

# Lynnmour/Xá7elcha

*We would like to acknowledge and thank the Coast Salish people whose traditional territory North Vancouver School District resides on. At Lynnmour/Xá7elcha we are grateful to the Skwxwú7mesh and səliwətał with whom we share this beautiful land we live, learn and grow on together*



## Black Shirt Day - January 15th

Today, students and staff observed Black Shirt Day at Lynnmour/Xá7elcha for the first time. This movement has developed as an initiative to raise awareness of Black history, including the civil rights struggles that Black and racialized people have had to, and continue to face. As a school district, we are supportive of this anti-racism campaign, which also marks the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr, a champion and key figure for the Civil Rights Movement. Today fostered great conversations in classrooms as a starting place for this learning. We look forward to continuing this learning and listening together. We know that public education plays a critical role in ensuring this dialogue happens in a safe and healthy way for all. I was proud to be able to join in a couple of classroom discussions and support our staff today. We also appreciate those of you willing to walk with us on this important journey.

Some resources that were used around the school today included:

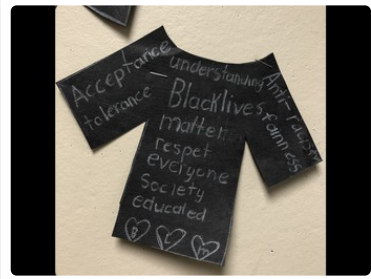
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40ORHCOA9fE&feature=emb\\_rel\\_pause](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40ORHCOA9fE&feature=emb_rel_pause)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrNag04IZoM>

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/harry\\_jerome\\_edu/](https://www.nfb.ca/film/harry_jerome_edu/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZT7a-YkaCpc>

[http://education.historicacanada.ca/files/19/EN\\_BlackHistory\\_Digital.pdf](http://education.historicacanada.ca/files/19/EN_BlackHistory_Digital.pdf)



## Climate and Place

This week, Divisions 1 and 2 had the opportunity to each take their learning completely outside for 1/2 a day. Their goal was to learn a little bit more about climate and place as they connected to our local environment. One comment I received regarding this activity was "it was very good learning and surprising just how ecologically knowledgeable some of the kids are". I am so encouraged by this statement! Students used the materials available to them to build "local animals". They used their observation skills learn more about our community. The weather cooperated and both classes had a great time.

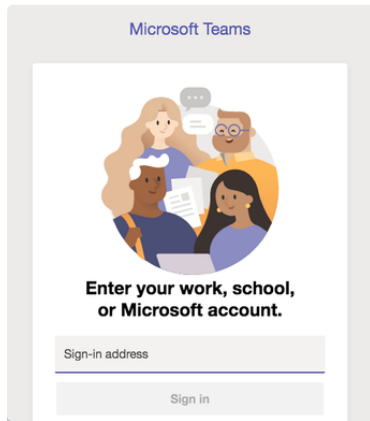


## A Reminder of the Reminders....

As always we want to remind everyone of our universal responsibility to keep each other safe. Please be sure to give space to everyone at drop off and pick up. At this point in the year, students should be able to line up at their class spots independently which will help us ensure a little more space

near the doors.

Please remember that a little kindness and awareness that we are all feeling a little more stretched right now, continues to be important. We all want to keep our students and staff safe while also dealing with the grey days, the wet and cool weather, the lack of social connection and constant sanitizing! We appreciate everyone's efforts to add a little positivity into conversations and communications!



## Classroom Connections...

ACTION ITEM for families:

Your child(ren)'s teachers are working incredibly hard to engage our learners and they are hoping to connect with parents via MS TEAMS. The teachers are all posting "Window's into the Week" so that parents are aware of what is going on during the week. Hopefully this is leading to some positive conversations at home about all that is going on at school!

MS TEAMS will also be used in the event that your family or a class needs to isolate. Teachers will use it to connect with students and share lessons. We have already used it to connect with families that have needed to stay home at various points this year.

**Please be sure that you know your password and are able to log into it.** [Steps for doing that are on our website.](#) Should you and your family need to isolate, knowing and practicing how to log in now, will make things a little less stressful during an already stressful time. Teachers are always posting things that may be of interest. Please be sure to check in!

