

Skwo:wech Newsletter

From the Office of
Skwo:wech Elementary

October 3 - 28



Permissions for
the 2022/2023
school year are on
[School Cash](#)
[Online](#)



Fuel Up! School Lunch Program

The October Menu is here!
[Order online](#) by noon on
Saturday, September 30 to
ensure delivery on
Monday.



2022

October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6 Elementary Collab Day Early Dismissal-12:24pm	7 Family Reading
10 THANKSGIVING DAY (School Closed) 	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21 Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students)
24 Pumpkin Run 	25	26 Student Learning Conferences (Early Dismissal-12:24pm) PAC Meeting	27 Student Learning Conferences (Early Dismissal-12:24pm)	28

Mark Your Calendar



October 6

Early Dismissal
(12:24pm)

October 10

Thanksgiving Day
(School closed)

October 21

Non-Instructional Day
(No School for Students)

October 24

Pumpkin Run

October 26 & 27

Early Dismissals – 12:24pm
Student Learning Conferences

Dear Skwo:wech Families,

September 30th, 2021 marked the first time that Canada and British Columbia recognized the national day for Truth and Reconciliation. This is a time to acknowledge the harm that happened across Indigenous communities when Indigenous children were removed from their homes and forced to attend residential schools. September 30th was chosen because it has long been the date when Orange Shirt Day is observed across Canada. For our school this year, our recognition began last week with the assembly that we were able to hold outdoors in our courtyard. Ms. Daniel and Ms. Smith led us in a beautiful gathering known as a drum birthing ceremony. During the summer many teachers worked together with Ms. Smith and Ms. Danielle's guidance and teachings to create personal drums. In our classrooms, our teachers have woven experiences and reflections throughout the week, primarily through story telling. Children have had opportunities to reflect on their learning in many forms including writing, drawing, and painting. As a culmination of our learning, we joined together this afternoon to listen to a reading of Phyllis Webstad's latest story called "With our Orange Hearts" and we invited our students to hold Phyllis's message in their hearts as we proudly walked around our community as a whole school family to honour Phyllis's words. Ms. Danielle and our teachers led the walk with the beautiful beat of the drums as we walked in our neighborhood...

"Today we wear orange to honour and be together as one human family. Every Child Matters including you and me. With our orange hearts, we walk in harmony."

Phyllis Webstad

With deep gratitude,

Kathleen



Students from the Wolf community
worked together
to create this powerful image
of connectedness and community.

Drum Birthing Ceremony

On Thursday September 22, Ms. Danielle and Ms. Roslyn, District Indigenous Support workers, led a school-wide ceremony to birth the Elk-hide drums that they had made together with our teachers. The ceremony started with a smudging, followed by a cutting of the symbolic cord, and then sacred tobacco was placed on top of each drum so that Ms. Roslyn could drum the heartbeat into each new drum. Once the drums are birthed, they are then ready so that they can be played. To end the ceremony, Ms. Danielle and Ms. Roslyn led our school community in the Children's Blessing song as the students sang with pride and the teachers drummed along.

