



Mill Bay Nature School Weekly Newsletter

Nov 3-7

Mill Bay Nature School 2025/2026

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Happy Halloween



Thank you to everyone who were able to come and celebrate this magical, spooky season with us. The parade, pumpkin patch, naming the giant pumpkin and the dance were a hit and the students talked about it all day. I'm wishing you all a safe night and a wonderful weekend.





























Wet weather clothing reminder



The fall rain is here! A reminder to please ensure your child has proper rain gear for our wet days. We do not have inside days when it rains so the students do go outside for 45 minutes during the lunch hour to get some much needed fresh air and exercise.

Did you know...that the students also go outside each week for land-based learning. We spend time learning about the garden and food sustainability, composting, lifecycles, ecosystems,

nature journalling and so much more. Each class gets 1 hour a week doing outside learning with me. Now that we have the rainy weather, outdoor clothing is a must to stay dry and comfortable during this time.

Inclement weather information from the School District



INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 20, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians:

With the winter season fast approaching, it is time to share the School District's procedures regarding inclement weather. There may be times when bus routes will not be operating as usual, or where schools in the district are closed.

BUS CANCELLATIONS

The most likely reason for cancellation of bus service will be for severe winter weather conditions, in which case one or more bus routes in the district may be cancelled. It will be determined by approximately 5:45 a.m. whether to cancel one or more bus routes. This is done in consultation with transportation staff who carefully assess local road conditions after severe weather warnings or events.

It is especially important that you take note of what route(s) your child(ren) ride on.

BUS OPERATIONS DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER

During inclement weather events, there are roadways that are part of regular routing that are initially less maintained. Some of these roadways may be considered unsafe to drive for district school buses. If this determination is made, following the careful assessment by transportation staff, communication will go out to district ridership. The messaging will include affected routes, and if applicable, will also outline alternate safe pick-up locations for affected routes.

Communications will be provided through My Ride K-12 and will be posted to the district [Facebook](#) page.

If bus routes are running more than 15 minutes behind schedule, drivers will notify the transportation office. The transportation team will then advise the Principals and VicePrincipals of affected schools. Information regarding bus routes running more than 15 minutes behind schedule will also be found on My Ride K-12 and the district [Facebook](#) page.

It is recommended to download the My Ride K-12 app for timely updates.

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SCHOOL CLOSURES

The closure of schools in the district may occur when we are experiencing severe winter weather conditions, or when it is simply unsafe to drive. Again, it will be determined by approximately 5:45 a.m. whether to close schools in the district after assessing the situation.

Please note:

Schools may also be closed due to weather events after the school day has started. In these situations, parents and guardians will need to make arrangements for their children if buses are unable to operate.

WHERE TO FIND BUS ROUTE AND SCHOOL CANCELLATION NOTIFICATIONS

Any notice of official school closures due to weather will be posted to the district [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts.

We will notify local radio and TV media outlets prior to 6 a.m. with information regarding bus or route cancellations and school closures. News announcements usually begin after 6 a.m. Media partners will **not** be notified about individual route changes.

The following local radio stations will be contacted about inclement weather notifications:

- The Q! (100.3 FM)
- The Zone (91.3 FM)
- CBC (90.5 FM)
- SUN-FM (89.7 FM)
- CFX (1070 AM)

The following TV stations will also be contacted:

- CTV Vancouver Island
- Global BC
- CHEK News

The school district website (www.sd79.bc.ca) will also be updated with a banner informing you of any closures.

In all cases, the safety of students will be the priority. Parents are equally encouraged to keep safety in mind when determining whether to take your child(ren) to school in the event the district is open during winter weather conditions. It is your prerogative to keep them at home if you feel it is the safest choice. When able, students and families should come to the school grounds in suitable winter footwear, use designated walkways, and only park in designated drop off locations.

Let us work together to ensure winter weather days can be safe for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Davie

Superintendent

Cowichan Valley School District

News from the Library



Library Learning at Mill Bay Nature School

It has been a wonderful month of discovery and creativity in the Mill Bay Nature School Library! Students have celebrated Thanksgiving by creating a collaborative **Gratitude Tree**, learned about **Diwali** and its beautiful traditions, and taken part in a fun **Halloween STEM challenge** building their very own **LEGO haunted houses**.

Our young readers are also exploring the **new books** that have been added to our collection and are learning the routines of **checking books in and out**—an exciting milestone in developing responsibility and independence.

It is my great pleasure to spend these precious hours with your children, watching their curiosity grow. I can't wait to see what we will learn and explore together throughout the year!

Tech Tip for Families

For our youngest learners, **digital balance** starts with modeling healthy habits. Try setting up a “**screen-free story time**” each evening—where everyone in the family reads, listens to an audiobook, or shares a favourite story together without devices nearby. This simple routine helps children build focus, imagination, and a lifelong love of books.

Ms Emily

Teacher Librarian

PAC



PAC needs YOU! We are looking for 6 volunteers to start up and run the Hot Lunch Program. If you are interested in knowing more please reach out to PAC at: eagleclan.mbns@gmail.com

Thank you to all who helped set up our mini pumpkin patch on Tuesday! It was a great success.

Next PAC meeting is November 18th at 8:00 via Zoom

Important Dates



November 10: Remembrance Day Assembly @ 9:00 am

November 11: Remembrance Day, School is not in session

November 27: 2-hour Early Dismissal

November 28: Non-Instructional Day, Schools not in session

December 18: Winter Solstice Celebration 4:30-6:00

December 20-January 4: Winter Break

January 5: First day back after winter break

Contact Us



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Visit our website for calendar and other happenings around the school:

<https://natureschool.sd79.bc.ca/>

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