



# 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. Jennifer Fuhrmann**

**Email: [jfuhrmann@sd69.bc.ca](mailto:jfuhrmann@sd69.bc.ca)**

December 13, 2019

## Principal's Message

As this will be the last EES newsletter prior to the winter break, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season with your families. We have a very generous community and it has been heartwarming to see the many ways people give to one another – whether it is the gift of time, material goods to those who face difficult times, or just giving for the goodness that we feel in reaching out to one another with kind gestures. In the gift of giving, we are teaching children valuable lessons in social responsibility and community service. The article below shows how helping others promotes confidence and self-esteem:

Children want to feel like they play an important role in their community. Volunteering can help your child build important social skills and develop self-confidence—which will also benefit him in school. Find a volunteer or community service activity you and your child can do together. Here are some ideas:

- **Bake something** for a senior citizen or a parent of a new baby.
- **Make sandwiches** for people who are homeless.
- **Help take care of a pet.** If a neighbor is going away for a few days, you and your child could offer to feed and walk the dog.
- **Take part in a clothing drive.** Collect coats, gloves and hats and donate them to local shelters.
- **Donate money he has earned.** It's nice when your child sees you give money to a charity. But he'll remember it longer if he gives away even a small sum of his own money to help others.

Source: *Elementary School Parents*  
December 2017  
Vol.29, No.4

## 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.

### School Bus Information

*Student Play Dates / Bussing Arrangements:*

Due to overcrowding please be aware that school buses are **not** to be used for any other purpose (ie play dates, birthday parties, work or sports activities). The Transportation Department have asked that parents **do not send notes with their child requesting to ride another bus.**

Please refer to the School District website for all school bus information.

## After School Arrangements for Students

Dear Parents/Guardians:

If you need to advise your students of any changes to their after school care/transportation etc. we kindly ask that you call the office with details earlier in the school day. The office has been receiving a lot of parent/guardian calls towards the end of the day, which is an extremely busy time for our school community and could result in messages being missed.

Thank you for your understanding.

EES School Office

## Winter Concert



We will be having our Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. We have 2 showtime options for you to choose from: 12:45pm **OR** 6:00pm. In order to manage the crowds and ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the show, we ask that you attend only one of the showtimes.

Gym doors will open at 12:00pm for the afternoon show. Please note that Kindergarten students in Mrs. Norman's/Ms. MacLeod's and Mrs. Diewold's classes will only be performing in the afternoon show. We encourage people to consider attending the afternoon show as an option to help us reduce the crowd in the evening.

For the evening show, the gym doors will open at 5:20pm. We ask that students arrive to their classrooms at 5:30pm. Students will stay in their classrooms until their turn to go on stage and will need to be picked-up from their classroom after the show is over. There will be a final song with a large group, so we ask that you stay for the duration of the show.

Although the new parking lot will accommodate several families, we know that many vehicles will need to park on Fairdowne and Grafton. We do encourage families to carpool if they can and also to bring a flashlight as it is very dark on the road. We have arranged for a shuttle bus to travel up and down Grafton and Fairdowne to transport people to the school and back. The shuttle will be available for about 30-45 minutes before the show and after the show. If you would like to catch a ride with the shuttle, please stand at the road and wave them to stop. If you are transporting people with significant mobility issues, you may drop them off at the front of the school and then park your vehicle in one of the designated spots (the new parking area or on Fairdowne or Grafton).

For both shows, please use the main entrance of the building. The outside doors by the gym will be kept locked and it tends to get slippery in that area. We know that folks are busy and may have other places to be – we are asking spectators to stay for the whole show as movement in and out of the gym is very distracting to the performers. We would also like to remind you that we have several children at EES whose photographs are not to appear publically. In order to respect the privacy of our students, we ask that you do NOT download, copy, or distribute any pictures taken at the concert through social media that contain images of students other than your child's.



## Staffing Update

As you are likely aware, Ms. Siedlecki (our Music and Band teacher) has started her maternity leave and has recently had a healthy baby boy. In order to fill this specialty position, we have two teachers taking on the teaching responsibilities for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Kenna MacLeod will be teaching Music/Drama and Ms. Aleksandra Tremblay will be teaching beginner and senior band on Tuesdays. Ms. MacLeod also shares a Kindergarten class at Errington Elementary School and Ms. Tremblay is also working at Oceanside Elementary School.



## Food at EES



Many of you know that we have a breakfast program where we offer fresh fruit, bagels, and milk to any student who joins us in our foyer in the morning before school starts. We rely on donations from our generous community to run this program. We do not collect money from students for this, but we do encourage donations to our collection jar when you can.

We also provide students with "top-ups" to their lunch from time to time. We have noticed a large number of students lining up at our lunch kitchen to get food items. We have asked their classroom teachers to be the first point of contact to determine whether or not a student should be visiting the kitchen at lunch (teachers check to see what they have in their lunch before letting them go to the kitchen). We are very concerned that some students have been discarding food they have brought from home and getting food top-ups from the kitchen. We are happy to provide additional food when needed, but we also keep track of who is getting food. If visits become regular, we will be contacting those parents to inform them. We know that families have various different lifestyle choices around food and we want to work with parents to ensure that we are respecting food choices and also able to help out from time to time. If a child tells us they don't like something in their lunch, we ask them to bring it home and have a conversation about food preferences and options with their families.

