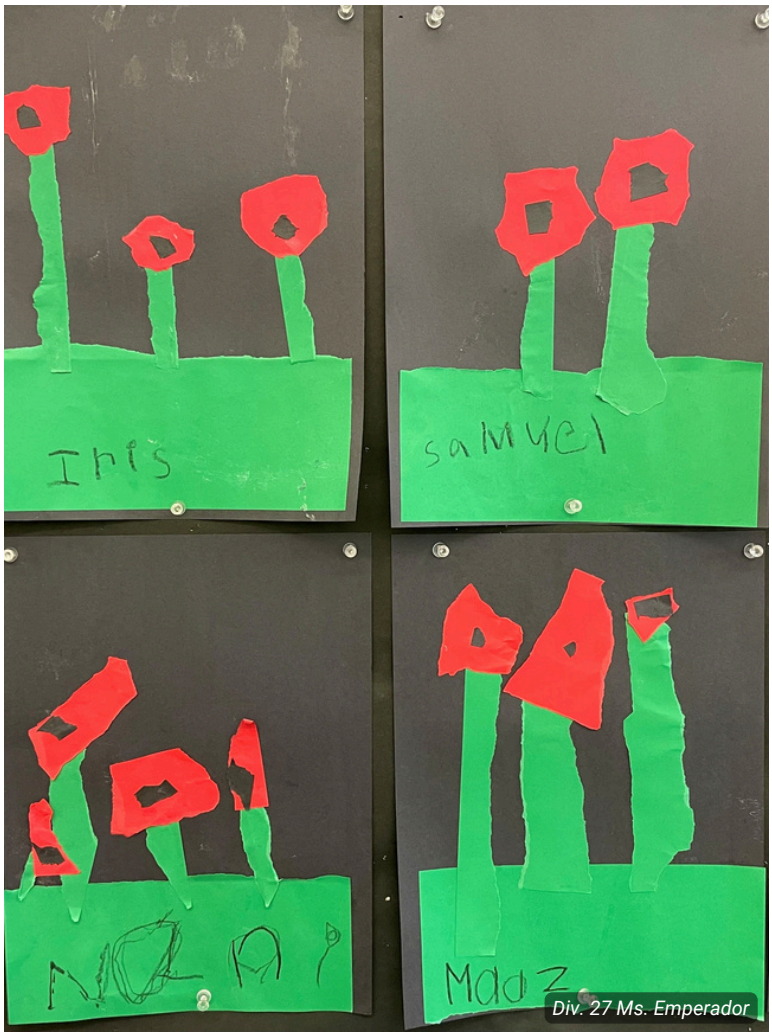
[John Norquay Elementary - PAC Direct Drive Technology Plan]

Please see School Cash Online or the link included in the email version of this newsletter.

Thank you for partnering with us to support student learning at Norquay. Together, we can provide students with the tools they need to learn, create, collaborate, and thrive.



Div. 5 Ms. Appleton



Div. 27 Ms. Emperador

PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES

As part of provincial guidelines introduced by the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care, schools across British Columbia have restrictions on the use of personal digital devices during the school day. These guidelines are intended to support focused learning environments, reduce distractions, and promote online safety.

Recently, we have noticed an increase in students bringing personal technology to school in purses, fanny packs, backpacks, and on smart watches. We ask families to please remind children that personal digital devices are not needed during the school day.

Whenever possible, these items should remain at home. If a student does bring a device to school, it must be turned off or silenced and stored securely in their locker for the duration of the school day unless its use has been approved by a teacher or is part of a documented support, accessibility, or medical plan.

Families can learn more about the provincial requirements here: [Personal Digital Device Restrictions in Schools].

Thank you for your partnership in helping us create learning environments where students can focus on learning and engage fully in classroom activities.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN BORN IN 2022 BEGINS NOVEMBER 1

All kindergarten registrants are required to complete an online application for their catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for District choice programs (Early French Immersion, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Indigenous Focus School, Fine Arts, or Montessori) and/or apply cross boundary to attend a school other than their 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

- Complete an online application form (https://applynow.vsb.bc.ca/) for the 2027-28 school year



Step 2: Document verification

- Your catchment school will contact you to set up an in-person appointment.
- Bring supporting documents with you to complete registration.
- If your child was born outside of Canada, book an appointment at the Newcomer Welcome Centre (NWC) to complete registration. After you submit your online application, your confirmation email will include an appointment booking link. Visits to NWC are by appointment only. If you do not receive the link, email nwc@vsb.bc.ca
- The following original documents must be presented to complete your application:
  - Proof of British Columbia residency
  - Child's original birth certificate
  - Applicable Immigration/Citizenship/Permanent Resident Documentation
  - Immunization records, if available

    * Schools may request additional identification of proof of residency.



District Choice Programs and Cross Boundary Applications:

If you want to apply for a District Choice Program or apply cross boundary, you must first apply to your catchment elementary school. District Choice Programs and Cross Boundary applications will be accepted in early 2027. For more information, go to: govsb.ca/kchoice and govsb.ca/crossboundary

Norquay may receive more registrations than available spaces, so we'd like to let you know what to expect if that happens.

Kindergarten Registrations Received between November 1 and January 31:

If you register between November 1 and January 31 and there are more students registered than there are spaces:

1. Students with a sibling who attends the school and will return the following year will have priority.
2. A random draw will be held for the remaining spaces.
3. If there are not enough spaces for all students, a waitlist will be created based on the order of the draw.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31:

In-catchment registrations received after January 31 will be added to the waitlist in the order they are received. Sibling priority does not apply after January 31.

