

Walking Together in the warm land of the Cowichan Valley

# Mill Bay Nature School

## Q'w'shintul newsletter

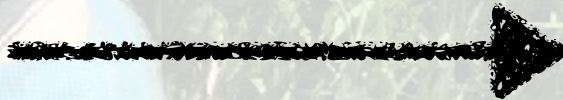


February 2019

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.

### Nature Trust of B.C.: Opportunity!

We are looking for parent helpers to support our learners as they explore the forest down the street from our school with Nature Trust of B.C. volunteers this Wednesday.



### KIN'SOL natural play environment UPDATE

The ring was raised ... just slightly & so was a little less exciting than expected ... still, experiencing it in a "snow globe" with thick, heavy flakes made it still seem like magic. Clayton drummed our fire ring into place. We are so grateful. It looks like our natural play areas will be completed by Spring Break. Come and take a look and a smell! (yellow cedar) of the different play areas. The children believe that we will have the best playground in the world!

**[The Nature Trust of British Columbia: Sanderson's Royal Conservation Area**

Help plan, trees and learn about nature with The Nature Trust of British Columbia in Cobble Hill on Wednesday, February 27, 2019.

The Nature Trust is a land conservation organization. We own land across BC, and protect wildlife and plants that live on this land.

Thanks to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, we are hosting tree planting and nature walk at the SANDERSON'S Royal Conservation Area located in Cobble Hill. Thank you for helping us help nature!

The Sanderson family worked with The Nature Trust by donating the land to ensure the substantial fish, wildlife and habitat values are conserved, restored and enhanced while maintaining the agricultural heritage of the property. The land features mature forests, streams, riparian areas and open field habitat. SANDERSON'S Creek flows through the property where fish habitat, among other species, thrive.

When: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 we will be having a tree and shrub planting from 9:00am and 12:00pm.

Where: 2284 Cobble Hill Rd. Meet at the front gate of the SANDERSON'S Royal Property in Cobble Hill.

Directions: head north on Cobble Hill Road. Once you pass Wilkinson Road there will be a gate about 300 metres on your left with a Nature Trust sign. This will be the meeting location. Once you see the access point (gate and sign), please exit off the road safely and enter into the property.

What is provided/what to bring: We will provide trees and shrubs, shovels and gloves. If you have your own gloves, please bring them. We will provide shelter from the weather as well as water and snacks. We ask you to bring:

- Boots that are waterproof as the planting area will be wet
- Warm clothes that will most likely get dirty (hat, pants, waterproof jacket)
- Reusable water bottle/bug

Weather: No washroom on site.



Many many thanks to Christoffer's family for making absolutely stunning medallions (originally for our "Grand Opening") which we shared with each child to commemorate the "Raising of the Ring." Christoffer hand gifted a medallion to each person in our community that day. He did it proudly and with great confidence. It was a special part of this ceremonial day.





## Partnering with Alexander School: It began!

Talented dancers and drummers from Alexander School visited and engaged us in learning about their special dance regalia, as well as how long they have been drumming and dancing for. We also got to participate in some dances - led by Robert George, Tousilum's brother. The hamburger soup and buns added a lovely community feel to the day. We are very grateful for everyone who made a crock pot of yummy warm goodness!



We will again host Alexander Students this thursday. ***There will be a performance after lunch if you would like to join us at 12:30.***

## One-to-One Literacy Mentors still NEEDED

Please contact Sarah McDonald if you or someone you know would like to become a part of this. Training will happen the week before Spring Break.

## Talent Show

Mill Bay Nature School will be hosting a Talent Show on Tuesday, March 5 from 6:30-8:30 pm. ***All children and parents are welcome to share something that they are passionate about. You do not need to be excellent at something to share it.*** Video presentations as well as stand alone presentations (like art exhibits) are also welcome. Thank you to Jannett Page for initiating this awesome idea!

**Mark your calendar:** Q'Shintul Family Camping Trip to Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park (group campsite) - June 14-June 16 (weekend). *Thank you to the Page/Souter family for booking this.*

***Until next time,  
Q'shintul (Walking Together),  
Kim (on behalf of the staff at Mill Bay Nature School)***