



# EES Newsletter

March 2025  
Issue #10

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Message**

**Principal's Message**

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We are almost two weeks into March, and are heading into our Spring Break - a time for everyone to take a step back and hopefully spend some quality time with friends and family. If the weather cooperates, this should be a wonderful time to be outside enjoying the longer, warmer days.

The past few weeks have been busy at EES. We recognized the annual Pink Shirt Day on February 26<sup>th</sup>, with a student led assembly. Our themes of learning to be upstanders, and showing empathy for others, were shared through stories, songs and dance. We are very proud of all the students who demonstrated their talent and leadership in this assembly.

Acts of kindness from the EES community continued with the food drive for the Salvation Army that was organized by the students in Rm. 14. It was inspiring to watch the donations grow over the past few weeks, and this generosity will benefit many people in the Oceanside area.

Volleyball for both our boys' and girls' teams is finishing this week. We would like to recognize the time and effort students have put into learning the game, and the sportsmanship they have shown in representing Errington Elementary. Additionally, we would like to thank Mr. Avis and Ms. Jeffrey for the extra time they spent working with the students this season.

Learning Updates were sent home on March 11<sup>th</sup>. This update covers our second term of learning. We will host a Celebration of Learning on May 6<sup>th</sup>, which will be an opportunity for families to come and learn about all the wonderful things our students have been up to this year. If you have some specific questions or wonders about your child's progress to date, please reach out to their teacher to set up a time to chat.

Finally, we wish everyone a safe and happy Spring Break. We look forward to seeing everyone and hearing about your adventures when we return on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Professional Development Day:**

On Friday, March 7, the district hosted its In-District Professional Development (Pro-D) Day. Educators from across the district gathered at Ballenas Secondary School for a day of learning, while our CUPE members participated in their sessions at Kwalikum Secondary School.

A variety of sessions were offered, allowing our learning professionals to engage in topics that supported their ongoing professional growth. These included discussions on creating SOGI-friendly classrooms, trauma-sensitive instructional strategies, Secret Stories for literacy development in the primary years, deunitizing high school mathematics, and many other subjects designed to cater to diverse interests.

While students enjoyed a "day off" from school, our teaching and support staff dedicated their time to collaboration and the advancement of their professional practices. The efforts of both the MATA and CUPE Professional Development Committees in providing rich, meaningful opportunities for adult learners are deeply appreciated by all members of the school district.

### **Introductory School Newsletter Kindergarten**



#### **Kindergarten Immunization Information**

In B.C., routine immunizations are recommended for children at kindergarten entry (4-6 years of age). If your child has not received their kindergarten immunizations, please contact Oceanside Public Health Services at (250) 947-8242 to book an appointment at the health unit.

For more information about immunization, please go to <https://immunizebc.ca/> or contact the school nurse at Oceanside Public Health Services.

## Student Learning Survey 2024/2025

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Throughout February the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province - in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>.

Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be **open until May 2, 2025**. If you have any questions, please contact the school at 250-248-8446.



## QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Yath c̓isum / Always growing / Grandissons ensemble

March 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

### RE: BUILDING COHORTS FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR 2025-2026

During the next few months, staff at our schools will be involved in 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.

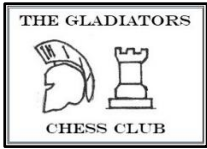
The **deadline** for submitting information regarding your child's learning group placement is **Friday, April 11, 2025**.

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)

## EES Library News



**Gladiators Chess Tournament:** This has been a nail-biter of a tournament! All our players have done really well. Our 2025 Champions are:

**Grade 7, Ben Z.**

**Grade 6, Declan C.**

**Grade 5, Jason B.**

**Grade 4, Ivan D.**

**Most Improved Player, Monroe J.**

**Sportsmanship Award, Vincent L.**



**Errington School Food Drive:** Our school raised \$309.00 and collected 868 items of food for the Salvation Army Food Bank. Well done, us!

