

MME VAL'S MONTHLY REVIEW - SEPTEMBER 2024



WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

September has been a very busy month at Mitchell! We started by getting to know our new classmates and teachers and feel right into a variety of fun school-wide activities.

Teachers have been busy getting to know their new students and their families and preparing engaging, learning-rich programs for the school year. We want to thank the Mitchell families for their ongoing support of all the amazing events happening at our school. 2024/2025 will be a great learning year!



OUR NEW SCHOOL STORY

All schools in the Richmond District must have a school goal, which we also call our "school story". This school year, Mitchell Elementary is embarking on a new school story journey! Looking at the variety of data accumulated of the last school year, our staff has decided that "building confidence through numeracy" will be the goal we will be tackling together over the next few years. We are excited and have already started this work, with the support of our new teacher-consultant, Ms. Janice Novakowski. If you are interested in learning more about our goal, I encourage you to visit: <https://mitchell.sd38.bc.ca/our-school-story>. This will be updated through the school year.

What is Numeracy?

Numeracy is the application of mathematics in contextual situations in our daily lives to help us understand more about ourselves, others, communities, and the world around us.

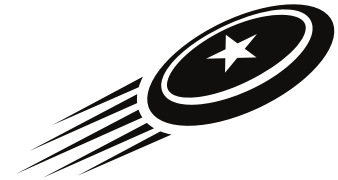
Thank you to SD38 for providing us with this definition.





ULTIMATE FRISBEE

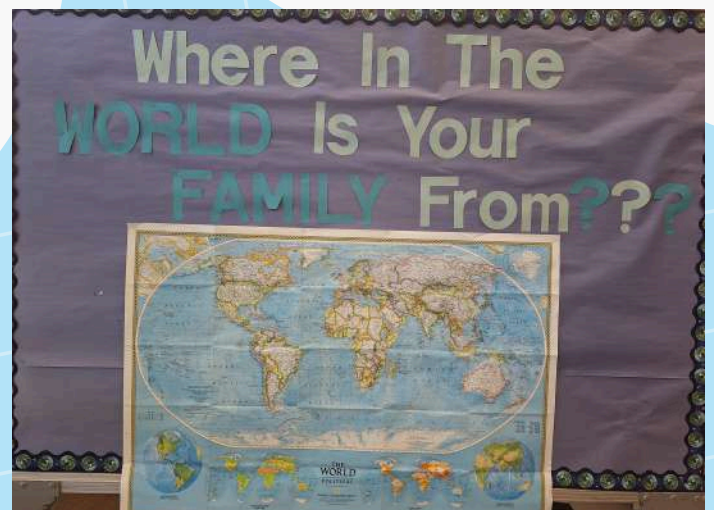
From September 16th to the 26th, we were happy to welcome coaches from Elevate Ultimate to teach all our students some frisbee skills and games. Each class received three 40-minute blocks of coaching. It was fun watching students use their new-found skills outside at recess, as well! Thank to Mitchell PAC for sponsoring this residency at our school.



MEET THE STAFF

We had a great time meeting and reconnecting with our families on September 19! Inspired by the work we had been doing with the interactive Indigenous map, we asked families to share their origins and cultures with us. Thank you to all of you who participated in this activity!

I also wish to remind all families to connect with teachers through the year with teachers if you have questions or concerns regarding children's learning progress. Our next informal reporting conferences will be on Oct. 22 and 23 (which will also be early dismissal days).





RECONCILIATION, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CORNER

In Canada, September 30 is National Truth and Reconciliation Day. BC is one of the few Canadian provinces where the day is officially marked by a Holiday, which is why there is no school. It is a day to reflect on what we can do to be Indigenous allies and what steps we can take towards reconciliation.

As a lead-up to September 30, Mitchell had the privilege of having the Interactive Giant Indigenous Map in our gym, from September 16 to 26. Thanks to Mme Chang Dar Woon, Ms. Sunstrum and Ms. Lau, students had the opportunity to use this amazing resource to learn more about the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

On September 20, staff gathered in the gym to learn more about the big map and work collaboratively on ways to use it as a learning tool with their students.



OUTDOOR KITCHEN

You may have noticed that Mitchell now has an outdoor play kitchen by the gazebo, near the playground! This fun initiative was spear-headed by Ms. House and Ms. Lau and started a few years ago! This was made possible thanks to a variety of staff at the district and the school:

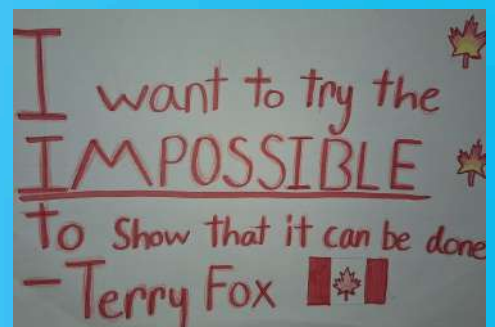
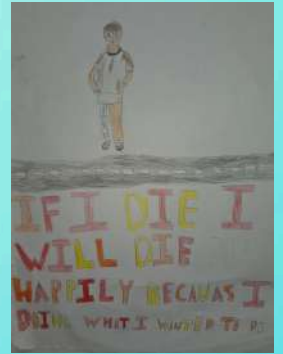
- The students and their teacher at McMath Secondary who built it;
- The district grounds crew who came on a Saturday to install it;
- The teaching team at Mitchell who never gave up on this dream!

Thank you to all of you for your efforts in making this happen for our students!



TERRY FOX RUN

Our Terry Fox Run was held on the rainy afternoon of September 13. Despite the bad weather, students persevered in their running efforts, just as Terry Fox had, during his Marathon of Hope. In the weeks leading up to and following our run, several classes learned about Terry Fox's legacy and his mission to help find a cure to cancer. Donations were accepted for a few weeks, and while we did not reach our goal to surpass last year's \$861, we did very well, collecting over \$700 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Bravo, Mitchell Firebirds! You did an amazing job!



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On September 27, students were invited to wear orange shirts to school. Since 2013, this has become a tradition in Canadian schools.

Wearing an orange shirt is a way to show support and allyship for Indigenous Peoples, and to recognize the wrongdoings of and harm caused by residential schooling. This initiative was started by Phyllis Webstad. If you are unfamiliar with the Orange Shirt history, I encourage you to learn more at: <https://orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story/>.

Most of our students will be familiar with Phyllis' story and would be able to share their knowledge with you, too! Below, you will find some pictures of the assembly that we had on Friday, September 27, as well as examples of work completed by students to learn more about Truth and Reconciliation.

At Mitchell, we will continue our work towards truth and reconciliation through the years in individual classes by learning more about Indigenous Peoples of Canada's histories, traditions and cultures. We will also engage in a school-wide art project called the "Project of Heart". Thank you to Ms. Lau for her initiative on this project.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY IN IMAGES

