



# Norgate Xwemélch'stn Winter Holiday News



## Learning from Indigenous Worldview & Demonstrating Intercultural Respect and Understanding

This holiday season will undoubtedly be different for all of us. We won't necessarily be able to celebrate the way we're accustomed to, however this year especially presents us an opportunity to learn from Indigenous Worldview and to demonstrate intercultural respect and understanding.

*The Winter Solstice on December 21st has significance in many cultures worldwide. For many Indigenous Peoples, inclusive of local Indigenous Peoples, the solstice marks a time of renewal and forgiveness.*

At school, members of our Indigenous Education team regularly share knowledge, songs and stories with classes. Their teachings help us appreciate Indigenous ways of knowing as well as the connectedness between people, other living things and the local land. I have been grateful to learn that “living the good life” is not only about achieving personal wellbeing and success, but also, and very importantly, about the role we play in the community. We can cultivate a sense of belonging, and personal and collective efficacy by committing to our own and others' wellbeing. At school, this is at the heart of what we do on a daily basis as educators who care deeply about the students' growth and success.

Our school is a reflection of the wonderful diversity we see in the world, and we benefit from learning about and from the cultures represented in our school. Students and staff members are fortunate to learn about each other's cultures - the beliefs, traditions, languages, celebrations, and so forth that shape our cultures. Through these learning experiences we make steps to shift from mere tolerance to acceptance, and from acceptance to genuine appreciation and understanding.

The holiday season presents all of us an opportunity to reflect on our personal values, share our beliefs and traditions, and celebrate - as a local and global community - the things we are thankful for.

***We hope you and yours have a happy and healthy holiday, and wish you all the best in the new year!***

## Staffing News

As you might know, Mrs. Dobie is *very* pregnant and will be taking leave to welcome her new family addition. While we will miss her here, we are very excited for her and her family. During her absence Mrs. Sharon von Einsiedel will be teaching the Division 7 Kindergarten class. Welcome to the Norgate Xwemélch'stn team, Mrs. von Einsiedel!

## Christmas Bureau Holiday Hamper



Thank you *very* much to all families and staff members who contributed gifts to the Christmas Bureau Holiday Hamper organized by our caring Parent Advisory Committee. We are sure the receiving family will be very grateful for your generosity!

## Tacky Holiday Door Contest

The winner of our 2nd annual Tacky Holiday Door contest is... Door #7.



*Congratulations to Mr. Mitchell & Ms. McLeod's class!*

### FIRST WEEK OF 2021 AT A GLANCE (JAN. 4 - JAN. 8)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Happy New Year!		2:15 Early dismissal		
School Re-opens after Winter Holiday				