



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
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Vice-Principal: Ms. Florence Wong
Email: fwong@sd69.bc.ca

May 19, 2023

Principal's Message

We hope you are enjoying a good start to an extra long weekend! Yesterday our EES staff engaged in professional learning in the area of writing. We appreciate having opportunities like this to learn new skills that help us support our students.

With the last few months of the school year upon us, it is sometimes hard to keep students motivated. The article below suggests five strategies that can help increase your child's motivation to learn:

Kids who are motivated to learn are likely to be more successful in school than those who are not. To motivate your child:

1. **Be a learner yourself.** Let your child see you read books. Watch educational programs. Attend school functions. Try new things. Show curiosity.
2. **Share what you learn.** Talk about new ideas or scientific discoveries with your child. Discuss things you read or hear.
3. **Show an interest** in what he is learning. Ask questions simply to learn and share - not to check up on your child.
4. **Let him know** you believe he can learn. If you show faith in your child's ability to learn, he will have more confidence in his ability.
5. **Stay positive.** If your child has problems in school, help him see that problems can be solved. Meet with the teacher to figure out ways your child can improve. Then discuss ways you can work together to help him succeed.

Source: *Elementary School Parents* (April 2017, Vol.28, No.8)



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.

Criminal Record Checks

We value parent helpers and other volunteers who support with various different activities at EES. We want to remind you

that it is mandatory to have a Criminal Record Check completed prior to taking part in volunteer activities (classroom activities, school activities, field trips, etc.). We keep these on file for 5 years, so you do not need to do it every year while your child is at EES. With so many field trips and special activities coming up, we wanted to remind you of this expectation. We do have a letter available at the EES office for you to get so that you don't have to pay the usual fee for getting this done. The RCMP have advised us that there is at least a two-week timeline to complete the process, but it could take longer during peak times. Please note that due to privacy regulations, organizations cannot share this type of information, so you need a separate Criminal Record Check completed for each organization you volunteer with. If you are not sure if you have a completed a criminal record check on file, please call the EES office.



Unsafe Litter



We have been hearing reports of unsafe litter around public spaces in our community. We felt it would be a good time to teach/remind our children of what to do if they encounter unsafe litter. Please take some time 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 someone 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.

Visitors to EES



During the school day, we have many visitors who come and go. We have noticed an increase in the number of people coming to the school to make a delivery to their child(ren), pass along a message, or check in with a teacher. We ask that you please report to the office and not go directly to your child’s classroom during class time. If you need to speak with a teacher during the school day, we ask that you leave a message for them to contact you. Lunch and other deliveries can be dropped off at the office in order to minimize distractions during class time.

A reminder that for safety purposes, we need to know where every child is during the school day, therefore please make sure you sign out your child at the school office when leaving the school during the day. Students are required to sign back in at the office if returning to school during the day. Also, the school office must be advised by the parent/guardian if your child is not attending school. Please phone 250-248-8446 and speak with a secretary or leave a message on the attendance line.

Vice-Principal Performance Review

This month, our Vice-Principal (Flo Wong) will be engaging in a performance appraisal as part of a new district-wide process for all principals and vice-principals. Information will be gathered from surveys, interviews with staff, parents, and students, and then used alongside her own reflections and her supervisor’s observations to create a report, and to help her and her supervisor to set professional goals for the next few years. Ms. Wong is inviting you to be a part of this process by taking just a few minutes to respond to the questions in this survey and, if you like, adding a few comments.

The link below is attached to a Form only Ms. Wong’s supervisor (Principal Sheila Morrison) can see, and she will be sharing data in chart form only and in comment themes without any names attached. Some quotes may be used in the report that goes into Ms. Wong’s personnel file, but again, these will be anonymous and content will be paraphrased if the source is identifiable.

[Vice-Principal Parents and Guardians Appraisal Survey for Flo Wong - PARENTS](#)

Thanks for helping out. Ms. Wong really appreciates your time and your feedback.



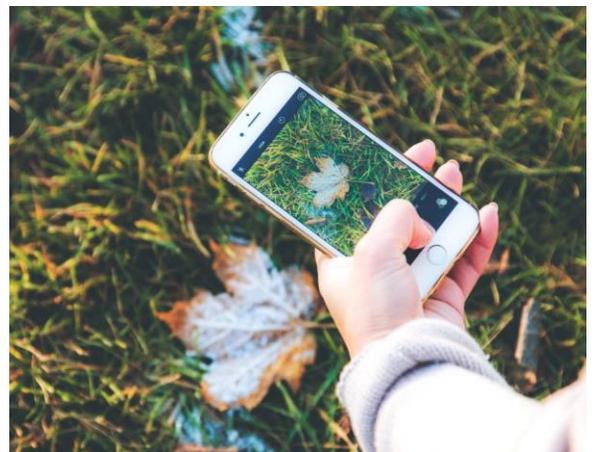
Reminders

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.

