

September 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 2024 – 2025 school year! It has been a fabulous start and looking around the school, we can see and hear the students hard at work and happy!

This year at Norquay, we are continuing the school goal of building connections: connection to self, connection to each other, connection to land, and connection to learning. This year we will be focusing on how connecting to each other and the land impacts our connection to learning. To support this idea of connecting, we are having the second annual MEET THE STAFF/COMMUNITY Barbeque on Wednesday, September 25 (please note date change) starting at 5PM! Thank you to the PAC and LunchLAB for making this BBQ happen! Please see attached flier for more information about registration and timing. We hope to see everyone there!

The Meet the Staff/Community Barbeque is also a great way to meet the new staff at Norquay. Please RSVP for the BBQ and place your order by September 20th: <https://forms.gle/zZrFDhm5bvgVDenv9>

Please use this as a general outline of the evening. If you have children in both intermediate and primary, please choose the time that is most convenient to you. This will help us with the lineups for food!

- 5:00 – 5:30PM
 - Primary students and families eat. Intermediate classrooms open
- 5:30 – 6:00PM
 - Intermediate students and families eat. Primary classrooms open

Please welcome Kevin McPherson working in Division 2 with Ms. De Jardin, Ms. Julie teaching grade 5/6, Ms. Meghan working with Ms. Hughes teaching grade 5, Ms. Chapman teaching resource and grade 3 with Ms. Adams, and Ms. Tran teaching resource and PE prep. We also have Ms. Ivy, Ms. Tracey, Ms. Rajbeer, and Ms. Kristine joining our SSA team. We are excited to have this new staff at Norquay!

We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday, September 25th at the Meet the Staff/Community Barbeque!

Happy new school year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, September 24

Individual photo day

Wednesday, September 25

Meet the Staff BBQ (5-6PM)

Friday, September 27

Professional development day (classes not in session)

Monday, September 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (schools closed)

Tuesday, October 2

PAC meeting 6 to 7pm, online only
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88373984532?pwd=N3JSbkRQUVcycWdkVHdaa3BLaDIOUT09>

Friday, October 11

Terry Fox Run

Monday, October 14

Thanksgiving/Harvest Festival, schools closed

Thursday, October 17

Great Shake Out (earthquake drill)

Saturday, October 19

Provincial election voting day

Tuesday, October 22

District Cross Country meet

Friday, October 25

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

Tuesday, October 29

Grade 6 immunizations



LIBRARY CORNER

We are off to a **flying start** at Norquay Library this September. A **sunny, warm welcome back** to students, staff, and families! We will use resources and activities in and through the Library this year to become **lifelong learners, leaders, and readers!**

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

STUDENT INFORMATION PACKAGES

Student information packages will be sent to families on Monday, September 16th. There are forms that need to be filled out manually and forms that need to be completed online. The manually filled out forms need to be returned to the teachers on Friday, Sept 20th.

To complete the online forms please type out: <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca>, if the link does not work.

You will need your child's Personal Education Number (PEN) to access the portal. If you need your child's PEN, please go to <https://kchoice.vsb.bc.ca/penrequest.aspx>. We appreciate your support in getting this important information.

See you soon!

Mr. Warkentin and the Norquay Library Club



WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Join the Society for Children and Youth of BC's Walking School Bus program this coming school year! A "walking school bus" is a group of students who walk to and from school together under dedicated adult supervision.

Why take part?

- Reduce your family's environmental footprint!
- Get your child(ren) exercising and active in the morning!
- Avoid traffic in school zones!
- Be part of your school community and get to know fellow families!

STUDENT AND FAMILY AFFORDABILITY FUND

Please be reminded that if your family needs support for basic school supplies, education-related fees, or with clothing/footwear required for school sports and other school activities, please reach out to Deena Kotak Buckley, principal. All requests remain confidential.

How do I register for the Walking School Bus? [REGISTER NOW](#)



PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES AT SCHOOL - CODE OF CONDUCT

A reminder to families that new legislation was shared in June about personal digital devices. Each school's code of conduct was updated in June to reflect this and aligns with the District Code of Conduct.

To foster a safe and focused learning environment for students, the use of personal digital devices that distract from learning, such as cell phones, tablets, and electronic devices, are restricted during school hours and on school property. Educators and school staff will continue to model digital citizenship in the classroom and avoid the use of personal digital devices for non-instructional purposes. Personal digital devices are restricted for the instructional day. This includes class time, recess, and lunch during school hours of 9:00am to 3:00pm. Personal digital devices must be turned off or placed on silent mode and out of sight for the entire school day.

VOLUNTARY INSURANCE

The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses, and critical illness.

The two companies that are offering this product are the iA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured.

Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

<http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com>

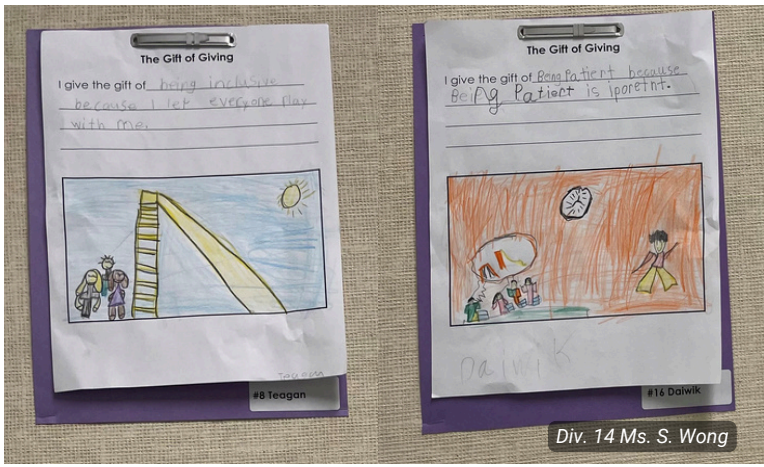
The use of personal devices is permitted under the following circumstances:

- For educational purposes, as directed by the educator in the classroom.
- For health and medical purposes as outlined in an Individual Education Plan or Student Safety Plan.
- To support special or diverse educational needs, such as assistive technology related to Individual Education Plans or Student Support Plans.

The expectation is that students will follow the direction of the educators. Students who repeatedly do not follow the personal digital device policy may be asked to store their personal digital devices with an administrator for the remainder of the day. The Vancouver School Board is not responsible for the loss, damage, or disappearance of personal digital devices that students decide to bring to school.

Please see the school website for more information: <https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/norquaycofc.0484f173695.pdf>.





TRAFFIC SAFETY: PARKING, PICK UP/DROP OFF OF STUDENTS

To reduce congestion and the effects of pollution and climate change, please consider walking or biking to school, or Drive to 5 (park further away and walk).

If you must drive, all drivers should help to protect the safety of everyone by following the parking signage around our school.

You may only park and get out of your car in the GREEN zones. YELLOW zones are only for 3-minute pick-up and drop off. RED zones mean no STOPPING at all.

LUNCHLAB INFO SESSION & FREE LUNCH

We're excited to invite you to a special **LunchLAB Information Session** with a free lunch on Friday, October 4, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM!

This is a great opportunity to:

- **Learn about volunteer opportunities** with LunchLAB
- **See the student chefs** in action
- **Meet new people** in the community
- **Have fun** while supporting a great cause

Whether you're a returning volunteer or just curious about what we do, we'd love to see you there! Please feel free to invite friends or colleagues who might be interested.

Date: Friday, October 4
Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Location: Norquay cafeteria area

See one of our parent volunteers Kevin and his son Aksel's volunteer experience [here](#).

Please **DO NOT** use the **staff parking lot** for drop off and pick up.

Please remember to remain **CALM** and **POLITE** to other drivers, bikers, and pedestrians. Also, to keep our air healthy for everyone, please remember to turn your engine off when stopping/parking.



Div. 13 Ms. Adams & Ms. Chapman

PAC CORNER

Welcome to the 2024/25 PAC school year! We have a lot planned this year and the executive team are happy to meet old and new families. A PAC Welcome Letter is attached with important information detailing the PAC team and plan. Our [Norquaypac.ca](https://www.norquaypac.ca) website is constantly being updated so please check often for the latest details.

Welcome BBQ + Meet the teacher + DIY Silkscreen Norquay Logo: please see details in the flier. RSVP attendance and food preferences online at [Norquaypac.ca](https://www.norquaypac.ca) or <https://forms.gle/zZrFDhm5bvgVDenv9> . Volunteers needed! Sign up to help <https://forms.gle/3qUY5oL7FBPMNJ8D9>

WhatsApp Division Groups: Stay in touch with the latest information through our PAC WhatsApp group chats. Join your child's respective divisions and sign up to be a Class Representative if your division doesn't already have someone. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jmxjMSEAc4VbOPmlhYtyjzgz7-Vowr6vpzbz93m08Xco/edit?usp=sharing>

Seymour Ski & Snowboard: registration is early this year for weekly lessons in Jan/Feb. Please complete this survey so we know how many spots we will need to reserve. More details to follow. <https://forms.gle/dfJHRCQBw88UWEwi7>

Wish list survey: Let us know what your family and children would like to see happen this year, if there are certain equipment needs or if there are any ideas to be brought up to the PAC. <https://forms.gle/KgYZHN8py1xDmtmC9>

Volunteer sign up: Join us for our various events and help out throughout the year! <https://forms.gle/hXCk4mpZEgFrTJzf9> FYI: Individual sign up links will be sent closer to their respective dates.



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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