

Mill Bay Nature School

deep roots

update

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.

December 2018

“We are co-creating from the ground up a new learning & teaching community.”

“We are always in the process of co-creating collaborative teaching & learning environments with flexible groupings of learners (children, youth & adult).”

Mill Bay Nature School Field Guide

In the past 6 weeks, a series of questions have emerged through our collaborative professional conversations. Here are some examples:

- How do we provide each child the challenges and rigour they thrive in? What have we noticed in the past 3 months?
- How do we equitably balance the children in clans who require self-regulation support?
- Some stronger learners are ready to go deeper/farther - how do we organize each day for them?
- Some younger learners are learning the rhythms of themselves and how to work within the expectations of MBNS - how do we organize each day for them?
- Should we eat before free play or after? Are children expressing their preferences?
- Some children are connecting to different adults in different ways - how do we respond to this?

With these questions in mind, we have mindfully created the following shifts in our daily/monthly rhythms (to begin Dec. 10 and to be reconsidered in the Spring):

- Children have been placed in Clans which reflect their gifts, talents & needs - as well as where they are on their learning journey. Emails will be sent at the end of the week with the name of your child's Clan leader)
- Playful Inquiries will be more robust. This time is practical application - “in situ” - connected to the curriculum (numeracy, literacy, science, fine arts/applied design, dramatic arts/role play) as well as being mindful of the children's passions and teacher strengths. **We would like to welcome CLUB mentors during this time as well (Monday to Thursday). Please let Kim know if you would like to mentor and how much/when.**

The adjusted daily schedule:

- 8:30-9:00 Outside Play
- 9:00-9:30 Circle
- 9:30-11:30 Clan Time (including snack & lunch)
- 12:15-1:30 Playful Inquiries
- 1:30-2:13 Clan Reflection

Yearly/Overarching Themes:

Dec “Earth”
Jan “Fire”
Feb “Fire”
March “Water”
April “Water”
May “Wind”
June “Wind”

The adjusted weekly schedule:

- Fridays will remain Field Studies - however each Clan will take up Field Studies appropriate for their Clan and Clan focuses. Beach Fridays will be once a month and will include the entire school.