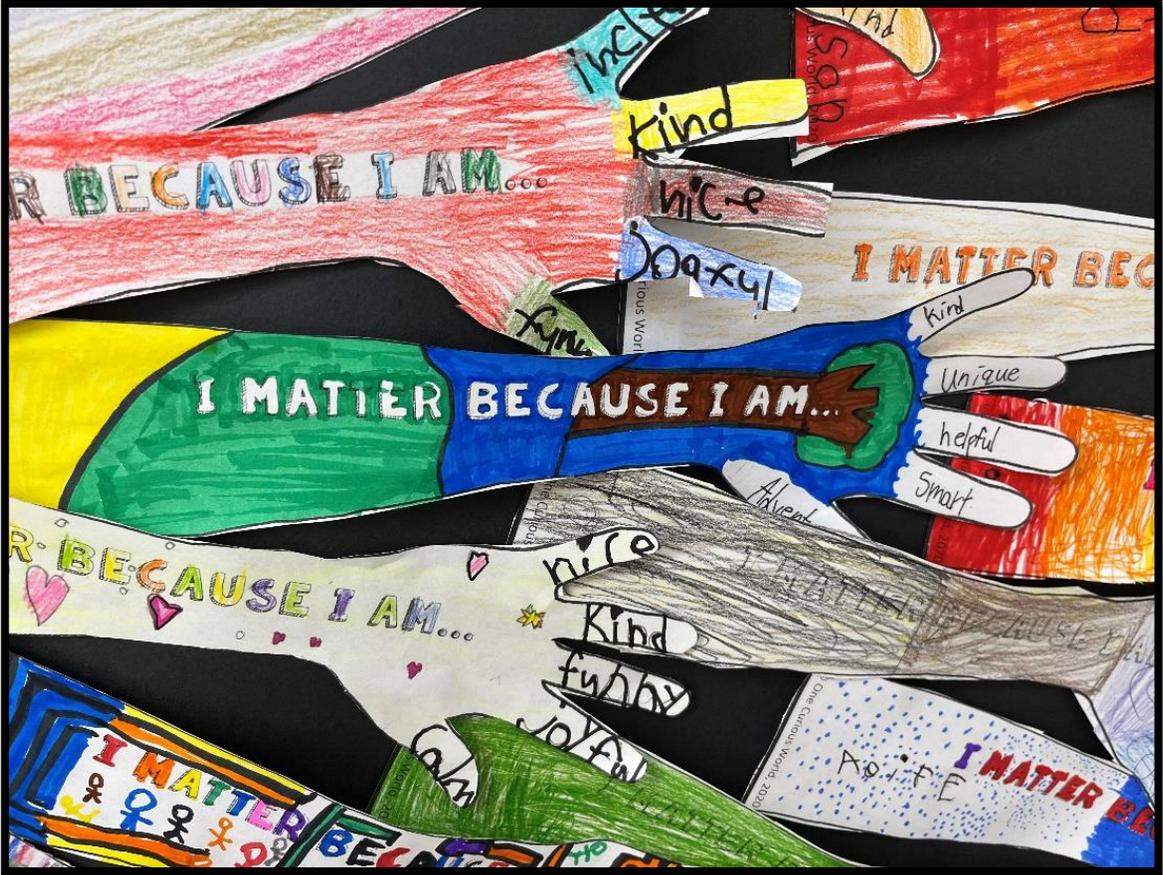




Mrs. Kamagianis, Dr. Kentel, Mrs. Toufic, and Ms. Kwok, (the wolf community) read the book, "The Orange Shirt Story", by Phyllis Webstad to their classes. The students learned about the story of Phyllis and her orange shirt. The students learned that everyone should have the same opportunities to succeed. The students then worked on the message of "Every Child Matters" to focus on creating empathy and empowerment. The students decided on ways that they matter and did an art activity where they wrote one reason on each finger of their hand.



Ms Peng's class explored many Indigenous stories.

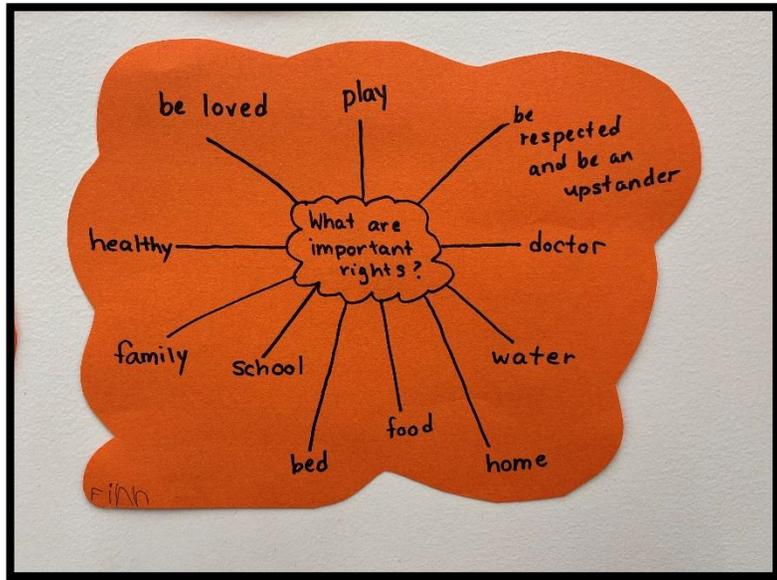
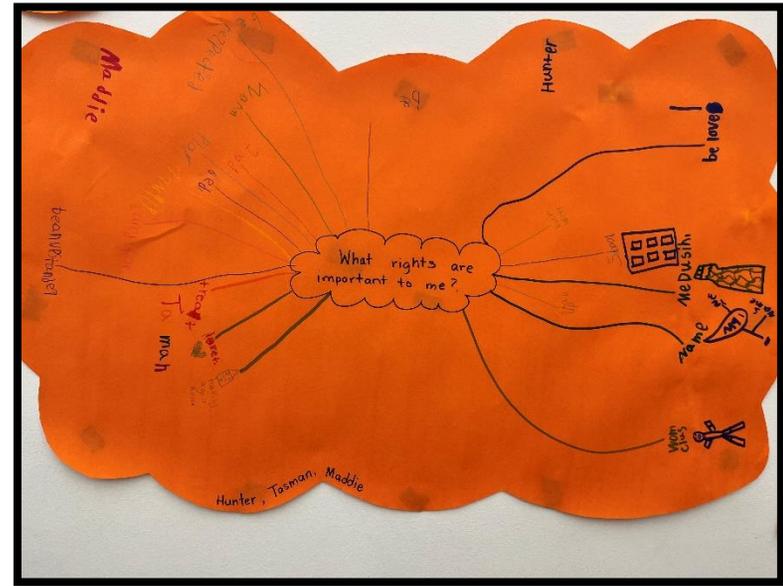




