

October 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).

It seems September has flown by and we are already in October. October will be a busy month with a professional development day, pizza day (see PAC corner), parent teacher conferences and so many other exciting events!

One October event we are pleased to share is that Norquay will again be running for Terry Fox! This year's event will take place on Friday, October 11th. Student helpers from Division 9 will be collecting donations from October 7th to 11th. If you have any spare change or dollars at home, please consider sending it to school to support Terry Fox's wonderful legacy. Last year we raised over \$1800 dollars, and we are hoping to beat that this year. Online donations will also be available until October 18th. Donate at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/JohnNorquayElementary>. The Terry Fox Run is an important part of our school's activities as it is a reminder of his very important legacy for cancer research. Please join us and continue the legacy of one of our greatest Canadian heroes. A big thank you to this year's Terry Fox planning committee: Ms. Hughes, Ms. Adams, Mr. Warkentin, and Ms. Affleck. We appreciate your support!

We hope to see all families at the conferences coming in two weeks! Learning is a partnership between the school, student, and family. Research shows that participating in conferences has many benefits:

- Increased student engagement
- Activation of student voice
- Greater collaboration between teachers, students and families
- Greater insight into student needs. When students are a part of the conference process, parents and teachers get to hear directly from them, which in turn helps us to better understand how students learn and how we can give them the tools that they need to succeed.
- Establishment of a feedback loop. Feedback loops reinforce the importance of receiving feedback through a two-way street of communication and dialogue. The feedback-loop process enhances collaborative skills and offers space for self-reflection, identifying specific goals or measures for improved learning outcomes.

We hope you can join us, if you have any questions, please reach out to the classroom teacher.

The LAST grade 7 freezie fundraiser takes place on Friday after school, 2 dollars per freezie!

Happy October!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 9

Senior soccer game at Grenfell after school

Thursday, October 10

Cross country mini meet at Trout Lake after school

Friday, October 11

- Terry Fox Run
- Last day for cash Terry Fox donations
- Last Freezie sale after school

Monday, October 14

Thanksgiving/Harvest Festival, schools closed

Thursday, October 17

Great Shake Out (earthquake drill)

Friday, October 18

- Provincial election, gym in use
- Last day for online Terry Fox donations

Saturday, October 19

Provincial election, gym in use

Tuesday, October 22

- District Cross Country Meet (Trout Lake)
- Student conferences - Early dismissal 2PM

Wednesday, October 23

Student conferences - Early dismissal 2PM

Friday, October 25

Province-wide Pro-D day (classes not in session)

Tuesday, October 29

- Grade 6 immunizations
- School-wide pizza day (more info to follow)

Friday, November 1

PAC movie night (more info to follow)

Thursday, November 7

Individual Photo Retakes

Friday, November 8

Indigenous Veterans Day/Remembrance Day assembly

Monday, November 11

Remembrance Day, schools closed



LIBRARY CORNER

We are suddenly into **October at Norquay Library**.

Library Monitors are signing up for shifts and getting training this month for a year of leadership, Library skills, and community.

Kindergarten students are getting settled into 'Reading Club' (relaxing with a book that they have chosen) and Buddy Reading.

We plan to start **ADST Making projects** soon. We are Makers!

And near the end of October, we will be **Reading In The Dark** in the Library! Students can bring small LED lights.

A few reminders:

- Students can borrow books for 7 days and renew books at any time
- Students and Families can **search for books**, check their **borrowing record**, and search **digital resources** at <https://library.vsb.bc.ca/>
- Students in Grade 4 – 7 can sign up (soon!) to be **Library Monitors** who will keep our busy Library running smoothly this year

See you soon!

Mr. Warkentin and the Norquay Library Club



Div.9 Ms. Hughes & Ms. Meghan

SCHOOL LEARNING PLAN

Norquay staff and students have been working on the learning goal of connection: connection to self, connection to each other, connection to land, and connection to learning. Research shows that the foundational piece of learning starts with connection. If students are connected to the staff, to other students, to the land, and to themselves, their learning increases. Please see Norquay's learning plan for more information: <https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/2024-norquay-slp.c8261976175.pdf>.

