



NIGHTINGALE NEWS

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Dates to Remember in December and January

Friday, December 22	...Last day of school before Winter Break
Monday, December 25- Friday January 5	...Winter Break
Monday, January 8	...School Reopens after Winter Break
Wednesday, January 17	...Professional Development Day

A Message from Ms. Hughes

As we get ready for the winter break, I would like to thank families for your support during the first term of this school year. The Nightingale community is such a warm and welcoming place. I would also like to thank Mr. Cannon for the unexpected extra time he spent here this term. I heard that the coffee morning was a great success and we thank you for your support of the coffee morning market!

On behalf of the staff at Nightingale, I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season and we will see you all again on Monday, January 8, 2024.

There are many winter holidays and recognitions in December, including, but not limited to Hanukkah, Christmas, winter solstice, Thithikopowipisim, and Kwanzaa. Happy Holidays to those who celebrate!



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, or use this e-mail, 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 after the bell has gone, or they may be away themselves and we would not have access to the information. Thank you.

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.

PAC Updates

Thank you to all the parents for their great support at the Winter Market and a big thank you to all staff that participated. The kids loved the event and we had a large turnout of parents. Together we are better!

The results of the PAC Rise Up HAWKS survey are in....Fifty people responded to the survey and of those 50, the majority indicated an interest in improving our outdoor spaces and playground areas. For those of you who would like to donate to this cause, you can do so at the official [Florence Nightingale PAC link](#) through the VSB. Any and all contributions are much appreciated!

The next PAC meeting is Monday, February 5 in the Nightingale library—there will also be a Zoom option (link to be sent closer to the time).

We hope you can join us!



Kindergarten Registration Continues Until Jan. 31

Kindergarten priority registration ends on January 31. We continue to accept applications until this date. If you apply after January 31 your application would not be included in the draw if we have more applicants

than kindergarten spaces. Please let any of your neighbours know that they may apply, if their child was born in 2019. The registration process will have two steps:

- ◆ Step 1: Complete the online registration at vsbapplynow.vsb.bc.ca—print out the completed registration form
 - ◆ Step 2: Phone the school to make an appointment to bring in your documents (604-713-5290). At the time of your appointment, bring the completed registration form along with the required documents to your catchment school.
- Thank you.

Supporting documents needed:

- Proof of residence in Vancouver
- Child's birth certificate
- Immigration documentation (if applicable)
- Immunization records
- Court orders/documents (if applicable)



NOTE: The registration process is not complete until you have completed both steps in the process. Priority registration for in-catchment students ends on January 31st. If we have more applications for kindergarten than we have available spaces, a draw will be held. If your child is placed on a waitlist, the district will place you in a nearby school until a space might become available at Nightingale Elementary.



At Nightingale we love our school!



Free Winter Program for Families!

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

Delivered through YMCA BC starting February 2024 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings.

Families who join this program will receive a complimentary YMCA membership.

Register today!



gv.ymca.ca/generation-health
generationhealth@bc.ymca.ca



Visit the [Nightingale website](#) for other school and VSB news software.



Diversity Calendar

Listed below are some of the observances, holidays, celebrations and notable dates in the remainder of December and January. *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.

If you would like your family observances or celebrations to be acknowledged, please e-mail [Angela Hughes](#) and they can be added to the newsletters.

December 18—[Hannukah /Chanukah](#)

begins at sundown and ends the evening of December 26

December 21—[Winter Solstice](#)

December 25—[Christmas Day](#) (Christian)

December 26—[Kwanzaa](#) (African American/Canadian) and [Boxing Day](#) (Canada)

December 31—[New Year's Eve](#) (Canada) and [Omisoka](#) (Japan)

January 1—New Year's Day (many western countries) and

[Shogatsu / Gantan-sai](#) (Japan)

January 18—[Bodhi Day](#) (Buddhist)

We wish everyone the very best throughout the winter break!



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Mason Bee Harvesting

The students from Division 8 recently spent a day

harvesting the school mason bees. Mason bees are a solitary bee species native to the Pacific Northwest. They have no queen bee or colony to protect so pose no threat of stinging. These solitary bees simply go about their business of pollinating our fruit trees and flowers. The mason bee is considered a super pollinator as their entire body gets covered in pollen as opposed to just its legs as with the more common honeybee. They have consistently pollinated the school apple tree and Mr. Canning's home plum and pear trees for the past 7



years. With an initial purchase of 10 mason bee cocoons we have been able to harvest enough adult bees in their cocoons to keep the population up and growing. This year the children harvested 165 bees. While not our best year it was still a significant harvest. These adult bees are currently in their cocoons and in Mr. Canning's fridge at home. They will remain in this state through the winter and will begin to chew through their cocoons in the spring when the weather gets warmer. The children very carefully removed the bees from their nesting tunnels and washed the

mud off the cocoons before winter storage. This will help improve the survival rate of the dormant adult bees. The mason bee is named after the stone mason. As the female lays her eggs, she leaves behind enough food for the young to develop and then plugs the tunnel with mud for extra protection. While a mason bee lives for an entire year, most of its life is within the cocoon. When it leaves its cocoon in the spring the female will only fly for 5 or 6 weeks before she reaches the end of her life cycle. We are looking forward to watching the mason bees chew through cocoons in the springtime.



