

# September Newsletter

We acknowledge that Norquay Elementary is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm | Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh | Squamish & səliwətaʔ | Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

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

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL 2023-24

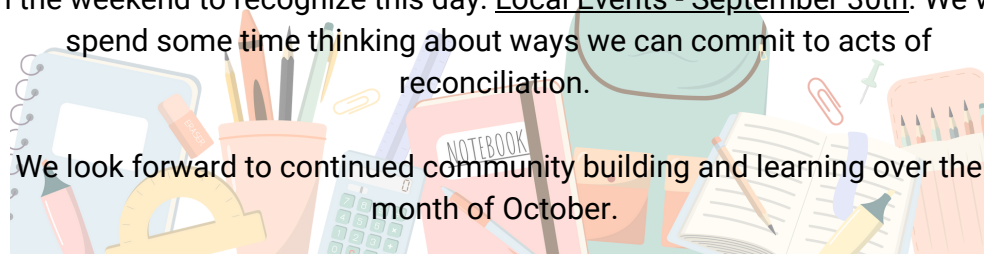


We hope everyone enjoyed the PAC sponsored welcome back barbeque and meet the staff last week. It was terrific watching the students making the DIY Norquay shirts and bags and will be wonderful to see our Norquay spirit on display! We look forward to more community events, stay tuned!

We are sending this message early as schools will be closed Friday, September 29th for professional development day. Staff will be at the school participating in learning. This year the school plan is about connection. Staff will be engaged in conversations about connection: connection to self, connection to each other, connection to community, and connection to curriculum. The inquiry question we have set for the year is: If we continue to focus on building community, will we see increased engagement in learning? We think the answer is YES!

All schools will be closed on Monday in observance of Orange Shirt Day and the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Students learned about these important days through daily morning announcements and activities in the classroom. If you would like to share in this learning, please see this website that shares more about Phyllis Webstad and the origins of Orange Shirt Day: <https://orangeshirtday.org/> and this is an amazing resource that teaches about the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action in kid friendly language: [Child Friendly Calls to Action](#). There will be events in and around Vancouver on the weekend to recognize this day: [Local Events - September 30th](#). We will spend some time thinking about ways we can commit to acts of reconciliation.

We look forward to continued community building and learning over the month of October.



### Upcoming Events

**September 29**

Pro-D Day, classes not in session

**September 30**

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

**October 2**

Day in lieu, schools closed

**October 4**

Terry Fox Run

**October 9**

Thanksgiving Day

**October 20**

Pro-D Day, classes not in session

**October 27**

PAC costume and movie night



# ≡Welcome≡

## Staffing Updates

You may have noticed a few new and returning faces, a warm Norquay hello to:

- Steve Mulligan, new vice-principal
- Angela Leung, new in the office
- Elena Liu, job sharing with Ms. Wang in Division 8
- Laura Eastwood, Wendy Wang, and Helen Zhang are returning to Norquay
- Andrea Wong and Laura Godfrey have changed roles! Ms. Wong will be working in resource Monday to Thursday and teaching in Ms. Adams class on Friday. Ms. Godfrey will be working in grade 2/3.

Welcome (or welcome back) to Norquay, we look forward to working alongside you!



## Norquay Music on Instagram

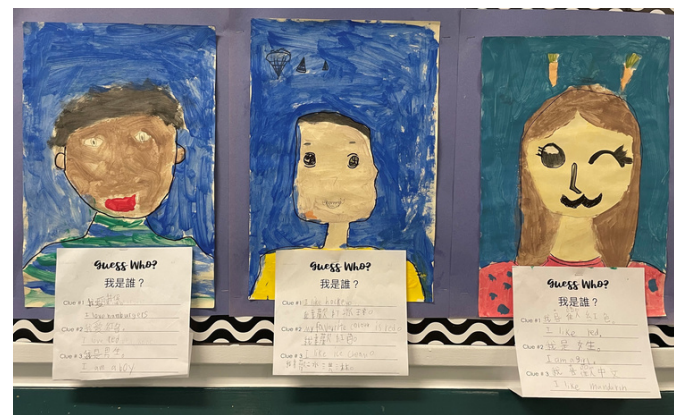
Thank you to Ms. Ba the Norquay music program is now on Instagram! To become a follower please see the information below:

Handle: @norquay\_music  
Display Name: Norquay Music  
QR CODE:



## Cross Country and Soccer

We currently have two sports well under way! Coach Thomas and Coach Lucky have not one, but two soccer teams this year! We are so excited to see participation in soccer grow with so many students joining this year. We also have Ms. H. Paris and Ms. Neale coaching cross country. It is great to see students being active and learning new skills! If you are able to help out with driving please let Coach Lucky know.







## Library Corner

A warm and enthusiastic 'Autumn Welcome' from Norquay Library!

We are looking forward to a great year of Connecting and Growing as we ask good questions, dig deep into our learning, and, of course, select and read all sorts of great books. We will have over 100 Library Monitors in Library Club this year who will take care of our Library space, check books in and out, and serve our learning community. Sign up and training for Monitors takes place over the next few weeks for Intermediate students.

We will keep students and families informed about Author Visits, Drop Everything And Read Day, Book Fairs, and other special events.

See you soon!

## PAC Message

Thank-you to everyone who came out to the Welcome BBQ! It was a great turnout and wonderful to see families and staff together. We shared more than 1300 food items and together with the Do It Yourself Norquay Swag donations, raised \$675. As we continue to further the school goal of connection we are organizing regular opportunities for community to come together. The next family event sponsored by PAC will be Movie & Costume/Pajama night on Friday Oct 27th - stay tuned for more details!