Div.5 Mr. Loong

WORLD EDUCATOR'S DAY

Did you know that Saturday, October 5th was World Educator's Day? This is a yearly celebration of all the amazing things staff do at schools. We know staff work hard to plan and prep lessons for students to engage in from 9AM to 3PM, but did you know that so many staff VOLUNTEER after those hours (morning, lunch, and after school) to help run amazing clubs, sports, and activities for students. A few clubs and sports happening this fall:

- Terry Fox run
- Grade 7 floor hockey lunch intramurals
- Cross-country, grades 4 to 7
- Senior soccer team
- Junior and Senior boys and girls volleyball teams
- Library monitors
- Office monitors

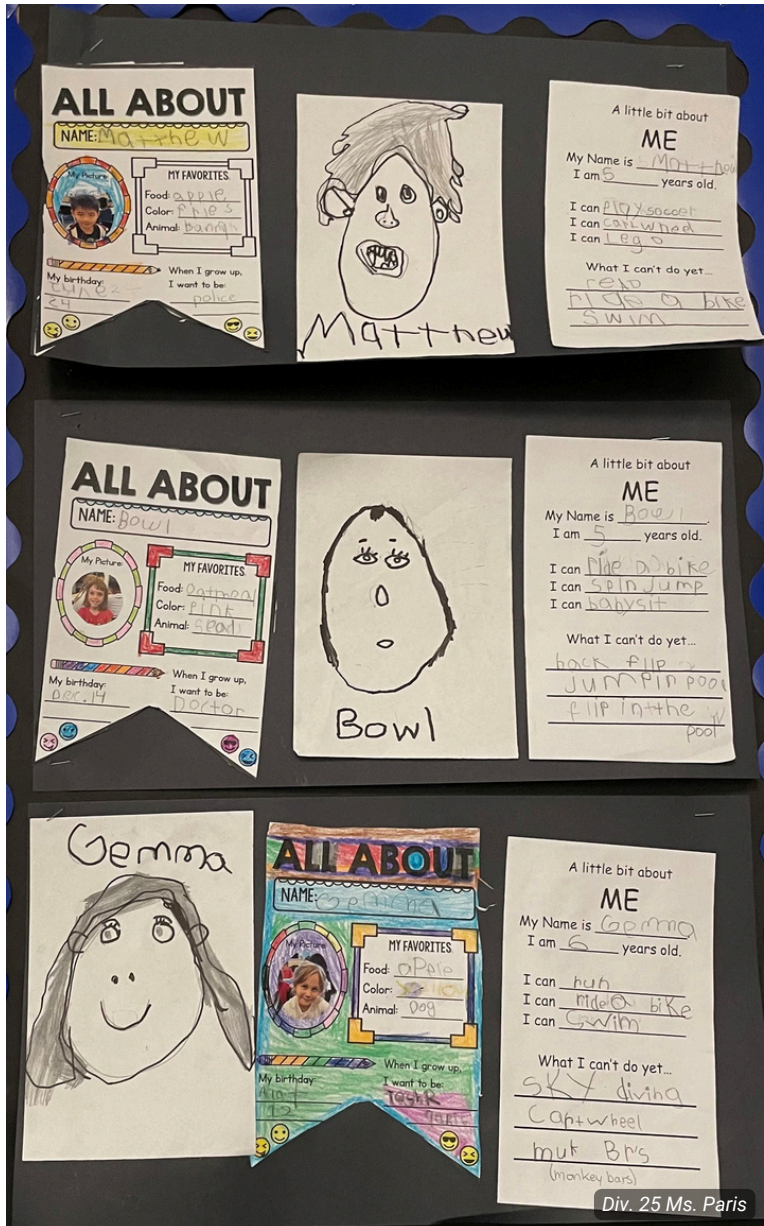
We also will have a board game club and arts and crafts club coming soon! Thank you to everyone who make these amazing opportunities happen for students.



DRILLS AND PRACTICES

We regularly practice different scenarios so in the event of a real emergency staff and students are prepared. You can also practice these at home:

- Fire drill: In the event of a fire or smoke from a fire, schools are expected to follow the fire evacuation procedure.
- Lockdown drill: A lockdown procedure protects staff and students from a threat inside the building such as an intruder. Activating lockdown quickly will potentially save lives, reduce injuries, and will assist police and other emergency responders in dealing with the situation effectively. The VPD may also call a lockdown procedure if an incident is occurring within the direct vicinity of the school and it is unsafe to release the students.
- Earthquake drill: An opportunity for schools to practice essential earthquake safety measures such as "Drop, Cover, and Hold On." Beyond the drill, the school will critically review and update their emergency preparedness plans and supplies, while also taking proactive measures to secure their spaces and prevent potential damage and injuries.



FAIR NOTICE

The Vancouver School District and our community partners are committed to having safe, caring and inclusive schools. If a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff or the school community the school may initiate the VSB student risk threat assessment process.

