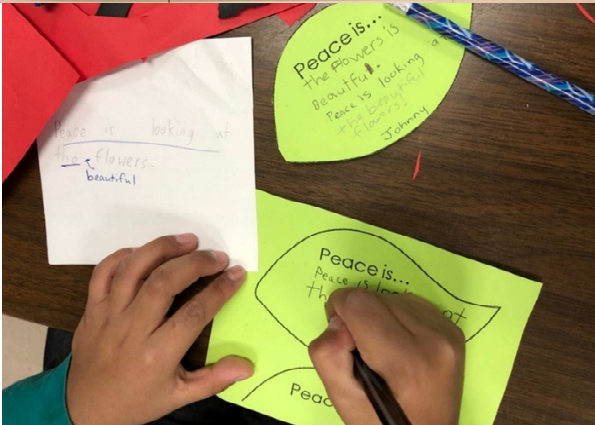




Director of Instruction: Mr. Richard Zerbe
 Principal: Ms. Harjinder Sandhu
 Vice Principal: Mr. Aaron Singh
 Acting VP Ms. Jenny Chin-Petersen
 PAC Chairperson: Melissa Hayward-Cheung
 School Liaison Trustee: Ms. Janet Fraser

Lest We Forget



On November 11th we took a moment to think of those that have made sacrifices and those who continue to do so to make the world a better place for all. We remember those that lost their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. We remembered how they demonstrated social responsibility and worked to improve the quality of our lives, striving to make the world a more peaceful place. Hopefully, this will also make us think about what we too can do to make this world a better place for all people, no matter where in the world they live.

During our Remembrance Day assembly this year, we had to meet online, but tried to maintain our school traditions. This set the tone for our quiet, reflective and respectful assembly. During this time, and at other gathering, we discussed the contributions of Canada, Canadians and of the various cultural groups that make up our great country that are often forgotten.

Below is one of the poems that was shared only as a slide. It is written by an Indigenous Carleton University Student named Brittany Amell, which she shared in 2015 at their Remembrance Day Ceremony.

The Heart of Bravery by Brittany Amell

As we pause together in silence today, let us find some stillness and breath.
 And within that breath
 And within that silence
 Let us listen.

-- I have been taught that the greatest weapon of a warrior is not a weapon
 but a way of being.
 A way of being kind
 Noble
 Compassionate
 And brave.

And I have been taught that
 The warrior who is brave
 Is a warrior who practices bravery
 Not only in grand, sweeping actions
 But in those small moments that ask us to open our hearts and
 To stay open in the face of whatever it is
 That makes us want to close shut.

So, in our breath
 And in our silence,
 May we take courage.
 May we take courage from our ancestors' big and small acts of
 bravery
 These acts which remind us to live our own.

Learning About Diwali

Diwali (in Hindi) or Deepavali (in Tamil) is the Hindu Festival of Lights. The name originally comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, meaning a row of lights. Wherever Diwali is being celebrated, you will see shops, houses and public places decorated with small, earthenware, oil lamps known as diyas. They are usually placed in rows on windowsills and outside buildings as decorations.

Diwali is celebrated around the world by people who follow the Hindu religion. Many non-Hindu Indian families from the Jain, Buddhist and Sikh religions have often joined in and made this a more widely celebrated festival. Sikh's celebration is Bandi Chhor Divas an historic event of the Sixth Guru Hargobind being released from prison by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir who freed 52 other kings with him. This year Diwali celebrations were in October.

The Meaning of Diwali-The Festival of Lights, as with most ancient legends, helps us to know the truth of victory, of good over evil, but more specifically for Hindus at this time, it means to understand the meanings behind each of the *five days of Diwali*. It specifically commemorates the return of Lord Rama to his kingdom Ayodhya, at the end of his exile which lasted for 14 years.

At Henderson we took the occasion as an opportunity to learn a little bit more about our South Asian community and our/their customs.



