

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.

January 2020



Welcome Back Friends!

Over coffee this morning, Deb, Tousilum and I discussed our school community - *where we have come from and our dreams for the future*. This process of walking together - of Q'shintul - is rooting us as a strong community - a strong family - of diverse, unique, amazing human beings - *who try and care and struggle and try again* - growing and learning in the process. So many memories from the fall term - Coast Salish storytellers, mud, rain, problem solving, listening, and designing rules and guidelines; the redevelopment of the Ganges River, more mud, more rain, more problem solving; biking, biking, biking, and respecting other's wheels; circus performing, move-a-thon fundraising, Vancouver Island University collaborating; more mud, more rain, more biking, more loose parts, more problem solving, and listening deeper; a garden begins, birthdays are honoured, monster trucks come alive; bonfires, studio spaces, MAPS meetings; mud, rain, biking, loose parts, rivers, problem solving, listening; visitors from New Zealand, Australia, New Brunswick, the Yukon, food from parents, support from the District; stinky hides, sticky hands, creative minds, rolling tubes; Q'shintul t-shirts, gifts for elders; counting, measuring, wondering, building, reading, writing; breakfast club and drink trolleys, initiative, innovation, deep learning; Snow Queen perfect imperfection, Santa's Workshop led by young elves, and Passion Night led by Delilah; and finally, mud, rain, biking, loose parts, problem solving, and listening deeper still. I am so curious - What will the winter term bring? Here are some things we will be taking up and some dates for your calendars:

January ❄️

Building our Library of Reading Mentors (to begin in February)

9th - MBNS Parenting (and Grandparenting) **Circle** - 6:30-9:00 pm (Ocean Studio) - *Everyone Welcome!*

13th - New cycle of **Playful Inquiries** begins

16th - **New Parent Information Circle** - 6:30-8:30 pm (Towne Hall) - *We would love parents to attend to answer new parent questions*

20-24th - Kindergarten **Registration** at MBNS

29th - **2 hour early dismissal** @ 12:13 pm

February ❤️

Making a fuss out of reading - Q'shintul Reading Challenge (Reading Mentors begin)

3rd to 7th - Sharing of mid year **Reports** to Parents - written by Clan leaders

13th - MBNS Parenting (and Grandparenting) **Circle** - 6:30-9:00 pm (Ocean Studio) - *Everyone Welcome!*

14th - Professional Day - **no school**

17th - Family Day - **holiday**

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

