

SPUL'U'KWUKS NEWS

Newsletter #3

October 14th, 2016

Telephone: 604-303-5100

Fax: 604-303-5106

Principal: Mrs. Darlene Shandola

Safe Arrival: 604-303-5108

Vice Principal: Mr. John Kibblewhite

Website address: spulukwuks.sd38.bc.ca

Trustee: Mr. Jonathan Ho

From the Office

Parking Lot at 3:00 p.m. As you know, our parking lot is closed from 2:30–3:15 p.m. each day so that we are not clogging up Blanshard Drive. We appreciate your help with this. Although most cars are not allowed to enter, a few vehicles do come onto the school grounds. For example, our custodians who work at 3:00 p.m., district workman and folks attending meetings in the school. **TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE, WE ASK THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN USE THE SIDEWALKS AND THE YELLOW CROSSWALKS.** Please do not walk on the roadways! There is no skateboarding or biking at the front of the school. This establishes good habits and keeps everyone safe.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Flu and Cold Season

It is that time again – flu and cold season is beginning and we are reminding students to wash their hands regularly. Using soap and hot water is a great way to clean hands. The school is discouraging hand sanitizers because they are not good for your skin AND, when used widely in a classroom, fill the air with irritants that are affecting eyes and breathing. **PLEASE do not send sanitizers to school: JUST REMIND YOUR CHILDREN TO WASH THEIR HANDS REGULARLY.** AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

If your child is ill or has a fever, please keep them home. Students who have vomited should stay home as well for 24 hours after they have been ill. This will help us control the spread of germs!

Around the School

School Goals

Goal #1 To improve our students' abilities to ask deep questions and to think critically and creatively.

Reading, writing and mathematics continue to be important. Along with these and other subject matter curriculum, the new Ministry Transforming Curriculum and Assessment documents have listed 3 overarching Core Competencies for our learners in B.C.: Thinking, Communication and Personal and Social. We want to develop all three of these competency areas in our students. In particular, our school focus is trying to improve students' abilities to question, engage in inquiry and think critically and creatively as a way to deepen their understanding of concepts in all areas of the curriculum.

Related to this is important work around Growth Mindsets: Based on the research by Dr. Carol S. Dweck (author of Mindset) educators are encouraging students to develop growth mindsets. Students who have growth mindsets (as opposed to fixed mindsets) are students who understand that effort (not just innate ability) helps learning. We can all learn and get better at something! Students with growth mindsets are successful because they

- try new things and are open to possibilities
- take risks and make mistakes
- embrace mistakes and see mistakes as an important part of learning (In fact, mistakes help the brain grow!)
 - are excited about learning new things
 - ask questions, pose theories

Everyone is a mix of mindsets – in some areas we may have growth mindsets, some we may have fixed mindsets. But, in all cases, we (all learners!) want to keep growing. **We should all have goals that keep us moving forward. For our children, we need to say they have not learned to do something YET but they can learn with good effort!**

Three interesting books to read to learn more:

1. Mindset by Carol S Dweck

[How To Help Every Child Fulfill Their Potential – YouTube:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI9TVbAal5s)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI9TVbAal5s>

2. Mathematical Mindsets by Jo Boaler

3. Choice Words: How Our Language Affects Children's Learning by Peter Johnston

Goal #2 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY is a Richmond School District goal. As in the past four years, our school will continue on with the lessons started last year with the Area Counseling Team. We will further develop our Social Responsibility skills in the areas of empathy, anger management and solving problems: all important aspects of Social/Emotional learning. Why? Because we know that students who feel safe and connected, who are self-aware and have good self-regulation skills, will be better learners and citizens.

OUR FOCUS: At Spul'u'kwuks, we care for others, we care for our place and we take care of ourselves.

Student Leadership 2016-17

Our 2016 Student Council is off to a great start. We had our first Spirit Day – Pajama Day – on October 12th. It was a fun day and lots of students showed their school spirit by wearing PJs and/or bringing a stuffed toy. On October 31st, we will have a Hallowe'en Assembly at 9:00 a.m. Hallowe'en will be our second Spirit Day. Students are encouraged to wear a costume. Student Council will have prizes for the cutest, scariest, funniest and most creative costumes.

Other Dates to Remember

Monday, October 17 th	- Hot lunch day. No NOVA Food delivery today.
October 19 th and 20 th	- Early Dismissal for Conferences – Students leave at 2:00 p.m.
October 20 th	- PAC Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the school library
Friday, October 21 st	- Pro-D Day – No school for students.
Friday, October 28 th	- Tea and Talk 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 9 th	- Photo Retakes 9:00 a.m.
Thursday, November 10 th	- 10:30 a.m. Remembrance Day Assembly
Friday, November 11 th	- No school on this day in honour of Remembrance Day
Thursday, November 17 th	- PAC Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the school library
Tuesday, November 22 nd	- 9:30 a.m. Vancouver Theatre Sports Parents are invited.
Friday, November 18 th	- Curriculum Implementation Day – No school for students. Teachers will be at workshops during this day.
Wednesday, November 30 th	- Last day for reports to be sent home
Wednesday, November 30 th	- Santa's Breakfast – more details to come
Thursday, December 1 st	- Farewell Assembly for Mrs. Shandola 2:00 p.m.
Friday, December 2 nd	- Last day of school before the Winter Break

TEA AND TALK October 28th 9:00 a.m. Multipurpose Room
All parents are invited. Translation provided.

TOPIC: How do our special services work in the school? We will talk about ELL, Counselling, School-Based Team, Speech and Language Support, Resource Support and our Elementary Counselling Support Worker.

