



3150 Colwood Drive
North Vancouver

604-903-3540

Attendance: 604.903.3544

e-mail: highlands@sd44.ca

December 2019



Here are some of the performers from our Intermediate Winter Concert on December 12.

Dear Highlands Families:

Winter has often been described as the season of celebration. If we could orbit the earth between November and February, we might be amazed at how similar the traditions of the world's cultures are. We would see displays of candles, lamps and fireworks all over the world, family members traveling to be together for the special day, kitchens bustling with preparations of holiday treats and the atmosphere alive with anticipation – especially among the children – of gifts and surprises. These celebrations have different names in different countries, but all of them share the common element of feasting and giving. Kwanzaa, Hanukkah and Christmas are some of these celebrations.

Kwanzaa is a unique African American celebration that focuses on the traditional African values of family, community responsibility, commerce and self-improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor religious. It is simply a time of reaffirming the African-American people, their ancestors and culture. It was founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga and has come to be observed by more than 18 million people worldwide. Festivities include lighting of seven candles, special foods and gifts.

Jewish people around the time of the winter solstice celebrate Hanukkah, which means "dedication" and is also referred to as the "Festival of Lights". The holiday celebrates the Miracle of the Temple with the ritual lighting of candles in every home. Today, Jews light one candle each night (two on the first night) in a menorah to remember the eight-day miracle. Nine candles are lighted in all. During this eight-day period, there are also special blessings, family games, and traditional foods.

Christmas is the Christian celebration of the birth of Christ. The celebrations surrounding Christmas extend to every corner of the globe and incorporate many features of ancient folklore and legend. Virtually every country and every people who have come under the influence of Christianity developed unique customs, special foods and festive gifts and decorations. Christmas in North America defies precise description, but the spirit of good will and joy and family closeness pervades the season.

Throughout this year, Highlands staff and students have focused on developing social responsibility and the importance of respecting and being kind to all people. In many ways we are different but we are also alike in many ways. It is by learning to accept ourselves and by learning to value others that we develop as caring human beings.

On behalf of the Highlands staff, we wish you all a very happy holiday and memories of special celebrations!

Sincerely, Todd Henderson, Principal

Nadya Rickard, Vice Principal

In this Issue:

Core Competency Theme of the Month	2
January Calendar	2
Student Health	2
Lost and Found	3
Winter Weather	4

At Highlands, every child is encouraged to become an independent, self-motivated student with a positive attitude towards learning and a sense of responsibility and empathy for others.

Our Core Competency Theme for December is the Personal and Social Core Competency

In December we have continued to explore Personal and Cultural Identity, and Social Responsibility. This Core Competency is about knowing ourselves, knowing who we are, where we come from and how we connect with other people.

To learn these things we need to communicate with others. Communication skills run through all of our Core Competency work.

To learn more about the B.C. curriculum and the Core Competencies, please go to <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

January Calendar

January 6 - School reopens

January 27-30 - Grade 6s at Outdoor School

January 29 - Staff Collaboration:
2 pm dismissal

Staff Change

One of our Learning Support Teachers, Ms. Laura Couling, will be leaving our staff in early January. Ms. Celine Ito will be joining our staff in this role and will be communicating with families whose children have been supported by Ms. Couling.



Winter Sky - Rhea, Grade 3

Student Health

The role of the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) Nurse assigned to each elementary school has changed in recent years to a consulting basis only. We no longer have a health care professional in the building. If you have questions regarding your child's health at the school, please consult your doctor, the [North Shore - School Health Manual](#) or the VCH general office at 604.983.6700.

Emergency Medical Procedures

Please alert the school office to any acute medical condition your child may have, i.e. allergies, possibility of seizures, diabetic needs, etc. If the condition is life threatening or medication (such as an epipen or puffer) is required, please ask the school office for the appropriate forms that need to be completed for our records. No medications will be administered at school without written authorization by your family doctor. Please note that it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the school has accurate/up to date medical information and medications for their children. Please view our "[Peanut-Aware](#)" policy for more information.

