



Spul'ukwuks Elementary School
5999 Blanshard Drive, Richmond, BC V7C 5V4

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RICHMOND
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38

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Mrs. Elaine Stapleton
Principal

Mr. Kristi Narbett
Vice Principal

June 16, 2023

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

We would like to wish all the fathers and male role models a Happy Father's Day! Thank you for being a positive influence in the lives of our students. An interesting reflection from many students when asked if there was anything positive to come out of the pandemic...they were grateful they got to spend more time with their fathers (and/or important men in their lives). Your presence is valued!



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY FUNDRAISING

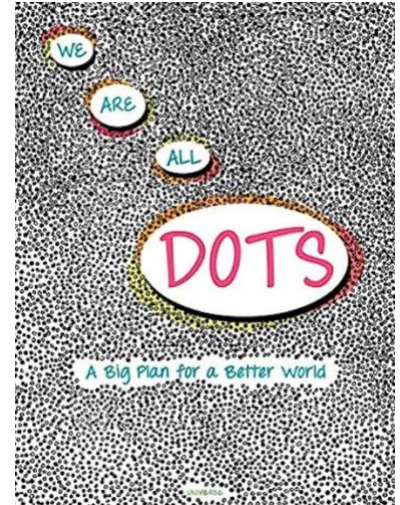
Next Wednesday, June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day and Spul'ukwuks is planning to acknowledge the day with an assembly and a variety of learning opportunities to help us learn about and celebrate Indigenous culture. We are also going to kick off a fundraiser to raise money for an Indigenous foundation. The class that raises the most money will choose who receives the money: UNYA (Urban Native Youth Association), Spirit Bear Caring Foundation, or a Musqueam foundation. The fundraiser is now open on CashOnline and will remain open until July 1st, Canada Day. After that, we will announce the winning division! We hope you can help us take steps toward reconciliation!

FAMILY TEAMS ACTIVITY

June is Pride Month, and our recent Family Teams activity focused on the Ministry of Education's goal to "erase discrimination, embrace inclusion". What does that mean in school? It means that we strive to be an inclusive and safe space for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. SOGI represents ALL of us, as every person has a sexual orientation and gender identity. It is not a term to refer to "other people".

At school we:

- Speak about SOGI in a way that makes every student feel like they belong
- Do not limit a person's potential based on their biological sex and how they understand or express their gender
- Welcome everyone without discrimination, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity



Our Family Teams read the book, [We are all Dots: A Big Plan for a Better World](#), which teaches us that we can achieve great things if we work together. Students were then invited to create a fingerprint animal, plant, or person, to share how they can or do contribute to an inclusive Spul'ukwuks community that values all people.



CAN YOU HELP?

Do you know someone with the equipment to cut out images of salmon from plywood? We are planning for a school-wide activity next school year and are hoping that people in our community might be able to help. We are looking to have one salmon for every student, so that is approximately 400 salmon! The photo is an example of what we are thinking. Please call the office if you can help us! Thank you in advance!

GULF OF GEORGIA CANNERY EVENT TOMORROW

Focusing on the shared experiences of storytelling, drumming, and art, this inclusive and uplifting celebration will include live performances, enticing vendors, and activities for the whole family! Supported by the Province of British Columbia, Parks Canada, and Port of Vancouver.

<https://gulfofgeorgiacannery.org/events/welcoming-the-sun/>

A celebration of Indigenous cultures and fishing history.
June | Juin 17, 2023

12pm to 4pm | 12h à 16h
Une célébration des cultures autochtones et de l'histoire de la pêche.

Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site
Lieu historique national Gulf of Georgia Cannery

Welcoming the Sun Accueil du soleil

June | Juin 17, 2023
12pm to 4pm | 12h à 16h
Admission Free | Entrée gratuite

Logo by Artist Christine MacKenzie

SUPPORTED BY

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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 and to 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 balance
- * 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.



CLASS PLACEMENT FORMS

Parents are welcome to provide information that may assist the staff in planning for next year, as you may have additional information about your child that you want us to know. **Please contact the office to obtain a form, and return it no later than Friday, June 30th.** Please note that information about how your child learns provides the most valuable information. The information you provide should not include a request for a specific teacher, but rather some important personal or educational information that will assist us in our decision. Teacher requests are not the basis for class placements.

All information you provide about your child(ren) at the end of the year will be shared with the teachers and taken into consideration. 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.

All class placement information must be completed using the school form and returned to the office, either on paper or attached electronically (spulukwuks@sd38.bc.ca). Please do not send email

requests or ask school staff to make placements on your behalf. These requests will not be considered.

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, 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-centered 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.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

Remember that school is in session for our students until the end of July. If you register your child for a summer camp, please only select dates/times after school (in July) or during the month of August.

CITY OF RICHMOND

Details about the \$29 Summer Active Pass, an unlimited pass for ages 5 – 18 to participate in select drop-in activities including swimming, skating, pitch & putt golf, fitness centres, and group fitness, can be found in the attached flyer.



UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

June 19	Gr. 6 Immunizations (some Gr. 7, 1, and K students as well)
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 22	PAC AGM 9:30am on Zoom
July 1	Canada Day (Saturday)
July 3	Canada Day Holiday (School Closed)
July 7	Sports Day (Friday)
July 10	Sports Day Rainout Day (Monday)
July 12	Spirit Day
July 26	Last Day of School for Students
July 26	Grade 7 Lunch and Farewell