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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



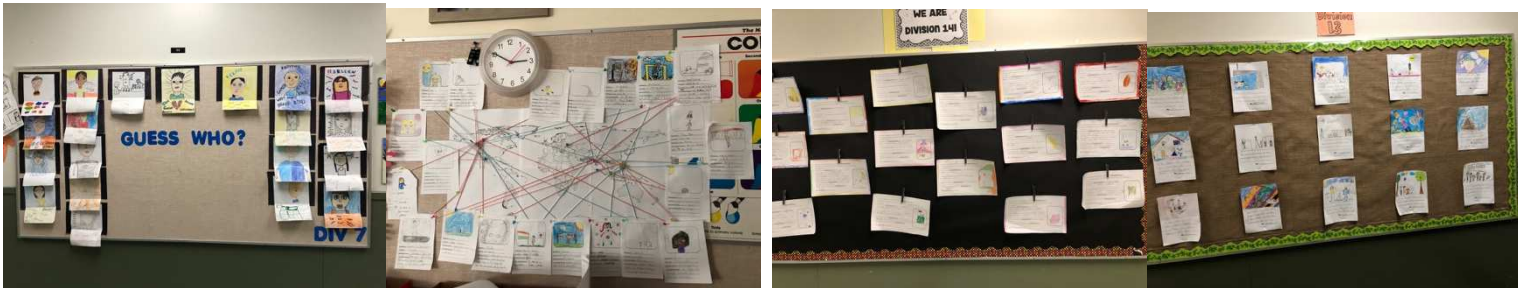
Staffing Changes for the 2021

The end of this calendar year also means the departure of some of our staff. Leaving us, in their current roles, at the end of the month are temporary contracted teachers Ms. Larissa Sulyma and Ms. Sarah Walker. Also leaving us will be Ms. Tanya Kos who will be moving schools. SSA Ms. Neetu Padda also moved on earlier this term. We thank them all for their contributions to the Henderson community and wish them all the best! Retiring this year from his role in schools is Mr. Howard Green. We wish him all the best as he starts a new chapter in his life, where we hope he will enjoy his newfound time to do the things he loves. They will be missed! We are welcoming to our staff in January two new teachers: Ms. Katie Smith (Grade 5, Division 5) and Mr. Kevan Chao (Kindergarten, Division 21). We also welcomed earlier this term teacher Ms. Vanessa Adebawale who works 2 days in Division 7 and SSA Mr. Fatih Havayiolglu in our ExSEL Program.

Learning About Ourselves and Each Other



Over the course of the year thus far, many classes have been involved in inquiries that have had them share details and stories about themselves. From Kindergarten to Grade Seven, various classes have engaged in identity inquiries. Our Grade 6/7 classes have dug deeper into their own identities. In addition to exploring identity at a surface level, they have dug deeper into their own identities by sharing personal artifacts, experiences, and investigating their social location. All of the awareness developed through inquiry learning helps us understand ourselves and understand others better. By learning about members of our community, we learn what makes us the same and how we are all uniquely different. We are better equipped to be more thoughtful, empathetic, collaborative and gentle with each other. We look forward to more of this exploration as a way to build a strong community, for the more we know, the more we can put our knowledge into action.



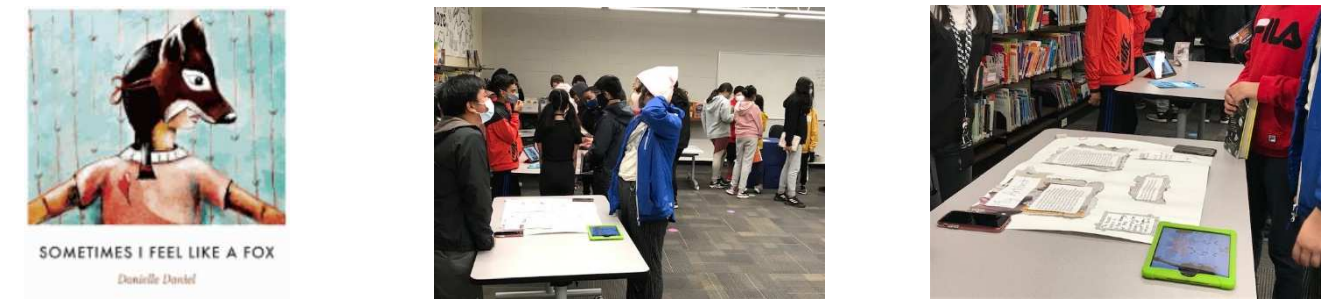
The Kindergarten classes have been exploring: family traditions, special things with family, colour of skin and naming. Teachers and students have been using parent questionnaires and the following great picture books to guide their inquiry: “Happy in Our Skin” by Fran Maushkin, “Brown – The Many Shades of Love” by Nancy Johnson James and Constance Moore and It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way by Kyo Maciear



