



As the first term comes to a close, we are filled with pride and gratitude for all the amazing events and activities that have brought our school community together over the past few months.

This past fall, we were inspired by the resilience and generosity of our students during the Terry Fox Run, where they demonstrated their commitment to making a difference. We also came together for important moments of reflection during the Truth and Reconciliation Assembly and the Remembrance Day Assembly, where students showed empathy and respect in learning about our shared history and honoring those who have served.

Our Book Fair was a huge success, fostering a love of reading and helping to build our school library. We are thankful for the many volunteers who helped out and the event raised about \$4300 for library resources.

On the sports front, our students shone with determination and teamwork in both Basketball and Cross Country, making us proud with their effort and sportsmanship. The Grade 7 girls and boys teams worked hard throughout the season. One of our boys' teams went on to the Family of Schools' Finals. Capilano had a very successful Cross Country season with about 25 students attending most practices, rain or shine. There were two races where Capilano students placed in the top 10 with a few first place finishers!

Students have also been working on Cultural Connections over the past months. This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the diversity of our Capilano Community. So far this year, students have learned, shared, and celebrated about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Halloween, Diwali, The Day of the Dead, Kwanza, Hanukkah and Christmas. Many classes have also started Coast Salish weaving projects with our new Indigenous Support Worker, Courtney Kessel, who works with classes once a week.

In the arts, the Primary Winter Concert warmed our hearts with festive performances. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 performed and made us all smile. A big thank you to Mr. James, all the Primary Teachers and other staff who supported this event for our community.

This term also marked a significant milestone as we completed our IB Evaluation, reaffirming our dedication to providing an engaging, globally-minded education for all our students. The evaluators who visited our school had lots of positive things to say about our school and gave us many things to reflect on as we move forward.

As we head into the holiday season, we want to thank our students, families, and staff for their hard work and support throughout this busy and rewarding term. We wish you all a joyful, restful holiday and look forward to another exciting term ahead! See you in 2025!!





School Plan and Goals for the Year

This year, our school plan goal is to increase the overall well-being at Capilano for students, staff and the community.

This focus on well-being is essential because it directly impacts the school's ability to foster a positive learning environment where every individual feels safe, valued, and supported. Prioritizing well-being helps students develop emotional resilience, social skills, and a strong sense of self-worth, which are crucial for their academic success and long-term personal development. For staff, a focus on well-being leads to a more supportive, collaborative workplace, which in turn enhances their ability to engage students effectively and foster a positive school culture. Extending this commitment to the community strengthens connections between the school and families, creating a more cohesive, inclusive environment that benefits everyone.

Thank you to the staff, students and parents who are part of our School Planning Committee. Your input on this committee has been essential when it came to selecting this goal, and we are appreciative of your support as we work on this goal and reflect on our progress throughout the year.

When asked about why they thought we should work on this goal, students and staff had many things to say, such as:

- "Sometimes it's uncomfortable and hard to come to school."
- "A happy staff = happy students"
- "People need help managing their emotions and solving problems."
- "Everyone will feel welcome; families will feel seen and safe."

We look forward to working on this goal in a variety of ways throughout the school year.

Student Leadership

As a way to support our overall school goal this year, we have been looking to incorporate more student voice in what we do around the school. To this end, we asked intermediate students to apply to our new Student Leadership Team. We had an amazing 54 students apply, and took 2 from each intermediate class. These students have been representing their classes, taking part in the school plan, running assemblies and planning other events throughout the school this term.

Also, starting in January, we have a number of students from Grades 4-6 who will be Playground Leaders. These students took part in some training on how to support other students with a variety of games that they will be running during recess and lunch playtimes. Everyone is excited to take part in this new leadership opportunity.

Staffing Updates

In the New Year, we are both saying goodbye to some staff and welcoming some new people.

Congratulations to Kim Waugh and her family on the birth of her son. We are excited for her and welcoming Emma Thompson to replace her for the remainder of the year. She will be reaching out to families she will be supporting soon.

Smirti Gupta, one of our EAs, is also going on leave in January, and we are looking forward to having Kyle Budgen in her place until June.

Ms. Lim will be extending her leave and we are happy to have Ms. Melnychuk stay with us.

Lastly, Sarb Grewal, our ELL teacher will now be on leave until the end of the year and we are happy to announce that Olivia Yoo will be here until June as well.

