

Skwo:wech Newsletter

From the Office of
Skwo:wech Elementary
December 11 - January 5



Skwo:wech 10 Days of Giving
December 4th to the 15th
Thank you everyone for your
contributions throughout the 10
Days of Giving!





Fuel Up! School Lunch Program

Please submit orders at
least 2 business days
ahead of time.
order.lunchlady.ca

Report Cards will be available on
MyEdBC Dec. 14th!

For information about how to log in,
please refer to our website under "[Parents](#)
– [Notices & Information](#) – [MyEducation BC](#)
[Family Portal](#)"

We encourage all families to download
and save a copy of their child's report
card.

2023	 DECEMBER 			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11	12	13 <i>Winter Concert (afternoon)</i>	14 <i>Winter Concert (afternoon) Term 1 Report Cards Published</i>	15 <i>PJ Day!</i>
18	19	20		22 <i>Wear Red and Green Day!</i>
25	26	27	28	29
	<i>Winter Break</i>			
Jan. 1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Winter Break</i>			

Mark Your Calendar



December 13
Winter Concert (afternoon)

December 14
Winter Concert (afternoon)

Report Cards Available on
MyEdBC Family Portal – 4pm

December 15
Community/Family Reading

**December 25 to
January 5**
Winter Break
(School Closed)

Dear Skwo:wech families,

Our school has been buzzing with energy and focus as everyone works toward the final days of our winter concert rehearsals. You will be delighted by the amazing energy and creativity of your children in their performances next week. With Ms. Pelka's creative vision and guidance, the children have co-created an amazing production. Our production celebrates the wonder of everyone's favourite meteorological delight...snow! We will be embracing the wonder of snow with music, poetry, and song. We hope you will be enchanted by our original production which celebrates the collaborative and inventive artistry of our school community.

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

Kathleen





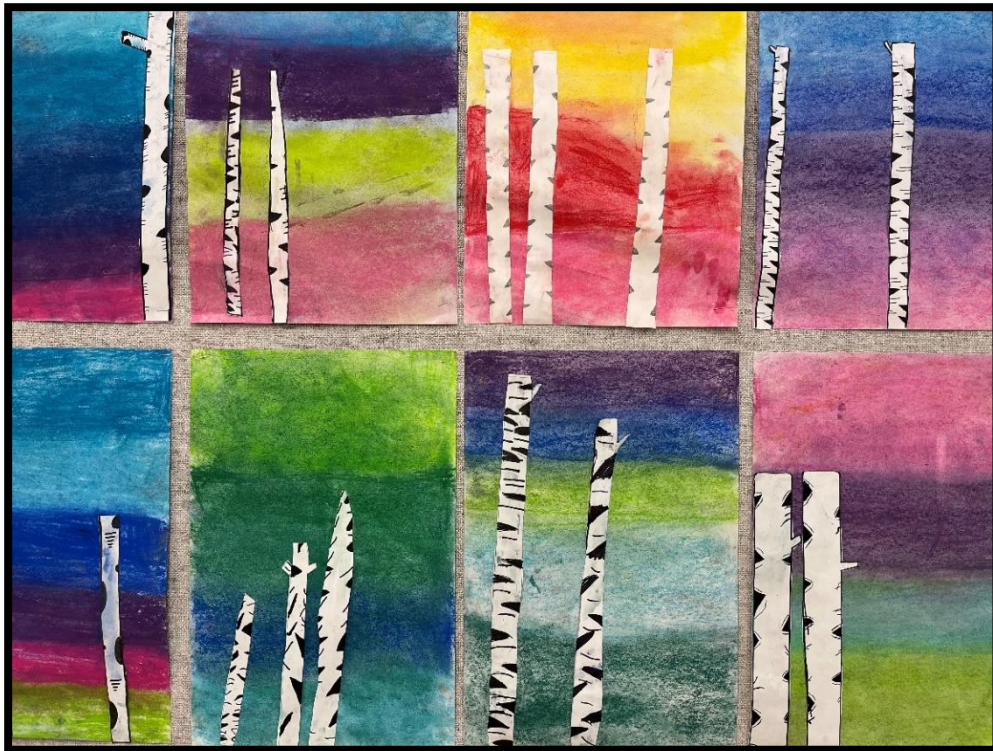
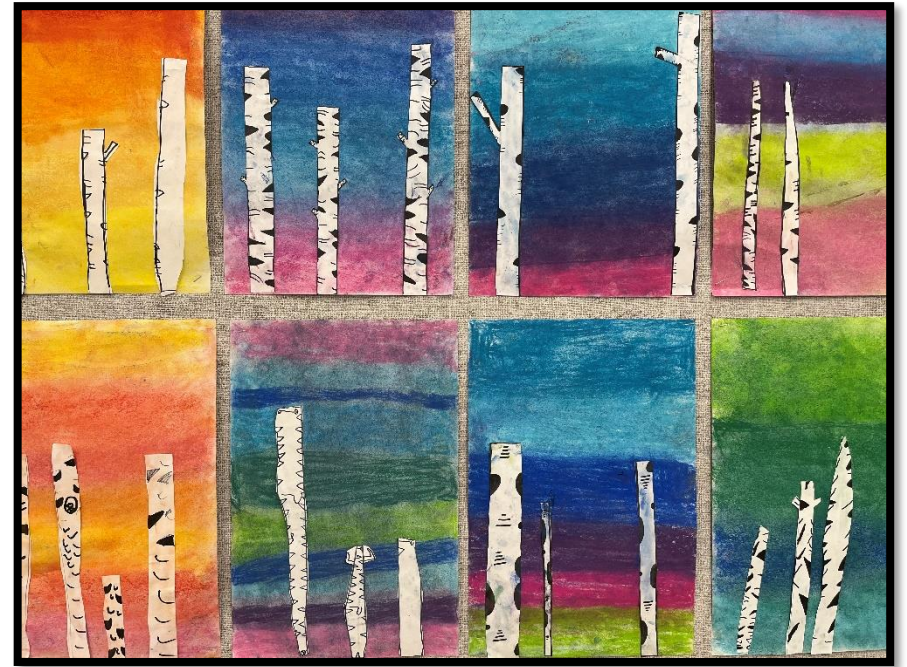
Hello Skwo:wech Community!