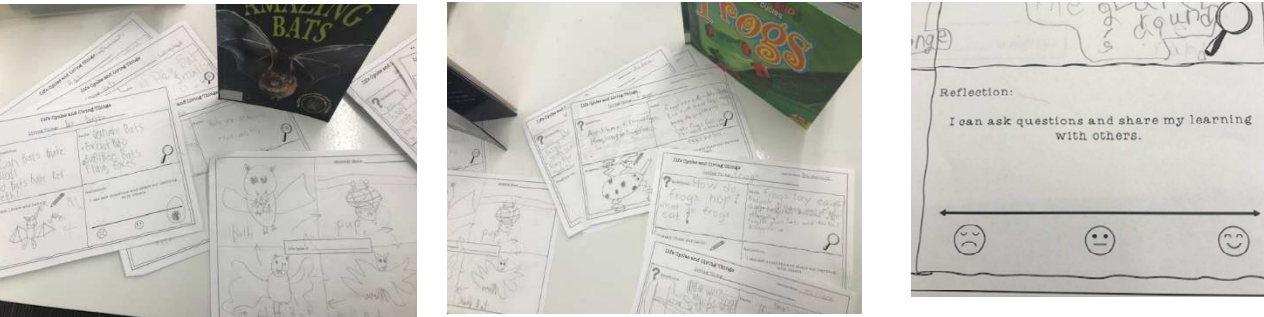
We are fortunate at that much of our identity inquiry has been supported by our Teacher Librarians both in and outside of the classroom.

This has been a busy first few months in the library with a huge focus on Personal and Social Competencies which are reflected in the following collaborative units! These are just some of the collaborative units Ms. Purewal has worked on with classes since September!

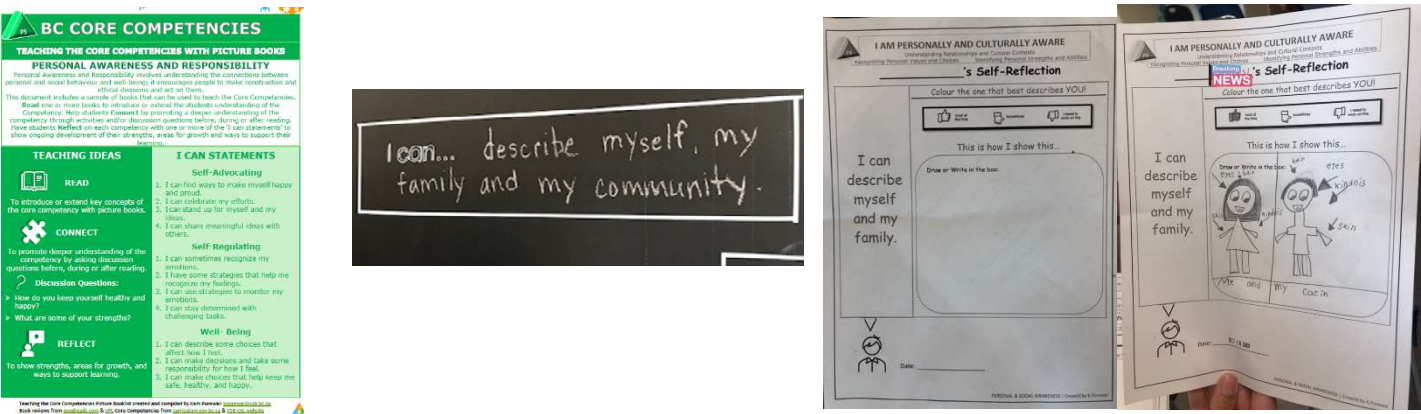
Div.1, 2, 3 Gr.6/7 classes with Mr. Wu, Ms. Jagpal and Ms. Bodnar have been working collaboratively with Ms. Purewal on their identity Inquiry. The students extended their understanding of Positive Personal and Cultural Identity and we started with the Indigenous book: **Sometimes I feel like a Fox by Danielle Daniel** and concluded with a gallery walk of the students Identity projects in the library.



