



# ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1390 Fairdowne Road, Errington, BC V0R 1V0  
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Website: <http://ees.sd69.bc.ca>

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May 14, 2021

## Principal's Message

During the last few weeks, teachers have had telephone or virtual conferences with families. Many of these sessions involved taking a look at student portfolios and celebrated the growth that has occurred throughout the school year. If you have not had a chance to connect with your child's teacher, please contact them by phone or email to arrange a time to discuss your child's progress.

We have been working very hard in the last few years on our school-wide goal of social responsibility. Our Code of Conduct outlines three pillars which help guide our work in this area: We are SAFE, We are RESPECTFUL, and we are RESPONSIBLE. The article below provides some suggestions on how building your child's social skills can give learning a big boost:

Students learn much more at school than academics. In every class, they practice an important skill – getting along with others. Research shows that problems with social skills can interfere with learning and make it difficult for students to succeed in school or in life. To reinforce social skills:

**Be a role model.** Kids notice how parents interact with others. Do you introduce yourself to new people? Get together with friends? Support people you care about? Let your child see you being a good friend.

**Read stories.** There are many books about friendship. After reading, talk about the story.

**Role-play.** Kids need help practicing manners. Before going to the park, for example, you and your child might pretend you're meeting new people. "Hi, I'm Jane. Nice to meet you!" Also focus on sharing and kindness.

**Socialize.** Give your child plenty of opportunities to spend time with other children. Invite friends to play. Go to story time at the library. Visit busy playgrounds. Sign up for children's programs at community centers, museums, and elsewhere.

**Relax.** Children don't need lots of friends. Just one good buddy is fine, as long as your child cooperates well with others. If you have any concerns, talk with her teacher and work together on solutions.

"Nothing is ever lost by courtesy. It is the cheapest of pleasures, costs nothing, and conveys much." *Erastus Wiman*

Source: *Elementary School Parents* (April 2018, Vol.29, No.8)

A reminder to parents that there is no school on Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> due to a Conferencing Adjustment Day and on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> as it is Victoria Day.

## K-12 Daily Health Check

Please ensure you continue to screen your child daily for symptoms of illness and keep your child at home if they are not well. To support daily screening, a **K-12 health-checker app** has been developed for students and their families and can be found at: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca> The app will allow people to answer simple questions every day. It will inform them if they can attend school or if they need to self-isolate and contact 811 to be screened for COVID-19.



## **Families on the Move?**

We are well underway with our planning for next school year. Please let the school office know if your family will be moving next year. It is very helpful if we are aware of any students who may not be attending our school in September.

## **Jump Rope for Heart**

We have completed our annual Jump Rope for Heart campaign! Thank you to those students who participated. We are pleased to announce that our little school was able to raise \$2,580.50 towards this important cause!



## **Morning Drop-off**

For those students who are dropped off in the mornings, please remember that we encourage staggered drop-offs to help reduce crowds. Please drop-off your child as close to 8:12am as possible. School starts at 8:12am, but we wait to send attendance to the office until 8:30am. If your child arrives between 8:12am and 8:30am, they can go directly to their classroom. If your child arrives after 8:30am, they need to check in at the office.

We have noticed many cars pulling up to the school while buses are arriving. If you are dropping your child off BEFORE 8:12am, please use the lower parking lot. Students arriving AFTER 8:12am may drive up to the front of the school. If you have other family members dropping off your children, please remind them of our drop-off and pick-up procedures.

## **Parking Lot Safety**



Please use caution and drive slowly in our drop-off and pick-up areas. With the warmer weather, we have more students walking or riding bikes to and from school. When using the drop-off/pick-up lane, please remember to pull forward as far as you can to reduce congestion behind you. When people stop right at the foot of the path to the school, cars tend to back up quickly around the bend. If you are parking in the lower lot, please make sure your child is with you when walking through the traffic towards the path. Please also remember to use your turn signals while using the drop-off/pick-up lane. After dropping off your child, please pull all the way around the loop rather than doing a "u-turn" through the lot.

Please also note that there is  NO SMOKING on school property, including the lower parking lot which is considered to be part of our school grounds. As per school district policy, we ask that you do not smoke or use vaping devices on school grounds – including the parking areas.



Kindergarten registration is ongoing. Please click the link below for further information about the new online registration.

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/About/StudentRegistration/Pages/Kreg.aspx#/=>

Please contact us at (250) 248-8446 if you have any questions regarding the upcoming Kindergarten registration requirements.

If you know of any families who will need to be aware of this information, we ask you to please pass this along to them.

