



# 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](mailto:smorrison@sd69.bc.ca)

**Vice-Principal: Ms. Florence Wong**  
Email: [fwong@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:fwong@sd69.bc.ca)

March 15, 2023

## Principal's Message

As we approach the spring break, we hope you are able to enjoy a break away from the school routine. It is a good chance to reflect, rest and recharge our bodies and minds in preparation for the spring term. With the longer days and increasingly warmer weather, we hope your children will have plenty of outdoor time. Did you know that playtime is a proven stress reliever? The article below reminds us about the importance of play:

When children have fun, their brains release chemicals that cause happiness and reduce stress -- which leads to improved mental health.

To get the most from playtime:

- **Make time for active play.** Your child needs at least one hour of daily exercise for good physical and mental wellness. Active play (jumping rope, playing tag, etc.) counts toward that hour. Have your child keep a physical activity diary for a week – does it total at least seven hours?
- **Limit recreational screen time.** Hands-on, real-life play stimulates your child's brain better than passively looking at a screen. Together, make a list of screen-free playtime activities. When your child wants to play a video game, point to the list.
- **Play with your child.** Parent-child play is great for strengthening bonds. Have a family board game night, build something together or ask to join in your child's pretend play.

Source: Elementary School Parents (March 2023, Vol.34, No.7)



## Families on the Move?

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

All "Applications for Cross-boundary Enrollment for Following School Year" forms **must be submitted by Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

Applications submitted after that timeframe will be placed on a waitlist for consideration closer to the start of the upcoming school year. All students making a cross-boundary application must FIRST be registered at their catchment school prior to being considered for cross-boundary enrollment.

## **Celebration of Learning/Spring Conferencing**

Communicating student learning is an essential part of education. EES Teachers are planning an opportunity to connect with families on **April 19<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, to celebrate the learning that has taken place so far this year.

This will be an opportunity for students to take a central role in sharing where they are at with their learning as well as sharing what they see as their next steps. Students will share their portfolio at this time. As educational researcher Anne Davies says, "When students communicate with others what they have learned, they come to better understand what they have learned and what they need to learn."

There will be up to 4 or 5 students per class sharing during a 30-minute block. Teachers will mingle with families during this time. Please see the instructions below on how to use the online appointment booking system. Most families will find this time very informative and won't have a need to have a separate appointment with the teacher; however, if you still feel you need to discuss specific questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher directly to book an individual appointment.

To control congestion in the hallways, we ask that families please enter their child's classroom through the OUTSIDE door.

### **School Appointments - Parent Instructions (Booking is available starting March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023)**

1. Go to our school appointments web site: <http://ees.parentconferences.net>
2. Click to "**REGISTER**" (top box). *If you already registered last fall for a parent-teacher conference, please skip to STEP 10.*
3. Complete all the required fields.
4. Click "**REGISTER NOW**".
5. Click "**Add Student**".
6. Complete the required fields.
7. Click "**Insert**".
8. Next to your child's name, click on the **blue calendar icon**. Click on the **blue calendar** beside your child's teacher name. When teacher is highlighted, click on **View Calendars**.
9. Click on **an appointment day and time** that you would like to book. *Note your name is automatically put into the field at this time. Others who look on this calendar will not see your name, they will just see that the time slot is not available.*
- 10. Click Book Appointment.**
- 11. If you have more than one teacher:**
  - Go back to **Home**.
  - Click **Manage Students**.
  - Add **New Student**.
  - Complete the fields as above and continue with the rest of the process to book your other appointment(s).

**Note: You can edit or delete names if you have made a mistake.**

If you have any problems or questions, please contact the office at 250-248-8446. Thank you! We are looking forward to seeing you at the celebration of learning!



Kindergarten registration is underway! Please see message below for further information. If you have any questions, feel free to stop by the EES office or contact us at (250) 248-8446.

All new students must register online with their catchment area school. Information for those students wishing to attend a school outside their catchment is below.

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.