Upcoming Important Dates

January



- January 6 - School Re-opens
- January 14-17 - Grade 6 Students to Cheakamus Centre
- January 16 - Kindergarten Hearing Screening
- January 24 - School-based Pro D Day - no school
- January 27 - Family Literacy Day
- January 28 - Welcome to Carson Graham Grade 7 Parent Meeting 6-7pm at Carson Graham
- January 29 - Lunar New year

February



- February 10 and 11 - 2pm Dismissal for Learning Conferences
- February 14 - Professional Day - no school
- February 17 - Family Day - no school
- February 26 - Pink Shirt Day

March



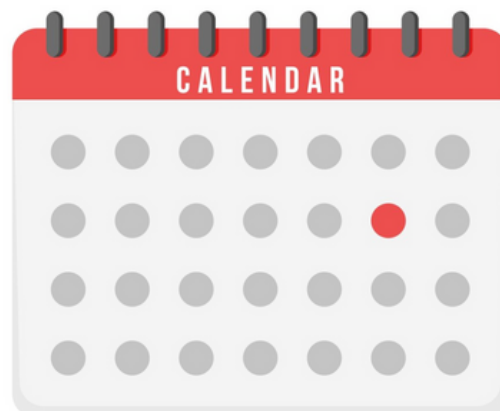
- March 10 - Grade 3 to Cheakamus Sku'ne was Program
- March 12 - Second Written Learning Updates are Published
- March 14 - Last day before Spring Break
- March 10 - March 28 - Spring Break
- March 31 - School Re-opens (Grade 4 to Cheakamus
March 31 - April 2)

Special Note - Upcoming Student Release Drill

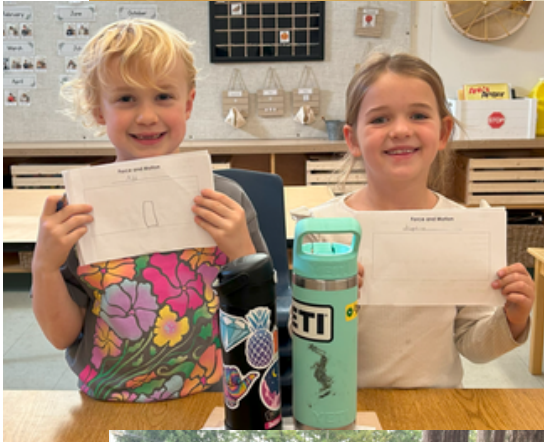
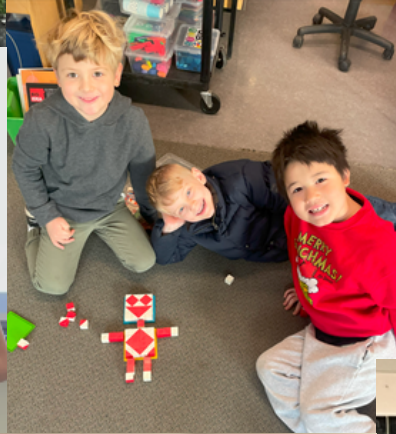


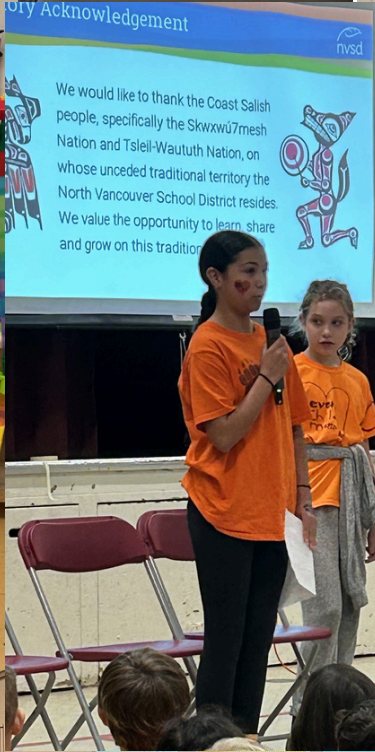
April 17

We will be holding a Student Release Drill in the afternoon on this day. More information to come about this, but we wanted to remind families to **please complete all your emergency forms prior to this drill.** During the drill, we will be checking these forms and identification to ensure that only the people who have been designated as safe people to pick up are picking up children. **We will not be releasing students to people who are not on the approved list.**



Around the School





...ory Acknowledgement

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