Families will be contacted in the spring with an update on their child's kindergarten registration. All students will have a place at a Vancouver school. If your child is on the waitlist for Norquay, they will have a place at a neighbouring school with available space. They will also stay on the waitlist for Norquay. If space becomes available, families will be contacted in waitlist order.

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).*

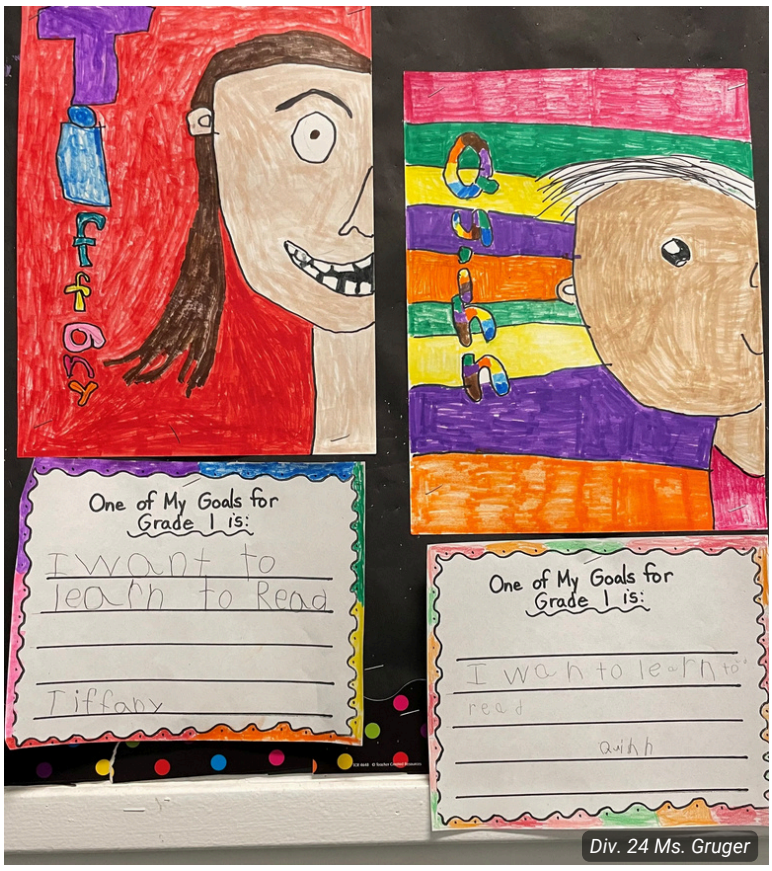
MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI)

Each year, Grade 6 students across British Columbia are invited to participate in the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI), a student survey developed by researchers at UBC.

The survey will open in January and close before Spring Break. Grade 6 families will receive a letter in December with additional information about the survey and how the results are used.

The MDI uses a passive consent process. This means families do not need to sign and return a permission form for their child to participate. Parents and guardians will receive information about the survey in advance and will have the opportunity to review the materials and notify the school if they do not want their child to participate.

The information collected helps schools, districts, and communities better understand how to support children's well-being and success. We appreciate the participation of our Grade 6 students and families in this important initiative.



Div. 24 Ms. Gruger

PAC CORNER

A big thank you to all of our families for the many ways you support our school community. We had a wonderful turnout for Reading in the Dark and Movie Night, and it was great to see so many families connecting. We look forward to more opportunities to build community in the weeks ahead!

- **Purdy's Fundraiser**: Orders are due by **Thursday, November 19**. If you'd like to place an order and support the school, please use this link: https://fundraising.purdys.com/fundraising/campaign/000039585
- **PAC Meeting**: Join us online on **Tuesday, November 24 at 6:00 p.m.**. We welcome all families to attend. Meeting link: https://uvic.zoom.us/j/83393296297?pwd=tVLHaTLdFRf6LpriV0WeOHgfza60wP.1
- **Family Photo Fundraiser**: Our **Friday, November 27** fundraiser is now fully booked. Thank you for your incredible support! If you'd like to be added to the waitlist, please sign up here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GXeAqvPlGDdjuFSWB0IOldGb9XoTp0D1k59_UqGlSkM/htmlview. As the school will be closed that day, families attending photo sessions should enter through the **Activity Room doors**.
- **MT SEYMOUR NORQUAY SNOW SQUAD 2027 REGISTRATION OPEN**
  - Tuesdays in January 2027 (Jan 5, 12, 19, 26)
  - ⏰ 4:30 – 6:30 PM (3:30 PM check-in on Day 1)
  - 📅 Registration Deadline: November 27th
  - Open to Grade 2 to Grade 12
  - Limited spots for skiers 🏂 and snowboarders 🏂
  - ⚠️ NO charter bus (private transportation with winter tires required)
  - **Registration is now OPEN!** 📄 Information Doc : https://docs.google.com/document/d/152wZeb7oETCd_iI4go63Ieo_ut8C9MJWN0fJjCtcjoo/edit?tab=t.0
  - 💵 **Full 4-Day Program Fees:**
  - * $230 (if you have your own gear)
  - * $330 (if you need rental gear)
  - 💳 eTransfer to: norquaypacorders@gmail.com
  - (Payment due immediately upon registration)
  - ⭐ Bonus: All registered students can purchase a Mt Seymour Value Season Pass for only *$49*!

Thank you for helping make our school such a welcoming and connected community. We appreciate all that you do!

Office Administrative Assistant: Sandy Lowe
Principal: Deena Kotak Buckley
Vice Principal: Curtis Mathewson
PAC Chairpersons: Hannah Tan
School Liaison Trustee: Krista Sigurdson
Director of Instruction: Chris Wong

4710 Slocan Street
Vancouver, B.C. V5R 2A1

Telephone: 604-713-4666
Safe Arrival: 604-713-5159 ext. #61