## School Plan

This week I was able to spend some time in many of our classes to observe and participate in so many great learning opportunities focussed around our School Plan.

### Goal #1 - Communication

Improvement of the Communication Competency among students K-7

One area of communication is literacy (reading, and comprehension). At Lynnmour/Xá7elcha we practice this in a variety of ways and using many tools. In one visit to Mrs. Zander's grade 3/4 class I could see the differentiation available and being used by many of her students. Using one of our universal options, RazzKids online program, students are able to choose a book - various types are available, read it themselves or read along while the program reads it to them, and then share what they have learned through an online assessment tool. This provides the teacher with the opportunity to both continually assess where the learners are at, work individually with students during this time. I was able to observe the digital literacy skills that are being developed and will be used by our learners for a long time to come. This certainly does not replace the use of books in the classroom as Mrs Zander actively encourages and role models a love of literacy in her classroom.



In Ms. Duncan's class our youngest learners were exploring one of the earliest communication understandings- letter sound connection. Through this activity, I had some great conversations with some of our Kindergarten students about their learning about the sounds that "C" makes and what words start with "C".

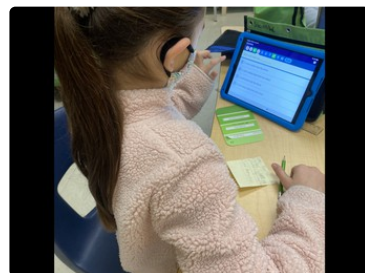
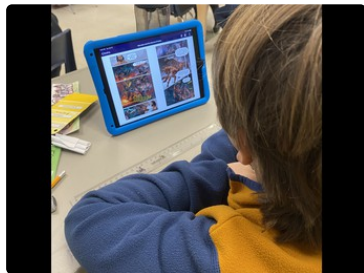
Ms Conway's grade 2/3 class was also keen to share their learning. Students were creating their own "rules" for how they grouped words. Some did it by the sounds in the word, some did it by how the words "looked" (ex: these words all end with "nk", these words all start with an "s"). Exploring language allows students to gain an understanding of how words are built. Ms. Conway then engages with each child to have them share their ideas and help those along if some support is needed.

### **Goal #2 - Social Emotional Growth**

Improvement of the Personal and Social Competency among students K-7

Various strategies are taught, reinforced, and practiced by our staff and students throughout the school.

In visiting Mrs. Jensen's grade 1 class, I was able to watch how she embedded self regulation strategies into her lessons to help students increase focus and help them attend to their learning. As she began a literacy lesson, she paused and asked her whole class to "find your toolkit" (a reference to earlier teaching done this year with students to explore what helps them feel calm and centred) and then she had them "take a breath in and out". This action alone helped some refocus for the next part of the lesson. A small but important strategy that these students will use throughout life. Mrs Jensen was then able to engage her learners in a literacy lesson to explore all the sounds in the words. "How many sounds do you hear in "his"?" Student showed their learning in a calm and manageable way.



## **Band Registration**

Hard to believe that we are thinking about the 2021-22 school year already!

Are you thinking of enrolling your child in band?

Elementary Band is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn new skills and spread their creative wings! Our Band program is open for students in grades 5-7. If your current grade 4, 5 or 6 child is interested in joining band for next year, I encourage you to have a look at the link below.

[NVSD BAND INFO and REGISTRATION](#)

In order to secure our Band staffing for next year, a discounted rate is offered to those that register **before March 5th!** Don't miss out on this opportunity!

## Important Dates to note

**January 21- Salmon Welcoming** (Dallas Guss will visit classes)

**January 22-** Professional Development Day (**Students not in session**)

**January 27-** Staff Collaboration - **Students dismissed at 1:40**

**February 8/9 -** Mid Point Conferences - **Students dismissed at 1:40** (Conferences will be done virtually via MS Teams)

**February 15 -** Family Day Holiday

**Feb 15 - March 12 - \*\*DATE CHANGE\*\*\*** Foundation Skills Assessments (FSAs) are scheduled for grades 4 and 7 students

**February 24-** Pink Shirt day

**February 26 -** Professional Development Day (**Students not in session**) *\*\*Please note this date was missed in last week's communication\*\**

**March 5-** Report Cards Posted for parents