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BLACK HISTORY MONTH



February is Black History Month, a time to reflect on the stories, experiences, and accomplishments of Canada's black community.

We have had several discussions over the month thus far. We have looked at the contributions of several prominent black historical figures that have contributed to getting equal rights and freedoms, so that all people could be treated equally. We discussed how people of different skin colours have been treated differently over the course of

our history. We learned that in early black history in America, many blacks were brought over to North America, from Africa and made slaves, losing the ability to make decisions for themselves. We learned that as time went on 'white people' and 'people of colour' were treated differently. We learned that some people had to stand up to help change laws, to stop segregation. We learned that we are happy we are living now, where we can live together happily, learning in our diverse community. We recognize that people need to stand up for what is right and just for all. We know that a lot of the people who did this ended up in jail. We know that now people see these people as brave and as heroes.

Two of the stories that have been shared widely in our school are the stories of two strong black women: Viola Davis Desmond and Harriet Tubman.

Viola Davis Desmond was at the center of one of Nova Scotia's most controversial episodes. In 1946, she refused to sit in the balcony of the Roseland Theatre in New Glasgow, N.S. and sat on the floor reserved exclusively for white people instead. She was arrested and found guilty of not paying the full tax on a floor-seat ticket. She was jailed and fined.

She died in 1965 at the age of 50. In 2010, the government of Nova Scotia posthumously pardoned Desmond and apologized to her family.

In 2018, Viola Desmond became the first Canadian Women to be put on a Canadian dollar bill. In fact, she is on the 10 dollar note.

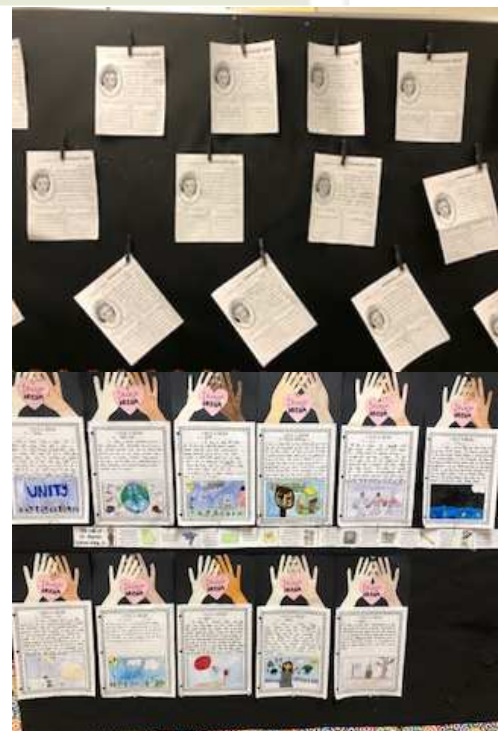
Harriet Tubman, a formerly enslaved individual from Maryland, became known as the "Moses" of her people and the "conductor" who led hundreds of enslaved Blacks to freedom along the Underground Railroad. In 1850, when the far-reaching United States Fugitive Law was passed, she guided runaway enslaved people further north into Canada. When angry slave owners posted rewards for her capture, she continued her work despite great personal risk. St. Catharines, Ontario (a town close to the border with the United States) was on the route and offered employment opportunities, making it a common destination for the former fugitives, including Harriet Tubman, who lived there from 1851 to 1857. Many of the people she rescued were relatives of those already in St. Catharines including her own parents, brothers and sisters and their families.





Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a network of secret routes and safe houses used by black slaves in the United States to escape to the free state, Canada. The Underground Railroad is a metaphor, symbolizing the way to get to Canada. Slaves would refer to Canada as “The Promised Land.”

In the metaphor, the “**Conductors**” were the people who helped the fleeing slaves to get from place to place. These conductors were people, some black, some white, some men, some women, but all of these people wanted slavery out of the world. They were also called **abolitionists** because they wanted to abolish the practice of slavery. The *conductor* would sometimes pretend to be a slave to enter a plantation. Once a part of a plantation, the *conductor* would direct the slaves to the North. Slaves would travel at night, about 15–30 km to each station. They would stop at the so-called **stations** or **depots**, during the day and rest. The stations were out of the way places like barns. While resting at one station, a message was sent to the next station to let the station master know the slaves were on their way. The fleeing slaves were referred to as “**Passengers**” or “**cargo**”.



Pink Day – “Lift Each Other Up”



On Wednesday, February 24th, Henderson will join other schools across Canada by participating in Pink Shirt Day to help raise awareness that bullying will not be tolerated anywhere.

Pink Shirt Day started when David Shepherd and Travis Price, students at Central Kings Rural High School in Nova Scotia, saw a student being bullied because he wore a pink shirt to school. They decided to support the student, so they went and purchased pink shirts and handed them out to everyone the next day at school. Now, Pink Shirt Day is a national event celebrated every year. This year’s campaign encourages everyone to work together and treat others with dignity and respect. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and shown the importance of helping one another and advocating for those who need it, “Lift Each Other Up”.

