

Walking Together in the Warm Land of the Cowichan Valley

Mill Bay Nature School

Q'Shintul 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, learn, 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.

FEBRUARY 2019

We are presently in a beautiful rhythm: circle, clan time, free play, playful inquiries, clan reflection. We are also in the midst of writing individual reports on each child's learning and development, as well as an overview of what we have taken up (learning opportunities, activities, challenges, provocations, etc.) and how each one links to the BC Curriculum. Anyone who is curious or confused on how we weave the literacy and numeracy curriculum into our days will find this very useful ... *at least it will continue our conversation.* We welcome any opportunity to talk about our work with your child. **Reports will be sent home on Tuesday, February 19.**

For your information: School District 79's format for reporting is not yet very fitting to our innovative structures/rhythms at Mill Bay Nature School, so we ask that you persevere with us as we attempt to comply with the District format; as well as, more importantly, clearly communicate how your child has developed since September. *We hope to have it shifted to a more personalized format by the May report.*

KIN'SOL natural play environment UPDATE

I wonder if you have seen the developing structures in our field. It's so exciting! The textures, smells, and visual beauty of natural materials are my favourite part of the creation. Wait, no, the handmade wheels and vintage pulleys for the rolling stage are actually my favourite thing ... so far. I can't wait for our first concert. **Any performers out there? Who wants to go first?**

Partnering with Alexander School: It begins!

Talented dancers and drummers from Alexander School will be visiting us and inviting us to experience and live Coast Salish culture on Thursdays, February 21 and 28 - *all day!* Each clan will have two 45 minute lessons and then a finale performance on the 28th - *afternoon.* I would like to offer the guests and all of our children a hamburger soup lunch with buns. **Is there anyone who would be willing to make a crockpot of hamburger soup to contribute?** *I imagine we will need 10 crockpots.*

One-to-One Literacy Mentors NEEDED

Erin, our literacy lead teacher and Kim will be co-creating a one-to-one literacy program at Mill Bay Nature School to support our struggling readers. **Are you interested in listening to children read for 30 minutes or an hour a week?** Training will happen before Spring Break, and the program will begin at the end of March. Please let Kim know if you'd like to take part as a mentor. **Grandparents are welcome too!**

Talent Show

Mill Bay Nature School will be hosting a Talent Show on Tuesday, March 5 from 6:30-8:30 pm. **All children and parents are welcome to share something that they are passionate about. You do not need to be excellent at something to share it.** Video presentations as well as stand alone presentations (like art exhibits) are also welcome. Thank you to Jannett Page for initiating this awesome idea!

Mark your calendar: Q'Shintul Family Camping Trip to Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park (group campsite) - June 14-June 16 (weekend). *Thank you to the Page/Souter family for booking this.*

Until next time,

Q'Shintul (Walking Together),

Kim