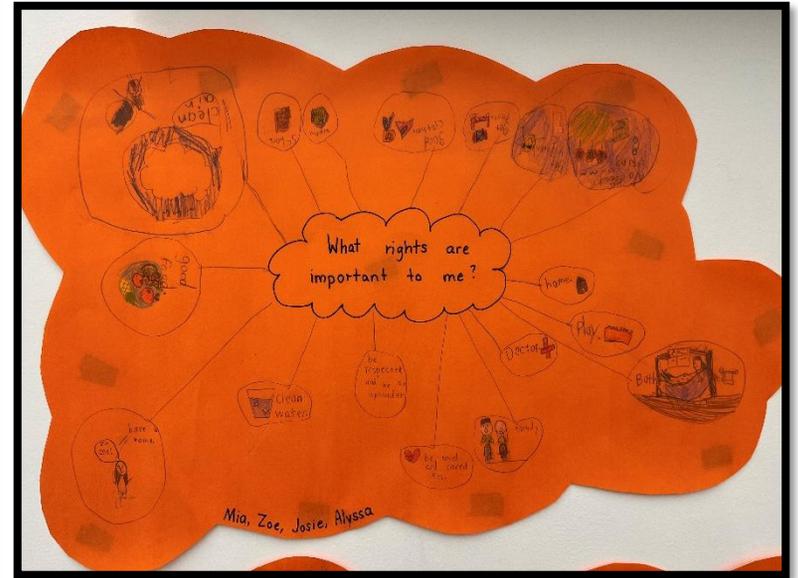
Students in Mrs Sharp's class have been reflecting on Phyllis Webstad's story of being a residential school survivor and her journey.



We were a sea of orange at Skwo:wech for orange shirt day!



What are rights and why are they so important? Division 11 students learned about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and then worked collaboratively to determine what children around the world might need to grow up in a safe and healthy environment. Through this lens, students began to explore the idea of truth and reconciliation for children who were not afforded these same rights.



School-wide Walk for Truth and Reconciliation

This afternoon, as an entire school community, we listened to a reading of the story, 'With our Orange Hearts' by Phyllis Webstad, a Residential School survivor. After the reading, we gathered as a school on top campus to begin a short neighbourhood walk to honour the important words of Phyllis Webstad to 'wear orange honour and be together as one human family. Every Child Matters including you and me. With our orange hearts, we walk in harmony'.



Welcome to our new staff:



My name is Ms Pelka and I am a new teacher at Skwo:wech Elementary. I am the school's new Music Teacher and I am co-teaching in a Grade 1 classroom.

Music has provided me with many fun opportunities and beautiful moments. I am always grateful for having music in my life. It is special and powerful and I see it as something that can make the world a better place.

I am thrilled to be working with all students at Skwo:wech! I look forward to supporting each student develop their ability to connect to music, to create music, to present music, and to respond to music.

Additionally, I will also be working alongside Ms Thompson in Grade 1. It has been so fun for me to spend one day a week in a classroom community with a wonderful group of learners!

Kamila Pelka (she, her, hers)
Skwo:wech Elementary, Music & Grade 1



School's SWIS Worker

Sana Albarouki

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What is SWIS Program?

SWIS is IRCC funded, settlement supports which encompass a range of services that promote settlement, integration, independence, and active participation for families and their school age children/ youth in their new county, Canada. SWIS assists families and their children to feel at home in their new community, integrate into society and their new school environment, while being respectful of their culture. SWIS does its best to provide services in first language of the person served by multilingual and culturally diverse staff.

Nature of Services provided by the SWIS Program:

SWIS provides information and orientation, conducts topical workshops, community referrals, and service linking to resources. SWIS supports successful integration of newcomer students by assisting in school registration, providing school orientation, and language supports in school meetings, and parents - teacher interview sessions. In addition, SWIS facilitates daily communication between newcomer parents and school staff to support their children's learning and cultural differences. Services will be provided on an individual, family, and group basis.