Nightingale Chess Club

The Nightingale Chess Club has been meeting on Thursdays during the lunch hour to have some friendly competition. After a few sessions, to review the Rook Roller checkmate and King and Rook versus a lone King Checkmate, we started a five-week tournament following the Chess Federation of Canada's official rules. The students (for the most part) have learned to play without talking and are taking their time before making a move. All players came out of the tournament with some wins and draws but there was no stopping Aaron who came out on top, followed closely by Nathan. All the players showed excellent



sportsmanship and came out of each session happy to have learned something new and to have played with some new friends. Well done! Thank you also to Mr. Canning for sponsoring our chess club.



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Parent Crossing Guards

I would like to do one last call out for parent crossing guard volunteers. If you are able to consistently volunteer some time to help out with this safety initiative, please contact Paul at pauljslakov@gmail.com.



We are hoping to renew our training and will need forms signed in the new year. While we don't yet have enough volunteers for daily crossing guards, we are still going ahead on a part-time basis. The more parent volunteers we have, the more patrols we can accommodate. Thank you!

Thank You!

We would like to thank all of the students who have volunteered their time this term to make the school a better place for everyone. Thank you to the peer helpers and student council for the extra time you dedicate to helping others.



Thank you also to all the staff who have taken extra time to sponsor clubs, sports teams, before and after-school activities, and leadership initiatives in the school. The hours that you have spent in these extra roles are very much appreciated!



Reminder...Reporting Student Absences

As noted on the front page of the newsletter, please be sure to notify the office of your child's absence. If you e-mail the teacher, please also e-mail nigattendance@vsb.bc.ca. Sometimes your child's teacher is absent and will not be the person marking attendance. If the office is not aware of your child's reason for not being at school, it results in an unaccounted absence alert, which then leads to us having to call home to check on your child's safety. We have had an increased number of parents informing us that they have told the teacher their child is absent but this information has not been shared with the office staff who are responsible for the safe arrival process. Thank you.



Student Council

We would like to honor and thank our members of the Nightingale Student Council (NSC). Our team for term one was Ryleigh, Isla, Mila, Sayen, Felix, Jack, Atticus, and Muhammad. The Student Council takes leadership in the school community by representing their classmates. They take their ideas and work collaboratively to bring spirit and make a difference in our school community. They always welcome your ideas, so kindly let them know! Thank you also to Ms. Stanke and Ms. Wong for sponsoring student council!



Happy "Holly" Days!



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Staffing Updates

As some of you are likely aware, we were sad to see our evening custodian, Suleman, leave Nightingale. His last day was on Friday, December 1 and we wish him all the best in his promotion at his new school! I will update the community when I know who will be replacing Suleman at Nightingale. We did receive news that our new steady part-time custodian has been hired and we look forward to welcoming Freddie on January 15. We also continue to await the arrival of our permanent supervision aide but thank Ivan and Natalie for continuing into the new year!

Finally, we are also happy to announce that we have hired a replacement for Ms. Shan when she will be starting her maternity leave in mid January. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Jasper Cabot to Nightingale.

Fun for Divisions 3 and 4

Divisions 3 and 4 enjoyed holiday activities to close out the year. It was filled with skating, holiday crafts and gingerbread house creations.



Winter Market and Morning Coffee
The 2nd Annual Winter Market organized by the PAC was a great success! Thank you to our PAC for organizing and also to our Student Council for collecting canned food donations!



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Holidays Around the World

In Division 3, Ms. Wong's class delved into researching 'Holidays Around the World' as a means of honoring various cultures and participating in global celebrations.

Through their digital projects, they explored the diverse ways in which different cultures celebrate their traditions. Additionally, they integrated some of these traditions into their classroom routines, including cleaning their space for good luck and new energy, setting intentions, placing lights, hiding treats, and embracing a culture of abundance.

This project held significant meaning for the students, as they were grateful for the opportunity to learn about various cultures and embrace diversity by sharing in these traditions.



Ms Brewett

Ms. Tubbs

Ms. C.

Mr. Cannon

Ms. C. Gel

Ms. Wong

Mrs. Fahn

Ms. Colleen

Ms. Canning

Ms. Shan

Mr. T

LoAn

Ms. Aird

Ms. Kumar

Ms. Sutherland

Ms. Lockey

Ms. [Signature]

Ms. [Signature]

Ms. Tooshenig



From our family to yours