



# ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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November 5, 2021

## Principal's Message

We have continued to promote the common language used in our Code of Conduct for social responsibility: We are SAFE, We are RESPECTFUL, and We are RESPONSIBLE. The article below describes how performing chores can build responsibility and confidence:

Research from a 75-year Harvard study shows that children who are given chores become more independent adults. However, many kids aren't required to do as much today as they were in the past. They may be missing out on regular opportunities to develop positive character traits that could help them in school. To make chores a beneficial part of your child's schedule:

- **Choose carefully.** Pick jobs that are challenging yet manageable for your child. Give your child clear, step-by-step instructions and a few chances to do the task with you before going solo.
- **Schedule chore time.** Write it down on your family calendar and post it where everyone will see.
- **Limit rewards.** If you give your child an allowance, separate it from chores. Everyone in your family should be *expected* to pitch in. Make comments like, "It helps keep our house tidy when you collect the trash! Thank you!"
- **Make work fun.** Chores should not be intolerable or feel like punishments. Turn cleaning into a game by setting a time to "beat the clock." Or listen to music or an audiobook.
- **Make a "chore jar".** Write each household chore onto slips of paper and place in jar. During scheduled "chore time", make it a fun surprise by having each member of the family draw a chore to do!

Source: *Elementary School Parents*  
October 2021  
Vol.33, No.2

We have had some recent questions around various emergencies and power outages. Further in this newsletter we have attached the SD69 Emergency Closure of Schools policy, as well as information about power outages.



## Upcoming Non-Instructional Days

A reminder that we have a short week coming up. School is not in session on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup> (Remembrance Day) and Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> (Conferencing Adjustment 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** 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.



## **Remembrance Day**



Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are not able to gather together for our annual Remembrance Day Assembly this year. Instead, we are planning a “virtual” assembly, by Zoom. Students will stay in their classrooms and parents can join in using the link below. If you are interested in “zooming in” from home, mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:45am.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://sd69-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/5067761599?pwd=ZE5RVkFjMmNWMWQ0bXBSd2pldXJ6QT09>

### **Inclement Weather Procedures Reminder for Parents:**

During this time of season, inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. The next few months have less daylight, dark clouds which limit visibility, and wet roads which are harder to navigate. We encourage students to wear something reflective or lighter clothing so they can be more visible.

When snowfall or power outages have the potential to cause school closures, classes to be postponed, or School District bus services to be disrupted, alerts will be posted as quickly as possible on the district website (as power permits). The information will also be forwarded to media outlets.

Before a decision is made about whether buses will be running, or schools will remain open or be closed, the Superintendent consults with the General Manager of Operations. These administrators take the current and forecasted weather into consideration, and are in communication with Highways Maintenance, RCMP, our own crews, and other community members who can verify local conditions. District staff will be considering current road and weather conditions, and also whether schools have power. Freezing weather overnight may mean that conditions are hazardous for travel.

It is our intention to make decisions on whether or not buses or schools are operating by 6:15 am, and to have these decisions communicated to local media outlets by 6:30 am. Communication is by telephone contact, followed up by an e-mail message.

Parents/Guardians should continue to monitor their local media for any weather-related updates and the potential impact on school district operations (i.e. bus operations or school closures).

Parents/Guardians are also reminded to keep battery-operated radios handy and land line telephones plugged in to prepare for power outages. Since weather conditions can be very different in the various communities that make up our school district, we recommend parents/guardians exercise their judgement based on their own local circumstance when making the decision whether to send or drive their children to school. If a decision is made by the District to keep schools open but parents/guardians are concerned about safety issues, they are welcome to keep their children home.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)

### ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

#### EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS - STUDENTS

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#### **Purpose**

The Board of Education has the responsibility, under the *School Act*, to keep District schools in session for all students and staff according to the annual School Calendar established by the Ministry of Education. However, the Board of Education also recognizes that the health and safety of staff and students is of paramount importance and recognizes that schools may have to be closed temporarily at times for any of several reasons, including the following:

- Inclement weather
- Power outage
- Failure of heating or water services
- Emergency health issues
- Other emergency situations.

The Superintendent of Schools, or designate, has the authority to close schools by reason of weather emergencies or for other causes that might endanger the health or safety of students and staff.

#### **School Closure**

There are occasions when the General Manager of Operations, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools, may decide not to run the morning bus routes due to hazardous conditions. Every effort will be made to make that decision no later than 6:15 a.m.

