



Director of Instruction: Mr. Richard Zerbe
Principal: Ms. Harjinder Sandhu
Vice Principal: Mr. Aaron Singh
Acting VP Ms. Jenny Chin Petersen
PAC Chairperson: Melissa Hayward-Cheung
School Liaison Trustee: Ms. Janet Fraser



Welcoming In 2021!

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2021! Coming back from the break well rested and energized, we made the smooth transition back into classroom routines. Teachers are planning, collaborating and implementing a variety of learning activities for their classes. The start of the new calendar year is also a busy time for us in the office as we already have started thinking about the next school year. Our grade seven students and families are in the process of making decisions about high school. Registration for choice programs is in full swing and we are starting to look at the school organization for the next year.

This term, classrooms are buzzing with learning, goal setting and integrating calendar events that contribute to classroom learning. This year has been full of challenges because of the pandemic we find ourselves in, but staff continue to teach and guide students on their educational journey. There are so many exciting activities happening that each month we will try to highlight the learning we see all around us. Please remember to check out the Henderson Hawks Channel on TEAMS with your child, the school website www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/john-henderson/Pages/default.aspx, classroom communication and our twitter account [@HendrsonElem1](https://twitter.com/HendrsonElem1) to keep up to date. If you can't find the information you are looking for please call us in the office and we will be happy to help. We really think it's important you get to see and know about all the wonderful experiences that are occurring in our school inside and outside of the classrooms!



Happy Lunar New Year

February 12, 2021 marks the beginning of this year's Lunar New Year celebrations for the Year of the Ox. The term Lunar New Year refers to the first day of the New Year that is associated with the cycles of the moon.

What is the Chinese Lunar Calendar?

The Chinese Calendar is a lunisolar calendar. It integrates the revolution of the Earth around the Sun and the movement of the Moon around the Earth. A month begins at the day of the new moon or invisible Moon and ends at the day before the next new moon. The full moon is either on the 15th or 16th of the month. A Chinese year can have 12 or 13 lunar months.

Lunar New Year is traditionally celebrated in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Mauritius and the Philippines. It is also celebrated in Australia, Canada and anywhere people from these Asian countries now call home.

Traditions, customs and ways of celebrating this holiday vary depending on where families live and have lived. Often, families gather on New Year's Eve for a large family meal. It is also traditional for every family to thoroughly clean the house, in order to sweep away any ill-fortune and to make way for incoming good luck. Windows and doors are decorated with red colour paper-cut and couplets with popular themes of: good fortune, happiness, wealth and longevity. Other activities include lighting firecrackers and giving money in red paper envelopes.

It is one of the world's most prominent and celebrated festivals. <https://vancouverbestplaces.com/chinese-new-year-vancouver/>

Remembering One of Our Beloved Henderson Teachers



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our colleague and teacher Ms. Lisa Terepocki. Ms. Terepocki was a passionate and loving teacher who became a part of the Henderson Community 4 Years ago. After a courageous 15 month battle with cancer, she passed away on December 13th, surrounded by her family and husband. Ms. Terepocki loved being a teacher, and in her memory the school will donate some beautiful picture books to the Henderson library.

UNDERSTANDING RACISM

As principal of Henderson School I want to acknowledge protests taking place across North America which put the spotlight on racism, not only in the United States but here in Canada and around the world. I bring this up now as we have just observed Martin Luther King Day as it is celebrated in the United States and as we approach Black History Month.

These events highlight the importance of ongoing work and intentional focus on the issues of racism and discrimination within our schools and our broader communities. At the Board level, several important actions have been taken to further racial awareness and redress issues of colonialism and systemic racism that exist within our larger society.

As a District, we have an intentional focus on equity within our work. As a District we are committed to:

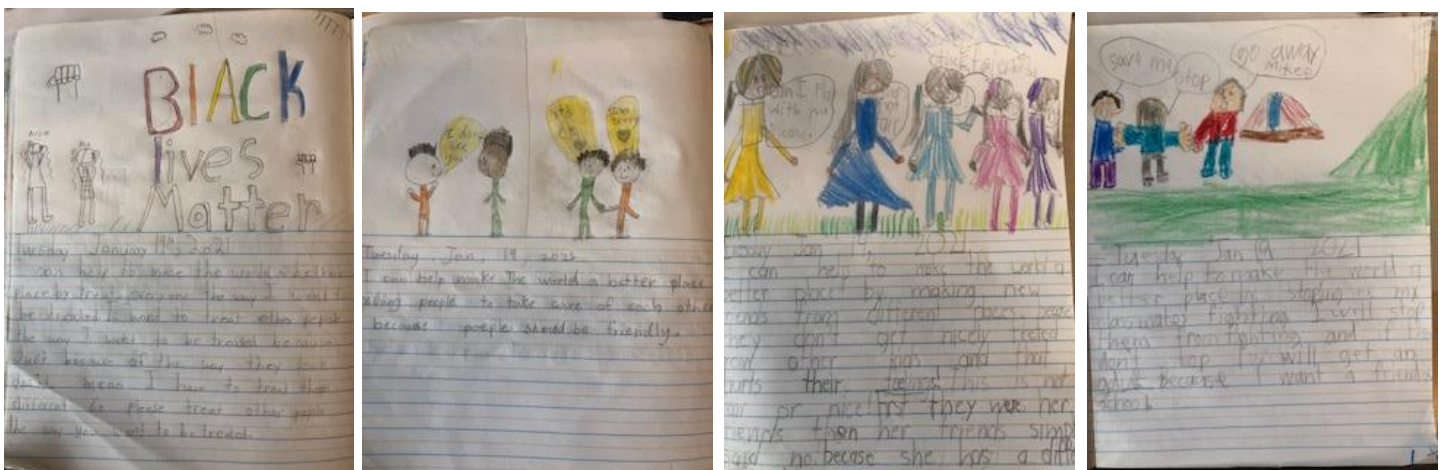
- Creating a culture of care and shared social responsibility.
- Fostering safe and caring schools that promote mutual respect and safe, inclusive, equitable and welcoming school environments.
- Explicitly addressing racism and teaching about anti-racism.