*"Thank you so much for your generosity and for organizing this food drive! I truly appreciate the effort you and your team have put into supporting the Food Bank...Your kindness and commitment make such a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve, and I can't thank you enough for your support. Wishing you all a wonderful and well-deserved spring break! "*

*Ihor Reveha, Community Ministries Director*



**Neurodiversity Day March 12:** Today we celebrated all the wonderful brains in our world! Kim Foster, mother of Zach Foster former EES student, donated \$500 to our school. We have purchased many beautiful books in our new Zach Collection. Each of these books is a story about neurodiversity. Adult readers visited our classes to read titles from our new collection which is now part of our EES catalogue. A big thank you to Kim and Zach!

**Return Your Books:** Please bring back your library books so another student can check it out! If your book is **LOST**, you can bring another one in of similar quality and genre to replace it.

We hope you all have a very happy and bookish Spring Break!

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook



## Photo Gallery

### EES Food Drive Ihor (Food Bank Representative) with Bella K.



### Packing up





## Celebrating Neurodiversity Day at EES



## Family Peer Support Position FamilySmart

### Family Peer Support Position Integrated Child & Youth Team - Qualicum

- 17.5 Hours Per Week
- \$25/Hour
- Work from home position within the Oceanside area including Bowser, Combs, Errington, Nanoose Bay, Parksville, Qualicum Beach and Whiskey Creek

For more than 20 years, [FamilySmart](#) has been working in B.C. to help children and young people by helping their family and other caring adults. We know children and young people do better when the adults who care about them are supported.

### Position Summary

Family Peer Support Workers are parents and caregivers of children or youth with mental health and/or substance use challenges. Your personal parenting experience is the primary requirement for this role. Your experiences will help other families find help, comfort, hope, and feel less alone.

As a Family Peer Support Worker, you are a member of the Integrated Child & Youth Team (ICY) in Oceanside. In this role, you will provide peer support to families and caregivers whose children and youth are experiencing difficulty with their mental health and/or with substance use who are receiving services from the ICY team. The ICY teams are part of [A Pathway to Hope](#) – the provincial strategy for improved mental health and substance use care in B.C. The ICY teams bring services together in a multidisciplinary team setting. The teams make it easier for children, youth and their families to connect to the care they need, where and when they need it – at school and in the community. [To learn more about these positions visit B.C.'s Integrated Child & Youth Teams](#)

**The Family Peer Support Worker provides peer support to families and caregivers by:**

- Working as part of the ICY team in Oceanside
- Providing emotional support to families and caregivers
- Sharing information and resources with families and caregivers
- Offering knowledge/education to families and caregivers
- Helping families and caregivers navigate (find their way to) services
- Building on parents and caregivers strengths and offering hope
- Meeting with families and caregivers in-person, by video chat, phone and email

[familysmart.ca](http://familysmart.ca)



**You do not need to be an expert in mental health and/or substance use, your family's experience is enough.**

**You**

- Are good at building relationships
- Make connections easily
- Demonstrate compassion and care to others
- Are able to work well with Service Providers and Educators and as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Have strong verbal and written skills in English (support available for the successful candidate)
- Will be collecting data and documenting your work
- Have a Driver's License and access to a reliable working vehicle, travel to meet with families in various communities is required
- Have the ability to work from a home office and in the community
- Have good working knowledge of Google Workspace, including gmail, calendar and docs
- Can pass a criminal records check

Preference will be given to individuals who:

- Have an understanding of the needs of many kinds of families including Indigenous, multicultural, multi-generational and those with diverse abilities and needs.

FamilySmart provides excellent support, supervision and training and will help you learn and develop the skills that we have discovered to help families and service providers work well together.

**To Apply**

We invite you to apply online by submitting your resume & cover letter to [familysmart.ca/careers](https://familysmart.ca/careers)

At FamilySmart, experience with the child and youth mental health and/or substance use system is very important to us. Please consider including in your cover letter a little information about why this is important to you as well.

**Please note that the assessment of applicants will be made on an ongoing basis and continue until a hire is made.**

*We thank all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. FamilySmart is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Personnel are chosen on the basis of ability without regard to age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical or mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and criminal conviction unrelated to employment.*

[familysmart.ca](https://familysmart.ca)

## **EES PAC News**

A warm hello to all EES families from your PAC!

