



NORQUAY SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Norquay Community:

It is hard to believe that October is already upon us and hopefully we will get some relief from the rain so that students can get outside before the winter rains set in for the long haul. The school year has gotten off to a good start and it has been a very busy and exciting one here at Norquay. Our first PAC meeting; Kindergarten Gradual Entry; Orange Shirt Day; Meet the Staff Morning; Cross-Country Running club and Photo Day are just some of the events that have occurred this September.

We are pleased to announce that we have a full complement of Teaching staff having just hired Ms. Desiree Mok to be our Early Mandarin Bilingual Resource Teacher. Ms. Mok is replacing Ms. Weng who is on Parental leave until January. We look forward to quickly filling three Student and School Worker (SSW) positions that are currently posted. SSW's work in classrooms supporting teachers to meet both the needs of the whole class and individual students. On the last page of the newsletter is our updated Staff list.

One big request from the office is that you return to your child's teacher the Student Information package that was sent home last week. The personal information ensures that we have the most recent contact information in the event we need to contact you. Please remember to update the office any time your contact information changes. Included in the package were the school fees for your child's class. Again please return the requested funds to your classroom teacher as soon as possible. If there is any concern with the fees please contact the office.

We are very pleased with our September Startup and know that this good start has set the whole school up for a very positive year. Just a reminder that our School Goal of Numeracy has all classes focusing on 'tracking and promoting math fluency skills to improve basic number sense for our diverse learners resulting in deeper understanding.' You can support your child at home by practicing your child's recall of addition and/or multiplication facts. Two simple ways would be with Flash Cards or simple oral response to your questions. The main thing is to make it fun and enjoyable

As renewed last year the newsletter will be sent home electronically. If you wish to receive a hard copy, there will be some available in the main hall of the school. Our newsletters are also posted on the school website: www.norquay.vsb.bc.ca and continue to follow school events on Twitter @norquaytweets

Tim Krug and Teena Smith

Lunchroom Routines for Safety and Independence

Thank you to parents and grandparents for helping us promote independence for our students. Below is a reminder to students about lunchtime expectations:

- **Feed yourself** * **Clean your area** * **Listen to school staff**

Students are to remain at their table or area until a Supervision Aide dismisses the table. This will be at 12:20 so that all students remain seated and are not just heading outside without eating their lunches. Students may stay at their table or area till 12:30 but will then be moved to another table so cleaning can begin. Thanks for your support in our lunch area.

School Hours

8:55	Warning bell
9:00	Instruction begins
10:30-10:50	Recess
12:10-12:55	Lunch
1:00	Instruction begins
3:00	Dismissal

School Code of Conduct

Be Kind, Be Safe, and Be the Best Learner and Leader You Can Be (No matter your age)

Director of Instruction-Field Services:

Mr. Aaron Davis

Liaison Trustee: Mr. Fraser Ballantyne

Principal: Mr. Tim Krug

Vice Principal: Ms. Teena Smith

Rainy Day Clothing

Regardless of the weather becoming increasingly cold and wet, children love to play outdoors and be active during recess and lunch hour, as they should! It is important that children are dressed appropriately for outside play. If their clothes become wet and cold, it is very difficult for them to focus on learning throughout the day. Please ensure that your child is dressed for outside play. If they are not, they will be directed to spend their recess or lunch hour indoors. We have activity options for them indoors such as gym games, board games and our library is sometimes open for reading and quiet activities. If needed

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Mission Statement

John Norquay Elementary School will support ALL students to continue being lifelong learners and invaluable citizens in a learning environment that is supported by ALL staff, parents, guardians, and members of our community.

Parent Teacher Conferences

One of the most important events in October are our Parent Teacher Conferences. Goal setting conferences will be taking place **Wednesday, October 24th and Thursday, October 25h**. Conference request forms will be sent home shortly. **Parents please note the 2:00pm dismissal time on both of these days!** Thank you to those families who are able to spend time in conversation with their child's classroom teachers in reviewing progress and setting goals for learning. 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. We look forward to seeing you later this month.

Emergency Student Reunification Forms

Students should have brought home our Emergency Reunification forms this past week. Due to the importance of these forms we chose to send them home separately so as not to be mixed in with the other school forms. These forms will be held in our Earthquake Bin and used to safely and securely release students if we were to experience an actual Earthquake. We sent home with each student but **families only need to return one form with all their children listed on that one form. On Oct. 18th we will be participating in Shakeout BC.** A practice EQ drill done throughout BC. This will **only involve students and staff** practicing Drop Cover Hold procedures in their classes. The **District Earthquake Drill is to be held on Thursday May 2 at 2:00.** More information will be sent home in April in regards to what the focus of the district drill will be.



Terry Fox Run: Friday Oct. 12 @ 1:30

We will be holding our Terry Fox Run on Friday October 12th at 1:30. The Terry Fox Run is one of the most important school events of the year and is the major fundraiser for the Terry Fox Foundation. Thanks in advance for your contributions to support our Run and the memory of Terry Fox.

We will be collecting donations on the following days:

Tues. Oct. 9: Silver Coins Donation Day

Wed. Oct. 10: Loonie Donation Day

Thurs. Oct. 11: Toonie Donation Day

Friday. Oct. 12: All Donations accepted.

