

Spul'u'kwuks News

Newsletter #4

December 7, 2017

SPUL'U'KWUKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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MR. JOHN KIBBLEWHITE
PRINCIPAL

MS. NICHOLE KUSCH
VICE PRINCIPAL

From the Office

First term is nearly over. Lots of great teaching and learning has happened. On December 1st, we had a spirit day organized by our student council. It was called Heritage Day. Students wore clothing from their cultural heritage. We have many different cultures in our school. While the majority of home languages are Cantonese and Mandarin, we also have families speaking Japanese, French, Russian, Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog, Spanish, Slovak, Urdu, Vietnamese and of course, English. Celebrating our heritage helps students build their personal and family identities. We celebrate our diversity and know it makes our Spul'u'kwuks community stronger. We would like to wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy December break. Thank you for all your support this term.

Staff Updates Mrs. Toy is leaving us for a year on a maternity break and Ms. MacGregor will teach her K class until the end of July. Mr. Tang is returning to his grade 4/5 class. We wish Mrs. Toy all the best.

Tips for a Healthy and Happy Winter Break

The Richmond Olympic Oval has special winter break programmes for kids of all ages.

Spend time with family and friends. Turn off devices and enjoy some face-to-face time with those nearest to you.

Get outside and spend time in nature.

What I liked about Heritage Day:

Student Reflections:

*"It was fun to show our clothes."
-Ekam*

*"I liked wearing some red clothes."
-Ethan*

*"My clothes had a dragon on it."
- Kurt*

*"I liked to see everybody's costume and where they come from."
- Valentina*

*"You could see what cultures other people came from."
- Vanessa*

*"I liked that you could create your own ideas and show your culture."
- Adrien*

Report Cards

Report Cards went home this week. They are the first of three formal reports that go home at the end of each term. As well, two parent-teacher conferences occur. Report cards are personalized, criterion referenced and speak to what your child can do. As well, most teachers describe goals they have made with your child for next term. Read your report with your child and have a discussion about how they did. Don't compare your child's report with other parent's. And don't compare this year's report to last year's. Every teacher evaluates a little differently and every year can be a little more challenging. Strong classroom assessment practices support student achievement by informing students, parents and teachers on where students are at with their learning and for establishing new learning goals. As well, students will be doing self-assessments of Core Competencies throughout the school year in the areas of self-regulation and communication.

Remembrance Day

We had a very beautiful and thoughtful school assembly on November 10 for Remembrance Day. Thanks to Ms. Garrett for working with our grade 4, 5 and 6 choir and helping coordinate the whole assembly. Our students showed respect as we paid tribute to fallen soldiers and talked about peace. Thanks to parents who attended. Remember, peace begins with all of us.



Remembrance Day Choir



Breakfast With Santa Choir

PAC Corner

Breakfast with Santa, the PAC's biggest fund raiser, happened this Wednesday. Thanks to Laleh, Faiza, Leanne, Effie, Viann and everyone who helped make this another big

success. Thanks also to all those who sponsored prizes. Your support makes a huge difference. The next PAC Meeting is Thursday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Reading Records

Well, it may not make the Guinness Book of Records but division 2 has read more than 320 books this term. That's exceptional! And, in division 7, Ms. Hyrman sets reading goals with her students. Some plan to read more than 3000 pages from now to next term. If you want your child to become a better reader, they have to read more books. That's a record we can all make.

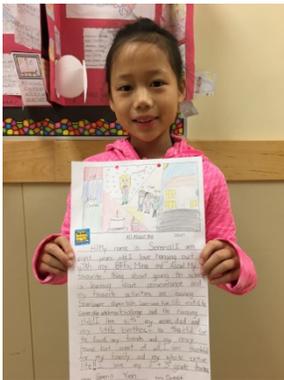
Div. 2 Students



Div. 4 Students



Student Writing



Here is a sample of student writing, from Serena in Div. 9

Hi. My name is Serena! I am eight years old. I love hanging out with my BFF's, Mina and Alicia. My favorite thing about going to school is learning about perseverance and my favourite activities are saving Sam and the running club. I live with my mom, dad and my little brother. I am thankful for the food, my friends and my cozy house but most of all I am thankful for my family and my whole entire life. I love my teacher, Ms. Long. I love TDK because we get to play and they have snacks and we get to go outside...My favorite sports are running club, swimming and skating. I am super-duper thankful for my teacher and my parents and my entire life!

Ms. MacGregor Interview

One of our newest staff members is Ms. MacGregor. Students in division 6 interviewed her for the newsletter. Ms. MacGregor is from Toronto. She moved here to attend UBC.

Why did you want to come to this school?

I wanted to come to Spul'u'kwuks because I heard so many great things about the school and the community. I also thought the balanced calendar is conducive to taking some time for skiing, surfing and travelling.

What are your hobbies?

Skiing, yoga, dancing, surfing, cycling and spending time with my family at their cottage in Ontario.

Why did you become a teacher?

I really enjoy working with children and it gives me a chance to have fun during the day.

If you had one pet what would it be?

A hedgehog named Otis.

What is your favourite food?

Avocadoes on just about ANYTHING.

Spirit Day

On Friday, December 1st, we had our first Spirit Day. Student Council helped organize the event and chose the theme: Heritage Day. It was a day to celebrate our cultural background and show pride in our heritage. Here is a photo of some students from Ms. Myer's class. As one boy said, "My look is Chinese, but my feelings are Canadian."



Beijing Opera Opportunity

One of our parents has kindly offered complimentary tickets to a performance on Saturday, December 23rd, at 2 pm, of the Beijing Opera Troupe. It is being held at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in downtown Vancouver. If you are interested, please contact: Kelly Zhao for tickets: Kelly@cimlonline.com

Mad Science

Mad Science is back in the new year beginning Monday, January 15 from 3:05-4:05. Eight weeks of exciting hands-on science based activities for students in grades 3-7. The cost is \$130. To register, go to: <https://register.madscience.org/vancouver>

CyberSmarts

With our upcoming four-week break, some older students might have a lot of free time on their hands. It's tempting to spend it on-line gaming, chatting, You Tubing, etc. We recommend that you limit the time they spend on-line, you know which sites they visit and which social media services they are registered with. We encourage you to create family rules about Internet use and make sure you know what your children are doing on-line. Talk to your children about how you expect them to behave online. The Richmond School District has a Code of Conduct which includes students and states: "we all behave in a considerate and courteous manner; not threaten, harass in any way, any person within the school community directly or indirectly, through print or electronic media". In January, we will have a presentation to older students on internet safety and appropriate communication. It's something every school does on a regular basis. The internet provides an amazing opportunity to learn and communicate. Like all forms of communication, we need to use it responsibly and ethically.

Upcoming Events

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|---------|------------------------------|
| Dec 8 | Last Day of School |
| Jan. 8 | School Opens for Second Term |
| Jan. 15 | Mad Science Begins |
| Jan. 26 | Pro D – No School |
| Feb. 12 | Family Day – No School |
| Feb. 23 | Pro-D Day – No School |