At Henderson we work to ensure all staff and students feel safe, valued and included. As a school community we strive to not only embrace and celebrate our diversity, but work towards equity.

Like many of you, the topic of racism and discrimination is a part of my story. We are fortunate in our community to have a diverse staff, so that our students can see themselves reflected in 'their role models'. It is not a perfect system, but we are ahead of many other communities. My journey in education has been about making sure all people and stories are represented within our schools. I too am trying to process what will be my role as we move forward, helping give voice to the unheard and helping our community understand what is happening and what we can do to build a stronger society where we all feel we have and do have the same opportunities to succeed.

Thank you for all you do and will continue to do to support and nurture our children to value all human life. We will need to continue to work together to uplift each other, to obtain true equality and heal as a society.

I have been inspired by the conversations that have been happening within our school and the thoughtful ideas and stories shared by our students. Hearing our children gives me great hope for a brighter future.



TALKING TO OUR CHILDREN – becoming ANTI-RACIST

As we look to instill the skills of critical thinking, empathy and compassion in our children, we want to be able to talk to them about topics that might be difficult for us or complex to say the least. Right now, all around us we are witnessing events that are pushing discussions of racial inequality to the forefront. It is important that our discussions include first-hand accounts and stories from Black, Indigenous, and people of colour. We need to read these books by diverse authors from their perspectives to deepen our understanding and empathy for their experiences and histories. We want to make sure that we are not unintentionally perpetuating stereotypes and tokenism. Part of our discussion should also include questions about how we see people of colour portrayed in the media.

Equally important, at this time, in our discussions is to acknowledge that we all have our own biases, based on our own histories. Students need to know about their own family histories. We need to be able to discuss the contributions and challenges of not only the cultural groups we identify with, but also those that make up our community.

And lastly, we want to equip our students with the skills to be agents of change. If we truly value equality for all, we need to teach our children to be active and not bystanders when they see injustices around them. Of course, these discussions are always conducted in age-appropriate ways, and go deeper as our students grow older. But we also know these discussions need to start early.

All of these steps will help us build our skills to work towards becoming antiracist.



If you are interested in sharing diverse stories at home and starting discussions, below are a list of books you might want to consider:

Books:

Coming On Home Soon by Jacqueline Woodson

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World by Vashti Harrison

Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History by Vashti Harrison

Brown Girls Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis



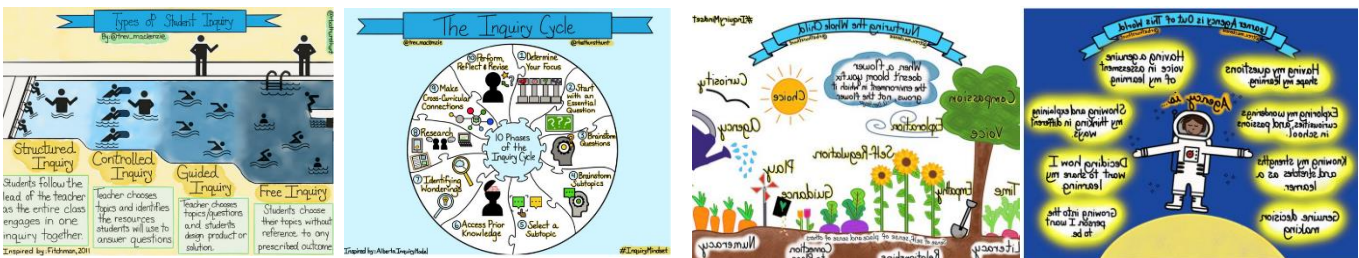
Communicating Student Learning

Families will be receiving the Mid-Year Report Card so that we can keep you informed on how your child's learning is progressing. Hopefully you are staying engaged with what is happening in the classroom through family discussions, samples of learning sent home and visits to the class and school TEAMS channels. Thank you again for continuing to support your child's learning by monitoring studies at home (home reading, writing programs, math and projects). When the school and home can work together our children benefit.