Earthquake Preparedness

Each year in October and May schools participate in Earthquake Simulation Drills. The VSB Emergency Preparedness Earthquake Simulation Drill occurs later this Spring. It is helpful for us to go through these drills so that we are prepared in case of a real emergency. It is also good for you as a family to review what your home plan is should an earthquake hit. Perhaps you would even like to have your own "Earthquake Drill" and let us know how it goes!



DIY Earthquake Survival Kit

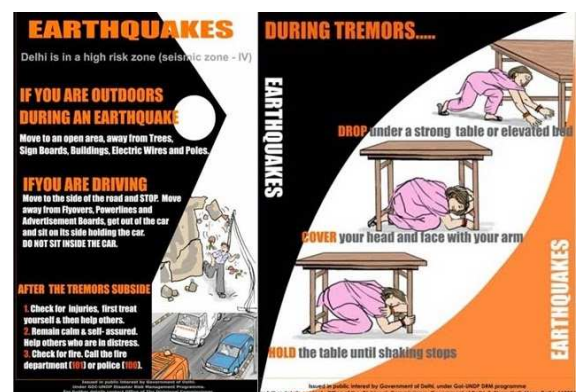
There are many great resources out there to support you. Here are a few web-based ones:

www.earthquakecountry.org/sevensteps/

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-the-risks/earthquakes>

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/preparedbc/eparedbc_household_preparedness_guide_web_final_2015.pdf