The graphic is a colorful informational poster for School District 69 (Qualicum) Kindergarten Registration. It features a blue header with the school district logo and name, and the registration period from January 23 to February 3, 2023. A central blue speech bubble contains the main registration details. Below this are two boxes: a blue one for 'KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS OF CHOICE' and a green one for 'CROSS BOUNDARY INFORMATION'. The graphic is decorated with illustrations of two children, a girl and a boy, and colorful handprints.

**School District 69 (Qualicum) Kindergarten REGISTRATION**  
January 23 to February 3, 2023

Online Kindergarten Registration for the 2023-2024 school year opens on January 23 through to February 3, 2023. To qualify for Kindergarten enrollment in September 2023, a child must become five years of age on or before December 31, 2023. Proof of Age for a student includes a birth certificate or passport. Check out the School District website registration page to see what else you need.

**KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS OF CHOICE**  
French Immersion – when registering your Kindergarten on-line at their catchment school, please be sure to indicate in the notes field that you wish to enroll your child in the French Immersion Program.  
Primary Learning Community - when registering your Kindergarten on-line at their catchment school, please be sure to indicate in the notes field that you wish to enroll your child in the Primary Learning Community Program.  
More information and the application form for the Primary Learning Community can be found on the District website [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca).

**CROSS BOUNDARY INFORMATION**  
The Board of Education believes that, in general, students should attend schools designated by the Board for their particular attendance area. Transfer of a student to a school outside of their catchment area will be considered upon written application of the parent to the Superintendent of Schools or designate.  
Parents wishing to enroll their Kindergarten child at an out-of-catchment school within the district **MUST FIRST** register their child at their catchment school, and then make their cross boundary request by completing a cross boundary application form. The application process for the 2023-2024 school year will commence January 23<sup>rd</sup> until March 13<sup>th</sup>.  
A fillable cross boundary application form can be found at [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca) > About > Student Registration > Cross Boundary

## Planning for September

In the coming months, we will begin developing a draft class organization for next school year. This includes projecting student enrolment and creating classes that make the most efficient use of our staff, while at the same time, observing provincial class size limits and building classes that can work together as a team. Attached below is a letter from the Associate Superintendent regarding class formation for September 2023. If you would like to provide input to your child's placement, please do this by **Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please note that parent input is one of a number of factors that guide us in the formation of classes. We must pay attention to the other important considerations outlined in the letter below, which contribute to an optimum learning environment for all children. While a smaller school such as ours has many benefits, we are also faced with a very limited number of classes at each grade level – which limits placement options.



## SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

March 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

### RE: BUILDING COHORTS FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR 2023-2024

During the next month, staff at our schools will begin the complex process of forming learning groups for the upcoming school year. This work includes projecting student enrollment and creating environments that make the most effective use of our staff and most importantly, building balanced student groupings that can work together cohesively as learning communities. This is a challenging task as there are many factors that must be taken into consideration including:

- Social and emotional dynamics
- Academic strengths and needs
- Unique learning needs
- Class size goals

Staff take this work very seriously and collaborate extensively in order to make the best decisions about student placement. We strive to shape learning environments which will support the needs of all students.

There are many unknowns as we begin this task. For example:

- We are not sure who all of the teachers will be at our schools next year as the annual staffing process is not completed until late June.
- Some staff members may request, or be asked, to change their assignment for next year.
- We are never completely clear about our enrollment until early September so learner groupings must remain somewhat fluid.

As a result, the learner groupings that we create in spring are tentative and are not finalized until early in the new school year. For this reason, learner groupings will be kept confidential until they are finalized in September.

If you would like to provide staff at your child's school with input for next year, we encourage you to:

1. Talk to your child's current teacher; and then,
2. Send a note to the school principal outlining what you see as your child's learning needs, preferred learning style, or any other information you think might be relevant as staff work through the task of shaping learning environments for the upcoming year.

We ask that you do not request a specific teacher. Your input will be considered along with the other complex variables that go into constructing a learning group.