## Unsafe Litter

We have been hearing our community. We felt it children of what to do if to discuss items that are “safe”



to pick-up and items that are “unsafe” to pick up. We know that children can be very helpful, but we don’t want to put them at risk for picking up something that could be dangerous to themselves or others. Items such as broken glass, sharp metal, and needles need to be disposed of with care. Images of needles can be easily found online to show your child what they look like. If your child comes across a dangerous item, we advise them to report to an adult immediately. Sharp items should never be discarded straight into a garbage can. They should be in some kind of container so as not to poke through a plastic bag and injure an employee who is handling garbage bags. There are several “safe” containers available around the community to dispose used needles so as not to put the public at risk. We still encourage everyone to help keep our public spaces free of litter – we just ask that people use extreme caution if they encounter unsafe litter.

reports of unsafe litter around public spaces in would be a good time to teach/remind our they encounter unsafe litter. Please take some time

## Cell Phone Use at EES



Cell phones are becoming an increasing distraction for students during learning and break times. We would like to remind parents that student cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. We would ask that if you need to contact your student during the day to please use the school phone (250) 248-8446 instead of texting.

We recognize that many students carry a cell phone, for a variety of different reasons. Our school expectation is for students to keep cell phones tucked away in their backpacks. If students are not comfortable with this, they can ask their teacher to place the phone in a locked cupboard during the school day. Electronic devices are NOT to be brought outside or around the school at recess or other break times.

Some classroom teachers allow students to use cell phones and other electronic devices in the classroom for research and learning purposes. Please ask your child’s classroom teacher about specific guidelines they have around the use of electronic devices.

Devices are a fantastic tool and we continue to help students learn when and how to use them appropriately. Thank you for your support!



Munchalunch Hot lunches are open and ready for ordering:

May 28 – Pizza Day

June 3 – Subway Day

June 18 – Pizza Day

*Please note that all lunches close on Munchalunch a week prior to lunch date.*

<https://munchalunch.com/schools/Errington/>



With the onset of spring there will now be Mega Ice Cream Sandwiches for sale every Wednesday!! \$2.00 each or a punch pass online or in the office for \$20.00 (for 10 ice cream treats).

Current popcorn cards will carry over. If your child does not want the ice cream treat please call the office (we have limited bags of popcorn remaining which can be substituted at present)

## Other Important Reminders

- We are required to follow the BC Healthy Food and Beverage Guidelines when serving food in schools. If you are wanting to send treats to school to help celebrate a special occasion, please contact your child's teacher in advance to make arrangements. Food must be prepared and packaged in a Food Safe Certified facility.
- Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor use, along with a pair of inside shoes, an extra change of clothes, and a refillable water bottle. We also recommend having a warm coat, hat, and umbrella for wet days and sunscreen and a hat for warm days.
- When reporting your child's absence, please call the office at 250-248-8446 (after hours you can leave a message on our answering service – just listen for the option to report a student absence in the directory). It is important to let the office know if your child will be late or not attending school for the day(s) so your child is accounted for. It only takes a minute. If your child is not at school or late you can expect to receive a call to your main number. Thank you in advance for reporting early!
- Due to current guidelines, school buses are **not** to be used for any other purpose (i.e. play dates). The Transportation Department have asked that parents **do not send notes with their child requesting to ride another bus**. Students are only permitted to ride the bus they are registered with. Please refer to the School District website for all school bus information.

### Public Health Request – Notice of Youth Clinic Hours Change

Please see below changes to the hours of operation for the Parksville Youth Clinic:

Parksville Youth Clinic – Oceanside Public Health – 494 Bay Ave, Parksville

“New Summer Hours” June 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Services: 2:00-3:00 pm “Birth Control Pick Up Only” 3:00-4:30 pm “All services” Offered

Call 250-947-8242 Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm and “Ask to speak to a Youth Clinic Nurse” if you ever have questions.

### **EES Library**



**Gentle Reminder to Return Your Books Please:** Please take some time this weekend to look under beds and in cupboards and bring back any EES library books so that other students can enjoy them!

We're always happy to receive good books in great condition which would be of interest to our students.

Thank you.

*The next PAC Meeting is on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, **via ZOOM.***

## **Canada Learning Bond (CLB) – Government of Canada**

If you have a child that is between 6 and 9 there are many thousands of dollars available to families who are saving for future education.

Please go to <http://www.smartsaver.org/> to see if you qualify for this. Also for families who need support for RESPs there is a great deal of untapped funds from the Canadian Government. See if you qualify here - <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/learning-bond/eligibility.html>. These are available every year but there are cut off dates so applications are time sensitive.