We are still looking for PAC Class Representatives for Divisions 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28. Messages are passed to parents through our WhatsApp groups lead by the Class Rep. This is a great way to connect with the other families in your child's class!

Another upcoming opportunity is the Seymour ski/snowboard lessons, watch out for the registration link that will be sent out closer to November.

Finally the first PAC meeting was Tuesday, Sept 26th - if you were not able to attend, meeting minutes will be posted at <https://norquaypac.ca/>.

As always please reach out at anytime, PAC contact information:

- Website: <https://norquaypac.ca/>
- Email: [norquaypacteam@gmail.com](mailto:norquaypacteam@gmail.com)
- Instagram: @norquaypac
- Facebook: Norquay Elementary PAC



## Terry Fox

We are pleased to share that Norquay will be running for Terry! We have a new planning team this year: Ms. Adams, Mr. Mulligan, Ms. Affleck, Mr. Warkentin, Ms. Miletic and Ms. Hughes. We will be running for Terry on October 4th in the afternoon. Student helpers will be collecting cash donations from October 2nd to 6th. Online donations will be available until October 19th. We are proud to be continuing on this inspirational legacy. John Norquay Elementary is proud to be participating in the Terry Fox School Run. Please join us and continue the legacy of one of our greatest Canadian heroes. Donate at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/JohnNorquayElementary>. Thank you for joining us in the fight against cancer! #terryfoxschoolrun @theterryfoxfoundation



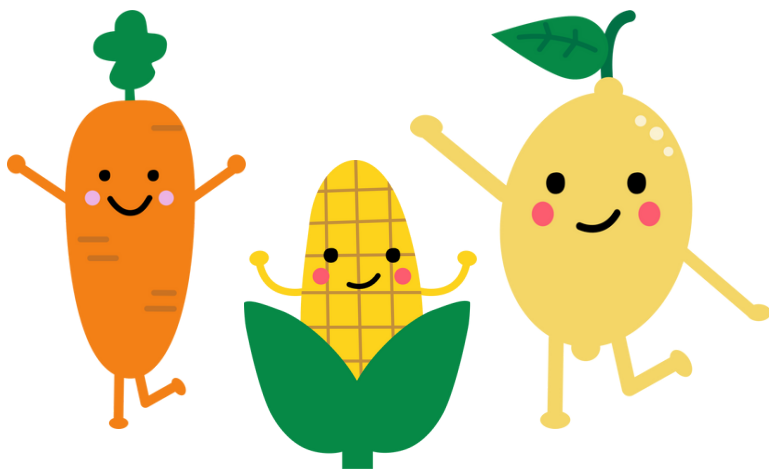
## Code of Conduct and Fair Notice

Norquay's school Code of Conduct is: be kind, be safe and be the best learner and leader you can be. This is shared daily on the morning announcements with tips on how to be kind, safe and a great leader at school and at home.

For more information: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/john-norquay/page/2129/code-of-conduct>.

Norquay Code of Conduct aligns with the the Vancouver School Board commitment to establishing and maintaining a safe, inclusive, equitable, and welcoming learning and working environment for all members of the school community. The Board believes in equitable treatment for all individuals regardless of race, colour, ancestry, ethnic origin, religion, socio-economic status, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or political beliefs. The letter and spirit of the Canadian Human Rights Act and the B.C. Human Rights Code shall be carefully observed, enforced, and supported, so that all members of the school community feel safe, valued and included. All efforts, initiatives and events ensure that all students and families feel welcome in our school and are foundational to developing a society where differences are understood and where all citizens are respected.

If anyone in the community does not follow the code of conduct, appropriate steps will be taken. For example, in the event that a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff, or the school community the school will initiate the VSB student risk threat assessment process. Families will always be informed if this were to take place. For more information: [Assessment protocol and fair notice](#). We hope to work together to create welcoming places and spaces.



## Healthy Eating

Some of you may have noticed that a bowl with apples has shown up at the front office! We want to thank Ms. Neale for signing us up to be part of Adam's Apples Foundation. A few details about this:

- Adam's Apples Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the mental health and wellbeing through connection and education
- It was created to honour the legacy of someone named Adam Hryhorchuk who passed away due to an accidental overdose. Adam struggled with mental health and drug addiction throughout his adolescence.
- The Apple program is a way for students to connect. An apple bowl is filled daily and students are encouraged to "take two" - one for themselves and one for a friend. It is meant to be a way for students to share a healthy snack and a healthy conversation.
- If you are wanting to learn more - here is the link to the foundation's website. <https://www.adamsapples.ca>

Ms. Neale also signed us up to be part of the Vancouver Fire Fighters snacks for kids program. Thank you Ms. Neale! All these snacks will be available for students who need a pick me up during the day. For more information about snacks for kids: [Snacks for Kids](#).

Finally, Norquay continues to be part of the Food4Schools program. This is available to help children who may not have access and may require nutrition services at school. If your family could use this support please reach out to the school office.

## LunchLAB

LunchLAB is an educational school meal program that serves students accessible, nourishing, culturally-relevant lunches prepared by Grade 6 and 7 students with the mentorship of a team of chefs-in-residence. LunchLAB empowers students to cook food for themselves and their peers, providing opportunities for students to find delight, dignity, and belonging in their interactions with food. LunchLAB is a partnership with Growing Chefs and Fresh Roots, two local charities. To learn more about LunchLAB you can go to: [www.growingchefs.ca/lunchlab](http://www.growingchefs.ca/lunchlab). This year we are delighted to be able to pilot working with LunchLAB. We will be starting with two intermediate classes and grow from there. More details to follow.

**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 Meyers

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