



NIGHTINGALE NEWS

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Nightingale Art will Return in November’s Newsletter!	

*Dates to Remember in October*

- Monday, October 2 ...Statutory Holiday—in lieu of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Monday, October 9 ...Thanksgiving—Statutory Holiday—No School
- Wednesday, October 11 ...Photo Day (individual photos)
- Monday, October 16 ...Lockdown Drill
- Wednesday, October 18 ...Pumpkin Patch, PAC Coffee Morning and Clothing Swap
- Wednesday, October 18 ...Digital Safety for Parents (PAC workshop—more details to come closer to the date)
- Thursday, October 19 ...Trout Lake Cross Country Meet (starting at 1:00 p.m.)
- Friday, October 20 ...Professional Development Day—no school for students
- Wednesday and Thursday October 25 and 26 ...Communicating Student Learning—Early Dismissal at 2:00 p.m. for conferences
- Tuesday, October 31 ...Halloween events in classrooms
- Wednesday, November 1 ...Kindergarten Registration Begins for the 24/25 school year!**

**REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES**

If your child is sick and unable to attend school, please report your child’s absence:

**Call 604-713-5159 school code 59#**

**or**

**nigattendance@vsb.bc.ca**

Report your child’s first and last name, division number, and teacher’s name. It is important that you do call this number, even if you have sent a message to your child’s teacher via e-mail. This will let the office know your child is absent so that we know they are safe at home. Teachers do not necessarily check their e-mail or they may be away themselves and we would not have access to the information. Thank you.

*A Message from Ms. Hughes*



September has come and gone and it seems as though summer is but a distant memory! This newsletter will provide more information about school emergency safety procedures and protocols.

As a reminder, dates for whole-school events, including emergency practices are also noted on the [school website calendar](#).



**“PROUD TO BE HAWKS”**



We would like to humbly acknowledge that we are learning, unlearning and relearning on the unceded, un-surrendered, and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm | Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh | Squamish & səliwətaʔ | Tsleil-Waututh Nations. With this acknowledgement comes the commitment to engage in ongoing acts of reconciliation.



**STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL:**  
*Notice to our students and parents/guardians/caregivers*

The Vancouver School District and our community partners are committed to having safe, caring and inclusive schools. 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.

**THE VSB STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**What behaviours initiate a student threat risk assessment?**

A Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment will be initiated for behaviours including:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill;
- Verbal/ written/ drawn threats to harm or kill others;
- Online threats to harm or kill others;
- Possession of weapons (including replicas);
- Bomb threats;
- Fire setting;
- Acts of racism, discrimination or hate
- Sexual intimidation or assault; sextortion
- Gang related intimidation and violence

**Duty to report threat making behaviour**

Maintaining a safe, caring and inclusive school community is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. Students, staff, parents/ guardians/ caregivers and community members must report all threat related behaviours to their school administrator.

**What is a threat?**

- An expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, made through gestures or posted on the Internet.

**Duty to Respond**

All threats must be taken seriously and require a response that includes investigation and intervention. Our goal is to respond to threats and maintain a safe and caring learning environment.

Each school has a multi-disciplinary School Threat Risk Assessment Team which will include the School Administrator(s) and Area or School-based Counsellor(s) and can include, as needed, district resource staff and community partners in the threat assessment process. Community partners may include Child and Youth Mental Health, Child and Adolescent Response Team, VPD and RCMP.

**What is the purpose of a Student Threat Risk Assessment?**

- The VSB student threat assessment process is used to:
- ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
  - ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
  - understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behaviour.
  - be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
  - promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

**What happens in a Student Threat Risk Assessment?**

- Information is gathered from multiple sources including open source digital publicly available data. This may include interviews with the threat-maker, student(s), staff and parents/ guardians/ caregivers to assess the level of risk.
- The School Threat Assessment Team examines the information collected and in consultation with community partners, determines the level of risk.
- Appropriate intervention plans are developed, implemented and shared with parents/guardians, staff and students, as required. Information shared throughout the risk/threat assessment process will respect the individual's right to privacy and the safety of all.

**Can I refuse to participate in the threat assessment process?**

It is important for all parties to engage in the Threat Risk Assessment process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring environment for all.

**Collection Notice**

The School District is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including by limiting collection to information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from online sources is only obtained from open source sites. The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

Responding to Student Threats: Fair Notice Statement

September 2021

**Digital Safety Presentations**

On Wednesday, October 18 there will be a parent education evening (via Zoom, link to follow closer to the date). The topic will be Digital Safety. This session is being provided by Safer Schools Together.

The following day, the grades 4 to 7 students will be having workshops on the same topic. Safer Schools together will provide links for parent resources that will be posted on the Nightingale website and also sent via e-mail to families.

Thank you to the PAC for sponsoring both the parent education evening and the student workshops. On our first professional development day, many staff also attended the teacher workshop. Through these workshops, we hope to be able to guide children in making responsible decisions when using technology.