We all have the capacity to be kind and compassionate. No matter what our differences, recognizing



each other's gifts and worth goes a long way to build positive relationships. So, on Wednesday, February 24th we at Henderson will do our best to wear pink and "Lift Each Other Up" with care and compliments. We will continue to work at our school to support teachings and programs that encourage healthy self-esteem and practice the skills of empathy, compassion and kindness.

Caring for Community this Valentine's Day with Gratitude



Thank you to all those classes that prepared Valentine Day cards for not only their friends and families, but also for seniors in our community. It is always wonderful to receive positive messages and share gratitude.

Many of our Transition from Home Learners have been sharing their gratitude journals with us!

We also want to thank the Leadership Team members from Divisions 1,2 and 3 that have left us uplifting messages around the school.

During these stressful times we can all use uplifting.

Student Learning Survey 2021

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective. Early in 2021 the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included. The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link with or without an anonymous logon code by selecting the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the Results section.

The e-survey site will be open until April 30th.

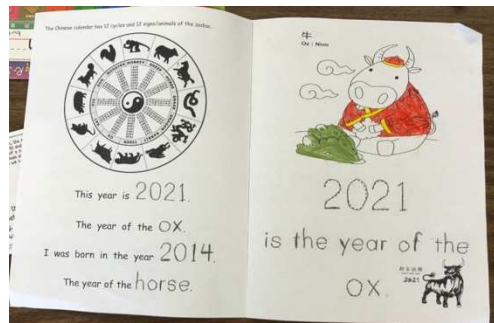
If you have any questions, please contact the school at 604-713-4837.

Happy Lunar New Year

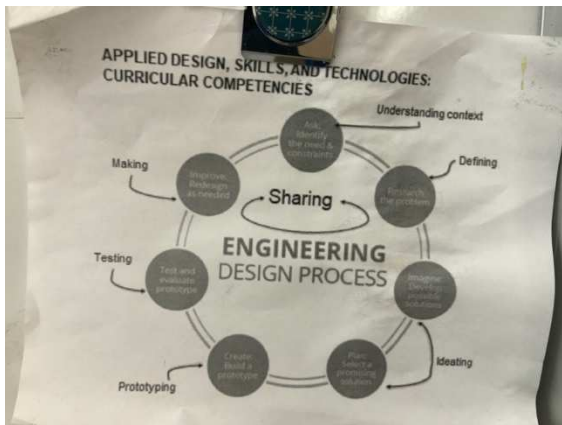
It is one of the world's most prominent and celebrated festivals.

<https://vancouverbestplaces.com/chinese-new-year-vancouver/>

This year at Henderson we are celebrating Lunar New Year by learning more about how and why communities celebrate Lunar New Year, and we are learning more about Chinese and Asian cultures.



Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)



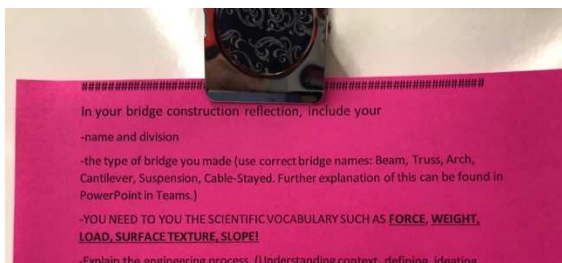
We are fortunate to have our Future Play Lab and the Imaginarium as places for students to work collaboratively on design projects

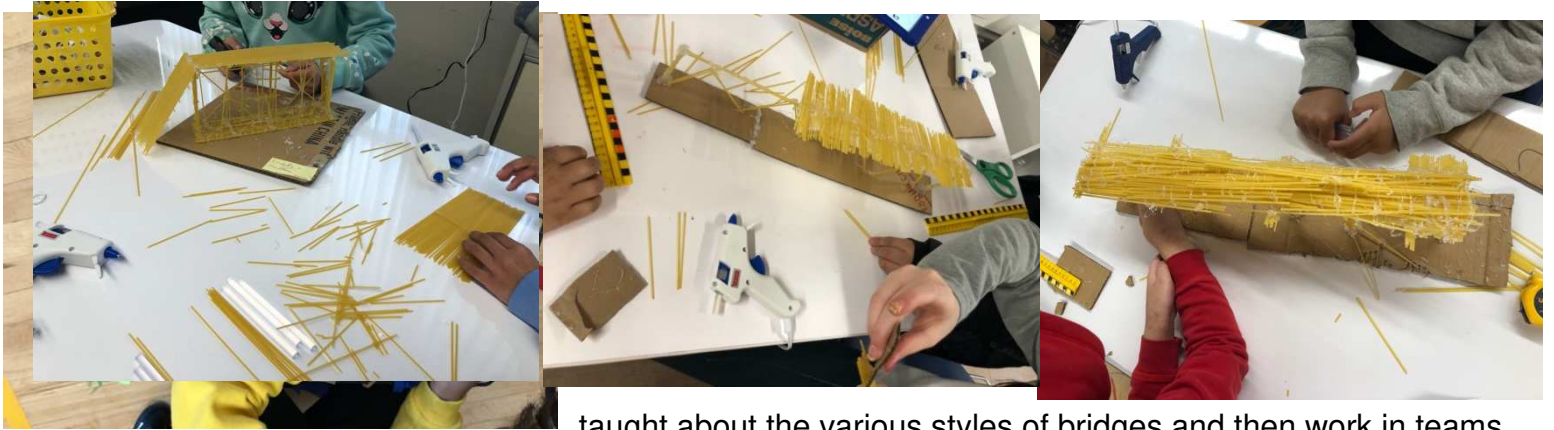
Students take an interdisciplinary approach to solve real world problems by combining knowledge, research and skills by working together. By engaging in these STEM challenges, students have the opportunity to develop diverse skills sets with hands on exploration, in hopes that their passions will also be ignited.