Families are welcome to join us as we run through the community and around the school in support of Terry and the legacy he has left us.

BC SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce our school will be continuing the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program which is sponsored by B.C. Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and ActNowBC. Norquay is involved in a province-wide healthy living initiative. One of the goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh B.C. Fruit and Vegetables to the students during classroom time. The students will receive fresh picked fruit and ready to enjoy produce 13 times over the school year at no charge. For any inquiries about this program, please contact the school.

Parent Corner and PAC events

Thanks to the many parents who attended our first Parent Meeting of the year. Lots of information has been shared, great plans made, and new connections are forming! We hope to have this kind of turn out for future meetings. This is your opportunity to come and meet other parents, hear about upcoming events in the school, support school planning and to ask any questions you may have.

There is **no PAC Meeting scheduled for October as PAC will be hosting a Halloween Dance/Social on the evening of Friday, Oct. 26th in the gym from 5:00 to 8:00.** Hope you can join us for this fun filled evening. **Our next PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday Nov.21 at 6:00 in the Library and Childcare will be provided.**

For more PAC info. go to the website at

<https://norquaypac.ca>

Orange Shirt Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On Friday Sept. 28 we held our Orange Shirt Day to acknowledge the treatment of Phyllis Webstad, who as a 6 year old girl had her orange shirt taken off her as she entered Residential School and never returned. Ms. Tiare Laporte, our Indigenous Education Worker, provided an **Indigenous Acknowledgment** and then led our classes in a Round Dance. The gravel field was covered in Orange Shirts as students and staffed joined Ms. Laporte in performing the Dance. The afternoon ended with Ms. Laporte singing the Coast Salish anthem and Norquay school pledging to learn and then sing the anthem on National Indigenous Day in June.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS!

“Let us acknowledge that we proudly live and work on the traditional lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish People” - VSB

Some friendly reminders:

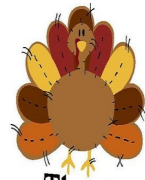
Just a reminder that **adults are not to use the student washrooms located in the basement and on the main and top floors. These are for students only.**

If you need to use a washroom please **come to the office and we can direct you to the Adult washroom** located on the main floor just down the hallway from the office.

Also, the lunchroom area is used by **Daycare afterschool** so all students **must exit this area by 3:30.** Parents may meet their children in this area but should be out of the lunchroom by 3:30 as no school supervision is occurring after 3:15.

Norquay Garden Update:

I was pleased to attend the **Think and Eat Green Celebration** held at the Vancouver School Board on Friday Sept. 21. Along with Ms. Val Kao, PAC Garden Coordinator, I was able to learn about upcoming initiatives and how other school gardens are developing. Norquay continues to be the **largest Elementary school garden** with our 18 boxes and we clearly have some of the most dedicated parent, staff and student volunteers in the District. This event showcased all of the gardens in the District and allowed the volunteers to share their successes and identify areas in which more support could be provided to further enhance the learning opportunities and experiences for our student gardeners.



Happy Thanksgiving

Victoria Ballet at Norquay

On Oct. 1, Divisions 15-29 had the opportunity to enjoy a performance by Ballet Victoria. We learned many types of dance and the amount of training required! It was beautiful to watch and amazing to see their athleticism. Students were given the opportunity to hear about each dancer and ask them questions. Truly an opportunity many of us would not have the chance to experience. Our next performance is on November 29th for Divisions 1-14 with Karima Essa: Bollywood Star.

Before and Afterschool Reminder

Just a reminder that staff supervision starts at 8:40 so students should not be arriving before that time unless they are participating in a club or sports team. If on occasion that an early drop off is necessary please let the office know so that we can ensure that supervision is in place.

Afterschool we have Staff supervision until 3:15. After that time if a child is not picked up we ask them to report to the office so we can ensure that they do have someone coming for them and they can wait safely outside the office.

Thanks for your support in these areas

October 19th Pro-D Opportunity: The Vancouver Secondary Schools Athletice Association is offering Volleyball and Basketball camps on this Pro D Day for Grade 5-7 students. The Volleyball sessions are \$17.50 and are to be held at Van Tech High School and Prince of Wales High School. The Basketball Clinic will be at Tupper High School and is a full day from 9:00- 3:00 for \$35.00.

Register at www.vancouverchoolsports.ca Then access the Special Events Tab on the top right of the page.

Monday Oct. 8	Thanksgiving Day: School Closed
October 9/10/11/12	Terry Fox Donation Days
Friday Oct. 12	Terry Fox Run 1:30
Thursday Oct. 18	District Cross Country Meet at Trout Lake and BC Shakeout Earthquake Drill
Friday, Oct. 19	Provincial Pro D Day: No School For Students
Wed. October 24	Parent Teacher Conferences 2:00 Dismissal
Thursday Oct. 25	Parent Teacher Conferences 2:00 Dismissal
Friday Oct. 26	PAC Halloween Dance/Social 5:00– 8:00 in the Norquay Gym
Monday Oct. 29	Individual Student Photo Retakes
Tuesday Oct. 30	Immunizations for our Kindergartens and Grade 6 students needing innoculations
Wed. Oct. 31	Happy Halloween