Changes in bus operations or school closures shall be communicated to the following media outlets, which usually make such announcements between 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.:

- CIBH Radio ("The Beach" – 88.5 FM) Parksville
- CHPQ Radio ("The Lounge" – 99.9 VM) Parksville
- CHWF Radio ("The Wolf" – 106.9 FM) Nanaimo
- CKWW Radio ("The Wave" - 102.3 FM) Nanaimo
- CKNW (980 AM) Vancouver
- CBC Radio One (690 AM) Vancouver
- CHEK TV News Victoria
- Parksville/Qualicum Beach News (PQB News)

Prior to the end of October each year, parents will be reminded through school newsletters of the procedures that will be implemented in the event of emergent conditions.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM)**

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**

**EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS - STUDENTS**

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**Emergency Early Dismissal**

Each school shall have an established plan by which parents can be notified in the event of an early closure.

In those situations during the school day where an emergent situation arises or weather conditions deteriorate significantly enough that a Principal or designate has concerns for local road conditions in his/her school zone, the Principal or designate should contact the Superintendent of Schools. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools to notify the Principal or designate as soon as it becomes apparent that school emergency closure will be necessary.

When an emergent situation occurs after school has begun it may be prudent for students to be dismissed and, therefore, staff will activate their plan to contact parents. On such occasions the Superintendent of Schools shall activate communication which notify parents that schools will be closed early and some or all bus schedules have been advanced.

If a school bus driver is unable to complete his/her normal bus run, the driver will so advise the General Manager of Operations. After discussion with the General Manager of Operations the driver will either return the students to their home school or deliver them to an alternate location identified by the General Manager of Operations. Parents will be advised of such route changes either by direct telephone contact or other means.

## Power Outages and Extreme Weather – What do we do when the power goes off at EES?

If the power is off for a portion of the day, school will most often continue as usual. We follow a “power outage protocol” and we keep in touch with BC Hydro to determine the expected length of the power outage. Any decisions to close the schools are made by the Superintendent of Schools, along with the Manager of Operations. Factors taken into consideration include the time of day, predicted length of power outage, and conditions surrounding the school area (i.e. power lines and/or trees down, adverse weather conditions, etc.)

When students are sent home due to a power outage or extreme weather event, it is carried out as follows: parents or the emergency contact identified by the parent is contacted (we have designated staff who contact parents). If parents or the emergency contact cannot be contacted students remain safe at school until the end of the regular day or until alternate arrangements can be made.

Students are not released from school without the parent or emergency alternate being contacted first. We do not permit students to go with friends or neighbors, etc, unless permission is obtained from the parent. This is a good time to remind parents to make sure they have listed a few different names as designated pick-up people. These could include family members, neighbours, or fellow parents. Please note we only have a few phone lines and it is a lengthy process to phone all parents. During a power outage we also have limited cell phone reception in the school. When possible, we will also use our School Messenger service, electronic newsletter email group, the EES and SD69 websites, and the EES PAC Facebook group to communicate information to families.

We ask parents to please refrain from calling the school during such circumstances as described above unless it is an emergency; this will help free up our phone lines and staff who are contacting parents. When students are picked up from school early, it is extremely important to use the sign-out system in the office before leaving the building so we can keep track of student attendance. When we expect a number of people picking up students at once, we move the sign-out system to the main foyer. Those arriving to pick-up children sign-out and we have designated staff to go and get the students from their classrooms.

### 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.

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

A reminder that EES teachers have been meeting with parents over the last few weeks. If you haven't already booked a time, please follow the instructions below. You can click on this link for direct access:

<https://ees.parentconferences.net/admin/>



If you are not able to schedule an appointment during one of the times listed, please contact your child's teacher directly to arrange an alternate time.

Please note that Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> is a "Conferencing Adjustment Day", where students do not attend. Conferences will not be scheduled on this day.

## **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.

## **Halloween**

We would like to acknowledge the excellent work that our student leadership club did in putting on a successful "Scary Errington" activity last week. Classes took turns in the gym and participated in a variety of "spooky" stations. The leaders worked very hard to plan, host, and clean-up after this event. Thank you also the students who got into the Halloween spirit and dressed up today. Even though we are in the midst of a pandemic when times are so unusual, we are able to show community spirit and have some fun in a carefully planned, safe way!



## **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.



## Daylight Savings Time



Remember to set your clocks back by 1 hour on Saturday night. Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00am.

## Squid Games – What Parents Need to Know

In the last newsletter, I mentioned a concerning Netflix series called “Squid Games” that many students have been watching and trying to copy. Below is some further information from Safe Schools for you to be aware of.