The deadline for submitting information regarding your child's learning group placement is **Friday, April 14, 2023.**

Sincerely,

Gillian Wilson  
Associate Superintendent of Schools

PO Box 430, 100 Jensen Ave. East, Parksville, B.C. V9P 2G5  
Phone (250) 248-4241 Fax (250) 248-5767 [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca)



## 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 and an extra change of clothes. We also recommend having a warm coat, hat, umbrella, and gloves. We have a good supply of clothing and hand-knit items on hand. Please let us know if your child needs any warm clothing.
- 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!
- School begins at 8:10am. If you are dropping off your child prior to 8:10am, please use the Lower Parking Lot. If you are dropping off after 8:10am, you may pull up to the front of the school. Students who arrive after 8:15am must report to the office before going to their classroom.
- Please make sure your child's teacher is aware of your child's after school schedule. We need to know if your child is getting picked up (and by who) or taking the bus.

## Student Learning Survey

The Student Learning Survey is for students in Grades 4, 7, 10, and 12, their parents, and staff.

The survey covers a wide range of topics and provides feedback on the implementation of the curriculum changes, learning environment, student wellness and satisfaction, student belonging and engagement, and career preparation. Questions were developed with input from partner groups, teachers and experts in educational measurement and special education. This survey will be administered to our Grade 4 and 7 students in the coming months. Parents of Grade 4 and 7 students are encouraged to complete this survey by clicking on the link below.

Parents may access the survey following the directions and link for **Direct Access** below. Surveys are to be completed by parents with children in Grades 4, 7, 10, and 12. A parent may complete a survey for each child in the targeted grades. The parent survey is available in English, French and 16 other languages. Thank you in advance for your participation. The survey is open until midnight on **April 29, 2023**.

### **To complete the survey:**

1. Go to any computer that has an up-to-date internet browser access. Acceptable browsers include Firefox, Internet Explorer, Chrome or Edge.
2. Go to [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)
3. Scroll down to the "Parent" section and select *Direct Access – no logon number required*; then select:
  - District: the name of your child's school district (69 – Qualicum)
  - School: the name of your child's school (Errington Elementary)
  - Language: the language of your choice
4. Complete the survey by clicking on the appropriate circle to answer each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on the right arrow in the bottom right corner of the screen. Click on the left arrow to navigate backwards.
5. When you are finished the survey, you will get a message "Thank you for sharing your views".

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) follows an annual Budget Development process each school year in order to establish the final annual budget for submission to the Ministry of Education. This process begins with providing an opportunity for stakeholders to share input toward this decision making. Click [HERE](#) for more information and a link to the district's 2023-2024 budget survey.

#### Government of Canada – Canada Dental Benefit (Dental Benefit for Kids)

The [Canada Dental Benefit](#) provides eligible parents or guardians with a direct tax-free payment of up to \$650 per year for two years to help cover dental expenses for children under 12 (please click on the link embedded above for full information).

#### **NEW WAY TO PAY**

Our district has made it possible to pay for any school fees online. If your student's classroom teacher has requested to use agendas, a sheet with detailed instructions on how to sign up for School Cash Online has come home. If your student's teacher is not using agendas this year a detail sheet will come home shortly. On our Errington Website there is a direct link to [www.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.com), it is quite easy to sign up. Once signed up you will receive email notifications if there is a fee associated with your student. You are still able to pay for any school fees with cash or cheque, but we are offering the option to pay online.

As always if you need any help navigating this system please feel free to call the office and they will be happy to help you.



Munchalunch Hot lunches is **open** and ready for ordering.

