

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.



Dates for your Calendar

- June 14: PAC Summer Carnival Fun Fair
- June 17: Family Teams
- June 20: Presentation and Assembly: Kung Jaadee 1pm
- June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 24: PAC Meeting 9:30am
- June 24: PAC AGM 10am
- June 26: Immunizations for Gr. K, 1, 6, 7
- June 30: Sports Day - dismissal @ 1:30pm
- July 1: Canada Day Holiday (School Closed)
- July 4: Class Placement Forms due
- July 8: Band Concert for Div. 1-5 parents



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.

Parents/Guardians have the option to share information that may help with our decision about their child's placement for next year. You may contact the office to receive a form, either on paper or electronically. Note that the due date for the return of forms is Friday, July 4th.

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-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.

LUNCH DELIVERIES FOR STUDENTS

We know that making lunches is not the most fun for parents and guardians, which is why we offer two options if you would like some help to make and deliver your child's lunch: **PAC Hot Lunch** on Mondays and **Libby's Kitchen** from Tuesday to Friday.

We ask that you use one or both of these options for lunch delivery. We do not have agreements with any other vendors to be on school grounds while school is in session.

We appreciate your cooperation!