

Mill Bay Nature School

Q'shintul newsletter

We acknowledge that for thousands of years the Malahat, Lake Cowichan, Quw'utsun, Halalt, Penelakut, Stzuminus, & 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.

OCT 2020

★ SCHOOL PHOTOS ARE TOMORROW & TUESDAY ★ PRO-D DAY ON FRIDAY ★

Powerful October Winds

Last weekend and into Monday, the winds completely flattened our metal and vinyl outdoor Clan Learning Spaces by bending and twisting the structures. We are so sad and frustrated by this destruction; the PAC donated many of the structures. We are left asking - NOW WHAT? Learning outside is both satisfying, as well as safe (during COVID) but on rainy days our capacity to teach and learn outside are definitely restricted (as paper does not like rain!). **We need to begin to think about how we can build wooden structures that are inexpensive and offer shelter.** The Smuqwa Clan as well as a \$3500 Tree Canada Grant, have begun the reforestation of the outdoor campus ... *but this will take time!* **If you have any suggestions of ways to gather wood, metal cladding, or cement footings for shelters, we would be so grateful.**

Learning MAPS

Learning MAPS provide helpful shared information for all the adults who support your child. We take the time to read each child's story, as well as parent dreams, concerns, and your child's strengths and needs - *at this point on their journey.* The following page of this newsletter is the series of questions which we have asked families to complete upon entering MBNS. **If you are new**, then please complete the entire form and return to your child's Clan Leader ASAP. **If you have already been a part of MBNS** and have completed the MAPS form, then, please complete the strengths and needs section of the form, and return to your child's Clan Leader ASAP. ***If you would like a follow up meeting to elaborate or explain aspects of your child's story, please contact your child's Clan Leader and a Zoom meeting can be arranged.***

Playful Inquiries

We have completed one 3-week cycle of Playful Inquiries - where the teachers pitch ideas based upon the children's expressed interests, and the children select their top choices. The children have expressed great joy in this opportunity; it's one of the highlights of our school. Kim took up the leadership of a Playful Inquiry in the Cedar POD last cycle to provide another option to the children; next cycle, she will offer an additional Playful Inquiry to the Dandelions. We are definitely noticing the constraints imposed upon us by the Learning POD model of provincial COVID guidelines - as there are fewer Inquiry choices, and the teachers/children are remaining with their PODS rather than having the opportunity to work with older/younger children and other teachers not in their POD. We are grateful for the children's willingness to be flexible and adapt; the teachers are exploring ways to expand the interconnectedness of our school.

Emerging Needs/Remembrances at MBNS

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

- Our Move-A-thon is Thursday - funds will be used to provide cover over our outside Clan Learning Spaces
- Looking for - **willow branches** - to provide the 'bones' of a building project
- Looking for - **Wood scraps** - to help develop our Dandelion loose parts area
- **Please remember** to call or email our secretary if your child will be late or absent (before 8:28)
- **Please remember** to park your car during drop-off or pick-up to prevent clogging the bus lane

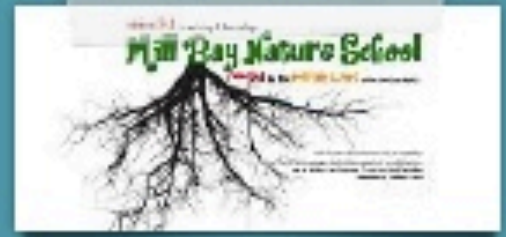
(Feel free to do on a separate page or add sheets ...)

Learning **M**ap for _____

Created by _____

Date _____

Reviewed _____



What is your child's personal history?

Start with birth ... early years ... family relationships ... places you've lived ... experiences, etc.

Blank green box for writing the child's personal history.

What are your child's dreams? What are your dreams/plans for your child?

Blank green box for writing the child's dreams and plans.

What are your child's worries/concerns? What are your concerns/worries/nightmares for your child?

Blank green box for writing the child's worries and concerns.

What are your child's strengths, passions, gifts?

Blank green box for writing the child's strengths, passions, and gifts.

What are your child's needs? Think about life in your family, community, school, friends, etc. Please circle the 2/3 most important to you.

Blank green box for writing the child's needs.