We're thrilled to share that the first five days of our 10-Day Food Drive have been a tremendous success. The generosity of our students and staff has filled the collection bins to the brim, and we've collected a variety of items. Let's keep up the fantastic work and continue spreading kindness through our community!



Potlatch Celebration

Last Friday our Salmon Community had a celebration to honour our Student Teachers graduating, and Ms. Peng's baby. We had been learning about the traditions of Potlatch ceremonies and wanted to try our own. The classes made gifts to trade with other students that had a First Nations theme to them (weaving mats, flint corn, turtle pins, and wojapi sauce). The Children's Blessing Song was sung before we enjoyed our pancake breakfast. It was a wonderful way to learn about Potlatch traditions.



Birch Trees
in
Winter by div8

December – Winter health

Keeping your child healthy during winter

As the chilly winter season is upon us, there's a few extra things you can do to help keep your children healthy and well. Navigate this season with these essential tips.

Bundle up for the cold

Dressing appropriately for the cold weather is vital in keeping your child comfortable and protected. Wearing multiple layers is a great way to trap body heat and provide insulation against the cold.

Keep a warm hat, gloves, scarves and insulated boots handy. Remind your child to wear these items before heading outside to play or going to school.

Protect against winter illnesses

Winter brings an increased risk of colds and flus. Make sure your child is getting enough sleep (nine to 11 hours for elementary-aged children), eating a variety of foods and staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Ensure your child receives their annual flu vaccine and talk to a health care provider about any additional vaccines that may be recommended. Teach your child good respiratory etiquette such as regular hand washing, covering their coughs and sneezes and staying home when sick.

Keep their bodies moving

While colder weather may limit outdoor activities, it's crucial to keep your child active during winter as regular physical activity boosts their immune system and keeps them energized. Encourage indoor play and activities such as dancing, yoga or interactive video games that promote movement. Look for winter programs at local community centres or indoor sports facilities.