The recent Netflix release, Squid Game, features extreme violence, death, and considerable gore. Squid Game was released worldwide on September 17, 2021 and is Netflix’s most-watched series to date. Players in the program participate in traditional children’s games for the chance to win a monetary prize but are killed if they lose or break the rules. “Squid Game” is rated TV-MA. The program is specifically designed to be viewed by adults and therefore may be unsuitable for children under 17. There are concerns that this program may normalize or desensitize acts of violence. There have been reports of students playing games featured in Squid Game and pretending to shoot other players who lose and engage in violence against those who have lost. Game platforms frequently used by youth, including Roblox and Minecraft, also feature Squid Game inspired mini games where the user’s avatar can play games and will be shot if they lose.

### *Tips for Parents:*

- **Preview** shows and movies such as Squid Game to determine the level of violence and appropriateness for your child to watch. There are lots of age-appropriate media free of violence that your child will enjoy.
- **Talk** with your child about what they are viewing and why it is not okay to engage in certain behaviours they see in movies and shows.
- **Monitor** what your child watches on TV and social media platforms.
- **Consider** the age ratings on social media apps. Have conversations about the appropriateness of specific apps, online behaviour and the impact of the content on your child.



### **SPIRIT CLUB – 2021/2022**

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

- **NOV.19**      **SPORTS TEAM DAY**
- **DEC.17**      **PAJAMA DAY**
- **JAN.29**      **CHARACTER DAY**
- **FEB.18**      **DRESS IN RED, WHITE, PINK**
- **MAY.20**      **SUNGLASSES DAY**

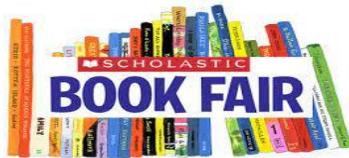
## EES LIBRARY NEWS



**We are now putting out our Remembrance Day reading materials.** These include non-fiction books about the wars such as information on battles such as Dieppe and Juno Beach, transportation like aircraft and tanks and information about soldiers and Canadian war heroes. There are books which explore issues of war such as the "Roots of Conflict" and Anne Frank and other stories. We are also putting out a large assortment of fiction including historical fiction in the form of journals and diaries, as well as stories about different activities during the war in locations around the world. **Historical fiction** are stories about characters which take place during a specific moment in time. The characters can be real, or based on real people, or made up, but the context of the story takes place in that moment in time. The "I Survived" and "Canadian Girl" stories are great examples of this wonderful genre. Intermediate teachers, you might wish to bring an assortment into your classroom this month.

**We Scare Hunger Food Bank Campaign:** We have been piling up the non-perishable food items for our food bank! We will be delivering our items to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Parksville on Monday. The class which collects the most items will win a prize on Monday. With food prices rising and the continuing pandemic, it's more important than ever to support our local community. Thank you for sending items with your child and supporting our Leadership students at EES. <https://parkvillesalvationarmy.ca/services/food-bank/>

**Books Can Take You Places!** We are very excited to announce that our Fall Book Fair is coming! Nov 18-23, just in time for Christmas! Classes will be booking times to visit and shop and we'll also be holding a 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.



### **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



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](http://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:

**Ravensong Waterdancers – Syncro – See It, Try It Event**

**MAC School for the Creative Arts**

**Tech Workshop at the MAC**

**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**

**Fire Prevention Week Poster & Video Contest**

<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

<b>November</b>	10	Remembrance Day Virtual Assembly at 8:45am (see link in this newsletter)
	11	Recognition of REMEMBRANCE DAY – <b>No School</b>
	12	Conferencing Adjustment Day – <b>No School</b>
<b>December</b>	17	Last day of school before the Winter Break
<b>January</b>	4	School Re-opens after Winter Break
<b>February</b>	7	District Planning Day – <b>No School</b> (re-scheduled from September 30 <sup>th</sup> )
	18	Professional Development Day – <b>No School</b>
	21	BC FAMILY DAY – <b>No School</b>
<b>March</b>	11	Last day of school before Spring Break
	28	School Re-opens after Spring Break
<b>April</b>	15	GOOD FRIDAY – <b>No School</b>
	18	EASTER MONDAY – <b>No School</b>
<b>May</b>	4	Grade 6 Immunizations
	20	Conferencing Adjustment Day – <b>No School</b>
	23	VICTORIA DAY – <b>No School</b>
<b>June</b>	3	Professional Development Day – <b>No School</b>
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early