In regards to microwaves, some classrooms have one and some have made the choice to not have a microwave. Many students have been requesting the use of a microwave in the lunch kitchen. We have had ongoing concerns including:

- The time it takes for the student to walk down to the kitchen, wait in line for their turn, warm up their food, then take the hot food back to their classroom to eat. By the time students return to their classroom, the eating period is nearly over.
- Students who have been transporting hot food back to their classroom have scalded themselves on the hot items.
- Many students arrive to warm up items in packaging that is not suitable for microwaving.

Due to these ongoing concerns, staff will not be allowing students to microwave food in the lunch kitchen after the winter break. We highly recommend using a good quality thermos as an option to keep food warm without having to use a microwave. A stainless steel thermos works well, especially if it is pre-heated with hot water before placing the hot food in it.

## **Successful Learner Traits**

As part of our work with the re-designed curriculum, our teachers have been using some common language around Successful Learning Traits. The Successful Learner Traits apply to ALL learning: social, emotional, academic; learning at recess, at home, and for extracurricular pursuits. Students typically rely on a cluster of 2-4 Traits that reflect their strengths and enable their success. We encourage students to reflect on themselves as learners in order to bring greater understanding to their strengths, as well as to set goals for improvement. Your child, along with their mentors, can identify their learning strengths and goals around the following "I" statements:

Thoughtful: I am a thinker

Strategic: I work smart

Confident: I can do it

Industrious: I take action

Enthusiastic: I love to learn

Creative: I find my own way

Risk Taking: I am bold

Compassionate: I am kind

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No.69 (QUALICUM)

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

During this time of season, inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. 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.

See Board Administrative Procedure below: *Emergency Closure of Schools (Student)*

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)

## 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 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.



### **Snow**

A few weeks ago, we enjoyed a very small amount of snow and as the winter continues, there is sure to be more! 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.

## **Inclement Weather and Clothing**

The fall/winter weather is upon us! 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.



## **Communicable Infections**

We monitor student attendance closely and during this time of year, illness is common. We would like to remind you that if your child shows signs of a communicable infection, it needs to be diagnosed and treated by a medical provider. Please contact us at the school if your child has a communicable infection so that we can work with you on determining if and how long your child needs to be absent from school. We use a guide provided by Island Health to help us prevent the spread of common childhood illnesses. When calling in your child's absence, we also appreciate knowing what kind of illness is causing them to be away. We track patterns and are required to report to Island Health if there is an unusual number of absences due to illness.

## **Scented Products**



Please note that we follow Board Policy 8007 (Towards a Scent Considerate School/Workplace Environment) in regards to scented products in our facilities. We have a number of staff and students who have respiratory issues that are aggravated by scented products. We ask that you please refrain from wearing perfume/after shave products around our school.

## **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.

## **Volunteering**

At EES we love to have volunteers in our school! If you would like to help out in the classroom, library, go on fieldtrips or help on our PAC, please fill out a Police Information Check form available in the EES office. It is simple to do! Just fill out the form and bring to the R.C.M.P. office in Parksville. If you bring in the letter template indicating it is for Errington Elementary School, it is free. This needs to be done once every few years. Due to privacy laws, you must complete the Police Information Check separately for each organization you are involved with. It is best to take care of this now so that you can support throughout the year.





## **Reporting Student Absents**

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!

## **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 publically. 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.



## **Peanut Awareness**

This year we have students in our school who could have a potentially fatal reaction to peanut butter. A potentially "fatal" reaction means that after contact with a peanut product the child may go into shock and without immediate medical care can die. Therefore, it is vitally important to the safety of the students involved that their classrooms become peanut aware zones. We have a number of systems in place to limit potential exposure. We ask that the school community and especially all parents share the responsibility to contribute to a safe classroom environment for these students by eliminating peanut products from their classrooms. A wide variety of lunch and snack products are readily available at local grocery stores, as are alternatives to these types of food. We ask all parents to discuss with their child about not sharing their snacks with other children and the danger peanut products pose to students with the allergy. We ask that you also discuss the issue of cross-contamination. Shared areas that are likely to be possible points of exposure include doorknobs, tap and toilet handles, soap dispensers, gym equipment, library books, board games, etc. Your understanding and cooperation is vital and appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Morrison 250 248-8446.



## 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.

Errington Elementary is now on Instagram!



Staff have created a profile to share events and highlights from around the school. We are hoping that we will be able to better connect to the Errington community and share the awesome things that are happening around our school. Parents, family members, and students are welcome to follow us. Please follow us by searching: *errington\_wildcats*.

Please contact the school if you have any questions.

### Seasons Readings from your Library!

**Christmas Books:** we have many Christmas books out and encourage students to bring them home to share with their families. Please return them quickly as other students would like to read them, too :)

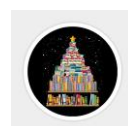
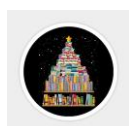
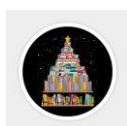
**Holiday Reading:** there's nothing like having a pile of books ready for reading over the Christmas break! Students are invited to take home extra books over the holidays, come and see us!

