

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.

AUGUST+ 2019

Welcome Back Friends!

From left to right -

Back - Brian, Chris, Phaedra, Erin, Lawrence

Front - Kim, Karin, Murphy, Myra

(Missing - Anne (It was her daughter's birthday!))



The teaching staff just returned from retreat at Port Renfrew where we learned so much about each other, imagined possibilities for Mill Bay Nature School, and began to design structures and rhythms for our year as we walk together - **Q'shintul**. (We also, of course, drank in the natural beauty of the ocean and ate some delicious food!) This is a passionate, diverse, creative, thoughtful and caring group of teachers. I am very excited to see how the opportunities for learning and growth emerge this year. I know your children will be mindfully tended and well cared for. **You are invited to a parent gathering on Thursday, September 5 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in our Town Hall (gym) where we will introduce ourselves, our philosophy and this year's structures.** (Child minding will not be available, but children are welcome to remain with their parents at the gathering).

Our school campus continues to be under construction and renovations - #patience #transformation. If you happen to drive by, you can see new drainage being installed in the front area where 'Lake Mill Bay' used to emerge on rainy days. At this time it looks like the old schoolhouse and two classrooms in the 2 story building will be ready for children on our first day - #hopeful. There is much moving to be done in the next few days! So, if you happen to drop by the school, know that it looks like **moving day** inside - #mysteryboxes. We are hard at work preparing for the arrival of our amazing children on Tuesday!

Please note: For the first day of school, the children will be gathered outside as one. The second day will find the children gathered into 2 "Pods" with distinct learning spaces. Three Clans will form within each Pod by the end of the second week as we become more familiar with each other.

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

Information & Suggestions



- **Bus passes** can be picked up at Mill Bay's office - called "The Nest" and tended by Tanya Leech - *every day this week & next*
- **There are no \$25 school fees this year** - *we will most likely request donations for busing to field studies as the need emerges*
- **A Neighbourhood Field Study permission form** is attached. Please complete and return ASAP
- **School begins** on Tuesday, September 3 - 8:30 am to 12:13 pm (**supervision begins at 8 am**) - *bring a small lunch & water*
- **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
- **Please read the Field Guide** for clothing and footwear guidance - *label everything*
- **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*)