



## John Norquay Elementary School

4710 Slocan Street, Vancouver, BC V5R 2A1

Telephone: 713-4666 Fax: 713-4668

Date: Monday January 12, 2004 Newsletter #5

Area Superintendent - Mr. Tom Grant 713-4590

Principal - Ms. Gail Wynston

Vice-Principal - Ms. Kim Nemeth

Liaison Trustee - Mr. John Cheng

School Consultative Committee Chairperson: Mrs. Anne Miller

Visit Norquay School on the Web at [norquay.vsb.bc.ca](http://norquay.vsb.bc.ca)

### **REMINDER: MONDAY JANUARY 19 IS A PROFESSIONAL DAY. NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN**

重要通訊:

一月十九日星期一是教師會意日。  
學生不用上課。

### **CHANGE: MONDAY FEBRUARY 2 IS A PROFESSIONAL DAY. NO SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN. THE DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM FEBRUARY 25.**

改正: 二月二日星期一是新的教師  
會意日。學生不用上課。  
不是二月二十五日

#### **PROFESSIONAL DAYS**

Last year our primary teachers participated in a very inspiring program called the Power of 10. You may have noticed some of the different strategies your child's teacher used in teaching Math. We were recently informed that a follow-up session is available to teachers to extend their knowledge and skill on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. For this reason we have changed the day. We ask for your understanding of the change and hope that it does not cause you inconvenience.

On January 19<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting 170 teachers from other schools for a day focusing on Social Responsibility, one of the two goals in this year's School Growth Plan. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, while the primary teachers attend the Math workshop, our intermediate teachers will be looking at strategies to improve student writing skills. Improving student writing is the other of school goals.

### **GRADE 7 PARENT INFORMATION**

Grade 7 parents are advised to attend the informational meetings held by the secondary schools. Programs and options will be discussed. Your child should attend with you.

Windermere Grade 7 Parent Meeting: Mon. Jan. 26, 7:00 p.m.

Gladstone Grade 7 Parent/Student Meeting: Tues. Jan. 13, 7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in learning about the programs at other schools, call the school directly and ask for their parent night meeting.

The Vancouver School Board offers a number of alternate district programs. These include Mini-Schools, Montessori, Windermere Leadership, and other programs that are designed to offer options for students looking for different kinds of learning. We have information about all these programs, or you can find it on the VSB website: [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca) under "Alternate District Programs". Most of these programs, except the Windermere Leadership Program, require students to write a test and an essay on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. If your child is interested, he/she must let Norquay know by Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Norquay students will write the test at Killarney Secondary.

### **LATE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM**

This program is available to students currently in Grade 5 who wish to become fluent in French. If you are interested in learning more about this program that enables students to complete the regular program, while learning in French, you should attend the information meeting that will be held at Secord Elementary School, **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Please see the notice at the end of this newsletter.

### **SNOW CLOSURE**

We very much appreciated the co-operation we received from parents last Tuesday when we received notice from the School Board that students could be sent home early. All of our students in Grades 1 to 5 were picked up by an adult, or an older sibling after contact had been made with the students' homes. Teachers were able to drive home safely and students were able to be home with an adult in the unusual weather. Thank you for your quick response to our phone call.

### **VANCOUVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION DONATION**

The Vancouver Public Schools Foundation is an organization that aims to provide special programs and equity to Vancouver School Board students. In December, a donation from CIBC Wood Gundy Caring for Kids Fund, paid for all Grade 4 students in Sunrise Area to attend a performance of the play *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, based on C.S. Lewis' book. The Fund also allowed the students to get to the theatre by chartered bus. In addition, each student received a copy of the book to own. All Norquay Grade 4 students saw the play and received a beautiful edition of the book. We are grateful for this special gift to our students.

### **AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN JEOPARDY**

The after-school programs that are run at Norquay through the Windermere Family of Schools Project are in danger of being cut. The funding that was provided by the Ministry of Children and Families to the School Board has been reduced significantly. The School Board now needs to make decisions about responding to these cuts. You are invited to provide your feedback to the Board's proposals at a meeting on **Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.** at Mount Pleasant School. Please see the invitation at the end of the newsletter.

### **OUR COMMUNITY RECEIVES CHILD AND YOUTH FRIENDLY AWARD**

As reported in the most recent edition of our community newspaper, the Renfrew Collingwood community won a provincial competition to receive the Child and Youth Friendly Award. **One of our Grade 2 students, Tuedon Ariri, received the award on behalf of the community.**

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

1. Lasermaster School Challenge Program Demonstrator: at Renfrew Community Centre, starting on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. for students aged 6 to 12. For information call Glenna Wong, Centre Recreation Programmer, 604-257-8387.
2. Vancouver South East Chinese School Society, Mandarin or Cantonese, Mondays 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., beginning Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Killarney Secondary School, 49<sup>th</sup> & Kerr. Mrs. Cheng 604-430-4038, Mrs. So 604-323-9366)
3. Do you need another Vancouver *Entertainment 2004* book, or would you like to purchase a book for another city? Then go to [www.entertainment.com/support](http://www.entertainment.com/support) and enter our school's account number 135477. Click "continue" to start shopping. Even though our fundraiser is over our school will continue to earn profits from your purchases.

### **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Mon. Jan. 19	Professional Day (No school for students.)
Mon. Feb. 2	Professional Day (No school for students.) Changed from Feb. 25
Wed. Mar. 10 & Thurs. Mar. 11	Report Card Conferences (Students dismissed at 2:00 p.m.)
Mar. 15 - 19	Spring Vacation
Fri. Apr. 9	Good Friday (School closed.)
Mon. Apr. 12	Easter Monday (School closed.)
Mon. May 24	Victoria Day (School closed.)
Tues. June 8	Professional Day (No school for students.)
Tues. June 29	Last day for students.

## **Is Late French Immersion for your child?**

**What is it?** A Grade 6 / 7 program offered by the Vancouver School Board

**Who can enroll?** Any Vancouver student entering Grade 6 with a B average and an interest in learning French

**How much does it cost?** Nothing, it's a VSB program

**Where is it held?** Laura Secord Elementary School at East Broadway and Lakewood Drive

**Why French Immersion?**

- Benefits of a Second Language and Culture for education and work
- Opportunity for a fun and enriched learning experience
- Chance to meet neat new friends

**Will my child's English skills suffer?**

Results from the Provincial Foundation Skills Assessment( FSA) indicate that French Immersion students perform above the provincial average in English skills and Numeracy in Grades 7 and 10.

**Where can I find more information? Websites:**

Canadian Parents for French - [www.cpf.bc.ca](http://www.cpf.bc.ca)

Vancouver School Board - [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca)

**OR**

Attend the Late French Immersion Information Night :

Jan. 21, 2004, 6:30pm

Laura Secord School,

2500 Lakewood Drive

(E. Broadway and Lakewood)

Talk to Ms. Wynston for more details.

## **An Invitation**

The Vancouver Board of School Trustees invites you to attend the:

**VSB Inner City Project**

**MCFD Community Link Program**

**Funding Review and Proposal**

7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Mount Pleasant Elementary

2300 Guelph Street, Vancouver

### **Presenters:**

Thomas Grant, Associate Superintendent, and Valerie Overgaard, Associate Superintendent, District Learning Services

on behalf of the VSB Inner City Project Task Force

There will be a question and answer period following the presentation.

For information: 604-713-4594