

SPUL'U'KWUKS NEWS

We acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the **hən̓ q̓ əmih̓ əm̓** (hun-ki-meen-um) language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

Professional Day on Monday

Don't forget that Monday is a Professional Day. There is no school for students.

Staff will be participating in professional sessions on- and off-site.

See you on Tuesday!

Thank you, Parent Volunteers!

We would like to extend our thanks to our parent volunteers who help our students cross the street to arrive safely at school.

We appreciate that you are volunteering your time for our school community! ❤️

Intent to Return Forms

There are many students who have not yet returned their forms. We need this important information to plan for next year. Please return your forms asap or contact the office if you need help.



Ministry Childcare Centre

Work is moving along on the new Childcare Centre on our site. Much of the work to prepare the ground was completed over our break in December, although there will be more work to do.

The building will be a modular structure, like the one we currently have outside, and will be built off-site, then brought to the school in three pieces and assembled here.

The purpose is to add additional childcare spaces for the community for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children. Once the site is completed, opportunities for childcare providers to apply will be available through the school district. The aim is for the centre to open in September.

Pocket Forest at Spul'u'kwuks

Our Spul'u'kwuks staff is bringing a “pocket forest” to our school!

What is a pocket forest?

The Miyawaki pocket forest is a revolutionary reforestation method that offers a range of benefits for the environment and urban communities. With rapid growth, increased biodiversity and minimal maintenance requirements, it is an effective tool in the fight against climate change and ecosystem degradation.

Where did the idea come from?

Akira Miyawaki (1928-2021) was a prominent Japanese botanist who dedicated his life to the study of plant ecology and their natural habitats. His work focused on restoring natural ecosystems, resulting in the creation of the method that now bears his name. Inspired by the work of European ecologists and traditional Japanese plant knowledge, Miyawaki developed a technique that allows native forests to be reconstructed in a short period of time, using native flora.

What are the benefits of a pocket forest?

There are many benefits! A pocket forest:

- requires minimal maintenance
- grows much faster than conventional planting
- contains native plants that will adapt to the local environment
- grows without the use of pesticides or fertilizers
- creates a self-sustaining ecosystem
- requires less water
- helps restore wildlife habitats
- reduces urban heat and pollution
- engages students in understanding and caring for our environment



Where will it be located?

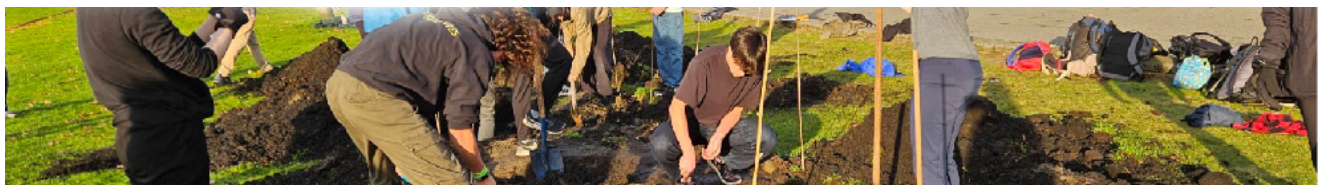
The pocket forest will be completed in stages and will be located on the north side of the school near our existing modular and the new childcare centre.

How will this happen?

Staff will have a number of fundraising initiatives to support the costs associated with creating a pocket forest. They will also be looking for donations from local businesses for materials and supplies. Keep your eye out for more information and ways you can help!

The One More Tree Foundation has much more information if you are interested in knowing more:

<https://one-more-tree.org/blog/2024/06/14/miyawaki-pocket-forest-comprehensive-guide/>





Dates for your Calendar

- Jan 27: ProD - **No school for students**
- Jan 28: Gr. 7 Farewell Parent Meeting @ 3:30pm (check your email for the meeting invitation)
- Jan. 29: Lunar New Year
- Jan. 31: Performance - Dufflebag Theatre's Three Musketeers 9am
- Feb. 14: ProD - **No school for students**
- Feb. 17: Family Day (**School closed**)
- Feb. 21: Spirit Day (Theme TBD)
- Feb. 25: Conferences. **All students dismissed at 1:45**
- Feb. 26: Pink Shirt Day
- Feb. 27: Conferences. **All students dismissed at 1:45**

If your Gr. 6/7 child participates on one of our basketball teams, please refer to the schedule for game days and location. Thank you in advance for helping drive students to and from their games!

Lunar New Year

Parents, staff, and students were treated to a special Lunar New Year Lion Dance to celebrate the Year of the Snake!

May this New Year bring you and your loved ones joy, good health and harmony.

