

SPUL'U'KWUKS NEWS

We acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the **hə́n' q' əmíh' əm' (hun-ki-meen-um)** language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.



What an exciting week we've had! It was wonderful to see all the smiling faces returning to school and to hear the stories of your summer adventures!

We know the beginning of school can bring on some worries for students, and that is perfectly normal! If your child expresses concerns about their class placement, reassure them that a great deal of care and consideration went into each placement to create the best learning environments possible. Sometimes being with our "bestie" doesn't always help our learning! It's okay to share our worries, but not dwell on them, as we can miss out on fun opportunities!

Looking for the opportunities that present themselves and approaching the year with a positive perspective are the best ways to manage a change.

We are unable to make changes to our classes.



School Start Time Reminder

School begins promptly at 8:45am! Arriving on time ensures that students are present for important announcements and an overview of the day's activities. The start of the day sets the tone and helps students prepare for a successful and organized learning experience. Please make punctuality a priority and plan to arrive at school before 8:45 so your child has time to get settled in class before the bell rings.

Air Quality Monitoring

You may have observed a decrease in our air quality recently. As smoke from wildfires has moved into the area, schools have been given the tools to monitor the air quality hourly and to move activities indoors should a certain threshold be reached.

Lots of Forms!

On Monday, a package of forms will be sent home for each child. We appreciate you completing the forms and returning them as soon as possible.

Drop-Off Thank You!

We have noticed the efforts families are making to use the drop-off lanes in a way that keeps traffic moving and we thank you for that! If your child is able to get out of your vehicle and gather their belongings independently and quickly, then your family is ready for the drop-off lane. If you require more time, need to get out of your vehicle to help your child, want to walk your child to class, or speak with your child's teacher, please find a place to park on the street and walk to the school.

Lunch Update

Attached to this newsletter is information from Libby's Kitchen about ordering school lunches. They will be providing delivered lunches to the school, Monday to Friday, for the month of September for those who wish to order. From October onwards, PAC Hot Lunch is every Monday, and Libby's Kitchen will deliver from Tuesday to Friday. We do not permit any other food delivery services.

You will be notified when PAC Hot Lunch Forms are ready for your orders. You will need a MunchaLunch account to order. Look for this icon on our school website and set up an account if you don't have one.



Meet the Staff - Hold the Date

Keep the early evening of Wednesday, September 17th free for our Meet the Staff event and barbeque. More details will be coming about the event and the speaker(s) that we have lined up.

M&M Meats has been booked and will be offering burgers (beef - \$6.00; veggie - \$6.50) and hot dogs (\$4.00) to all families and staff. Cheese, lettuce, and tomatoes will be available for the burgers. The link to order is on CashOnline and the firm deadline for orders is September 10th at 3pm.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

Each year, the school makes organization plans based on the number of returning students and new registrations. Your child's classroom teacher, resource staff, educational assistants and administrators work together to place students for the upcoming school year. These plans are tentative until the end of the first week when final student numbers are known. During the first week, all staff meet to confirm teaching assignments, place new students, and review student placements.

In organizational meetings, many factors are considered when placing students. These considerations include:

- * Learning styles and strengths
- * Social/personal characteristics
- * Special needs
- * ELL levels
- * Contractual obligations
- * Work habits
- * Gender considerations
- * Friendship groups
- * Age and physical maturity

As you can see, this is a complicated process, and this list is by no means exclusive, as there are many factors unique to a situation that must be taken into account.

It should be noted that classes are created to be as balanced as possible so that the learning environment can be maximized.

Please be aware the final decision regarding placement needs to be a school-based decision.

UNDERSTANDING COMBINED CLASSES

We are beginning our initial planning for next year in the coming weeks and often find that the philosophy behind combined classes is unfamiliar to parents/guardians, or they have incorrect information.

Children who are placed in the upper grade of a combined class are not placed there because they struggle in school. For example, in a combined Gr. 4/5 class, we do our very best to ensure that for each grade, we have students who encompass a range of learning styles and abilities. We do not place all of our strongest Gr. 5 learners in a Gr. 5/6 when a Grade 4/5 classroom is also available.

Teachers are trained to provide instruction to diverse classes of students, looking at children as individuals, and providing for individual education plans, where warranted, for students who are faster or slower to develop. In this student-centred approach to teaching and learning, we recognize that not all students learn at the same rate and at the same time. Common topics explored in classrooms allow for a diverse range of students to learn at their own pace, while working toward learning outcomes specific for their grade.

Combined classes offer enhanced opportunities for all students to demonstrate confidence, positive self-concept, and a strong sense of belonging. Combined classes can help students form broader and more varied friendships, as older students provide role models for younger students. Sometimes the teacher/student relationship can be enhanced if the same teacher teaches a student for more than one year, leading to increased feelings of security for returning students and a smoother transition in September because the teacher already knows their learning styles and needs well. Teachers in combined classes, like those in straight grades, follow the curriculum requirements defined by the Ministry of Education.

You will find that over the course of your child's schooling, there are years that they will be in the lower grade of a combined class and other years when they will be in the higher grade of a combined class. These are both valuable learning experiences and will benefit your child's development academically, emotionally and socially.

Terry Fox Run and Fundraising

Next Friday, September 12, will be our Terry Fox Assembly and Run. In addition to teaching our students about Terry Fox and participating in a short run (not nearly as long as Terry's!), we are raising money for cancer research.

As we know, cancer can affect any family, and we will all benefit from more research and cures for different kinds of cancers. We hope you will support this important fundraiser!

Our goal is to raise \$2 for every students at Spul'u'kwuks through Toonies for Terry.

We will be collecting donations from all classrooms every morning next week. You can also donate [online](#).

It has been 45 years since Terry Fox attempted his run across Canada and began raising millions of dollars for cancer research.

We are looking for at least 12 parent volunteers to help direct our students along the run route on afternoon of the 12th. If you can help, please email the office at spulukwuks@sd38.bc.ca

Thank you!





Dates for your Calendar

- Sept. 5: Welcome Assembly
- Sept. 12: Terry Fox Assembly and Run 1pm
- Sept. 17: Meet the Staff
- Sept. 15: Individual Photo Day
- Sept. 22: Professional Day (no school for students)
- Sept. 23: PAC Meeting 9:30am (Virtual)
- Sept. 29: Truth and Reconciliation Assembly
- Sept. 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)

FARM-FEST
AT GARDEN CITY LANDS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
11AM - 3 PM
5040 GARDEN CITY ROAD

Celebrate Richmond's rich agricultural heritage and exciting food future at the Richmond Farm Fest! This free, family-friendly event brings together the best of farming, food and community in the heart of the city.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of fun festival activities, free parking locations, free bike and e-scooter valet services, and continuous shuttle bus services.