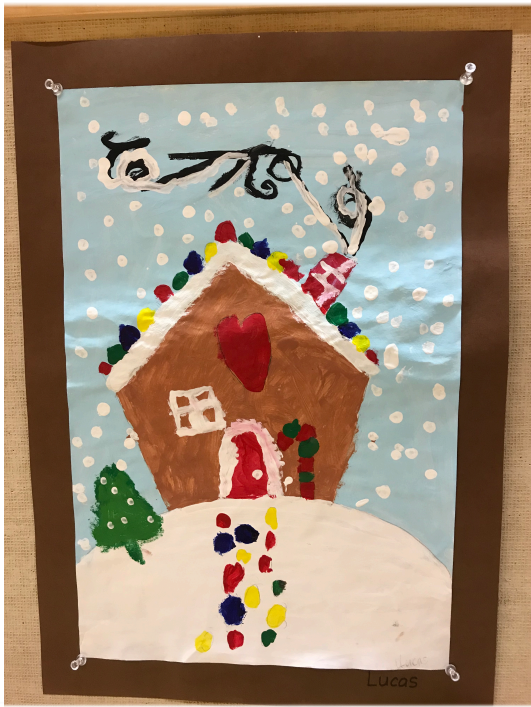
Call in/Sign Out reminder

Please use our call-in line (604-903-3544) for ANY lates or absences. This can be accessed 24 hours/day, 7 days/ week. When signing in or out at the office please remind your child to write their last name, time, as well as marking off who their teacher is. The time is important so that we have an accurate attendance record.

Students who arrive at school between 8:50 and 9:20 sign in inside the office. If students arrive after 9:20 or leave during the day, they must sign-in or sign-out on the sheet located inside the office. Students leaving the school at lunchtime should sign out & in at the office.

The school does not accept verbal permission for students to leave the school (eg. to walk home due to an illness). If a situation arises we would be able to accept an email authorization.

Parent notes need to be dated and explicitly say who will be picking up the child if it is not the parent. For student safety reasons, we require photo ID to be presented at the office as well if it is not the parent picking up the child.



"Winter Scene" - Lucas, Grade 3

Thank You!

Thank you to the group of Grade 7 parents who helped to organize the Santa's Market on December 4th.

Thanks also to our Me to We Club and teacher sponsor Amy Wright, and class reps for organizing our hampers for the North Shore Christmas Bureau, and to all Highlands families who contributed.

Thanks to parents for attending our Winter Concerts on December 10 and 12. Your support is integral to the students' success and is appreciated by Ms. Vasic, Mr. Solomakha and Mr. Kabok.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found items that remained unclaimed after December 18 have now been donated to charity.

Please remember to check the lost and found regularly in the new year if your child is missing an item of clothing. Please remember to label your child's belongings so that it is easier to return lost items to the rightful owners.



Remember to check the

Highlands website for up to date news and calendar:

<http://www.sd44.ca/school/highlands/Pages/default.aspx>



December 2019

Dear Parents,

As winter weather approaches, please note the following as it relates to the school.

For safety reasons, and depending on the weather, the layby area at the front of the school and the access gates at the back of the school may be closed. The walkway entrance at the front of the school will be cleared and salted and will be the main entry to the school on days that are icy or snowy. Access from the east side of the school by Highlands Kids Club is the responsibility of Kids Club, and may be restricted.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's safe travel to and from school. If for any reason there is concern that a child cannot travel safely, other arrangements should be made. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to establish an emergency plan for their children in the event that schools are closed, start late, or dismiss early. Please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately to get to and from school.

Please refer to Winter Weather Info 2019-20 on the school district website <https://www.sd44.ca/District/WeatherProcedures/Pages/default.aspx#/=> for further information.

Sincerely,

Todd Henderson
Principal