On February 10th and 11th students will be dismissed at 2:00pm so that families can once again spend some time meeting with their child's teachers to review progress. Teachers value the home school partnership as working together can only benefit student learning. Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives -- parents, teachers, and other family and community members -- work together to encourage and support them. Schools alone cannot address all of a child's developmental needs: The meaningful involvement of parents and support from the community are essential. You should be receiving a Conference request form in the next two weeks. If you do not receive one please check with your child's teacher or call us in the office.



Inquiry Based Learning



What is Inquiry Based Learning? Inquiry based learning is a learning and teaching approach that emphasizes students' questions, ideas and observations. Teachers actively encourage students to share their thoughts and to respectfully challenge, test and redefine ideas. At Henderson, we as a staff are lucky to have started to work with master teacher Trevor MacKenzie to dig deeper into our learning on Inquiry.

This year our school inquiry question is: **What educational practices and strategies might we implement to increase student engagement, student choice and student voice?** Also we will continue to work on the district focus on Indigenous Education. Our inquiry goal in this area is: **How can we make First Peoples teaching and learning more authentic? How best can we Indigenize Henderson School?** All of our classes will be working hard on these goals in addition to all of the other areas of the curriculum and core competencies.

COVID Protocols Reminders

Please remember that we are prioritizing safety, and we ask you to please follow the safety protocols and routines we have established. Here is a reminder of what we are asking of you:

- Please make sure you are completing the Daily Health Check. If you have any of the symptoms, please follow the instructions and stay home.
- We encourage everyone in the community to wear a mask.
- Please remain two meters away from those not in your Learning Group.
- Parents/Guardians and volunteers are not permitted into the building at this time. (Appointments may be made with the principal under special circumstances).
- Parents/Guardians, please do not walk through classes/Learning Groups.
- Whenever possible please use the public sidewalk instead of the school path. We are using all of the school paths and areas to spread out our students.
- Please do not gathering on the playground after school.
- Please send your child to school with everything they need for the day. There is no drop off of lunches or water bottles permitted at this time. A change of clothes for all students is also a good idea.
- There is no food sharing.
- Students go outside every day.

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 on line at www.vsb.bc.ca



Kindergarten Registration is Open

Children attend Kindergarten in the same year that they turn **five years old**.

The first step for everyone is to register with your neighbourhood [English catchment school](#)—regardless of whether you plan to send your child there.

Key Dates

- **November 1 to the last weekday of January** is the deadline for priority enrolment for children attending Kindergarten for the following September.
 - **Note:** Sibling Priority for Kindergarten admission is only provided to students who register between November 1 - January 31. Sibling priority is not provided after January 31.
- **January 11 to February 3** is the [Choice Application](#) process.
- **February 1 - February 28** is the period for [Cross Boundary Application](#).



1 Apply Online

Registration Process

If your child was born in Canada, complete the online form, before bringing in your supporting documents.

Step 1: **Complete an online application form**

Step 2: Verifying Documentation



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents

• **Contact** your English Catchment School Office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation

- **Bring supporting documentation** to your English catchment school office during your scheduled appointment

The following original documents must be presented at your catchment school to complete your application:

- Proof of British Columbia residency
- The original birth certificate of the child
- Applicable Immigration/Citizenship/Permanent Resident Documentation
- Immunization Records if available

[Note: Some schools may request additional identification as proof of residency.]

If your child was born outside of Canada, you will need to go to the [VSB District - Newcomer Welcome Centre](#) and complete the initial registration there.

NOTE: Some English catchment schools do not have space for all catchment students even if you apply before the January 31 deadline. In these cases, there will be a draw for student placement in the first several months of the New Year and the school will contact you.

For more information about the following, please click the appropriate link.



- [Sibling Priority](#)
- [Annex and Main School Catchments](#)
- [School Draws and Waitlists](#)
- [Kindergarten Enrolment Timelines](#)

Find out more by reading our [frequently asked questions](#)

Please refer to [Administrative Procedure 300](#) (Admission of Students to School and School Choice) for more details about enrolment procedures.

I want to apply for a choice program:

Parents **must** register at their neighbourhood English catchment school from November to end of January before applying for Kindergarten Choice programs.

Please visit the [Kindergarten Choice Programs](#) page for more information.



Where can I get more information or help if I run into any difficulties?

If you have any questions or need additional information about the application processes, you can check out our [frequently asked questions](#).

As always, for assistance with the application process, or the online choice program application process, you can contact your neighbourhood English catchment school. They will be happy to assist you.

How do I prepare my child for kindergarten?

View our brochure, [Preparing for Kindergarten, Building Confident Learners](#)



Mark Your Calendars



- ❑ **January 22nd** – Pajama Day – sponsored by Student Leadership Team – School team building activity by having a fun theme day! (**Please do not send toys/stuffies**)
- ❑ **January 29th** - Report Cards go Home
- ❑ **February 10th** – **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** - Communicating Learning Conferences
- ❑ **February 11th** - **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** - Communicating Learning Conferences
- ❑ **February 12th** – Pro-D Day – **No School** for students
- ❑ **February 15th** – Family Day – **No School** – Enjoy the day with your family!
- ❑ **March 1st** – Return of Option 4 students to In Person Instruction
- ❑ **March 15th to 26th** – Spring Break – **No School**