Gr. 2 Div.14 Ms. Li's class has been using their critical thinking competencies and extending their learning as they learned about Bats and Frogs and will start their own Research on an Animal Lifecycles of their choice. I particularly enjoy the student reflection piece where they share what they learned!



Ms. Sumra's Div.15 Gr.2's and Ms. Purewal collaborated on teaching the Personal and Social Core Competencies. Every week the class would listen to various picture books to read, connect and reflect on their understanding of the Personal and Social Competencies. The students also learned how to share their learning by uploading their self-reflections through myBlueprint a digital portfolio! Please check out your child's myBlueprint: All About Me a student-friendly, interactive portfolio tool that allows K-7 students to reflect on their learning, showcase their growth, and share their achievements. They can easily navigate through the portfolio to explore occupations, write journal entries, set goals, and upload files, pictures, videos, drawings, and audio recording! If you have any questions, please ask Ms. Sumra or Ms. Purewal.



Henderson Leadership Team

Here at Henderson grade seven students have an opportunity to apply to contribute as a member of the school Spirit Leadership Team. This year there are eight members from Division 3, six from Div. 2 and eleven from Div. 1. These twenty-five students are learning leadership skills to prepare them for opportunities to guide others. They are working on how to execute a project by having a clear goal, devising a plan, working cooperatively, communicating effectively and setting timelines.

Their current project is:

John Henderson Virtual Food Drive

Hi Henderson!

We wanted you to know that Henderson School is having a food drive. But, due to COVID-19, we can't bring canned food into school. We can, instead, bring money. We ask that each student bring in at least \$1. This will help us reach our goal of \$500 easily! You can donate to your class cashbox or online. You can start donating online right away (just follow the link or scan the QR code below). We will be collecting until Friday, December 18. When we reach our goal, there will be a special treat, but we have to reach it first!

Sincerely,

Your Spirit Leadership Team



<https://vfd.foodbank.bc.ca/fundraiser/henderson>



Winter Celebrations

No matter what you are celebrating this winter season, we want to wish you all the best for safe and happy celebrating. How fortunate we are to be able to experience and learn from each other about the different ways we experience things. We love to learn about and share different cultural knowledge.



Hunukkah

Hanukkah, which is Hebrew for “dedication”, is the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah begins four days before the new moon, which is the darkest night of the month. The celebration will start on the Hebrew calendar date of 25 Kislev, this year on Thursday, Dec. 10 at sundown, and lasts for eight days, ending on the evening of Friday, Dec. 18th. The first night usually includes a big family dinner with foods such as potato latkes and jelly doughnuts. After dinner, the family gathers to light the menorah candles—a new candle is lit each night for 8 nights. Blessings and songs are part of the ceremony.



Children get to open gifts from family and friends. They play games with toys such as the traditional dreidel and eat chocolate coins, called gelt.