**Parent Volunteers**

If you are volunteering in your child's classroom, helping with coaching, or helping around the school on

a regular basis, please remember that you are required to sign in at the office. Please talk to your child's teacher or Ms. Hughes about:

- Reading the [Guidelines for Adults Interacting with Students](#) (copies also available in the office)
- Signing our [Volunteer Conduct Agreement](#) and handing it into the office (copies available in the office)
- Reviewing school safety protocols in the event of an emergency with Ms. Hughes, please [e-mail](#) or phone for an appointment to do this—thank you!
- If you will be working alone with children, we also require that you have a Criminal Record Check (on a yearly basis) - please see Ms. Hughes for more information

So many of our school events could not happen without parent support and, we thank you in advance, for the time you are able to volunteer in our classrooms, organizing special events, and on field trips throughout the school year!



*At Nightingale we love our school!*

## How Did the Garden Grow?



A big thank to all the students, parents, grandparents that helped water and maintain the school garden over the summer. This year, upon our return, we were thrilled to see so many apples on our beautiful apple tree. Some classes have taken advantage of this and made apple sauce in their classrooms, while other students may have shown up at home with an apple or two! Some parents have expressed interest in helping out in the fall and it is our hope that we can get together to celebrate and organize a cleanup and a planting crew. If you are interested in volunteering , please contact Katherine (Ms. B).



## Nightingale PAC News

If you would like to reach out to the PAC please check out their [website](#).

PAC Meeting—7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 in the Nightingale Library. Please enter the school through the front/main door and make your way to the library. As a reminder, just as we ask that children stay home if sick, if adults are feeling ill, we ask that you also stay home. Thank you!

Wednesday, October 18—Coffee Morning/Pumpkin Patch/Clothing Swap

The PAC are also busy organizing other events for fundraising and community building throughout the school year. More information will be provided closer to the dates

Save the Date: HAWKS Night—Friday, June 14

Together we are better!



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## Acceptable Use of Technology

Each student in the Vancouver School Board has access to technology to support their learning. It is a requirement of each student (and family) to acknowledge that they have read the guidelines for this use. This year, the district would like families to do this electronically. If you have not yet done so, please login and confirm that you and your child have read and understand these guidelines [HERE](#). You will need your child's 9-digit Personal Education Number (PEN) and their date of birth to login.



The Acceptable Use of Technology document outlines expectations for use of technology and includes (but is not all inclusive) such things as:

- Respectful use of the internet
- Keeping passwords confidential from others
- Conduct that is in line with the district and school Codes of Conduct

## Diversity Calendar

Listed below are some of the observances, holidays, celebrations and notable dates in October. *I extend my apologies if I missed an observance that your family recognizes, please do let us know!* This addition to the newsletter is *intended to be inclusive* and we welcome any and all additions.

October 1—[National Truth and Reconciliation Day](#)

October 7/8—[Simchat Torah](#)—Jewish Holiday (begins Oct. 7 at sundown and ends on the 8th)

October 9—[Thanksgiving](#)

October 15-24—[Navratri \(Navaratri\)](#) - Hindi festival

October 15—[Birth of the Báb](#) (Bahá'í)

October 31—[Halloween](#)

If you would like your family observances to be acknowledged, please do let us know in the office and they can be added to the newsletters.

## Emergency Procedures

Each year, Vancouver schools review emergency procedures with students. Throughout the school year, we will have numerous emergency drills (fire, earthquake, hold and secure, shelter in place, and lockdown). In the case that you arrive at school and there is a sign on the door that states "Hold and Secure", essentially, it means that there is an incident occurring in the neighbourhood that is deemed a risk to the community. We keep exterior doors to the building locked and do not allow staff or students to leave the building, or anyone to enter the building, until the risk has passed. If you see this on our doors (it would be a rare occasion), please return home as it is likely there is an incident occurring in the neighbourhood. We also have a procedure known as "Shelter in Place". This is when the school is locked for an environmental concern such as a chemical spill or, more simply, coyotes on the playground. Finally, a full "Lockdown" would be initiated in the unlikely event of a threat occurring directly on the school grounds or in the building. In this event, there is no sign on the door and all staff and students would be secured behind locked doors until police deem it to be safe to leave the school.

In the case of an emergency where we are unable to keep students at Nightingale Elementary, parents should be aware that our off-site emergency evacuation centre is Mount Pleasant Elementary School, located at 2300 Guelph Street. If for some reason, Vancouver schools cannot be accessed, our off-site assembly area would be Robson Park.



*\*\*For more information about school emergency procedures, please talk to your child's teacher\*\**



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## Code of Behaviour

The [Nightingale Code of Behaviour](#) is posted to the Nightingale website. Please take some time to review this at home with your child. The full document is attached on the side of the webpage as a PDF.

## Cellphones and Other Electronics



Please be advised that we do not recommend personal electronics be brought to school. Staff ask that students do not use these items during school hours and, if they are left in backpacks, they may go missing. If you require that your child bring a cell phone to school, please remind them to keep it in their pocket and not to use it during class time. Also, please remind your child that taking photos and/or video of students and/or staff, during school time is not permitted. Some families request that photos/videos of their children are not taken and we need to respect everyone’s privacy. In the coming weeks, staff will be reviewing the use of technology in the school. Thank you.

