

# Skwo:wech Newsletter

From the Office of  
Skwo:wech Elementary  
November 29 - December 10



**Please return all library books by December 1**  
We appreciate your help in giving our librarian time to account for all of our books before winter break!



**Fuel Up! School Lunch: December Menu is online**

For December 1, order before noon November 29

**PAC Fun Lunch**  
**Wednesday, December 8: Lasagna**  
Order online through Fuel Up! School Lunch Program before noon on **Monday**, December 6  
Remember to pack a recess snack!

2021		NOVEMBER/DECEMBER				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
29	30	1 10 Days of Giving	2 10 Days of Giving	3 10 Days of Giving		
6 10 Days of Giving Order PAC Fun Lunch through Fuel Up! by noon	7 10 Days of Giving	8 10 Days of Giving PAC Fun Lunch through Fuel Up! School Lunch Program: Lasagna	9 10 Days of Giving	10 10 Days of Giving Report Cards Available Online through MyEdBC Family Portal - 4:00pm		
13 10 Days of Giving	14 10 Days of Giving	15	16	17 School Spirit Day: Red, White & Green Day Last Day of School Before Winter Break		
20	21	22	23	24		
Winter Break: December 20 - January 3 (School Closed)						

## Mark Your Calendar



**December 10**  
Report Cards Available on MyEdBC Family Portal – 4pm

**December 17**  
School Spirit Day:  
Red, White & Green Day

**December 20 to January 3**  
Winter Break  
(School Closed)

**January 4**  
School re-opens 8:50am

Dear Skwo:wech families,

The past few weeks have been very full of activity at Skwo:wech. While we were all disappointed to hear the recent announcement that we will not be moving into our new building quite yet, our staff and students continue to be excited in the knowledge that we are truly fortunate to have this exciting opportunity to look forward to in the very near future. If you missed Superintendent Hachlaf's letter that was sent home on Tuesday evening, [please click the link here](#). It has been a good lesson for our students to recognize that sometimes unexpected events occur which are beyond anyone's control and that we can face those challenges with a positive mindset. These changes have prompted a new feature in our morning routine which involves hearing curious questions about our new school from the students. Children have been sending their questions via our 'curious question' mailbox which are shared during our morning announcements. A few fun questions have been 'will the fish be coming to the new school?' and 'who will my teacher be in the new school?' We were able to assure everyone that the fish will find a home in our new school and that their teacher will be the same as they have now!

In an earlier Newsletter I had shared with you that we will not be holding our usual Winter concert celebration. This is due to continued COVID-19 guidelines which limits the size of gatherings that we can hold. As a festive alternative, we will be hosting an artist in residence during the week of December 6th to 10th kindly sponsored by our PAC. Shyama Priya will be visiting us once again to share cultural lessons and Pow Wow dancing with the children. We are hoping to share highlights of the dancing with you in a video in the last week before winter break.

Please be sure to check out the information about our student leadership initiative to support our local food bank; it will begin on Wednesday, December 1st; The ten days of giving!

Thank you for your generosity in advance.

With gratitude,  
Kathleen Chad



We are delighted to let you know that our student leadership is once again underway at Skwo:wech. While we are starting slowly, our student leaders have hosted two very fun spirit days and are working on creating a giant Sturgeon for our main hallway that every student will have the opportunity to decorate with their thumbprint; a symbol of unity under our new school name. I look forward to sharing those pictures with you in our next newsletter. Further, the student leaders are sponsoring a Food Bank drive; please see the notice about this below.

# *Skwo:wech's Holiday Food Drive: 10 Days of Giving*

*December 1<sup>st</sup> - December 14<sup>th</sup>*

Our school community will be helping families in the New Westminster Community by collecting non-perishable food items for the holiday season. Please see below for daily theme ideas.

*A warm thank-you for your generosity and care*



<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Ideas</b>
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Breakfast	Cereal, Oatmeal, Pancake, Beans
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lunch	Almond/peanut butter, jam, honey
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dinner	Chilli, meals in a can, soup,
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Baby	Baby Cereal, baby food
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Fruit/Veggies	Canned fruit/veggies
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Meats	Tuna, Spam, canned meats
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Pasta	Pasta, pasta sauce,
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Snacks/Dessert	Granola bars, chips, crackers, cookies, cake, sweets
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Keeping Warm	Hot chocolate, soup, crackers, chilli, Kraft Dinner
<b>December 14<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Final Day</b>	Grains/Starches	Quinoa, Rice, Pasta, Oats, Potato

## Colourful Art from Division 11



## 2021 Jumpstart Grants

When families need a little financial boost to get kids involved in a sport, dance team or other active program Jumpstart is an organization that may be able to support you. Jumpstart grants apply to general sports activities (e.g. swimming lessons, sports, dance).

