



October Newsletter

(604) 713-8171 | www.vsb.bc.ca/lord-byng

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE TRANSLATE

Informations importantes - Veuillez traduire

这是一份重要信息 — 请找人为您翻译

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें

Información importante - Por favor traducir

重要な情報-翻訳してください

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة

اطلاعات مهم - لطفاً ترجمه کنید

Важная информация - переведите, пожалуйста

מידע חשוב - אנא תרגם

And here we are...

Gretchen Rubin wrote: "The days are long, but the years are short" in *The Happiness Project*. I feel this often. It's October already, and things are settling somewhat—as much as they ever do in a busy high school. This month brings Clubs Day where students will be able to browse and join clubs that interest them. Fall sports are also in full swing, and a large group of teachers are gearing up for grade 8 camp in the middle of the month. Our counselling department is hosting multiple university visits: University of Alberta, Queens, University of Calgary, McMaster, Western. Teachers are writing interims and these will be shared with families on October 15th, and the whole school will be participating in the Terry Fox Run (and Walk) on Oct 9.

On the staffing front, we welcome Mr. Wright to our Math department—he's been with us since the beginning of the semester. Thank you to Ms. Tait who spent September in our Foods room. Ms. Nelson will be taking over and begins October 5. We also welcome student teachers from both SFU and UBC.

It was a pleasure to meet some of you more informally at the PAC meeting or at the grade 8 parent tour. We look forward to connecting more over the course of the year. Thank you for your patience with the busy start-up season that is September. In the pages to come we continue to share some general reminders, and highlight recent and upcoming events. Have a good start to the fall.

Albert, Diane, and Krista
(Lord Byng Administration Team)

Grade 8 Camp Oct 15&16

Any questions? Please email Ms. Anderson landerson@vsb.bc.ca—thank you and we can't wait! If you've yet to submit your forms and are wanting to attend, please hand these in as soon as possible. Forms were emailed on Monday, Sept 28 to the email we have on file in MyEd, our student information system.

Yearbook Consent

The Vancouver School Board (VSB) and its schools are authorized to collect, use, and disclose student personal information in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA"). At the start of the school year, your child's photo will be collected for operational purposes such as attendance or ID verification in accordance with section 26(c) of FIPPA.

As part of its commitment to protecting student privacy, the VSB is providing notice to you regarding the collection, use and disclosure of your child's personal information and image(s) for the purpose of creating a school-specific publication of the school year (a yearbook) and, if applicable, featuring their school photo, class composite photo, and other images (ex. Sports teams or clubs), in accordance with sections 32(a) and 33(1), respectively.

If you do not wish for your child's personal information or photographs to be included in the yearbook, please email the school Principal by November 30, 2026. (kediger@vsb.bc.ca)

Unless withdrawn, this consent is effective immediately from the day of receipt and lasts until June 30th of the current school year. For inquiries about FIPPA, please contact privacy@vsb.bc.ca.

Neighbourhood Walk Consent and Other Forms

If you've not yet completed the on-line consent forms, please visit <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/>. You'll need your child's PEN and birthdate to provide consent for the forms. Included in the body of the email we sent on September 3rd is your child's PEN number.

This is a repeat of the message from the body of the email: All students will participate in the Terry Fox Run on October 9th and in future neighbourhood walks planned and supervised by teachers unless participation has been denied via the digital form or via response to the email. Please email amann@vsb.bc.ca or kediger@vsb.bc.ca with any questions around the Neighbourhood Walk Consent form.

Terry Fox Run



The Terry Fox Run/Walk will take place on **Friday, October 9th (rain or shine)**, in the morning. There will be regular F.I.T. time in the morning. The event will start at the beginning of Period 1 and conclude prior to the end of Period 2 (Lunch Time). This is a fun, school-wide event! This year, we hope to raise \$3,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation and Cancer research. Since 2004, Lord Byng has raised over \$60,000 for the Marathon of Hope. PHE students can donate cash, in their classes. Families are encouraged to donate online, using the following link. Let's continue this amazing tradition and reach our goal! <https://schools.terryfox.ca/140050>

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

We gathered our grade 9-12 students together in the main gym for an assembly on Sept 29th. The Dancers of Damelahamid performed, an Indigenous Dance Company from the Northwest Coast of BC. Beautiful masks and regalia and storytelling that centred the lessons we can learn from animals and ancestors and our responsibilities to the natural world. (Our grade 8s came together on Sept 24 to watch a play, "Where Have All the Buffalo Gone?" that spoke about Métis culture and history.) Flags were at half-mast across Vancouver schools Tuesday-Thursday in remembrance of the children who didn't return home from residential schools. This day provides time for reflection, and we work to have learning in and around the day, but this learning isn't limited to this week. Our goal is to integrate the First Peoples Principles of Learning ([linked here](#)) into our teaching practice throughout the year.



