

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.

Mid October 2019



Finding our rhythms

Dates to Remember:

Picture Day (individual) - Oct. 18
PAC - "Move A Thon" - Oct. 24
Pro-d Day - Oct. 25
Early dismissal (12:13 pm) - Oct. 30

Oh how lovely to begin to find our rhythms! This is a complex process requiring ALL of our core competencies *as adults*: attending to who each child is; finding the right clan/clan leader for each child; taking time to get to know each other in the clan; to name clans; to respond to individual needs in each clan; adjusting whole school schedules as we discover what is working well and what do we need more of; being patient as this knowledge is revealed; holding back from jumping to conclusions; giving space to make mistakes and learn; forgiving ourselves and each other as challenges and conflict emerge; learning and growing in the process. This has been our work since September - a group of adults in new relationships with each other, with our sacred children, with the community, and with the school campus environment. In an established school, there is more experience to draw from, and patterns which have produced fruit in the past (usually for particular kinds of learners), and thus remain the norm. The new requires a consideration of so many variables, and an opportunity to draw deeply from research and understanding of practices that support deep learning and vibrant growth for our sacred children. The new also opens space to question and wonder and try ... *and try again*. It's a continuous process - requiring patience and vulnerability - for as a seed is planted, roots form in the darkness, and fruit often comes much later. The advantage, however, is that all rhythms - and dis-rhythms for that matter - must be carefully and intentionally thought through, negotiated, enacted, and reflected upon - *to edit, adjust, tweak, add to, or eliminate*. The adults in the school must work hard in the service of children/each child and in response to *these/this* particular children's/child's needs, strengths, interests, passions, potentials, etc. This is our (*challenging & joyful*) work each day. It's an honour to be a part of the co-creation of MBNS - to dare greatly and be a part of an innovative way to reconceptualize education. I am grateful to the staff of our school and their dedication to listening for/to the right rhythms for our children - we are finding them as we walk together and as we respond to what emerges. (*The second iteration of our schedule follows*)

Until next time, Q'shintul (Walking Together), Kim

Mill Bay Nature School

revised, second iteration - schedule - October 15, 2019

Time	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00-8:30	Supervision Phaedra/Erin	Supervision Karin/Lawrence	Supervision Brian/Anne	Supervision Chris	Supervision Kim
8:30-8:45	Greeting & Connecting "soft start"				
8:45-9:00	Gather & Attendance				
9:00-9:30	Whole School CIRCLE - Storytelling Circle	POD Circle	Whole School - TOWN HALL MEETING	POD Circle	Whole School CIRCLE- Celebration/Honouring
9:30-9:40	Clan Time ↑	Clan Time ↑	Clan Time ↑	Clan Time ↑	Clan Time ↑
10:00-11:15	Lunch in Circle Free Play (Teacher Lunch)				
12:15-12:45	Outdoor Games	Playful Inquiries (Book Time/Reading)	Playful Inquiries (Book Time/Reading)	Playful Inquiries (Book Time/Reading)	Outdoor Games
12:40-1:45	Playful Inquiries ↑	↑	↑	↑	Clan Time
1:50-2:00	Clean UP (Assigned Places)				
2:00-2:05	Closing Circle				
2:18	Dismissal		Staff Meetings/Staff Committee Meetings		

Information & Wonders



- **Regular School hours** are 8:30 am to 2:13 pm - *buses leave promptly*
- **Please remember** to call or email our secretary Tanya if your child will be late or absent - *before 8:30* - millbsecretary@sd79.bc.ca / 250-743-5504
- **Parents and siblings are always welcome** to join us for morning 'soft-start' and circle
- Contact Amber Farquarson if you are interested in joining other **MBNS pre-schoolers** (informal gathering) on Monday/Weds mornings - 250-815-5738
- **We are outside in ALL WEATHER** so please read the Field Guide for clothing and footwear guidance - *label everything & check the lost and found from time to time ...*
- **Please remember** that we eat lunch outside - "picnic style" on our laps - so bento boxes can be tippy - *Would a sandwich and piece of fruit be easier ?*

We continue to gratefully accept:

- **Gently used books** of all genres for our school library
- **Gently used** school supplies and craft/art supplies
- **Donations** of new pencils (*preferably good quality - others are very difficult to sharpen*)
- **Sails** to provide cover over our outside circle (*continued collection*)

We are actively seeking:

- **Drums of all kinds** for a drumming opportunity we are imagining - responding to the children's interests.
- **Wood** for building bike ramps
- **Fill** for building bike berms