Here is an update on some PAC projects:

44 more books were purchased for the school library,  
totaling over 100 books this year from PAC funds!

PAC funded 4 picnic tables, installed in the new outdoor area in front of the  
school.

We hope students will enjoy them especially as Springtime and nicer  
weather approaches!

PAC will be planning one more fun family event before the close of the  
school year!

To hear more about this, other PAC activities and updates from our  
Principal and District PAC,  
we welcome all parents and caregivers to attend monthly PAC meetings:  
Second Thursday of each month at 6pm in the school library.

***Next meeting: TONIGHT, March 13th***

You can also keep informed through the EES PAC Facebook page.

We wish everyone a wonderful Spring Break!



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**



Ecole Oceanside Elementary – April 1st & 22nd @ 10:30am–11:30am  
Springwood Elementary – April 4th @ 9:45am–10:45am  
Bowser Elementary – April 7th & 14th @ 11am–12pm  
Errington Elementary – April 7th @ 1pm–2pm  
Qualicum Beach Elementary – April 9th & 23rd @ 10am–11am  
Arrowview Elementary – April 10th & 24th @ 1:15pm–2:15pm  
NanOOSE Bay Elementary – April 25th @ 9:45am–10:45am

**Ready, Set, Learn is a free drop-in program for  
children from birth to kindergarten age and their  
parents/caregivers with the intent of supporting  
children's transitions into school.**

Check out our website  
to book your spot:  
[www.oblt.ca](http://www.oblt.ca)



## Climb Aboard the WOW Bus!

Meadowood Community Park – April 2nd @ 10:30am – 12pm  
Errington Community Park – April 9th @ 10:30am – 12pm  
Parksville Community Park – April 15th @ 11am – 12:30pm  
NanOOSE Place Community Centre – April 23rd @ 10:30am – 12pm  
Bowser Legion – April 30th @ 10am – 11:30am

**WOW Bus is a free drop-in outreach program for children from birth to kindergarten  
age and their adult. Families are invited to climb aboard the WOW Bus and join us  
for healthy snacks, playtime, songs, and stories.**

Check out our website for more details about the WOW  
Bus and other free early years programs: [www.oblt.ca](http://www.oblt.ca)







# PETE THE CAT FIRST STEPS TO SCHOOL



**THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025**  
**5:00PM - 7:00PM**  
**FAIR**

**Qualicum Commons  
744 Primrose Street  
Qualicum Beach**

Meet Pete the Cat,  
climb aboard a school bus, fun activities,  
parent resources, and lots more ...



Registration is appreciated  
but drop-ins are welcome!

**WWW.OBLT.CA**

Presented by  
OBLT, Qualicum School District,  
and Ready, Set, Learn







## PHOTO, VIDEO & ART CONTEST FOR CANADIAN INDIGENOUS YOUTH



Celebrating the rich cultural & heritage traditions of Indigenous people, FORED sponsors this annual contest with cash prizes for Indigenous youth.

Theme: **Traditional Knowledge & Medicine** Prize: **4 x \$150 prizes** with at least one national winner. *Group work shares prize.* 💰

**DEADLINE  
MAY 23, 2024**



Interview a local elder about homemade salal tea on video? Creativity of all kinds is welcomed.

Contest Details: Please submit entries via the easy entry form on our website. <https://www.foredbc.org/traditional-knowledge-contest> Entries may also be mailed to the address at bottom.

- Eligibility: youths aged 5-18 of First Nations, Inuit, Métis, or self-declared ancestry.
- Participants must include their name, band affiliation/ancestry, home address, phone & email address, parent & teacher contact info, grade & school on [website entry form](#) or with mailed entries.
- Please include a brief description of how your artwork relates to traditional knowledge and medicine. **DEADLINE: May 23/24**

- All original artistic work accepted: i.e. pencil, crayon, paint, mural, collage, photos, animations, videos etc. (.jpg, .pdf, .png, .mp4, .MOV). Minimum image size 2MB. Videos must be less than 3 min. Please have someone take a photo of you with your artwork if possible.
- By entering, winners agree their names & entries can be published in local & social media, or displayed on BC Ministry of Education sites for Indigenous People's Day, June 21, & our [website](#).
- All entrants qualify for complimentary, honorary youth membership. No commercial use of entries.
- Mailed entries won't be returned. Only winners will be notified.
- See how Indigenous volunteer mentors integrate traditional knowledge into natural resources practices on our [YouTube](#). Follow us on social @foredbc.
- Complimentary teacher & youth activities by age group on Indigenous culture available [here](#).

