



ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1390 Fairdowne Road, Errington, BC V0R 1V0
Phone: (250) 248-8446 Fax: (250) 954-1593
Website: <http://ees.sd69.bc.ca>

Principal: Mrs. Sheila Morrison
Email: smorrison@sd69.bc.ca

Principal: Ms. Florence Wong
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November 19, 2021

Principal's Message

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we continue to navigate this global pandemic and have worked through a few exposures in the past weeks.

Some people have been asking what happens when we are notified of an exposure. The entire process is under the direction of Island Health. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, Island Health works with the individual(s) to track activities. If the person has been at school on the days identified as being contagious, then Island Health contacts us and provides a report to fill out. The report summarizes information about the person's activities at school, schedules, attendance, bus information, etc. Once the report is returned to Island Health, they review the information and determine whether others are considered to be at risk of exposure. They provide letters to send out to selected individuals with further direction.

It is an extensive process and we recognize that the most challenging part of an exposure event is our natural instinct to be curious about who it was and how it occurred. In order to respect privacy laws and the privacy of the confirmed case, we are not able to share details about the exposure. We thank you for your understanding of this important part of the process. We have had ongoing conversations with students about respecting privacy and avoiding speculating or spreading rumours about who may be involved in an exposure.

Please continue to report your child's absences and let us know if the absence is not health related. If your child will be absent for an extended time, please contact the office so that we don't phone you daily. To that end, please make sure to let us know if your contact information has changed so we can update our records.

Attendance patterns this year have mirrored the fluctuations of cases in our community. We always advise families to do what feels comfortable for their own set of circumstances. We really appreciate how our families have kept their children home when they feel unwell.

December is almost upon us and this will be another unusual season. We are all working hard to stay calm and be somewhat festive while staying safe and keeping our social contacts small. As we are still not able to gather in large groups, we will not be organizing a winter concert again this year. We will be planning some festive activities around the school during December. We are hoping to organize some kind of concert in the spring!

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** 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.

Winter Safety

You have likely been following the news about how the heavy rains this past week has caused a state of emergency in our province. Our thoughts are with the folks who have been evacuated or who experienced flooding in their homes and communities. We hope that everyone is safe. It makes us think about what we can do to prepare for a safe winter. Our weather is certainly getting more extreme, and for many areas of our province, winter weather can be harsh. Winter storms and cold temperatures can be dangerous, which is why it is important to plan ahead to stay safe and healthy. I found a great article online with a comprehensive safety checklist. Please [click here](#) to view the tips from the National Center for Environmental Health.

Washroom Etiquette

We have noticed that the student washrooms are getting very messy each day. Toilets aren't flushed, urine is often on the floor in front of the boys' urinal, there are things in the toilets that should not be there (food and food wrappers, pens/pencils, etc.), and there have been cases where graffiti has been written on the walls. This has caused plumbing issues and as we have had to close washroom stalls down during the day for cleaning, it reduces the number of toilets available for student use throughout the day. It also causes additional time to clean in the evenings when the custodial staff should be concentrating on cleaning the rest of the school properly. We are very concerned about the state of the washrooms and have been monitoring them throughout the day. We hope that you will help by reminding your children about responsible washroom use.

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.
- 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 (ie. 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.

Parking Lot Safety



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.

Inclement Weather and Clothing

The wet “west coast” weather is upon us, which means that weather conditions can change throughout the day. It is extremely important for students to have appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor use, along with a pair of inside shoes to change into when inside the building. These shoes are also used for gym use.



We expect students to wear warm coats (hoods are a good idea) and we recommend boots, hats, gloves, and umbrellas. In general, students go outside to play during recess and lunch breaks, even if it is raining or snowing. Each day, we assess the combination of weather, wind, and temperature to determine whether or not it is suitable for the students to play outside. We recommend that students have a spare change of clothing kept at school in case of various emergencies. We have a very limited supply of clothing available.



Snow

We saw our first little blast of snow this week!! We wanted to send out a reminder about our expectations around sledding. If we have a significant amount of snow accumulate, we will allow students to slide down the hill to the field. We only allow this during recess and lunch breaks (not before or after school) and we only allow students to slide down on a sliding device and they must be wearing snow clothes (waterproof pants and coat, boots, gloves, etc.)! Our expectation is that snow has to cover the ground completely (no grass showing) in order to slide. We will set up a coned area for the students to slide down and expect them to wait until previous sliders have exited the area before sliding. We ask students to walk back up the hill on either side of the coned off area.

We do allow students to bring items to slide on, but please note that they are not accepted on the school bus and they are not stored inside the school. Teachers will be asking students to leave their sliding devices on the walkway outside the classroom during instructional time. Please make sure your child's sled is labelled clearly with their name!