This inquiry-based approach will help prepare our young students for the ever-changing future that awaits them.

Currently some of the projects going on under the guidance of Ms. Leavy and Ms. Seto are as follows:

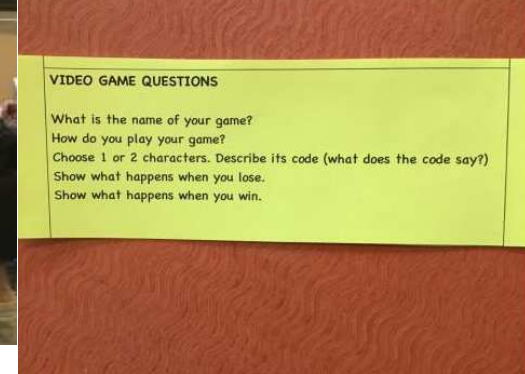
Ms. Leavy and Division 5 is working on designing a bridge that will support 1kg. Students are led through the design process,





taught about the various styles of bridges and then work in teams to create their own bridge. Upon completion of design, the design is tested and then students reflect on the process and whether they met the design challenge goal of supporting the weight. Below are some of the projects:

Coding is the new literacy! Over the past month, Grades 2 and 3's have been exploring the world of video game design using the platform Scratch Jr with Ms. Seto. By coding their own game, students began to hone their problem solving, logical thinking, pattern recognition and sequencing abilities — skills that are essential in programming. Inspired by Crossy Road and Space Attack, students were able to integrate their personalities into to their very own game!



Artist in Residence Studio Program

We are fortunate this year at Henderson to have 6 classes selected to participate in the AIRS program. This program helps bring in a local professional artist to the school community to work collaboratively with teachers and provide meaningful hands-on visual arts engagement for our students.



We are working with local artist Alanna Ho. She has completed her sessions with two of our Grade 6/7 classes and is currently working with two of our Grade 4 classes.

All four classes are participating in activities that engage their emotions and senses to create as they listen and interpret music. The kids are learning about the concept of *deep listening*—a practice coined by composer Pauline Oliveros that requires them to mindfully engage with their surroundings with purpose and an explorative mindset. From mimicking the tempo of the body's pulse; to weaving along to different genres and languages in music; to following aural engagements from their peers; to drawing sound maps as a meditation -- the students are being prepared to take their explorations in sound and material to the outdoors in the coming

weeks.

SNOW CLOSURE

Winter is upon us and in the event of unsafe weather conditions (e.g. snow), a CLEAR ANNOUNCEMENT stating that schools are closed will be provided by 6:00 a.m. to local radio stations.

CKNW (980 AM)

CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM)

CBC RADIO (690 AM, 105.7 FM)

BCTV/Global (cable channel 11)

FAIRCHILD Radio (CJVB AM 1470/CKHG FM 96.1)

CITY TV (cable channel 13)

In Addition, Information on snow closures will be available online at www.vsb.bc.ca



Mark Your Calendars

- ❖ February 24th – Pink Shirt Day
- ❖ February 25th – PAC Meeting
- ❖ March 1st – Return of Option 4 students to In Person Instruction
- ❖ March 15th to 26th – Spring Break – No School



South Van Neighbourhood House – Food Hub

Our local Peace Church, at 659 E 52nd Avenue, has been designated as the Food Hub for the SVNH Food Hub Program. The Food Hub will provide weekly customized grocery boxes that reflect household size and dietary or cultural preferences and will include pantry staples as well as perishables.

The model SVNH has chosen for equitable food access, while meeting nutritional needs, aims to build relationships and opportunity for community participation with an aim to increase household food security, reduce social isolation and enhance support networks for marginalized community members.

Registration is required. Contact Julie Diesta at Julie.diesta@southvan.org or at 604-324-6212, ext. 143. This program starts on February 18, 2021.

New Masks

Thank you for continuing with the COVID Daily Health Checks. Henderson has received new student masks with built-in Nano filters. These have been distributed to all in school students.

