



Director of Instruction: Mr. Christopher Wong

Principal: Ms. Harjinder Sandhu

Vice Principal: Ms. Amber Logie

PAC Chairperson: Ms. Melissa Hayward-Cheung and Ms. Monica Singh

School Liaison Trustee: Ms. Preeti Faridkot



Welcoming In 2023!

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2023! Our transition back from winter break has been relatively smooth. We have made a slight change to our lunch time routines. Students will have free play during the break and will now have mindful lunch with their teachers. We are hoping this will create a calmer situation for all students and teachers can help ensure students are finishing their lunch. Teachers are also busy planning, collaborating, and implementing a variety of learning activities for our students. The start of the new calendar year is also a busy time for us in the office as we have already 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. If you have a child starting kindergarten next year, you should have registered them by now. If you have not yet registered for kindergarten, please do so now.

This term, classrooms are buzzing with learning, goal setting, and integrating calendar events that contribute to classroom learning. 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, and classroom communication 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



January 22, 2023, marks the beginning of this year's Lunar New Year celebrations for the Year of the Water Rabbit. The term Lunar New Year refers to the first day of the New Year that is associated with the cycles of the moon. This holiday is traditionally a time to honour household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors. It is also a time to bring family together for feasting.

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 on the day of the new moon or invisible moon and ends on 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 coloured paper banners with couplets of good fortune, happiness, wealth, and longevity. Other activities include watching traditional dance (Lion Dance), lighting firecrackers, and giving money in red paper envelopes.

2023 is the Year of the Water Rabbit. The sign of the Rabbit is a symbol of peace, prosperity, and longevity in Chinese culture. 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope. People born in the Year of the Rabbit are said to be quick thinking, witty, ingenious, and courteous.

Recent/upcoming years of the Rabbit are: 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023 and 2035

Lunar New Year is one of the world's most prominent and celebrated festivals. Check out how you can celebrate this year around town! <https://vancouverbestplaces.com/chinese-new-year-vancouver/>

Robbie Burns Day – January 25th

Robbie Burns Day (or Rabbie Burns Day) is named after a Scottish poet who was born on January 25th in 1759. The day celebrates Burns's contribution to Scottish culture. His best-known work is Auld Lang Syne. The day is celebrated by the reading of his poetry, toasting him and hosting Burns Suppers on or near the date of his birthday.

The traditional Burns Supper begins with a soup course. This is usually a classic Scottish soup like Scotch broth, potato soup, Cullen skink (a thick Scottish soup made of smoked haddock, potatoes and onions) or cock-a-leekie (a soup dish consisting of leeks and peppered chicken stock). The highlight of the dinner is the serving of the haggis—a traditional Scottish pudding comprised of the heart, liver and lungs of a sheep diced with onions, oatmeal, suet, spices and salt, which has been cooked in a sheep's stomach.



Check out this list of events to celebrate Robbie Burns Day about town this year!

<https://vancouverbestplaces.com/events-calendar/january/robbie-burns-day-vancouver/>

There are many other celebrations and many other cultural practices to learn about. We share what we know from our experiences and what we have previously learned. If you celebrate events or cultural practices we might not be as familiar with or you would like to share a little more about your culture with the rest of us, please just contact Ms. Sandhu, hsandhu@vsb.bc.ca.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Over the last couple of years, social justice movements have brought equity issues back to our attention. I bring this up now as many schools in the lower mainland, Henderson included, will observe Black Excellence Day this week. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated in the United States this month on January 16th, and we are approaching Black History Month. January 27th is the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and January 29th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action Against Islamophobia.

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 have an equity statement:

The VSB will create an equitable learning environment where every child can experience a deep sense of belonging and is free to pursue pathways of learning in ways that are authentic to themselves. The VSB will achieve this by:

- having students see themselves and their communities in the curriculum and in the staff throughout the District;
- prioritizing student needs by making informed decisions and engaging in open communication with rightsholders and stakeholders; and
- actively fighting systems of oppression through relationship building, ongoing communication and transparency.

The VSB commitment to equity will be informed by humility and accountability.

