


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) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).


Welcome to a brand-new school year! September always brings a sense of renewal—fresh starts, new friendships, and exciting learning adventures. Our hallways are once again filled with energy, and it's been a joy to see our students settling into their classrooms with curiosity and enthusiasm.

This year, our school goals center around intentional collaboration and exploring how we can continue to decolonize our world and transform our practices to reflect more inclusive, relational, and reconciliatory ways of knowing and being, so to kick off the year together in a good way, we warmly invite you to our:

3rd Annual PAC Welcome BBQ + Meet the Staff + DIY Silkscreen Norquay Logo

 Thursday, September 25

 5:00–6:00 PM

 School Grounds

We're grateful to be partnering with LunchLAB to host this joyful community event!

Here's how you can participate:

- RSVP your attendance and food preferences: [Norquaypac.ca](https://forms.gle/x3Xv2G8ediDL4bNN8) or <https://forms.gle/x3Xv2G8ediDL4bNN8>
- Volunteer to help with the BBQ: <https://forms.gle/xWjjHavwPohCfjur5>

During the event, you'll have the chance to meet some of our wonderful new staff members:

- Ms. Appleton – Grade 5/6
- Ms. Kao – Job sharing with Ms. Lin (Grade 2/3 EMB)
- Ms. Monika – SSA Team
- Mr. Mathewson – Admin Team, new vice-principal
- Ms. Louise – SSA, SELC Team
- Mr. Nordstrom – SELC Teacher (starting Sept 22)
- Mr. Mercer – Resource (Mon/Tues) & Grade 3 (Fridays with Ms. Adams)
- Ms. Smith – Division 1 (Wed–Fri for September)
- Ms. Bonofas – Division 4 ELSP

We're excited for a year filled with meaningful learning. Our classrooms are embracing new tools and strategies—from literacy centers to hands-on math activities—to support every child's growth and make learning both engaging and fun. Thank you for being part of our vibrant school community. We look forward to seeing you on September 25!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 10

First full day of Kindergarten

Friday, September 12

Class of 2026 Freezie sale (after school)

Tuesday, September 16

HUB Cycling lessons, grade 7

Wednesday, September 17

HUB Cycling lessons, grade 7

Thursday, September 18

HUB Cycling lessons, grade 7

Friday, September 19

Class of 2026 Freezie sale (after school)

Monday, September 22

HUB Cycling lessons, grade 7

Tuesday, September 23

Individual photo day, please bring your smiles!

Thursday, September 25

Meet the Staff/PAC BBQ

Friday, September 26

Professional Development Day, classes not in session

Monday, September 29

HUB Cycling lessons

Tuesday, September 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (schools closed)



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 the Library, in the classroom, and at home 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

An ask: we need **one or two or three adult volunteers** this year to help repair books, shelve books, and catalog new books. Let me know if you can help!

See you soon! Mr. Warkentin and the Norquay Library Club

STUDENT INFORMATION PACKAGES

Student information packages will be sent home with students on Monday, September 15. These packages include both manual forms and online forms that need to be completed.

- Manual forms should be filled out and returned to your child's classroom teacher.
- Online forms can be completed by visiting: <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca>. If the link does not open automatically, please type it directly into your browser.

To access the online portal, you will need your child's Personal Education Number (PEN).

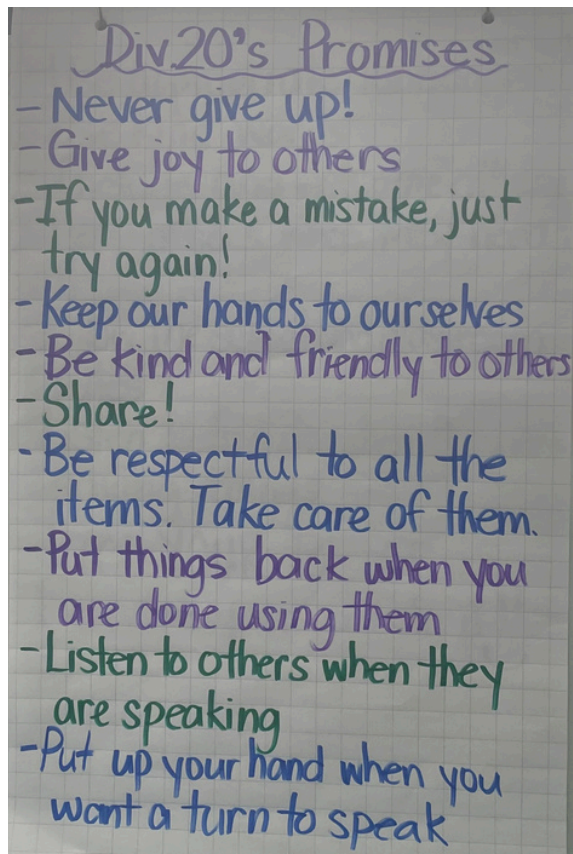
If you do not have your child's PEN, please visit the following link to retrieve it: <https://kchoice.vsb.bc.ca/penrequest.aspx>. We appreciate your support in completing these forms promptly to ensure we have accurate and up-to-date information for all students.