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.



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, 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.

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/>

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).

EES LIBRARY NEWS

Super Hero Pollinators: With our pollinators hard at work on our outside, we've been pulling some amazing books and resources for our library inside! From bees to butterflies, from flowers to patterns in nature, you'll love the variety of books on display, check them out!



World Bee Day at EES: On **Tuesday May 23**, we'll be celebrating everything about bees with displays and activities in our lobby including our Beebots! Exploratory students will be on hand to share their bee knowledge, there will be bee hives (no live bees) and beekeeping suits, and students will demonstrate how to make beeswax wraps.

Beautiful Beeswax Wraps for Sale: EES student leaders are creating beautiful beeswax wraps and selling them to raise funds for our outdoor classroom. You can buy our wraps ONLINE anytime at <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>

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



Celebrating World Bee Day at EES!



Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023

Wear black and yellow in recognition of World Bee Day! Students will be participating in class activities today as they learn about the wonderful life of bees!



Dear staff and parents,

Right now, there are more than 4,500 kids across BC who need temporary foster families while they cannot live at home. Approximately 750 children and youth of those children come from Vancouver Island. Right now, Parksville and surrounding areas have a growing list of children and teens waiting to be cared for in a safe and loving home. Some can't be at home because the actions of the parents put them at risk, some because they need some help with their behaviour, and some because their support needs mean their parents need a break. Right now, there is a child in YOUR community who needs you.

Therefore, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is currently recruiting new foster families to care for these children in the Parksville, NanOOSE, Errington and Qualicum areas.

"Being a foster caregiver makes your life worthwhile. You aren't just achieving for yourself, you are helping the most vulnerable in our community."

- Foster caregiver of 40 years.

Our foster families come from a variety of backgrounds, each with different life experiences, skills, and qualities. To be a foster caregiver you must;

- Be a resident of BC who is (at least) 19 years of age.
- Have a safe and nurturing home environment.
- Be comfortable in providing guidance and supervision that meets a child's needs and cultural heritage.
- Be an active member of the child's care team.

If you cannot be a full-time foster caregiver, consider becoming a respite/relief caregiver who supports families by caring for children a few days throughout the month.

"I really enjoy what I do as a respite/relief caregiver because it means I get to support the children and the family as a whole."

- Foster caregiver of 30 years.

Participating in either a group information session or meeting with a social worker is a helpful way to learn more about foster caregiving. This will help you make an informed decision about whether fostering is a fit for you and your family. To learn about the application process and to find details about a Foster Caregiver Information Session in your community, here are three options:

- Reach out to your local MCFD office Resources Team;
 - Helen Wagg; Team Leader; (250) 947-2703
 - Alison Bandi; Resource Social Worker; (236) 936-2026
 - Noël Matchett, Resource Social Worker; (250) 947-2666
- Visit www.fosterhope.ca : online Zoom sessions with the Foster Parent Support Services Society.
- Visit the Indigenous Caregivers of BC (ICOBC) website www.fostercaregiversbc.ca

"If you are a person who is drawn to or simply curious about fostering, I encourage you to lean into exploring that urge. You could be setting yourself on the path toward the most fulfilling calling of your life."

- Foster caregiver of 8 years.

Our best source of new foster parents is word of mouth. It is one person who cares about children and youth encouraging another caring person to open their home and heart to a child in need. We encourage you to either consider becoming a foster parent or spread the word to someone you know who may be interested.

Myths about becoming a foster parent:

- You don't have to be perfect
- You don't have to own your own home
- You don't have to be rich
- You don't have to be married
- You don't have to have a college degree
- You don't have to already be a parent

You do have to have:

- A big heart
- An open mind
- A sense of humor
- A stable home
- A desire to help



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:

- **Family Storytime**

Creative Kids Summer 2023 at the MAC (July 11th – August 17th)

Qualicum Beach Triathlon June 25, 2023

Colours for Kids Fun Run – Saturday, May 27

MAC Youth Exhibit Call Out for Students (May 2nd – May 28th)

BGCCVI FREE Parent Education Session - Parenting Without Power Struggles

<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

May	19	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	22	VICTORIA DAY – No School
June	29	Final Assembly & Gr.7 Recognition, Time TBA
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early