Apply online by November 30 for 2021 funding:

<https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/pages/individual-child-grants>

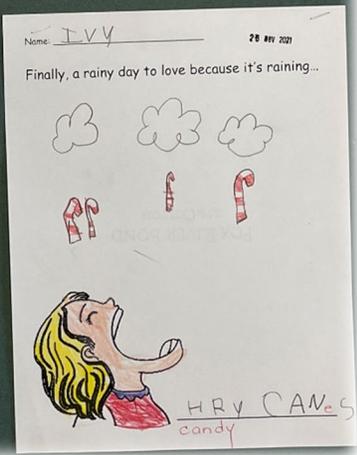
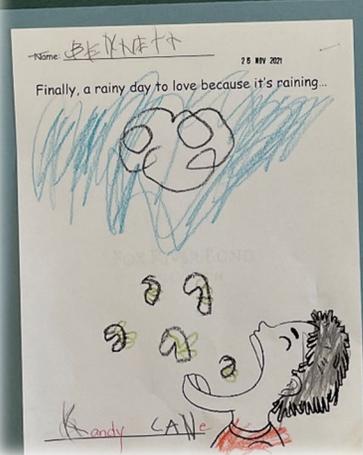
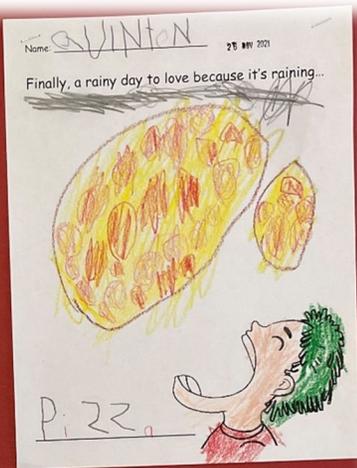
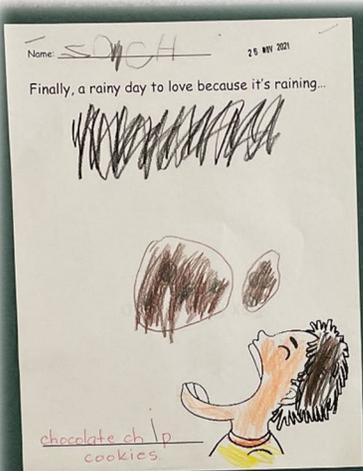
Check back in the new year for 2022 funding!

## Tips for Building Awareness of Personal Safety

Student safety is always a top priority for our community. Please see below several straightforward strategies that you can share with your children to help them develop/build their awareness of personal safety. These suggestions have been gathered from a section of the BC Government website about Public Safety.

There are a number of things you can teach your child to help them deal safely with strangers on their own:

- As soon as they're old enough, teach them their name, address, phone number and parents' names.
- Teach them to shout, "You're not my mother!" or "You're not my father!" if someone tries to take them away.
- Teach them to go to a sales clerk if they're separated from you in a store.
- Give your child a code word for emergencies. That way, a stranger who doesn't know the word won't get far, even if they say something like, "Come with me to the hospital; your father has been hurt."
- Teach your child to say "no" firmly. Practice shouting it with them. Give them permission to scream it if they're in trouble.



## West Coast Recess...

We believe that children need to be outside for fresh air at recess and lunch. They need an opportunity to run and play with their friends so that when they return to their classrooms they are ready to focus on their learning. This is a perfect opportunity to get moving!

On the “wet” coast we have unpredictable weather. The wet and rainy season is now here. Children will be sent outside to play – rain or shine. Parents, we ask for your support and that you ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. We also encourage all children to bring a change of clothes. In extreme weather, including windy conditions and heavy rain, children will remain inside.

### Rainy Weather FAQ

**Question:** *Are the children ever allowed to stay inside due to the weather?*

We occasionally have extreme weather conditions. These days include hard, driving rain with extreme cold or wind. In these situations we will declare it an inside recess or lunch, however, we do not expect to have more than two or three of these in a year.

Division 17 has been exploring our recent weather.  
“Finally, a rainy to day love, because it’s raining...”





Further weather updates:

In rare instances where a school closure is warranted, the decision will be made by 6:30am at the latest and will be announced over the radio stations **CKNW AM 980** and **CKWX AM 1130**. Phone calls will also be made to parents who are part of our SchoolMessenger Automated Calling System. We encourage parents to make advance alternate

plans in the event of an unexpected school closure. If you deem that your child cannot travel safely to school due to snow or ice, please make alternate arrangements for your child and inform the school of their absence and the reason for their absence.

## Snow Removal Update

Much to the dismay of the children, there are no signs of snow in our long term forecast, however as we all know our weather can change quickly! In order to be prepared for inclement weather please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather with appropriate boots and cozy layers of clothing.

In anticipation of potential wintery weather ahead, our District is committed to ensuring that snow removal occurs in a timely manner to enable safe school opening. In order to accomplish this, we have prioritized pathways to the building which will be cleared first. Certain portions of our site will be cleared later in the morning, before the children go outside for recess. Areas that are not cleared as the first priority will be marked by a cone and tape - we ask that everyone avoid these areas. The sidewalks around the perimeter of the building will be cleared first and a path to each entrance way cleared. We ask that parents and children walk around and use the cleared sidewalks and enter the school property using the cleared side pathways. Additionally, for those who enter school grounds off of Richmond Street, we ask that everyone use the main stairs at the front of the building. The stairs at the southwest corner at the front of the building will be closed until later in the morning (this will include the path that runs through the front playground and picnic table area.)

We thank you all for your understanding with this.

## Division 4's Whimsical Trees

Enjoy the whole forest on the portable windows!



# School Spirit: Jersey Day



Study Hard Read & Learn Just Imagine Practice Practice Respect Each Other Study Hard Read & Learn Just Imagine Practice Practice Love Each Other



David



Owen



Ethan



Nicholas



Ellie



Frankie



Logan



Harrison



Eunice

IT'S OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT  
Todd Parr Inspired Art  
by Division 13  
We noticed



Kenan



Nolan



Mia



Jacob



Emery



Noah



Josephine



Abigail



Alyssa



Zoe



Study Hard Read & Learn Just Imagine Practice Practice Create Respect Each Other Study Hard Read & Learn Just Imagine Practice Practice Be Creative Respect Each Other

# Division 9

## Self Portraits