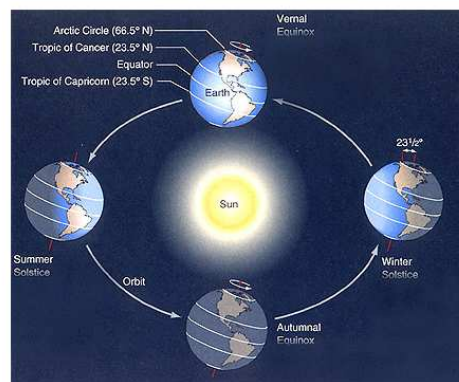
The Meaning of Hanukkah -The holiday celebrates a miracle that took place after the Maccabees liberated the Temple of Jerusalem from the Greeks, led by a brave man named Judah. After their victory, Judah restored the sacred menorah. But there was almost no oil left, only enough for one day. The lamp was filled with the oil and lit. Instead of lasting only one day, it burned brighter and brighter, lasting eight days – a miracle! At Henderson we like to have an opportunity to learn a little about the cultures that make up our diverse community. This information helps us get to know our Jewish community members a little better.

Winter Solstice

The Winter Solstice marks the first day of winter. For us in the Northern Hemisphere this will occur on Monday, December 21, 2020. The winter solstice is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight in the whole year, making it the “shortest day” of the year. The days of sunlight grow longer after the winter solstice. The lengthening of our days of sunlight grow until we reach the Summer Solstice, the “longest day” of sunlight or the brightest day in the year, the first day of summer.

This year the Summer Solstice for us will be Sunday, June 20, 2021. The solstice occurs when one of the Earth’s poles has its maximum tilt away from the sun. During the winter solstice there is continuous darkness or twilight around the North Pole. The word solstice come from the Latin sol “sun” and sister “to stand still.” During the days before and after the solstice, the Sun’s path across the sky appears to freeze as there is little visible movement. The solstice has been celebrated since ancient times by many cultures and is marked by festivals and rituals. It marks the symbolic death and rebirth of the Sun. The importance of sunlight/daylight or seasons is significant in certain places because it heavily impacts people’s activity. Some of the festivals observed are: Dies Natalis Solis Invicti (Roman cult of Sol), Yule (German), Makar Sankranti (Indian), Yalda Night (Iranian), Dongzhi (Asian), Korochun (Slavic).

For Indigenous people across the world, the natural world is a source of teachings. An Indigenous world view recognizes the interconnectedness of all things, recognizing that the cosmos: the sun, moon, stars, and planets, affect us and are connected to us.



The solstices and equinoxes from the perspective of the Northern Hemisphere. Credit: NASA

Christmas

Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the advent of Christ and giving to the poor and needy without expectations of receiving anything in return. Christmas Day is celebrated by most Christians on December 25th. Many of the Christmas customs we have or see around us today are based on the religious practice around the birth of Jesus Christ and others have evolved over time and include customs that are observed by people who are not Christian. There are many popular customs associated with Christmas such as gift giving, caroling, exchanging Christmas cards, going to church, having special meals, visiting Santa, and hanging up stockings. There are decorations put up too, such as: Christmas trees, lights, garlands, wreaths, mistletoe and holly.



Karenga, center, with wife Tiamoyo at left, celebrating Kwanzaa at the Rochester Institute of Technology on December 12, 2003.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa has its origins as an American holiday, created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga to celebrate black people, their history and culture. The name Kwanzaa is based off the Swahili phrase “mutunda ya kwanza” meaning “first fruits of the harvest”. There are seven principles of Kwanzaa or seven principles of Black Heritage to be celebrated:

1. **Umoja** (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
2. **Kujichagulia** (Self-Determination): To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.
3. **Ujima** (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.
4. **Ujamaa** (Cooperative economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.

5. *Nia* (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. *Kuumba* (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. *Imani* (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.



Kwanzaa celebrations begin on December 26th and last until January 1st and include a communal feast called Karamu that is usually held on December 31st.