Please also take caution and drive slowly in our new parking area. There is a slight incline that tends to get slippery.



SPIRIT CLUB – 2021/2022

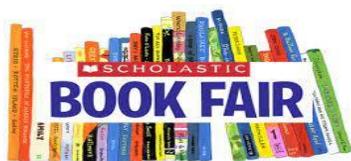
Mark these dates in your calendars and have your student join in some EES Wildcats Spirit fun:

- DEC.17 PAJAMA DAY
- JAN.29 CHARACTER DAY
- FEB.18 DRESS IN RED, WHITE, PINK
- MAY.20 SUNGLASSES DAY

EES LIBRARY NEWS

We Scare Hunger Food Bank Campaign: Congratulations to all of our students and staff who collected almost 500 non-perishable food items for our Food Bank Campaign!! Mrs. Barclay's class collected 164 items! I delivered some Hershey's Kisses and a brand new game for their classroom! I will be delivering our bounty to the Salvation Army Food Bank after school today! Thank you everyone, on behalf of our Student Leaders and our local families :)

Books Can Take You Places! The Fall Book Fair has started and lots of great books have been purchased! It runs until Nov 23rd, just in time for Christmas! Classes have booked times to visit and shop and you can also visit the VIRTUAL book fair online! Click this link during the Fair <https://virtualbookfairs.scholastic.ca/pages/5154803> . All orders will be delivered to EES on Nov 24. We are open for parents to shop Friday Nov. 19 and Monday Nov. 22 from 2-3 pm.



Student Leadership:

We have many Leadership students working this year. Our Leaders work in a variety of roles here at EES: delivering and picking up technology, checking in and out books, helping in classes with tech, delivering lunches, helping with lost and found, helping on the playground and more. Thank you, Leaders!

Lost Books: We have been noticing a lot of misplaced books lately. Please check backpacks, cars, dog houses and friends' houses! If a book is lost, you can replace it with another book of similar genre and quality. Please speak with us :)

Donate Your Books: We always accept donations of good quality, interesting books for our Library, thank you!

Family Library Card: Did you know that everyone in our student families can take books out from our Library! You're welcome to come and borrow books to take home and share with your family :)

Errington Library ONLINE:

You can access our library catalogue by going to the SD69 website @:

1. Start.sd69.bc.ca
2. Click My Site
3. Click Library
4. Click EES

**OCEANSIDE COMMUNITY TRACK
RENEWAL**

**SILENT AUCTION
FUNDRAISER**

Thurs. December 9, 2021

Bidding & Auction Item Viewing
From 7 am - 9 pm

In-person (with vaccine
passport)

**@ Pacific Shores Resort and
Spa (Front Entrance Foyer)**



AUCTION ITEMS AND DONATIONS ARE
GREATLY NEEDED!

Online on Facebook Groups @
[Oceanside Track Silent Auction](#)

For more information on this community project please visit
oceansidecommunitytrack.ca

If you have donations or questions contact
Sarah Russick
250-686-4686

HELP US REACH OUR 1.2M GOAL!



To Enhance **Life-Long** Learning



**WE'RE
OPEN!**

**Errington After School
Licensed Child Care**

Kindergarten to Gr. 5
Monday to Thursday
2:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

For more information
please call
250-954-3027
or visit our website
www.oblt.ca/childcare



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:

Other Community Events & Programs 2021

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

SOS Final Fall Program Guide

Grades 4-6 SOS 2021 Fall Kids Movement Poster

Grades 7-9 SOS 2021 Fall School Night Out Poster

Grades 10-12 SOS 2021 Fall Youth Open Space Poster

Grades 6-12 Fall SOS 2021 Youth Programs Poster

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

Information for Families:

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan

2021-2022 Board SD69 Public Meetings of the Board of Education

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

EES Calendar of Events

November	19	Sports Team Spirit Day
December	17	Last day of school before the Winter Break
	17	Pajama Day
January	4	School Re-opens after Winter Break
	28	Favourite Character Spirit Day
February	7	District Planning Day – No School (re-scheduled from September 30 th)
	17	Red, White, and Pink Spirit Day
	18	Professional Development Day – No School
	21	BC FAMILY DAY – No School
March	11	Last day of school before Spring Break
	28	School Re-opens after Spring Break
April	15	GOOD FRIDAY – No School
	18	EASTER MONDAY – No School
May	4	Grade 6 Immunizations
	19	Sunglass Spirit Day
	20	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	23	VICTORIA DAY – No School
June	3	Professional Development Day – No School
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early