BC Training and Education Savings Grant PowerPoint Presentation:

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Lists/Events/Attachments/1045/BC%20Training%20and%20Education%20Savings%20Grant.pptx?Web=1>



Due to the ongoing pandemic and initial rollout of COVID vaccine, public health has postponed some routine Grade 6 and 9 immunizations originally planned for January and February. This delay is temporary and follows the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) guidelines for the school age immunization program. Routine school immunizations will resume in the coming weeks and continue until the end of the school year, resulting in immunizations being offered to all Grade 6 and 9 students before the end of June.

Public Health offered the first round of Grade 6 vaccines in the Fall of 2020 and will be contacting families in late Spring to book appointments for the second dose.

Grade 9 consent packages were sent home from school last week. Please complete these forms and return them to the school ASAP. Public Health will receive these packages and contact families who wish to book an appointment. If you have any questions, please contact Oceanside Public Health at 250-947-8242.

## A Message From The Kwalikum Secondary School Parents Advisory Council:

The Kwalikum Secondary School Parents Advisory Council is seeking new members! Does your child attend, or will they be attending KSS? The majority of our current council is 'aging out,' so this is your opportunity to be a part of the team that distributes the annual gaming grant funds. The time commitment is minimal: meetings are held once a month on the first Tuesday of the month and generally last from 1 – 1 ½ hours. There is NO fundraising involved. The plan is to continue holding meetings via Zoom, so no driving! Enjoy a cup of tea (or wine, we don't know what's in that mug!;) in the comfort of your home while having the chance to connect with school administration to hear all about what's happening in the school and district. Take this time to ask admin any questions that you have and offer your input. Current PAC members have all greatly valued this opportunity to be well-informed and more connected to their teen's school. Council positions that are available to be filled are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and DPAC representative. If you are interested in learning more about these roles, please feel welcome to join us at our next meeting [at 6:30 pm on June 1<sup>st</sup>](#). For more information, and to receive a Zoom link for the upcoming meeting, email us at: [ksspac@gmail.com](mailto:ksspac@gmail.com)

## Words from our Wildcats



An addition to our newsletter is words of wisdom from our students on various subjects. The contribution this week comes from Mrs. Spencer-Dahl's class:



Mrs. Spencer-Dahl's Grade 4/5 class has been discussing environmental stewardship and this week whilst they were on their morning forest walk, they rescued a bird who appeared injured.

Ben and Sadie helped with the transferal of the bird from the forest and into the safe hands of The North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre here in Errington.

## **Community Programs**

We get numerous advertisements for community programs and opportunities to include in newsletters. Rather than inserting the whole advertisement in our newsletters, we will now provide the links below for you to click to view.

### **SOS Child & Youth and Family Programs 2021**

Please click on the PDF link below to view the programs offered:

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Documents/SOS%20Program%20Guide%20-%20Spring%202021.pdf>

### **Other Community Events & Programs 2021**

Please click on the PDF link below to view the events/programs offered/access the SD69 Community Page:

#### **MAC Summer School – Art Classes for Kids**

<https://mcmillanartscentre.com/workshops-and-classes/>

The MacMillan Arts Centre (the MAC) would like to invite parents and students to attend our YOUTH Arts Exhibit at the MAC - on now until May 30th. We are featuring the artwork of senior art students from PASS-Woodwinds, Kwalikum Secondary and Ballenas Sr Secondary School in our Nemeth Gallery, and we are very proud to also have in our Oceanside gallery the work of 15 yr old artist, Emily Dao. The work of our local students is extraordinary, and the MAC would like to thank the teachers - Jayne Lapper, Graeme Nailor, Crystal Burgess and Jason Fenton - who encouraged their students to participate in this important exhibit at the MAC.

#### **Oceanside Track Renewal at Ballenas Fundraiser**

<http://www.oceansidetrackfield.ca/>

#### **Grad Wear**

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Pages/default.aspx#/>

#### **Rotary Bottle Drive for District 69 Backpack Program – May 15, 2021 (follow upcoming events)**

<https://www.parksvilleamrotary.org>

[getinvolved.rdn.ca/rec-connect](http://getinvolved.rdn.ca/rec-connect)

<https://www.thenextgenartists.com/2021contest>

#### **Oceanside Track & Field**

#### **Oceanside Minor Baseball Spring 2021**

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Pages/default.aspx#/>

## EES Calendar of Events

<b>May</b>	21	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	24	VICTORIA DAY – No School
<b>June</b>	4	Professional Development Day – No School
	29	Virtual Assembly at 9:00am (via Zoom; link will be sent closer to the date)
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early