March 17 – Pizza

April 14 – Thalassa

April 28 – Pizza

May 12- - Sushi

May 26- Thalassa

June 9- Chinese Food

June 23- Pizza

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

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

## **Use of Technology**

We value the use of technology as an integral part of teaching and learning. Our handheld devices have become part of our daily routines and give us access to a wide variety of tools, including photographing our students doing all sorts of activities at school. We have noticed that some photos of our students have appeared on social media – we understand that people taking and sharing photos during school sanctioned activities are doing so with good intentions. What people may not realize is that we have a number of students who have media restrictions in place and parents have indicated they do not want their child's photo to appear publicly. In order to respect the privacy of our students, we ask that you do NOT download, copy, or distribute any pictures or other personal information through social media that contain images of students and/or student work other than your child's.





## SPIRIT CLUB – 2022/2023

Mark this date in your calendar and have your student join in some  
EES Wildcats Spirit fun:

Friday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – wear green/ St. Patrick's Day attire to celebrate St.  
Patrick's Day



**School District 69 is hiring school bus drivers.**

Come help us deliver the future!  
Minimum Class 2 License with Air Endorsement Required.  
For more information got to [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca)



## EES LIBRARY NEWS

**Fun With Words:** This month we're having fun with words! We're putting out books on limericks, jokes, riddles and poetry. Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss this month! Have you ever tried to eat green eggs and ham? We invite you to celebrate World Poetry Day on March 21 and be inspired by the beauty of language.

**Coast Salish Weave Collection:** We're very excited to host the Coast Salish Weave Collection in our school starting March 8 until after spring break. These 12 pieces are on display as teachers, staff and students learn about weaving, storytelling and Coast Salish design. Check out this video link about Salish wooly dogs and the history of weaving in our indigenous communities! With special thanks to Tracie Finstad and Indigenous Education.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9Uvv4e6iYU> <https://salishweave.com/>

**Gladiators Chess Club:** Congratulations to our Gladiators champions who competed at the District Chess Tournament at QBES last week. Jayden W. finished third in the tough Grade 7 competition and James J. finished second in the Grade 5 division. Well done!

**Lost Books:** If you have lost a book, you can replace it with a similar book from home. Please look for overdue books and return them to the Library.

**Your Library Card:** Did you know that your family members can take books out on your student library card? Ask us about bringing great books home for the whole family :)

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook



## EES Beeswax Wraps For Sale

At EES we are selling student-made beeswax wraps for \$4 each and 3 wraps for \$10. We are selling the wraps to fundraise for our StoryWalk outdoor classroom. You can buy the wraps through our School Cash Online link below and in person during our Celebration of Learning on April 19 and 20.



<https://www.schoolcashonline.com/>

## Coast Salish Weave Collection

EES are fortunate to have on display, this extensive Coast Salish Weave Collection.





## EES Sports Desk Report



It has been a very busy time for EES sports teams!

The girls' volleyball team made it to the finals of the volleyball tournament on Monday at Oceanside Elementary. They lost the first game, won the second and then lost the tiebreaker 13-15. They did amazing and secured the second-place banner! Well done also to the boys' volleyball team who were placed 4<sup>th</sup> yesterday at the tournament.

Congratulations to all of our participants! Way to go Wildcats!

Michael Avis  
Physical Education Teacher

## **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:

### **VI Regional Library Spring Events:**

- **Baby Time**
- **Family Storytime**
- **Spring Break Scavenger Hunt**

**BGCCVI FREE Parent Education Session - Parenting Without Power Struggles**

**Oceanside Minor Baseball Registration 2023**

**Oceanside Track and Field Registration**

**Rotary Youth Art Exhibition (Gr.6-7 students) – Mindfulness in May**

**SOS Winter-Spring 2023 Program Guide**

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

## **Information for Families:**

**Family Accident Reimbursement Plan**

**2022-2023 Board SD69 Public Meetings of the Board of Education**

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

## EES Calendar of Events

<b>March</b>	17	Last day of school before Spring Break
<b>April</b>	3	School Re-opens after Spring Break
	7	GOOD FRIDAY – No School
	10	EASTER MONDAY – No School
	19	Scholastic Book Fair (In the library) – runs until Apr.25
<b>May</b>	18	Professional Development Day – No School
	19	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	22	VICTORIA DAY – No School
<b>June</b>	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early