



# Khowhemun Elementary School

*We are grateful to be learning together on the traditional and unceded territory of the*

## Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you to everyone for all your support and patience during September, the busiest month of the year. The month was full of excitement and long hours in preparation for the year ahead. Student and staff have settled into their new routines and are well into new learning and activities.



We also thank the families who were able to attend the Back to School BBQ. The weather didn't prevent us from connecting and enjoying a meal together.

The Khowhemun staff wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! As always, the school office is open for any questions and we welcome your suggestions. Please feel free to contact the school at any time.

## Family Groups

This month, the students and staff will come together to meet in Family Groups. Family Groups are multi-aged groups of students (K-7) created with the purpose of promoting cross grade relationships and building school community. Each group is given an animal name, such as spe'uth (bear), wuxus (frog) and sq'eetl' (otter). We meet in family groups once a month and learn about a Cowichan Monthly Teaching. This month's focus will be Ts'iyyulh ch 'u tuni' s-aamustham-mut (Give thanks for what you have been given). We will be showing gratitude for our families, local community and the land where we live, learn and grow together. We will finish our time together with a family group selfie! The next time you visit the school, check out our photos in the front foyer.

## Healthy Food Choices

At Khowhemun we value healthy choices, which includes healthy foods and eating habits. We respectfully ask that families do not send their child to school with sugary drinks and treats (chips, pop, chocolate bars).

### UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Monday, Oct. 9  
Thanksgiving (STAT)

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

Friday, Oct. 20  
Non-Instructional  
Day (No school for  
students)

Monday, Oct. 23  
Picture Day

Wednesday, Oct. 25  
2-Hour Early  
Dismissal

Tuesday, Oct. 31  
Spirit Day  
Costumes & Orange  
and Black Day

Monday, Nov. 13  
Remembrance Day  
Statutory Holiday

Wednesday, Nov. 22  
2-Hour Early  
Dismissal



## Communicating Student Learning

Our goal every year is to ensure parents feel connected and informed about their child's learning. This year, families can expect to receive formal and informal Learning Updates throughout the year and to receive a Summary of Learning 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 families 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. Should you have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to reach out to their classroom teacher.



## Scooters, Bicycles, and Skateboards

Families with children who ride a scooter, bicycle, or skateboard to school are asked to remind their child about road safety and are encourage to have their children wear a helmet. For the safety of everyone at school, scooters, bicycles and skateboards are not to be ridden on school property.

## 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 \$25, which will cover all the supplies your child will need throughout the school year.



## E-mail Addresses

We send most communications through e-mail. If your do not receive our emails or it has recently changed, please call the office or e-mail the school at [khowhemun@sd79.bc.ca](mailto:khowhemun@sd79.bc.ca) to update your information.

## Electronic Devices

Students are discouraged from bringing electronic devices to school, and are encouraged to use the time at school as an opportunity to connect with peers, learn, and partake in healthy physical activity. The school is not responsible for any electronic devices that may become lost, damaged or stolen while at school. If your child brings an electronic device to school, the school cannot guarantee the security of the device. Specifically, cell phones are not to be used during school hours without permission from the classroom teacher. Digital safety and If an item is confiscated by an adult during school hours or is turned in for any reason, it will generally be held until the end of the day and sometimes only returned to an adult (depending on the circumstances).





## Toys and Personal Belongings

Students are encouraged to only bring what they need for the school day, which includes a backpack, lunch, and water bottle. All personal items, such as toys, special items, and games, should be left at home as these items can become lost or damaged.

## The Great British Columbia Shakeout

On October 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:20 AM, Khowhemun Elementary students and staff will be participating in the Great British Columbia Shakeout and practice how to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” during an earthquake drill.

Participating in the Shakeout gives the school another opportunity to review our emergency procedures and practice how to be safe during large earthquakes. Our conversations will include the following information:

If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps, then Drop, Cover and Hold On:

- DROP to the ground (before the earthquake drops you!),
- Take COVER by getting under a sturdy desk or table, and
- HOLD ON to it until the shaking stops.

Stay indoors till the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit. In most buildings in British Columbia you are safer if you stay where you are until the shaking stops. If you are outdoors when the shaking starts, you should find a clear spot away from buildings, trees, streetlights, and power lines, then Drop, Cover and Hold On. Stay there until the shaking stops.

## Nourish Cowichan Grocery Program

We are pleased to share that Nourish Cowichan will be continuing the Grocery Program at Khowhemun Elementary this year. The program is an extension of our school food program. The goal of the program 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 on Thursday. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Nourish Cowichan 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.

## Demographic Forms

Later this month we will be sending out demographic forms to help keep each student's contact and emergency information up to date. It is important that we can contact families in the event of an emergency. Your help in returning these forms to the office is appreciated. Including an e-mail address on these forms will also ensure communication about weekly events and activities are received by parents and guardians.

## Sports and Clubs

There are many opportunities for students to explore new activities this month, including soccer, cross country, and field hockey. All of the sporting activities have cumulative events in the next few weeks and we wish our participants and players well. We would like to thank the teachers who volunteer their noon hours and after school time to coach, organize, and sponsor these activities. We also appreciate the support of the parents who drive to the various events and volunteer to help out too.