Find more tips for a healthy winter: <https://ow.ly/77AK50Pehvi>





Early Development Instrument



Why do the early years matter?

Research shows that what happens in early childhood plays a big role in lifelong health, well-being, and learning. From birth to the start of kindergarten, more brain connections are made than between kindergarten and adulthood. Positive experiences during this time can help the brain develop in healthy ways.

What is the Early Development Instrument (EDI)?

The EDI is a questionnaire that measures five general areas of child development: Physical Health & Well-Being; Social Competence; Emotional Maturity; Language & Cognitive Development; and Communication Skills & General Knowledge. Research has shown that these areas of child development are related to adult health, education and social outcomes. The summary of the five areas of the EDI questionnaire, and the types of questions asked are on the following page.

What are we learning from the EDI?

EDI data and research can provide insight into how kindergarten children are doing and facilitate discussions about the factors affecting children's early development in neighbourhoods across the province. With over 20 years of EDI data in BC, clear trends and patterns in children's development are emerging. Based on data collected during Wave 8 (2019-21), 32.9% of BC kindergarten children are vulnerable in one or more aspects of their development. Vulnerable children are children who, without additional support and care, may experience future challenges in school and society.

Do you want to learn more?

- [Parent/Caregiver Information](#)
- [Reports summarizing EDI data at the provincial and community-level](#)

Check out our EDI Dashboard!

The EDI Data Dashboard is an online, interactive tool for exploring patterns and trends in EDI data across all waves and several geographic boundaries, including the community and neighbourhood level, along with other BC ministry boundaries, such as health authorities.

You can find your EDI community data on the EDI dashboard here: <https://dashboard.earlylearning.ubc.ca/>

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EDI areas of child development



Physical Health & Well-Being

Questions regarding children's gross and fine motor skills, physical independence and readiness for the school day. E.g., Can the child hold a pencil? Is the child able to manipulate objects? Is the child on time for school?



Social Competence

Questions regarding children's overall social competencies, capacity for respect and responsibility, approaches to learning, and readiness to explore new things. E.g., Is the child able to follow class routines? Is the child self-confident? Is the child eager to read a new book?



Emotional Maturity

Questions regarding children's prosocial and helping behaviours, as well as hyperactivity and inattention, and aggressive, anxious and fearful behaviour. E.g., Does the child appear fearful or anxious? Is the child impulsive, acts without thinking?



Language & Cognitive Development

Questions regarding children's basic and advanced literacy skills, numeracy skills, interest in math and reading, and memory. E.g., Is the child interested in reading and writing? Can the child count and recognize numbers? Is the child able to read simple sentences?



Communication Skills & General Knowledge

Questions regarding children's English language skills and general knowledge. E.g., Can the child tell a story? Can the child communicate with adults and children? Can the child take part in imaginative play?



The Human Early Learning Partnership

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) is a research institute based at the University of British Columbia. For over 20 years HELP has worked in partnership with schools and school districts across British Columbia to gather population-health data related to healthy child development. The EDI is one of a family of tools that can be used as part of HELP's child monitoring system. The information collected is shared with schools and communities to support children and their families. Please visit earlylearning.ubc.ca to learn more about HELP.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the EDI Project team:

604. 827. 5504
edi@help.ubc.ca
earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi/



Version: April 2023 - H19-01216

Our report cards will be available for you to view on Thursday, December 14th in the evening. We invite you to view the following message from the Ministry of Education describing changing practises in reporting systems across the province. Please reach out to your child's teacher regarding any questions you might have related to their report card.



Please click the link below for the K-12 Student Reporting Information for Parents and Caregivers:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/reporting/resources-for-parents-and-caregivers>

SAVE THE DATE for Snowflake Delights

Our Winter concert is almost here! You should now have received your tickets for the performance, if not, please contact the office on Monday morning. The front doors to the gym and the courtyard doors will be open at 1:15pm for seating. Families with last names which begin with letter A-M will be invited to join us Wednesday, December 13th and Families with last names beginning with letters N-Z will be invited to join us on Thursday, December 14th. Thank you in advance for your kind donations which will go toward our fine arts programs and to continue to refresh our school library.