Cross Country Running Team

The Cross Country running team is still looking for members! If you like to run, want to get fit for another sport, or want to improve your performance in PHE, Cross Country is a great way to do that. Be part of a team and meet new friends. We don't make any "cuts"; everyone makes the team. Practices are one or two days per week and there are competitions once a week.

See Mr. Jack in the PHE office, or email him at bjack@vsb.bc.ca for forms and more details. You can also listen to announcements and look for regular messages on Teams "All Students". Finally, you can look on the Cross Country bulletin board in the hallway between the A building and the B building down the hall from the library, for information, updates, and results.

Grade 12 Literacy Assessment

As part of the BC graduation program, all students need to complete the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment. This assessment is scheduled for the week of **November 2nd – November 6th, 2026**.

The schedule for students will be posted mid-October in front of the main office and on the Grade 12 Teams Channel. Please make sure to take note of the date and time for your scheduled assessment. All assessments will be written in the library.

For more details on the Grade 12 Literacy Assessment, including what the assessment looks like and samples, please go to this link: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-12-literacy-assessment>

World Mental Health Day Oct 10th

The [World Health Organization's 2026 theme](#) highlights the importance of listening to and learning from people with lived experience of mental health conditions. The campaign recognizes that lived experience is a valuable form of expertise and encourages meaningful involvement in shaping the policies, services, and decisions that affect people's lives.

“Mental health is a state of well-being, and we all have it. Just like we each have a state of physical health, we also each have our mental health to look after. It’s not just about surviving, it’s about thriving. It’s enjoying life, having a sense of purpose, and being able to manage life’s highs and lows” (Canadian Mental Health Association).

Information and Support for Parents/Guardians

- [Kelty Mental Health](#)
 - [FamilySmart](#)
 - [HelpStartsHere](#)
 - [First Nations Health Authority – Mental Health Support](#)
 - [Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Video Series](#)
-

New Resource: B.C.’s Welcoming Schools

Launching this school year, [B.C.'s Welcoming Schools](#) is a new Ministry of Education and Child Care resource hub designed to help students, families, and educators access trusted information and supports related to safe, caring, and inclusive school communities.

The website serves as a centralized hub for students, families, and educators, bringing together information, resources, guidance, and supports related to:

- Student well-being and mental health
- Online safety and digital citizenship
- Safe, caring, and inclusive schools
- Reporting concerns and getting help
- Graduation requirements
- Family and newcomer supports
- Resources for educators

Additional information and resources will continue to be added throughout the 2026-27 school year.

School Fees

School fees are now available to view and pay online through [SchoolCashOnline](#). Families must set up an account to pay for school fees using debit or a credit card, or a cheque online. Please pay as soon as possible. Thank you.

Language Challenge Exams

If you are wanting to write a language challenge exam, please fill out the application form and bring it to your counsellor **no later than Nov. 6, 2026 (this is a hard deadline.)** Follow the instructions closely. If you have questions, please see your counsellor.

Your application must be handed in to your own counsellor by Nov. 6. Please follow this link for all information related to the 2026/27 Language Challenge Exams. Delta hosts language challenge exams for all lower mainland districts. [Challenge Exams - Delta School District](#)

Student Absences

'Tis about to become the season. When a student is ill, or away for an excused reason, we ask that a parent/guardian email the school at byngabsences@vsb.bc.ca. Please include your child's full name (first and last), student number, grade, date(s) of absence, whether the absence is for a full day or for part of the day, and the reason for absence. When reporting a partial day absence, please report the time your child will be away instead of which period to avoid confusion. Please copy teachers so they are aware. Email addresses are located on the school website.

Photo Retakes – Oct 8

Students who want a retake must show their student card to the photographer. For students who elect to get a retake, the retake photo will be the one that appears in the yearbook. Students who were absent on Sept 9 (our first photo day) are able to get their picture taken on Oct 8 as well.

Counselling Department Information

Thank you to Ms Radic for hosting the annual Grade 12 and Beyond Parent information night on Tuesday. The slides are [linked here](#) for reference. Lots of information. If families or students have questions, please connect with your counsellor.