More details about the goals and objectives can be found here:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/4996/education-plan-2026>

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. We know that representation is important, and we are fortunate to live and work in a diverse community with a diverse staff. We know that representation matters. Students want to see role models with whom they connect and see themselves represented. We have made a conscious effort to share books with diverse characters, written by diverse authors, that act as windows, mirrors and sliding doors. Through diverse stories students gain a better understanding of themselves and others. They see different ways of being and not just one perspective, the dominant culture, as the 'normal or right way' they need to strive to be. Students learn there are many ways of being and all of them are acceptable, normal and of value. When we don't have the opportunity to learn about each other, fear, misunderstanding, and hate can take root. But the more we learn about each other, the more familiar we are with each other's stories, we are more understanding, empathetic and supportive of each other. The more we all support each and every one of us, the better equipped we are to dismantle racism, oppression, and discrimination in our society.



Thank you for all you do and will continue to do to support and nurture the children in our care 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.

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. 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. We also need to acknowledge that we all have our own biases, based on our own lived 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.



These discussions need to be conducted in age-appropriate ways and go deeper as our students grow older, but we also know these discussions need to start early. Below is a list of books you might want to consider reading and sharing (These books can be found in our school library, the VPL, and many of these titles have been shared in read alouds on YouTube!).

[The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family](#) by Ibithaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali

[The Paper Kingdom](#) by Helena Ku Rhee

[Hot Pot Night!](#) By Vincent Chen

[Nana Aku Goes to School](#) by Tricia Elam Walker

[Sumu Joe](#) by Mia Wenjen

[The Paper Boat: A Refugee Story](#) by Thao Lam

[Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story](#) by Kevin Noble Maillard

[Priya Dreams of Marigolds and Masala](#) by Meenal Patel

[Drawn Together](#) by Minh Le

[The Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom](#) by Tereasa Robeson



The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh by Supriya Kelkar

Under My Hijab by Hena Khan

The Pinata that the Farm Maiden Hung by Samantha R. Vamos

Birdsong by Julie Flett

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales

Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry

Festival of Colors by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal

Honeysmoke A Story of Finding Your Color by Monique Fields

Where Are You From? By Yamile Saied Mendez

Mae Among the Stars by Roda Ahmed

Bilal Cooks Daal by Aisha Saeed

The Field by Baptise Paul

Early Sunday Morning by Denene Millner

Gurpreet Goes to the Gurdwara by Harman Singh Pandher

Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal

My Grandma and Me by Mina Javaherbin

The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander

Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao by Kat Zhang

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena



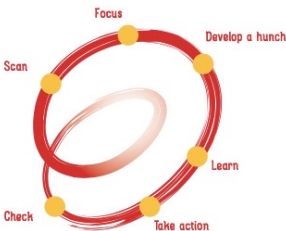
Communicating Student Learning

The first formal Report Card will be sent home on Monday, January 30th, informing you 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).

On February 22nd and 23rd students will be dismissed at 2:00pm so that families can once again spend some time meeting in person or on TEAMS with their child’s teachers to review progress and goals. Teachers value the home/school partnership; working together benefits student learning. Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives -- parents, caregivers, 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 caregivers, families and support from the community are essential. You will be receiving a Conference request form at the end of January. If you do not receive one then, please check with your child’s teacher or call us in the office.



School Plan 2021 to 2024



We have been working on a Social Emotional Learning goal this school planning cycle. Our inquiry question is: What educational practices, strategies, programs, and school-wide, common language might we implement to increase students’ skill development in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to better self-regulate and thus be more equipped to engage in learning? How can we make First Peoples teaching and learning more authentic?

Social Emotional Learning

This year our school inquiry question is: **What educational practices, strategies, programs, and school wide common language might we implement to increase students' skill development in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to better self-regulate and thus be more equipped to engage in learning? How can we make First Peoples teaching and learning more authentic?**

But What is SEL?

- It's a **PROCESS**
- It's a series of **competencies** (skills)
 - Recognize and **manage emotions**
 - Developing caring and **concern for others**
 - Establish positive **relationships**
 - Make responsible **decisions**
 - Handle **challenging situations**



Please check out the following link for parents/caregivers: [Aperture Education Parent Portal](#)

Healthy Habits



The Cold and Flu season continues to be upon us so thank you in advance for keeping your children home if they show signs of illness.

Please make sure you are completing the Daily Health Check. If you have any of the symptoms, please follow the instructions and stay home. You can also go to [COVID Check](#) on the BC government web site <https://covidcheck.gov.bc.ca> to use they symptom checker.