#EarthquakePreparedness

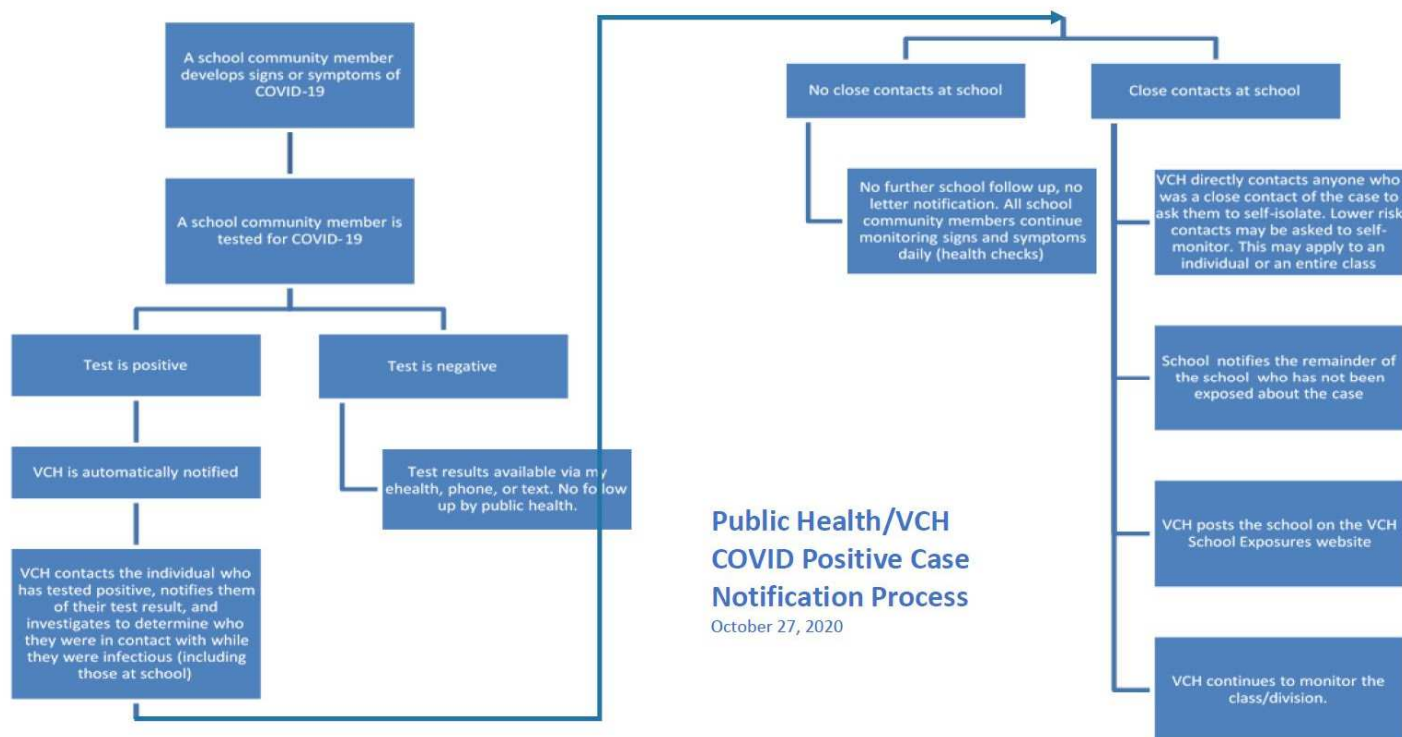


COVID Protocols and Updates

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.
- Anyone in Grade 6 or older needs to be wearing a mask in common areas. If you, as a parent/guardian, need to come onto the school grounds, please wear a mask.
- We have the classes divided into school Learning Groups and try our best to keep them separate. Please remain two meters away from those not in your Learning Group.
- Parents/Guardians are not in learning groups. For this reason, we ask you to drop your child off at the entrance closes to their class line up spot. We do not want parents/guardians walking 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.
- While there is a Provincial Health Order for “no gathering” please make sure you are leaving as soon as you have picked up your children at dismissal and you do not arrive before 8:45am for drop off in the morning. We should not have families 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 at this time so please do not send ‘treats’ too school. It is difficult for children to resist sharing treats.
- Because we need students to eat in classrooms and we need to clean high touch surfaces during lunch time, students must go outside so please make sure they are dressed for the cold, rain and maybe snow.
- We also strongly encourage you to follow all Provincial Health Orders. Currently we are asked not to socialize with anyone outside our own home. This means we cannot go out visiting family and friends. Nor can family or friends come visit our home. We are fortunate that most of us have access to phones and video calling to stay connected with those we love and miss. We know it is tough, but please hang in there. We all need to do our part to keep ourselves and those around us safe.

COVID Case Communication



Do you have a child born in 2016?

Kindergarten registration started on November 1st

All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an online application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs and/or a cross boundary placement. Children who were born outside of Canada need to apply through the Newcomer Welcome Centre link in the online registration application.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opened on **Friday, November 1st and closes at 4pm on Friday, January 31st**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

In a few Vancouver schools there may be more in-catchment applicants than the school can accommodate. In this event, applicants who applied within the priority registration period (Nov 1 to Jan 31) will be included in a draw for available spaces. Students with siblings already in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be given priority ahead of the draw.

When registering your child please bring:

- Proof of residence in Vancouver (Property tax statement, or tenancy agreement)
- Child's birth certificate, showing both parents names'
- Immigration documentation (if applicable)
- Immunization records

For more information on Kindergarten registration please visit:

<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

Kindergarten Registrations Received Between November 1st and February 1st:

In-catchment Kindergarten registrants who have a sibling currently attending and who will continue to attend their in-catchment school in 2021-22 **will be enrolled first**.

The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered in a **random draw, should one be necessary**, for the remaining Kindergarten spaces. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in numbered order.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER February 1st:

All in-catchment Kindergarten registrations received **after** February 1st will be added to the existing waitlist by date and time of application. **Please Note:** There will be no priority given to registrants with siblings already attending Henderson after February 1st.

Applications for Choice Programs

The district offers a variety of choice programs including French Immersion, Mandarin Immersion, Fine Arts, Aboriginal Focus School, International Baccalaureate and Montessori. Further information can be found at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kchoice>.

If you are planning to apply for Choice Program(s) you still need to register for kindergarten at your Neighbourhood catchment school first. The online application process for Choice Programs opens on January 13th, 2021 and closes on February 4, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

There will be a district supervised draw to select applicants for the available program space. Offers for program spaces will be made by late February. You will be given a formal offer of a space in a Kindergarten choice program or an indication of where you sit on the waitlist.