Counsellor	Email	Students' Last Names
Ms. Ward	award@vsb.bc.ca	A-G
Ms. Radic	jradic@vsb.bc.ca	H-L
Mr. Tsuchi	stsuchi@vsb.bc.ca	M-T
Ms. Vanderklippe	mvanderklippe@vsb.bc.ca	U-Z

World Teachers' Day Oct 5, 2026

Please join us in thanking teachers at Byng for their dedication, skill, and passion. We celebrate their work and the energy they bring to helping students grow their understanding of the world and their place within it. One day feels—not enough. This day gives me the chance to pause and think back to my favourite teacher—he taught me Math and Science in grade 8, 9, and 10. I went on to study English Lit, so it wasn't the subject, it was his manner. He was fully engaged, and we engaged alongside him. He gave us no choice in the best way possible. He reminds me of Einstein's words: "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."



PAC News

From the Grad Committee to Gr 12 Parents

GRAD 2026 PARENT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The success of our grad events depends on parent volunteers. There are a wide range of volunteers needed so please consider volunteering your time in whatever capacity you have. The key roles to fill to get the planning going: Co-Chairs (in 2026 we had 3 people share this role), the Treasurer, Fundraising Co-ordinator and a Communications Person (to send emails to the grad parents about the fundraisers and events). If you are interested in volunteering please attend our first meeting on **Tuesday, October 6th at 7pm** in the Lord Byng library. We look forward to seeing you there! Please also [complete this form](#) (and if you're not able to make the meeting but wish to volunteer, completing the form will help our organizers moving forward).

A message from Lord Byng PAC

The PAC is looking for parent volunteers, and there are lots of ways to get involved! Whether you have a little time to spare, or are interested in taking on a larger role, we would love to have you join us.

Do you have a background in accounting or finance? We'd appreciate help with budgets and financial matters. Are you a writer or copy editor? Consider lending your skills to our newsletters and communications. Techie? Our website always needs maintenance!

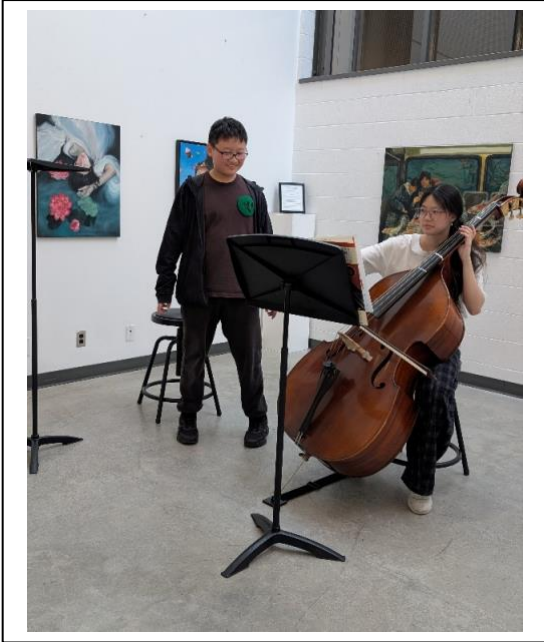
Volunteering doesn't have to mean taking on an executive position. You can join as a member at large, or simply volunteer your time for committees, special projects, events and other initiatives throughout the year. You can find detailed responsibilities of the roles in the [bylaws](#).

Sign up to run [here](#).

Every contribution makes a difference. If you have time, skills, ideas, or simply a willingness to help, we'd love to [hear from you!](#)

Art News

You can't get smART without ART and it didn't take long for things to get going...



A scene from the first week of September:

Music fills the air as Richard and Vicki practice in the school Gallery surrounded by artwork from past visual arts graduates.

Upcoming art events at Byng:

Friday, November 6th – Choir Concert, 6:30pm in the Theatre

Friday, November 13th – Band Concert, 6:30pm in the Theatre

Thursday, November 19th – Strings Concert, 6:30pm in the Theatre

Call for Artists! We Need Your Help!



Hey artists, we want your artwork for the next show in the gallery. Drop off your art creations in the gallery for our October show. Thank you to those who have already submitted their artwork. I was happy to see that you included your name and contact info on the back of your artwork. We look forward to adding it to the gallery next week. Keep your artwork coming!

See Mr. Hartley-Folz in the gallery or upstairs in the art room if you have any questions.

National Portfolio Day – Saturday, November 21st

Participating schools include local institutions Capilano University, Emily Carr University, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University; as well as Alberta University of the Arts, Concordia University, NSCAD University, OCAD University, and York University.