2024-2025 Registration

It's time to register new students for the 2024-2025 school year! Please read the following information carefully.

NOTE: You only need to register your child if they are not already attending school in the district. You can safely ignore this message if your child is a student in a district school or if they are transitioning between elementary, middle, or high school.

New registrations for the 2024-2025 school year will open on **November 6, 2024** and close on **January 26, 2024**. As long as you register before **January 26, 2024**, the day you register will not affect your chances of getting into your catchment school.

1. Although we do our best to place new students at their preferred schools, it is regrettably not always possible. Our district has significant capacity challenges because of limited space in schools and a growing student population.
2. If the number of requests for a catchment exceeds the number of available spots, the district reserves the right to use a lottery system to determine placements.
3. The district will confirm all enrollment requests by the end of **March 2024**.

For more information, [learn more about capacity status at our schools](#).

How to Register a New Student as a Parent or Legal Guardian

1. Book a 10-minute appointment with our Registration Team.
2. If you need a translator for your registration appointment, please let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate your request.
3. [BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE](#)

NOTE: We do not accept bookings before November 6. Please ensure you choose appointments on days and times from November 6, 2023 until January 26, 2024.

For more information on registration, including the forms and guides, [visit the district website's Registration section](#).

What to do on the Day of Your Appointment

1. Visit our Registration Team at the Welcome Centre located in New Westminster Secondary School (enter through the south side of the building at **820 6th Street, New Westminster**).
2. Bring a completed [registration form](#) and copies of the documents outlined in the [Document Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#). **OR** Bring original versions of the documents outlined in the [Document Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#) and our team will help you print, photocopy and complete the required paperwork.
3. If you do not have the suggested documents outlined in the Document Guide, our team will be happy to speak with you confidentially to find a solution.

Key Dates

1. **November 6** – Registration opens.
2. **January 26, 2024** – Registration closes.
3. Looking for a list of other important registration dates, including Programs of Choice enrollment info? [Download a list of key dates for the 2024-2025 school year](#).

We look forward to connecting with your family.

- The New Westminster Schools team

We are always excited to welcome new families to the District. Here are the things you need to know to ensure your student is enrolled with the best placement to support their needs.

Key dates for regular registration:

	In-catchment applications	Transfer requests & Out-of-district applications
Regular registration opens	November 6, 2023	February 5, 2024
Regular registration closes	January 26, 2024	February 23, 2024
Placement offers	March 29, 2024	June 14, 2024

Please note: our District is facing significant capacity challenges, due to growing enrollment. Decisions about the 2024-25 school year are based on enrollment demands identified within the regular registration window. Enrollment applications received outside of this window will be placed within the district but may not be possible at the catchment or preferred school requested, as some schools may be deemed as being at full capacity at certain grades, or in some limited cases, for the full school. All placements follow the rules outlined in [Administrative Procedure 300](#).

Questions can be sent to: registrations@sd40.bc.ca

How to enrol:

Our Central Registration team works out of the Welcome Centre (south side of New Westminister Secondary School, via the external entrance). Information on documents required, process, how to book an appointment and more can be found on our website: <https://newwestschools.ca/our-schools/registration/registration-information-forms/>

Programs of Choice:

Applications for our Programs of Choice are accepted from Monday January 8th to Friday February 2nd, via links that will be posted on the District website. Parent information sessions are hosted online in early January. **Students applying for a Program of Choice must first be enrolled at their regular catchment school, following the above process.**

Program	Grade of intake	Location(s)
Early French Immersion	Kindergarten or Grade 1	Herbert Spencer, Qayqayt and Lord Tweedsmuir elementary schools
Late French Immersion	Grade 6	Glenbrook Middle
French Immersion	Grade 9	New Westminister Secondary
Montessori	Kindergarten or Grade 1	Skwo:wech and Connaught Heights
Home Learners Program	Kindergarten to Grade 8	Hume Park Learning Centre

Questions can be sent to: programsofchoice@sd40.bc.ca

All forms, Administrative Procedures, and information about capacity status can be found on our website.