Questions? Email [education@foredbc.org](mailto:education@foredbc.org).

FORED BC is a charitable association established in 1925. We work with volunteers on community-based sustainability projects. We thank our generous donors; the Province of BC & the Vancouver Foundation.



Follow FORED BC on social:



#213 - 4481 W.10th Ave. Vancouver, BC V6R 4R8  
P: 604-737-8555 E: [info@foredbc.org](mailto:info@foredbc.org) W: [foredbc.org](http://foredbc.org)

Support balanced education about our environment & sustainable natural resources. Trusted since 1925.





# Wand-Making Art Therapy Workshop

with Erica Williamson RSW, RTC

- ✓ Still Waiting for your hogwarts letter.
- ✓ Love being creative



This art therapy workshop will focus on learning to manage your worries through art. Participants will go home with their own witch/wizard wands and magic room spray.

Friday March 21, 25 5-6:30pm

Ages 8-12

Registration \$50.00.

email:artnsoul.ew@gmail.com

Venue: McMillan Arts Centre (MAC)

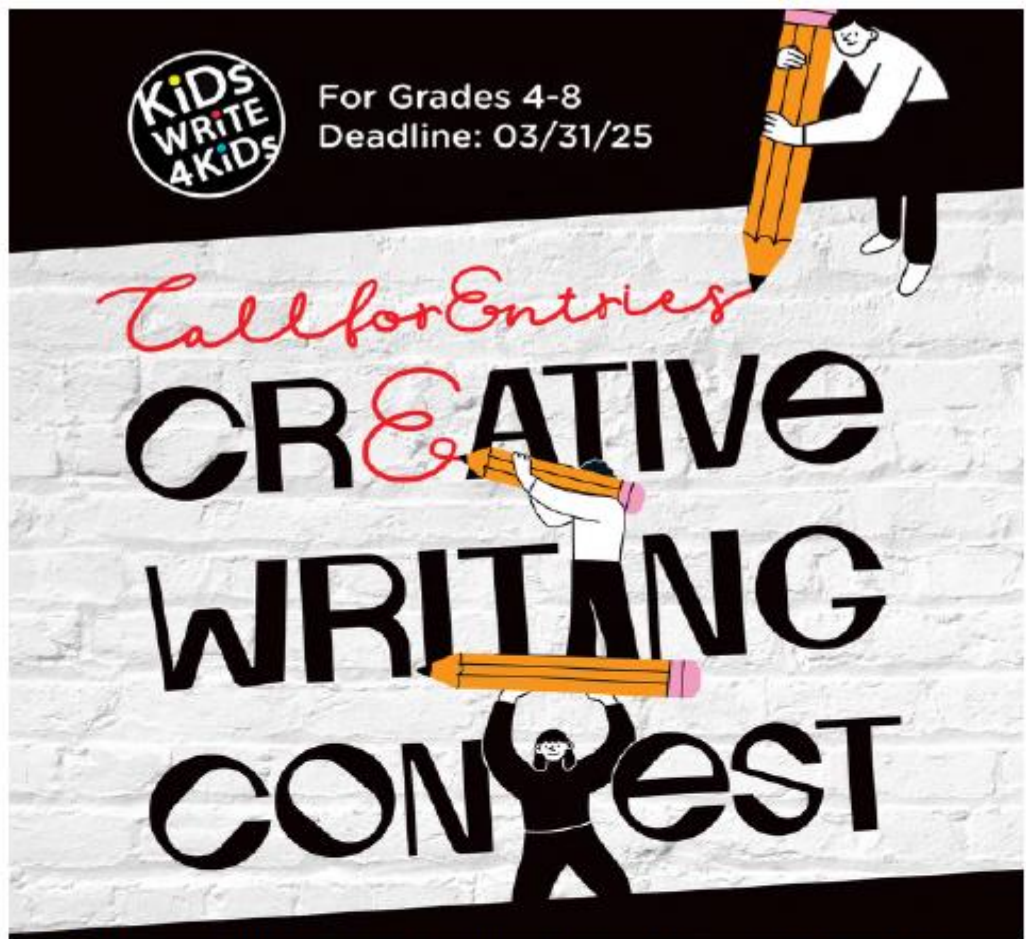
133 McMillan Street, Upper Level, Parksville, BC V9P