International participants include ArtCenter College of Design, California College of the Arts, California Institute of the Arts, College for Creative Studies, Maryland Institute College of Art, Otis College of Art and Design, Paris College of Art, Parsons School of Design and Parsons Paris at The New School, and the School of Visual Arts.

This is a one-day opportunity for your students to gain meaningful feedback and meet admissions representatives face-to-face.

Click [HERE](#) to Register and for more information on the event.

Take Me Outside Video Contest – Applications Open

This is a chance to showcase the unique backyard of wherever you live, from coast to coast to coast. Tell a story, get creative, and dig into what it means for you to spend time outside.

Individual learners from kindergarten to grade 12 can enter within **three student categories** (Grades K-3, Grades 4-8, Grades 9-12) or it can be a **class project** (Grades K-12). **Deadline to enter and submit videos will be 11:59 pm EST on October 9th, 2026.**

See the [Official Rules & Guidelines](#) for more information.

The Grand Prize is a three-day trip to Banff National Park for two people at the beginning of November 2026! The winning short film will also be shared at the Banff Mountain Film Festival

LEAP Playwriting Intensive—apply by October 13, 2026

LEAP—Learning Early About Playwriting—is a free and interactive program for young people (ages 16–25) in the B.C. Lower Mainland who are interested in playwriting. Participants learn the basic principles of playwriting, share their work with classmates, and provide feedback for one another in a safe and supportive environment. LEAP is a full-scholarship program, and it is 100% funded by donors and sponsors. There is no cost to students.

For more information, contact Kevan Ellis, Director of Education, at kellis@artsclub.com.
<https://artsclub.com/education/leap>

Byng Arts News

New Applicants to the Program – **APPLICATION ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE**

INFO NIGHT – November 4th

The Byng Arts Mini School has a long history at Lord Byng. Established in 1999 to acknowledge the creative energy and strong programs in our senior Strings and Drama departments it has grown to encompass all grades and offer opportunities not only in Strings and Drama but also Visual Art, Band, Choir, and Media Arts, with further opportunities available in Literary Arts in Grade 11 and 12.

Byng Arts has all the benefits of a large high school, while also maintaining a strong sense of community. In addition to an enriched curriculum in their fine art focus, all students in Byng Arts participate in events that feature community artists, musicians, and performers, thereby strengthening the collaboration between Byng and the professional arts community.

If you are interested in joining the Byng Arts program, please visit our website for the most up to date information on the application process: <http://byng2.vsb.bc.ca/byngarts/>

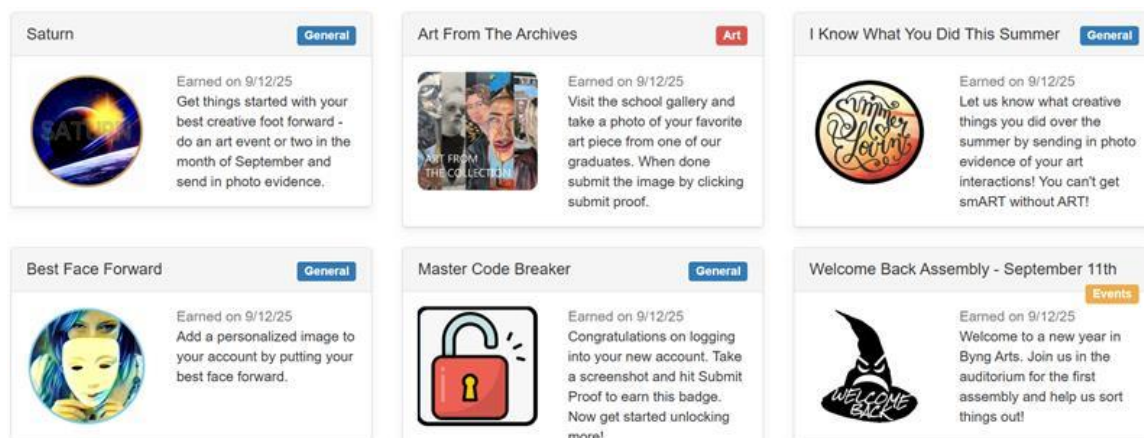
Byng Arts Passport: <http://byngartspassport.ca/>

Byng Arts values and rewards student involvement in both school-based and community arts activities. Track and showcase your participation by recording your experiences in your online Byng Arts Passport.

