

# Mill Bay Nature School

## deep roots

### newsletter

We acknowledge that for thousands of years the Malahat, Lake Cowichan, Quw'utsun, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, & Lyackson Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where we now live, work, and play. We seek a new relationship with the first peoples here, one based in honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.

NOVEMBER 22

We will be having a kite festival tomorrow at 10 am to celebrate our week in India ! Thank you to Anne for taking the lead on our playful inquiries outside.

Remember, Nov. 30 is a Professional Day.



## Freshgrade & Facebook

We have decided that the Mill Bay Nature School facebook site will be focused upon parent to parent communication. Staff will no longer be on the school facebook group. Instead, we will be using Freshgrade as our primary digital communication tool - sharing your child's learning, engaging in conversation, as well as providing tips to extend learning beyond school.



## Shifting Rhythms - What is emerging at MBNS ?

"We are always in the process of co-creating collaborative teaching & learning environments with flexible groupings of learners (children, youth & adult)" from our Field Guide

Our shifting rhythm of eating lunch in clans after a freeplay time outside has been successful as more children are eating their lunches ! We have also noticed that the emerging structure of playful outside inquiries has deepened the learning for the children, and allowed our lead teachers to take up their strengths and passions. Grouping the children according to development during CC Studies has also allowed teachers to prepare challenges and provocations which cultivate inquiry and learning most fitting to *this* group of children. All ages are playing together during free play - younger children excited to lead clubs and older children mentoring and problem solving. This is exciting to witness. Expect some changes to our clan structures (which were random groupings of children at the beginning of September), as we seek to gather children in the most meaningful and developmentally appropriate ways to stimulate learning and growth - *in all curricular areas* - and now that we know the children better - their strengths, their gifts, their challenges - we can decisions that are more thoughtful and thorough.

## Reporting to Parents

*Our reporting system will be based upon School District 79's structures. Although we have some flexibility and choice, here is what you can expect:*

1. **Learning Stories:** These will be posted on Freshgrade as images with an explanation of the learning and growth reflected. This will be an ongoing process for the school year.
2. **Initial Reflections:** These will be paragraphs which describe your child in the ecology of learning and growth at Mill Bay Nature School. They will be posted and emailed on Friday, Dec. 21.
3. **Formal Reports:** These will include written reflections as well as continuums in each curricular area. They will be handed out at the end of February and the end of June.

We have hosted guests from all over the province and even an educator from Alaska. The Ministry of Education is curious about our work and have come to check it out. Tomorrow we host the principal of a brand new (like us) nature school in Salmon Arm. Hopefully we can exchange thoughts and ideas to enhance what we are already doing.

## Entrepreneurial Fair

Thursday, November 29  
12:30 - 2:00



Initiated by Clayton Marshall, a team of entrepreneurs will be sharing some amazing creations with the school community. They will be selling their creations. We encourage everyone to bring a few dollars - Clayton suggested \$5 - to purchase something interesting. Thank you to Meg for all her support and encouragement!

Next week our outdoor playful inquiries will be called  
"Getting Ready"



(for the new natural play environment, for winter ...)