



# Khowhemun Elementary School

*We are grateful to be learning together on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish People.*



## Giving Thanks!

As we head into October and explore the Cowichan Teaching, Ts'iiyulh ch 'u tuni' s-aamustham-mut (give thanks for what you have been given) we extend our thanks to Khowhemun's amazing students! It is a pleasure to work with our xe'xe 'smun'een (sacred children) each day. We appreciate how hard every child works to achieve their goals, the smiles they bring to school, and the joy they bring to our days. Huy tseep q'u Khowhemun students!



## Truth and Reconciliation

Khowhemun Elementary is committed to Truth and Reconciliation. Our school observed the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th with a variety of activities intended to honour the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. We extend a big thank you to all the Quw' utsun community members who came to work with our students to make Truth and Reconciliation Week so meaningful.

Huy ch q'u Siem Ms Sonya Charlie for beading with our primary classes. Our students loved making their fish necklaces and choosing the orange beads representing remembrance and renewal.



Huy ch q'u Siem Mr. John George for sharing drumming, songs, and stories with our classes. Our students were honoured that you shared your time and knowledge with them.

Huy ch q'u Siem to Mr. Wayne Paige for joining us at Comiakem and sharing your experiences of water safety and traditional fishing practices with our students. Ms. Sonya Charlie brought us on a guided walk of the Cowichan Estuary where she taught us new Hul' q' umi' num words for the traditional lands and practices. Huy ch q'u Ms. Sonya Charlie



Huy tseep q'u to the Tzinquaw Dancers and Mr. Cal Swustus for sharing with us your powerful words, your songs, and your dances. Our staff and students felt connected with all our special guests and one another. It truly was a week filled with Na' tsa' maht Shqwaluwun (one heart, one mind).

## Contact Information

We send home many communications through e-mail. If we do not have your e-mail address or it has recently changed, please call the office at 250-746-7845 or e-mail the school at [khowhemun@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:khowhemun@sd79.bc.ca).



## Health and Safety Reminders

This month the health and safety practices for schools in BC's expanded to include mask wearing for children in Grades K-3. The younger students have transitioned well this week to the new practice. We thank families and students for continuing to adhere to and support the health and safety measures we practice at school, specifically the daily health assessment, healthy hand washing, wearing a mask, and being mindful of personal space.



### Rainbow Crosswalk

Have you seen Khowhemun's new rainbow crosswalk? The crosswalk is a symbol that recognizes the discrimination that the LGBTQ2+ community has faced, and continues to face. The Rainbow Crosswalk says to the LGBTQ2+ community that Khowhemun Elementary welcomes you and your family with dignity, respect, and safety. Khowhemun also has a SOGI Club that meets regularly and supports our school in learning about sexual orientations and gender identities. At Khowhemun all genders and expression of gender are welcome without discrimination.

## Communicating Student Learning

Our goal every year is to ensure parents feel connected and informed about their child's learning. Over the last few years, there has been a transition away from *reporting to* parents to *communicating with* parents on an ongoing and more timely basis. The model strives to strengthen the home school connection, to make learning more visible and personalized, and to include more student voice.

This year families can expect to receive Points of Progress consistently throughout the year and to receive a formal Learning Summary in late January and at the end of June. As a school, our goal is to provide families with information about their child(ren)'s progress and development in a timely and meaningful manner. We want parents to be familiar with the learning that is taking place and informed about what your child understands, knows, and can do. We want to share celebrations with you and to also work together to support student growth and development. We look forward to communicating with families throughout the year and sharing information about your child's learning journey.

## School Supplies

Thank you to the many families who have purchased school supplies this year. We will continue to accept payment for school supplies throughout October. The cost of school supplies is \$20, which will cover all the supplies your child will need throughout the school year.

### UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Monday, Oct. 11  
Thanksgiving Day  
(Schools closed)

Friday, Oct. 15  
Bottle Drive

Tuesday, Oct. 19  
Great Canadian  
Shake Out  
Earthquake Drill

Tuesday, Oct. 19  
PAC Meeting  
@ 6:00pm

Thursday, Oct. 21  
Picture Day

Friday, Oct. 22  
Non-Instructional Day  
(No school for  
students)

Wednesday, Oct. 27  
2-Hour Early  
Dismissal

Friday, Oct. 29  
Orange & Black /  
Costume Day

Thursday, Nov. 11  
Remembrance Day  
(Schools closed)

Friday, Nov. 12  
Bottle Drive

Tuesday, Nov. 16  
PAC Meeting  
@ 6:00pm



## **Nourish Cowichan Starfish Rotary Grocery Program**

We are pleased to share that Nourish Cowichan and Starfish Rotary (Cowichan Valley) will be continuing the Starfish Program at Khowhemun Elementary this year. The program is an extension of our school meal program. The goal of Starfish is to ensure children have the same access to meals on weekends as they do on school days. Families who sign up for the program will receive a bag of groceries for their family every week. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Nourish Cowichan and Starfish Rotary for continuing to support our school. If your family would like to participate in this program, please call or message the school to be added to the list.

## **Message from the Transportation Department for SD 79 Bus Riders**

Transportation Department will be holding Bus Evacuation Drills on afternoon bus runs on Thursday, October 21st. These drills will be performed at the school where the bus departs fully loaded. These drills are important to better prepare our students and staff in the event of an emergency. The driver will instruct the students on how to unload and move to a designated safe spot as a group in a safe and orderly fashion. These drills may delay afternoon drop-off times by approximately 15 minutes. The Transportation Manager can answer all questions by email at [transportationmanager@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:transportationmanager@sd79.bc.ca) or by phone at 250-748-0321 ext 275.

## **Parking Lot Reminders**

We recognize that the parking situation at Khowhemun is not ideal. Please help us to keep the parking lot safe and accessible for everyone by following all signage and markings, and parking in areas that do not block buses, other vehicles or driveways. The preferred place to park is on Cliffs Road and to walk to the school to pick-up your child. Families should also be sure to not leave a vehicle unattended if the vehicle is not parked in a parking stall.

## **Sports and Clubs Are Back!**

This year we are excited to see the return of sports activities and clubs. Soccer, floor hockey and field hockey practices and games have begun, and the SOGI and Arts&Crafts club will be starting soon. Thank you to the coaches and teacher sponsors of these activities.

## **PAC News**

This month's PAC Meeting is on Tuesday, October 19th at 6:00 pm in the library. Through Parent Advisory Councils, families can provide feedback and share their voices on matters relating to the education of students and the school. All parents and guardians are invited to attend. Health and safety practices will be followed. We hope to see you there!

## **SD 79 Is Hiring: Casual, On Call, Noon Hour Supervisors**

If you or someone you know would love to spend an hour a day with students, the district would like to hear from you. If interested, please e-mail your resume to [jchristenson@sd79](mailto:jchristenson@sd79). The Hourly wage is \$25.50. The qualifications include: Grade 12 Education, First Aid/CPR - Occupational First Aid (OFA1), and a valid drivers' license.

Huy tseep q'u  
Jen Calverley, Principal