



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

RICHMOND
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38

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Mrs. Elaine Stapleton
Principal

Mrs. Jenny Slinn
Vice Principal

December 8, 2023

On behalf of the staff at Spul'ukwuks, we would like to wish all our families a safe and happy winter break. Whether you observe any celebrations or just enjoy some extra family time, we hope that you can find some time to relax and reconnect with friends and family. We also wish you a Happy New Year and all the best for the year ahead! See you back at school on January 8th.

COMMUNITY EVENT

Thank you to those families who were able to attend our event this morning. It was incredible to have parents come back into the school to watch students perform...It's been a long time! Our staff and students were excited to present for you, and we hope you enjoyed the show. We would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Milks, who created a program that reflects the many different cultural celebrations that take place at this time of year and for organizing and running rehearsals for our classes. Thanks also to the teachers who helped their students complete the tree artwork and other decorations and to those who helped to decorate the gym in advance of the performance. In addition, our PAC very kindly organized treats and refreshments for students, staff, and guests...over 700 people! It was a team effort...Thank you so much!

We realize that not all parents are able to attend events, so we are making a video of the performance available to you. You will be sent the link in an email. As with other recorded events, whether you attend in person or watch the recording, we ask that you do not share/post video or photos of children other than your own, to respect the privacy of others.



PAC POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Thank you to all the students who submitted an entry into the PAC Poster Contest, with a theme of, "How can we spread joy this holiday season?" The posters were incredible, and it is obvious we have many talented artists at Spul'ukwuks! PAC generously provided prizes to the following entries that were selected for special recognition and were announced at school this morning:

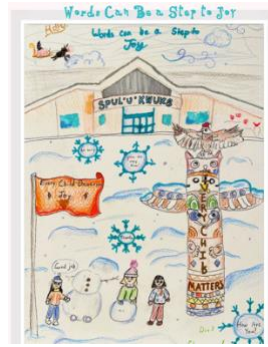
Primary:

- 1st place: Dennis, Div. 14
2nd place: 1) Amelia, Div. 10 2) Kian, Div. 13
3rd place: 1) Rosaria, Div. 10 2) Ryan, Div. 12
Special Mention: Demi, Div. 10



Intermediate:

- 1st place: Florence, Div. 7
- 2nd place: 1) Chloe, Div. 10 2) Makayla, Div. 5
- 3rd place: 1) Jessie, Div. 7 2) Jamila, Div. 4
- Special Mention: Victoria, Div. 8



Digital Poster:

Suredy, Div. 6

If you would like to see all the entries, use this link to access the photos:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Nsz23oz26oekGZ_c1oApZGr7Lv3gCfLW?usp=sharing

CONNECT WITH SPUL'U'KWUKS PAC

If you would like to get in touch with our Spul'u'kwuks PAC, use this QR Code to send a message and find out more about what PAC does and how you can get involved.



STUDENT ILLNESS



We appreciate that it can be difficult for families to manage care for a sick child, however, we ask that students who are unwell do not come to school. The health department advises that we do not attend work or school for 24 hours after vomiting or fever ends. Also, students who are showing active symptoms of illness should also stay home. We need to prevent illness from spreading to students and staff as much as possible, as the effects of illness can affect many people. Over the break, please plan with family and/or friends

who can be called on to care for your child when they are ill if you need to go to work. It's hard to plan at the last minute, so the more prepared you can be, the less stressful illness will be on you. Thank you for your support in keeping our school a healthy place!

WINTER WONDERLAND PUBLIC SKATE

Attached to this newsletter is the schedule for Winter Wonderland Public Skating at Minoru Arenas. Enjoy skating on the winter-themed rink!

SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH

Talking about mental health can be uncomfortable for some but is critical to ensure that our family and friends are provided with the supports they need if they are struggling.



Launched by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canada's new suicide crisis helpline started taking calls last week. People across the country can call and text 9-8-8, a three-digit number for suicide prevention, giving people experiencing thoughts of suicide, or people worried about someone else, an accessible and easy number to call when they need urgent help. Help is also available through [Kids Help Phone](https://www.kidshelpphone.ca) (1-800-668-6868) and the [Hope for Wellness Help Line](https://www.hopewellness.ca) (1-855-242-3310). The Hope for Wellness Helpline is available to all Indigenous people across Canada. Experienced and culturally competent counsellors are reachable by telephone and online 'chat' 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

IPALS SESSIONS FOR 2024 FOR NEW TO CANADA FAMILIES WITH PRE-SCHOOLERS



2024 intake is now open for IPALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters in Immigrant Communities). This program provides new strategies for families to support preschool-aged children's learning. Sessions include adult alone time for caregivers to talk with a facilitator (SWIS, teacher consultant and ECEs) and responds to the cultural and linguistic needs of families; it also aims to provide a positive transition from home and other early care settings to school. See the flyer attached to this newsletter.

DON'T FORGET...

- [Munch a Lunch](#) is open for Term 2 and 3 PAC Hot lunch orders

INCLEMENT WEATHER



It's that time again when we need to be thinking about winter weather and the possibility of snowfall! Below is information from the School District regarding closures due to weather.

The district will try to determine school **closures** due to inclement weather by 6:30 a.m. **Updates will be delivered using social media and school and district websites. We appreciate you using these sources of information instead of calling the school, as the office cannot manage calls from all our families!**

No radio or television announcement will be made saying that schools are open. Only school **closures** will be announced by the media. To reach as many people as possible — as quickly as possible — we work closely with our local media to share information. Listen to local radio stations and follow local news outlets online to also get information about the impact of severe weather or emergencies in our schools.

If snowfall begins while school is in session, in most circumstances, schools will remain OPEN until the end of the school day.

If schools are open, and you wish to keep your child home due to weather conditions, you may do so. Please let your school know of this decision.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their child's safe travel to school. If possible, we encourage parents to walk their children to school in poor weather conditions.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

January 8 School Reopens
January 15 LFI presentation for Gr. 5 students (during school hours)
January 18 PAC Meeting 9:30am
January 19 Spirit Day
January 29 Professional Day (no school for students)
February 1 Outdoor Education meeting for Gr. 6/7 parents 6pm (in person)



Happy Winter Break From Spul'u'kwuks Staff!