2H5





For Grades 4-8  
Deadline: 03/31/25



### Kids Write 4 Kids Contest Deadline: March 31, 2025

There is still time to enter. Whether you're a budding novelist, a poetic soul, or someone who loves to tell tales, this is your platform to shine.

#### Why You Should Enter?

- **Get Published:** Winners become published authors.
- **Make an Impact:** Book sales proceeds are donated to the winner's charity of choice.
- **Join the Panel:** Winners will become judges for next year's contest.

Educators, parents, and creativity enthusiasts – spread the word! Display [our poster](#) in your school, library, or community center to help discover the next wave of storytellers. <https://kidswrite4kids.ripplefoundation.ca/>

Meet our diverse and inspiring individuals on our [Kids Write 4 Kids judging panel!](#)



# Easter EGG-STRAVAGANZA

15\$ PER CHILD  
AIMED FOR CHILDREN  
UNDER 8  
KIDS BRING YOUR ADULTS



SPRINGTIME CRAFT

EGG DYEING

EASTER EGG HUNT  
IN THE GARDEN

SAT APRIL 19, 2025  
9:30AM-10:30PM  
& 10:30AM-11:30AM

REGISTER AT  
THE MCMILLAN ART CENTRE  
[MCMILLANARTCENTRE.COM](http://MCMILLANARTCENTRE.COM)



McMillan Arts Centre (MAC)  
333 WILKINSON STREET, Upper Level  
Parksville, BC V9P 2H3  
(250) 248-6141  
[www.mcmillanartscentre.com](http://www.mcmillanartscentre.com)  
Gallery & Gift Shop Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11am to 5pm

## Daily Lunch available @ EES

Our daily lunch program is underway and we are grateful to be able to provide meals at school for students.

Our dedicated PAC continues to offer Hot Lunch on specific Fridays. Ordering for both programs will be done through Munch-a-Lunch, however, it will be through separate accounts.

**\*\*Please note that the ability to order lunches is: 8 days prior for PAC lunches and the Wednesday prior to the date of the lunch for the EES Lunch Program.**

<b>EES Lunch Program</b> (daily lunch)	<b>EES PAC Hot Lunches</b> (select Fridays only)
<u><a href="#">Errington School Meals</a></u> If you already have a PAC account use: <u><a href="#">ADD Errington School</a></u>	<u><a href="#">PAC Hot Lunches</a></u>

## Community Programs & Events

We get numerous advertisements for community programs and opportunities to include in newsletters. Please click on the link below to view the events/programs offered within the community – access is via the Qualicum School District Community Page:

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

## Information for Families:

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan – Voluntary Insurance

<https://specialmarkets.ia.ca/aonbc/home>

## Public Meetings of the Board of Education

[https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Board/BoardMeetingAgendasMinutes/Pages/Board-Meetings.aspx#/](https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Board/BoardMeetingAgendasMinutes/Pages/Board-Meetings.aspx#/=)

## KEY DATES

### March

14 – Last day of school before Spring Break

31 – School Reopens after Spring Break

### April

18 – Good Friday (no school)

21 – Easter Monday (no school)

28 – Pro-D Day (no school)

### May

16 – Conferencing Adjustment Day (no school)

19 – Victoria Day (no school)

### June

26 – Last day of school before Summer Break

27 – Administrative Day (no school)