Continue to reinforce good personal hygiene: hand washing, along with covering coughs, sneezing into the inside of elbows, and using a tissue to clear noses properly. Also make sure students are dressed appropriately for playing outside in the cold and wet weather.



We encourage everyone to dress for the weather each day so they can enjoy their time in the fresh air outside. The snowy days were great! All students were engaged, excited and actively planning outside. No one complained about being cold or wet. Everyone was dressed for the weather. Now our goal is to do the same for every other day. It would be great if everyone was dressed appropriately to go out in the rain. Children have fun playing in puddles if they are wearing rain gear.

Food Support - Lunch boxes and snacks are being provided for students if families are experiencing challenges. Please contact Ms. Valerie Pomeroy (YFW), Ms. Lillie Rowell (ES-SSA) or Ms. Sandhu (principal) if you have any questions. However, we do ask families that are able to supply their child with a healthy snack and lunch, that you discuss with your child if enough food is being packed for them. This year there is an increasing number of students that are not on our meal program who are accessing our snack program. We are running low on supplies. We have no

problem supplying snacks and meals to those who need it however, our program is not set up to supply the whole school.

We ask that snacks and meals you do send are nutritional so that students' hunger is satisfied so they have enough energy for a busy day of learning and playing. If you are looking for some healthy lunch ideas, please check out this site: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthy-eating-physical-activity/food-and-nutrition/plan-shop-and-prepare/lunches-go>

The PAC coordinates a Hot Lunch program for families wishing to purchase a hot lunch. This program is a fundraiser and orders are placed online. If you wish to have your child participate but need assistance ordering, please contact Ms. Sandhu (principal).

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parents and Caregivers play an important role in the school and we encourage them to participate as much as they can. Henderson School is well supported by our PAC. The PAC provides wonderful support in many areas of the school— planning and organizing special events, fundraising for field trips and school needs, and communicating with parents, caregivers, and the school. They are always open to new members and welcome both new families and returning families to become involved. All PAC information can be found on the PAC website: www.hendersonpac.com

Upcoming meetings:

The PAC welcomes all parents and caregivers to monthly meetings throughout the school year. No RSVP needed to attend. Meetings are Mondays in the Nest (school library). Doors at open at 6:30 and childminding is provided.

Social time: 6:45pm

Meeting agenda: 7:00pm

- January 23, 2023
- February 27, 2023
- March - no meeting
- April 17, 2023
- May 15, 2023
- June 19, 2023 (AGM and elections)

Kindergarten Registration

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



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents

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

• **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 13th – Black Excellence Day – dress in black/ wear a black shirt
- January 16th – Pro-D Day – **No School** for students
- January 22nd – Lunar New Year
- January 23rd – PAC Meeting in the library @7:00 pm doors open at 6:30pm
- January 25th – Lunar New Year Lion Dance @ 2pm
- January 25th – Robbie Burns Day
- January 27th – International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- January 29th – National Day of Remembrance and Action to End Islamophobia
- January 30th – Report Cards go Home
- February 1st – Global Play Day
- February 17th – Pro-D Day – **No School** for students
- February 20th – Family Day – **No School** – Enjoy the day with your family!
- February 22nd – Pink Shirt Day – building awareness around bullying
- February 22nd – **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** - Communicating Learning Conferences
- February 23rd – **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** - Communicating Learning Conferences
- March 1st – Saleema Noon Educators Body Science Workshop for Caregivers
- March 3rd – Field Trip to World Rugby Sevens
- March 3rd/10th – Saleema Noon Educators Body Science Workshops for Students
- March 13^h to 24th – Spring Break – **No School**

Early Readers Book Club: Just the Facts

Thursdays,
January 12, 26, February 9, 23 & March 9th
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

South Hill Branch
6076 Fraser St,
Vancouver, V5W 2Z7



Discover the thrill of reading books and take part in activities with other kids. For Grades 1-3.

FREE
Contact 604.665.3965 to register.




VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

For more information: 604.665.3965 | [vpl.ca/events](#)
Join the conversation: [@VPL](#) [/vancouverpubliclibrary](#)

LEGO® Block Party

Last Saturday of the Month:
Jan 28th, Feb 25th, Mar 25th, Apr 29th, May 27th
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm


South Hill Branch
6076 Fraser Street



Drop in for some LEGO building fun at this block party! Connect with other kids and break out the bricks for a building bonanza at the library.

For Grades K-7

FREE
Drop-in.



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