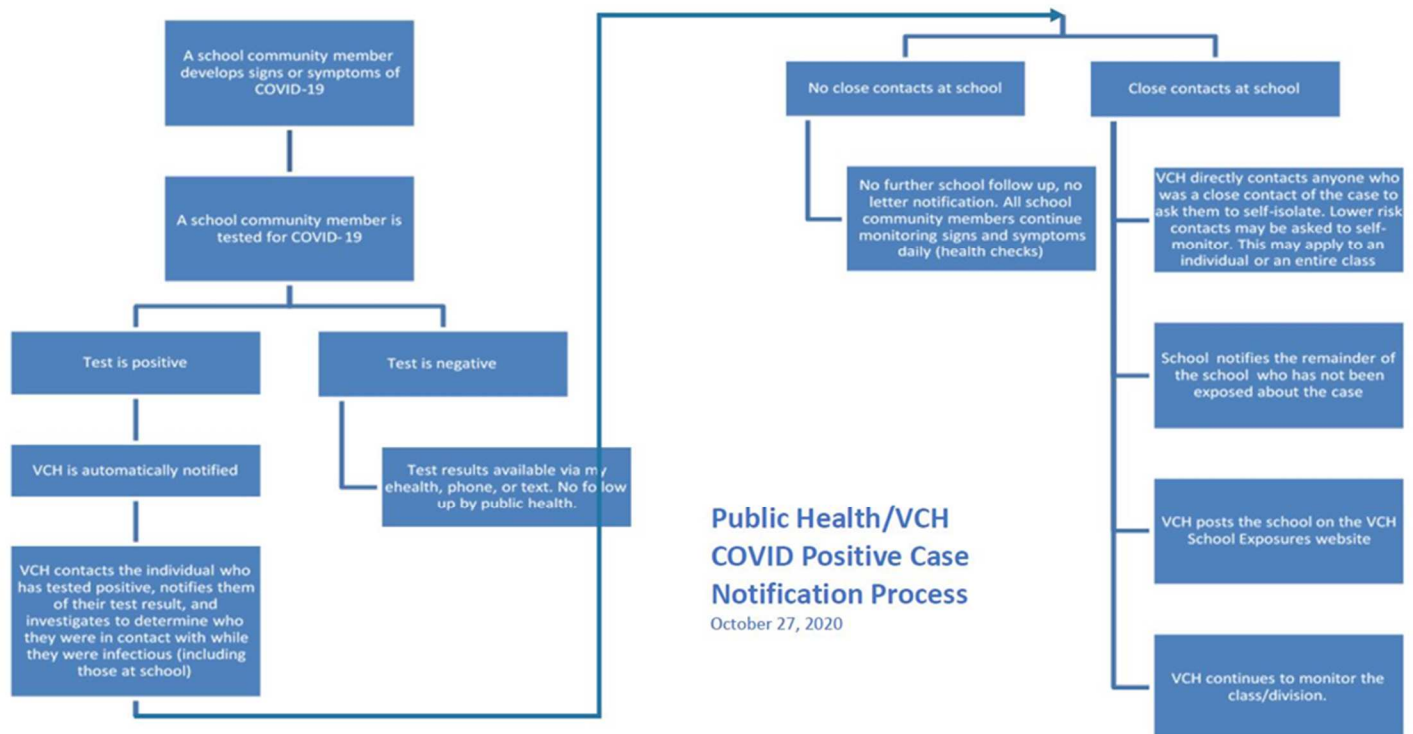
There are many other many other celebrations and many other cultural practices to learn about. We share what we know from our experiences and what we have previously learned. If you celebrate events or cultural practices we might not be as familiar with or you would like to share a little more about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

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 the school grounds as soon as you have picked up your children at dismissal and 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 their 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.
- Please make sure you are taking your children at 3:00 pm and not mixing with other families on the playground. Everyone not in the same cohort needs to stay 2 meters apart.

COVID Case Communication



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



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

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, showing the parents' names
- Proof of your address in the school catchment, a municipal tax statement, a rental agreement and a utility bill
- 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 1st, to the 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



- **December 15th to 18th** – Sharing of Winter Celebrations on TEAMS
- **December 18th** - Last day of School before the Winter Break
- **December 21st to January 1st - Winter Break—No School**
- **January 4th** - School Opens
- **January 18th - Pro-D Day - No School for Students**
- **January 19th** – Return of Option 4 students to In Person Instruction
- **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 15th** – Family Day – **No School** – Enjoy the day with your family!
- **March 1st** – Return of Option 4 students to In Person Instruction