A FEW NEW SCHOOL REMINDERS: GUM AND POKEMON

To help maintain a calm, clean, and focused learning environment, we kindly ask that students leave gum and Pokémon cards at home. Gum can be distracting in class, may be disposed of improperly, and poses hygiene concerns. It also requires extra time and resources for cleaning when stuck to surfaces. While Pokémon cards are a source of fun and creativity, they can sometimes lead to challenges such as lost or traded cards that students may regret parting with. These situations can cause unnecessary stress and take away from valuable learning time. We appreciate your support in helping us create a space where students can stay engaged, focused, and joyful in their learning. Together, we can ensure that our classrooms remain welcoming and centered on growth and discovery.





REMINDER: NEW PROVINCIAL POLICY ON PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES IN SCHOOLS

A reminder to families that all B.C. school districts now have updated Codes of Conduct in place to limit the use of personal digital devices during instructional time. This includes cell phones, tablets, smartwatches, and similar devices.

The goal of this policy is to reduce distractions in the classroom so students can better focus on learning. This supports stronger academic outcomes, improved mental health, and more meaningful social connections.

You can read the full policy here: [Personal Digital Device \(Cell Phone\) Restrictions in Schools](#). Please take a moment to review this with your child and remind them to:

- Use class time for learning
- Keep devices put away unless directed by the teacher
- Keep devices on silent mode during class
- Only check devices when permitted
- Follow your school's specific digital device policy

Thank you for your continued support in creating a focused and respectful learning environment!

CLASS OF 2026 - FREEZIE SALE!

Grade 7 students will be fundraising for the year end trip in the spring of 2026 by selling freezies on Fridays after school. Tables will be set up in the back field next to the new wing building. Freezies will be \$2 each. Bring your coins! Dates: September 12, 19, and October 3, weather permitting.



JOHN NORQUAY ELEMENTARY

FREEZIE SALE GRADE 7 FUNDRAISER

This year, we are raising funds for
our Grade 7 Spring field trips!

DATE: September 12, 19, and October 3, 2025

(weather permitting)

TIME: 3:00 - 3:30 PM

LOCATION: gravel field

COST: \$2 per freezie



Thank you for your support!



REMINDERS & RESOURCES

- **Visitors to the School** - All visitors must check in at the office upon arrival. This helps us maintain a safe and secure environment for our students. Student drop off and pick up will continue to take place outside by the division signs.
- **Fair Notice** - As part of our commitment to student safety, we follow district protocols regarding threat assessments. More information is available on the VSB website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5072/student-threat-risk-assessment-vtra>
- **Voluntary Student Accident Insurance** - The VSB is once again offering parents the ability to purchase voluntary student accident insurance plans if they choose. These plans offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The two companies offering this coverage are Insuremykids and Industrial Alliance (The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan). These plans are ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Families can find more information and register online to purchase and participate in any of these insurance plans by using the URL provided here: <https://insuremykids.com/schoolresources/> or <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com>

TRAFFIC SAFETY

As a reminder, we are resending the information about traffic safety that we have shared in previous newsletters. Thank you for your support in keeping the community safe!

We want to remind families that the **STAFF parking lot is not for drop off or pick up (even for the day care), especially during peak times (between 8:15AM and 9:00AM, and 3:00PM and 4:00PM).**

Some other key messages about pick up and drop off flow:

- If you are leaving your car for any reason during pick up and drop off, please park in a space designated for general parking (30min Green P, 2 hour green P, unrestricted).
- Pick up and drop off zones (red P, 3min Green P) are designed to accommodate several cars trying to get to the same location at the same time, which only works if everyone keeps the flow of vehicles moving.

Key message about not obstructing laneways:

- There is very clear no stopping signage posted in the lane to the north of the school. ([Street and Traffic Bylaw 2849 section 17.6\(a\)](#)).
- Do not park or stop in any way that obstructs travel through a lane or along a street ([Street and Traffic Bylaw 2849 section 19.1\(d\)](#)).

If you notice anything that does not follow these key messages you can contact

- For parking violations: Call 311 or online reporting: <https://van311.ca/services/parking-enforcement>
- For street lighting request or maintenance: Call 311 or online: <https://van311.ca/services/street-lights>
- For unsafe driving behaviours: Call: (604) 717-3321 or online https://app.vancouver.ca/PoliceCitizenReporting_net/?_ga=2.2721271.652501999.1623779109-895808560.1614715896





PAC CORNER

We're excited to begin another year of connection, collaboration, and community at Norquay. The PAC has many events and initiatives planned, and we look forward to seeing students and families actively engaged throughout the year. Attached is our PAC Welcome Letter, which outlines important information about the PAC team and our plans for the year ahead.

To stay informed:

- Visit our website: [NorquayPAC.ca](https://www.norquaypac.ca), which is regularly updated with the latest news and event details.
- Join our **WhatsApp Division Groups**: Stay connected with your child's division and receive timely updates through our PAC WhatsApp chats. If your division doesn't yet have a Class Representative, we encourage you to sign up and help build community. Join or volunteer here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vOAnvMbQB7CCztekVLxknn8xr8rlgLY_LK-EozayDqE/edit?usp=sharing

We're looking forward to a fantastic year together. Thank you for being part of the Norquay community.



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: Janis Myers

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