For more information:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5072/student-threat-risk-assessment-vtra>



Div. 11 Ms. Peng

COUNSELLING CORNER

We are very lucky at Norquay to have Ms. Ivey (area counsellor) at the school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Area Counsellors' services facilitate the educational, personal, social, and emotional development of elementary students in schools. Area Counsellors provide support to individual students, groups of students, and classes in response to the current needs of the school. If your child is needing support, please feel free to reach out to the school or email Ms. Ivey at jivey@vsb.bc.ca.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Thank you to the families that joined us at the last PAC meeting to talk about traffic and safety around the Norquay community. It is important that we work together. Some important initiatives we are taking:

- Recruiting for the adult crossing guard program (more information in the PAC corner)
- Booking pedestrian talks for K to 7
- Continuing with the Walking School Bus program
- Regular reminders to students of pedestrian safety tips
 - 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 that vehicles will stop—be cautious and aware at all times.

With less daylight we ask that you go over these safety precautions with your children. Together we will continue to work together to keep the community safer.

We recently learned that BC Hydro and Telus are completing a job in the lane north of Ward St. between Duchess St. and Earles St. Construction vehicles will be parked on the east side of Duchess St. between Horley St. and the lane south of Horley St. Work is scheduled to take place October 15 – 28. There will be 'Temporary No-Stopping 7:00am to 8:00pm' to install underground duct and structures for BC Hydro and Telus:

- **Both sides of the lane north of Ward St. between 150 meters and 210 meters east of Duchess St.**
- **East side of Duchess St. between Horley St. and the lane south of Horley St., for parking**



Div. 6 Ms. Julie

PAC CORNER

Thank-you to everyone who came out to our Welcome BBQ and also participated in our first PAC meeting. There was a lot discussed, particularly with the safety of the children at crosswalks and around the school. We invite parents to be a part of the planning committees and/or sign up to help with the Adult Crossing guard program.

- **Adult Crossing Guard** sign up sheet: <https://forms.gle/4k567aJsLmk2vdGm6>. Training will be provided for all who sign up to help - date TBD. Shifts for guards along Slocan Street are 8:40-9:10am and 2:50-3:20pm. Cones placement help is needed for the end of the week (Thurs or Fri) from 3:15-3:20pm.
- **NORQUAY SWAG DRAW:** Sign up by Oct 11th to be a part of the Adult Crossing Guard + complete at least 4 shifts before Winter Break and your name will be entered into a draw for a personalized Norquay Tshirt or Hoodie!
 - Draw 1: Personalized Norquay Tshirt
 - Draw 2: Personalized Norquay Hoodie - name will be entered if your child's Division has 2+ adult crossing guard shifts signed up
- **Fundraising and Yearbook Committees:** to join the respective groups please email norquaypacteam@gmail.com
- We are still looking for **PAC Class Representatives for Divisions 2, 6, 19, 24 & 25**. Messages are passed to parents through our WhatsApp groups by the Class Rep. This is a great way to connect with the other families in your child's class!



PAC/LunchLAB BBQ



AFTER THE BELL (VSB PODCAST)

The Vancouver School District is among the most diverse school systems in Canada with an annual enrolment of over 50,000 students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 and adult education students. The VSB's award winning podcast interviews guests who share an inside look at the Vancouver School District. Two podcasts have already been dropped: episode 1: [effective communications](#) and episode 2: [the Foundation Skills Assessment](#). You can also find them on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or wherever you listen to podcasts by searching VSB: After the Bell.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Renfrew Park Community have time set aside specifically for pre-teens (ages 9 to 12) to have use of the gymnasium. They do need to sign up for a onecard youth pass – but that is all free. They use the card to keep track of who is in the centre on Friday nights. Participants come to the office and scan in to receive a wristband. With the wristband they can either hangout in the games room or use the gym – typically basketball and volleyball, but they also have soccer or badminton too. For further questions please contact: Starla.bayley@vancouver.ca.

FREE
PRE-TEEN
OPEN GYM
Fridays 4:05pm-5:05pm
Ages 9-12 years ONLY!
Program runs until December 20, 2024
Need to register for a ONECARD
~ Youth Pass
Questions email: starla.bayley@vancouver.ca

Office Administrative Assistant: Sandy Lowe
Principal: Deena Kotak Buckley
Vice Principal: Steve Mulligan
PAC Chairpersons: Hannah Tan
School Liaison Trustee: Chris Richardson
Director of Instruction: Janis Myers

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