A trip to an art gallery, music performance, film fest event or a drama performance can all contribute to our artistic development. Involvement in a performance is also a great way to grow as an artist.

This is a fun, but mandatory part of your program at Byng Arts. Byng Arts Passports are reviewed every January and May and students are expected to have recorded seven or more events for each submission date.

Students should log in using the steps in the post above, right away without delay. Start building your record of your involvement in the Arts!!!



Steps:

1. Log On <http://byngartspassport.ca/>
2. Upload a Profile Picture (small file size please)
3. Unlock a badge by uploading photo of you at the event or an image of a ticket of your art activities

Badges to Unlock:

- Master Code Breaker - Log on and submit a screen shot
- Best Face Forward - Upload a profile picture
- I Know What You Did Last Summer - send a photo of your summer ART activities by clicking "Submit Proof"
- Saturn - share your September art activities
- Arachne: share your October art activities

If you are having trouble, come and see Mr. Hartley-Folz, mornings in the Gallery or email him at jhartley@vsb.bc.ca.

Log in tips: Your **username** is your student number

Your **password** is the **first two (2) letters of your last name**, the first letter is capitalized and the second is lower case. Next is an **underscore** (_), followed by your **student number**!

So, Draco Malfoy, who has student number 8675666, would have the password Ma_8675666 and Hermione Granger, with student number 8595550, would have the password Gr_8595550.

BYNG ARTS PARENT SURVEY

Although high school offers fewer opportunities for parental involvement, we have some upcoming initiatives that Byng Arts parents may be able to offer their expertise and energy. Please take a moment to complete this survey/contact list and help us review our potential resources within our parent community.

Byng Arts Parent Survey Link: [Parent Contact List \(2026\) – Fill out form](#)

We also have an active parent community and they have created a WhatsApp Group.

Parent What's App Group Link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/H2FICgB6fTY0qIEc4XmnzV>



MAKING A STRONG START – You can't spell start without ART.

Staff and students in the mini-school did their best to put ART into our September start. We greeted our new Grade 8s with the traditional House sorting followed by the Byng Arts Sports Day event. The House competition between the five Houses of Shakespeare, Da Vinci, Mozart, Hepburn, and Fitzgerald has begun for all grades and we have already had a show in our school gallery. In November we welcome Ballet BC for an afternoon performance and our latest group of Grade 12s are getting ready for a trip to the Eastside Cultural Crawl and a night performance of ELF at the Arts Club as part of Art Tourism 12. Student Council is hard at work planning for our October 27th Coffee House and our December 1st Gala. Stay tuned for more updates on volunteer opportunities.

Welcome Back, I look forward to a fun and creative year ahead.

Contact Mr. Hartley-Folz if you have any Byng Arts questions (jhartley@vsb.bc.ca)

Week at a Glance Oct 5 – Oct 9

Mon, Oct 5	Tues, Oct 6	Wed, Oct 7	Thurs, Oct 8	Fri, Oct 9
	Western visit A218 3pm Parent Grad Committee Mtg 7pm Library	Elections BC Advanced Municipal Voting – Small Gym all day	Photo Retake Day in AM - Auditorium	Terry Fox Run - AM

Looking Ahead (Calendar Highlights)

Oct 6	Parent Grad Committee Mtg 7pm in the library
Oct 9	Terry Fox Run
Oct 12	Thanksgiving (no school)
Oct 15	Interims Published
Oct 15/16	Grade 8 Camp
Oct 21	Collab Day – Students finish at 1:35pm
Oct 23	Professional Development Day (no school for students)
Oct 27	Grade 8 ADST Rotation 2 begins
Nov 2-6	Grade 12 Literacy Assessments
Nov 4	Byng Arts Information Night 7pm Auditorium/Foyer
Nov 6	Choir Fall Concert 6:30pm Auditorium
Nov 10	Remembrance Day Assemblies
Nov 11	Remembrance Day (no school)
Nov 13	Band Fall Concert 6:30pm Auditorium
Nov 16	Block Flip: 2-1-4-3
Nov 19	Strings Fall Concert 6:30pm Auditorium
Nov 20	Report Cards Published 3pm
Nov 20	ProD Day District-wide
Nov 25	Collab Day – 10am start for students
Nov 26	Parent Teacher Conferences – Early Dismissal at 2pm
Dec 1	Byng Arts Gala
Dec 2	Immunization Clinic
Dec 8	Gr 8 ADST Rotation 3 begins

The year-long calendar with the main dates (breaks, prod days) can be found [here](#).