

Norgate Xwemélch'stn News

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, on whose unceded traditional territory the North Vancouver School District resides. We value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.

Spotlight on:

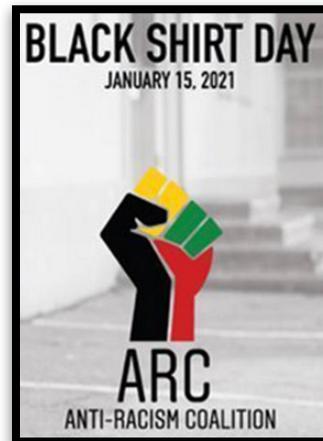
Intercultural Respect & Understanding

Black Shirt Day

At Norgate Xwemélch'stn we aim to create a welcoming, warm and inclusive learning environment for all students, families and staff members. Part of cultivating such an environment is facilitating opportunities to raise awareness, learn, understand, and celebrate all facets of our history. This includes the shared history of Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) Canadians.

February is Black History month, and throughout February and the rest of the year, your children will learn about our collective history and shared journey to understand the contributions and struggles of BIPOC Canadians. As a lead-up to Black History Month, there is a current grassroots anti-racism movement to recognize Black Shirt Day on Friday, January 15th, the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Today, it was inspiring to see so many in our school community showing their support for BIPOC individuals and communities, evidenced by many wearing black shirts. That said, we recognize and respect that black shirts have different connotations for individuals, depending on their cultural and historical experience. We regret if the black shirts worn to show support of BIPOC resulted in any painful associations and emotions for anyone in our school community. The intention behind wearing black shirts at school today was to show support for positive change towards a local and global culture of increased intercultural respect, understanding and *appreciation*.



Dressing for Weather

Please do your best to provide your child with: warm jackets, rain gear, hats, mitts/gloves, change of clothes (particularly socks). Due to COVID, we are limited with what we are able to loan to students, so thank you for providing all you can so that your children are comfortable!

Forms & Payments for Agendas

We have yet to receive updated forms, as well as \$5 payments from many families for student agendas, and will very much appreciate receiving those we are missing. Katie, our Office Assistant, can help should you have questions about forms/payments.

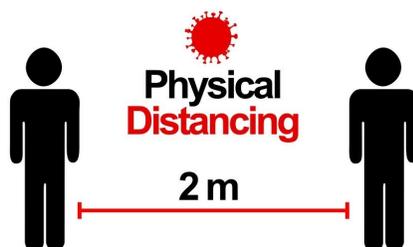
It is disheartening that despite the progress made through movements such as the Civil Rights Movement, current events have brought to the forefront how much work we still have ahead of us as a global community. What is heart-warming, however is that today's students, your children, are learning about social justice issues so that they can be a strong voice against racism, oppression and inequity. With you as invaluable partners, we hope to equip the children with knowledge and skills needed to take action to contribute to a more peaceful and equitable world where differences are embraced and appreciated.

Health & Safety Reminders

Though we are optimistic about improvements to our current reality presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is timely to remind everyone of the importance to remain vigilant in abiding by the recommendations and protocols recommended by the Provincial Health Officer. These include, but are not limited to:

- Completing daily health checks - Please do this yourselves and on your children, and stay home if symptomatic.
- Maintaining physical distance - During school hours we remind children often of the need to maintain distance from other students who are not in their classes. Generally students are good about spreading out, when reminded. However, we appreciate your help in reinforcing the need to do so with your children. This includes on the playground and during "outside of school" hours.
- Regular hand-washing - At school, this is very much a part of our daily routines, multiple times per day.
- Not sharing food/drinks - Some reminders have been required to ensure students are not sharing food/drinks. While normally we'd encourage sharing, due to current health concerns this is not permitted.

As yet, we have not received any updates with respect to guidelines from the PHO for any changes to our in-school protocols. To date, we have chosen to be more, rather than less cautious, by not electing to open shared spaces in the school such as the library, gym and computer lab to daily usage by classes. We will continue to follow guidelines, and should updated information come our way, will update protocols as required.



Happy News!

I don't know about you, but these days I am extra-appreciative of good news...

We are pleased to share that Mrs. Dobie (Kindergarten teacher) had a beautiful, healthy girl on New Years. Welcome to the Norgate Xwemélch'stn extended community, baby Brynn!

Some additional good fortune has come our school's way in the form of two generous grants:

- 1) We have been provided \$1000 from Indigo Books to help us augment our book collections to support students' literacy development.
- 2) Farm to School BC (F2SBC), administered by the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC), has allocated us \$3000 towards an Indigenous Foodscapes project. We are grateful to Mr. Luke Smeaton, our school district's Environmental Sustainability Manager, and to Ms. Meryn Corkery, Community Animator for the Farm to School Vancouver Area Regional Hub. They have been instrumental in bringing this opportunity to our attention, and in securing funding for what we anticipate will be a very rewarding project.



The goal of this project is to enhance and expand our existing garden spaces to include more plants Indigenous to this part of BC, and to plant and harvest seasonal Indigenous plant foods with students. And, as COVID restrictions reduce, we look forward to including students in the preparation of the foods we harvest, and look forward to welcoming community members to help with this exciting project!

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE (JAN. 18-23)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	7:00 PAC Meeting on Zoom (link on school calendar)	2:15 Early dismissal Gr. 6 Cap Services After school program	3:00 Gr. 7 Cap Services After school program	Reminder that next Monday, January 25 is a Professional Development Day