Don't forget to visit the Nightingale [Website!](#)



Please be aware that we are an “allergy and scent aware” school. What this means is that we have a number of children and/or staff in the school that do have allergies to certain foods (peanuts, seafood/fish, tree nuts, scents). People with a severe food allergy must not eat even tiny amounts of the food that cause them to have an allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction can come on quickly and this can even occur if the person is simply in the same room as the allergen. To help reduce the risk of an accidental exposure, please *consider* sending snacks without peanuts, seafood/fish, or tree nuts. Also, as per our communicable disease plan, please remind children not to share food, drinks, or eating utensils with others. Thank you.

## Cross Country



Cross-Country running has started for the season. Click [here](#) for the practice and mini meet schedules and locations.

## Toys and Special Items from Home

As a reminder, we are also requesting that all toys, electronics and special items are left at home *unless specifically requested by a teacher for a special project and/or Show and Tell*. Frequently, when these items are brought to school, they are lost, broken, or result in disagreements or feelings being hurt. Thank you for your support in reminding your child to keep all personal toys and electronic items at home. If a child brings an item to school that results in a disruption to the learning environment, the item may be taken and looked after by a staff member until the end of the day when it can be returned to a caregiver. Please see the [first newsletter of the year](#) for more detailed information about technology in school.



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# Reminders...



As a reminder, school fees are to be paid on line. If you have not yet registered, please do so at <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com/> . If you need help with this, please come to the office and we would be happy to help you register.

Permission forms, verification sheets, Emergency Reunification forms, Media Consent, CASL forms, and Neighbourhood Walk Consent letters are all due to be signed or returned to school as soon as possible. Online consent forms can be found at <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca>.

Please speak with your child’s teacher or e-mail Ms. Hughes at [aahughes@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:aahughes@vsb.bc.ca) if you require a subsidy for school fees this year. Thank you.



## Generation Health



**Join Us For Generation Health This Fall!**

Learn about healthy eating & physical activity and build long-lasting healthy habits as a family in Generation Health. This 10-week program for families with children ages 8 to 12 is free, interactive and FUN!

Delivered through YMCA BC starting October 2023 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

Interested? Register today!  
Call 1-888-650-3141 or email [generationhealth@bc.ymca.ca](mailto:generationhealth@bc.ymca.ca)

generationhealth [gv.ymca.ca/generation-health](http://gv.ymca.ca/generation-health)



## Terry Fox Run



Nightingale's Terry Fox Run was held on Friday, September 29. If you are interested in donating you can contribute to the school's Terry Fox fund at the following [link](#).

## Nightingale Pumpkin Patch

Thank you, in advance, to the PAC who will be organizing a pumpkin patch at the school again this year, on October 18. Each class will have the opportunity to head out to our gravel field and children will pick a pumpkin.

There will also be a coffee morning and clothing swap on the morning of the pumpkin patch. Please join us!

Almost pumpkin time!

# “PROUD TO BE HAWKS”



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## Volunteer Crossing Guards Needed



You may have noticed that, on some days, we have crossing guards at the traffic lights on 12th Avenue. Thanks to a parent volunteer, Paul, we will be having this program again for the 23/24 school year. If you are interested in helping out with this very worthwhile job, please connect with Paul via [e-mail](#). Once we have a group together, we will set up crossing guard training with the VPD, and review the protocols. Thank you for helping to keep our children safe!

### Foundational Skills Assessment

In the coming weeks, students in grades 4 and 7 will participate in the Foundational Skills Assessments (FSA). These assessments focus on students' literacy and numeracy development. As mentioned earlier this week in a message from our superintendent to families of students in grades 4 and 7, the FSAs provide valuable information about how students in Vancouver schools are doing. Individual classroom teachers can use assessment results as one measure of how students in their classrooms are doing and where they need more support. As a school district, FSA results are used to help make evidence-informed decisions about where we need to focus resources and supports to enhance student learning.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has more information about FSAs – available in a variety of languages. Here are links to that information.

[Foundation Skills Assessment for Parents and Caregivers \(English\) \(PDF\)](#)  
[French \(Français\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Chinese \(Simplified Chinese – 简体中文\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Chinese \(Traditional Chinese – 繁體中文\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Farsi \(فارسی\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Punjabi \(ਪੰਜਾਬੀ\) \(PDF\)](#)

[Tagalog \(PDF\)](#)

[Urdu \(اردو\) \(PDF\)](#)

### Active School Travel Grant Update

As you may have noticed, over the summer, the school had a couple of additions on some of our exterior stairways. These yellow strips on the stairways are bike ramps and were installed to make it easier for people to bring their bikes onto our playground rather than having to carry a heavy bike up stairs.

Thank you to the PAC who applied for the Active School Travel grant that made these installations possible.