**Book Return:** please check backpacks and under beds and return library books by Dec 20.

**Family Library Card:** families are encouraged to come in to the library and check out books on their student's card. Please ask us about it :)

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of our EES families!

Ms. Richards and Ms. MacRae



Errington Elementary School Presents:

## The Polar Express

Many grade 6-7 students are working hard every Tuesday to produce our Christmas play, *The Polar Express*! This is a story about a train that takes children to the North Pole on Christmas Eve!

There will be two performances on December 18<sup>th</sup>, one at 12:45 pm and another at 6:00 pm. We invite you to bring a non-perishable food item for our food bank collection, and for a donation for PAC. There will be a shuttle bus running up and down from the school before and after the evening performance. Please think about ride-sharing and bringing a flash-light. Thank you to our Music Teacher Ms. MacLeod, our Teacher Librarian Mrs. Richards, our Pianist Mrs. Spencer-Dahl, our grade 6-7 cast and crew, and our teachers and classes, for creating Errington Elementary School's Christmas concert!

By Shyla R.



## Mid Island Child Care Needs Assessment: Parent/Caregiver Survey

The Mid Island Child Care Planning Collaborative (Lantzville, Nanaimo, Parksville, Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo), in partnership with Snuneymuxw, Qualicum, and Snaw-Naw-As Nations, are working together to assess the needs for child care in our respective communities. A key part of the process involves hearing the views of parents and guardians on child care issues and priorities. Based on the information gathered, a regional child care strategy will be created, with strategic directions for each community.

We need to hear from you! Please complete the survey below to help identify the childcare needs for the Oceanside community.

### *Survey:*

[https://ca.research.net/r/Mid-Island-Child-Care-Needs-Assessment-Parent\\_Caregiver-Survey](https://ca.research.net/r/Mid-Island-Child-Care-Needs-Assessment-Parent_Caregiver-Survey)



# EDI PARENT & CAREGIVER NEWSLETTER

*“Every child requires someone in his or her life who is absolutely crazy about them.”*

- Urie Bronfenbrenner

## THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT...

- Is a Canadian-made research questionnaire developed at the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University;
- Is completed by Kindergarten teachers from across BC for all children in the month of February;
- Is designed to help us understand trends in children's development at a population level, and in this way is similar to the Canadian Census;
- Is never used as an individual assessment of a child and no child's EDI results are individually reported. Instead, an individual child's EDI data are included in summary data only, showing trends at a group level, such as school district or neighbourhood.

## PARTICIPATION IN THE EDI QUESTIONNAIRE IS VOLUNTARY...

Even after a school district agrees to take part in EDI data collection, participation by individual schools, teachers and parents and/or caregivers is completely voluntary. If a parent or caregiver does not wish his or her child to participate in the study, they simply need to inform the teacher or the EDI team at HELP ([edi@help.ubc.ca](mailto:edi@help.ubc.ca)).

## WHY DO THE EARLY YEARS MATTER?

Children's early experiences and the environments in which they spend their time have an important and measurable effect on their later health and well-being. In the first few years of life, our genes are particularly sensitive to the environments in which we spend time. The interaction of genes and environments influences the developing brain and other key biological systems. By increasing the quality of early childhood experiences, we ensure that children are ready to learn as they enter school, find meaningful work and contribute to thriving communities.

## WHAT IS THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (EDI)?

The EDI questionnaire comprises 103 items measuring five important domains of early child development: Physical Health & Well-Being; Social Competence; Emotional Maturity; Language & Cognitive Development; and Communication Skills & General Knowledge. Research has shown that these domains are good predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes. Below is a summary of the five scales of the EDI questionnaire, which map directly on to these domains, and the type of questions asked on the survey for each one.

## EDI SCALES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT



### PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Questions regarding children's gross and fine motor skills, physical independence and readiness for the school day. E.g., *Can the child hold a pencil? Is the child able to manipulate objects?*



### SOCIAL COMPETENCE

Questions regarding children's overall social competencies, capacity for respect and responsibility, approaches to learning, and readiness to explore new things. E.g., *Is the child able to follow class routines? Is the child self-confident?*



### EMOTIONAL MATURITY

Questions regarding children's prosocial and helping behaviours, as well as hyperactivity and inattention, and aggressive, anxious and fearful behaviour. E.g., *Does the child comfort a child who is crying or upset? Does the child help clean up a mess?*



### LANGUAGE AND COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Questions regarding children's basic and advanced literacy skills, numeracy skills, interest in math and reading, and memory. E.g., *Is the child interested in reading and writing? Can the child count and recognize numbers?*



### COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Questions regarding children's English language skills and general knowledge. E.g., *Can the child tell a story? Can the child communicate with adults and children? Can the child take part in imaginative play?*



The EDI questionnaire was developed by child development experts and researchers in Canada and with the help of Kindergarten teachers and school administrators. It has been used in all Canadian provinces over the past two decades. In BC, the Ministries of Children and Family Development, Education, and Health have funded the collection and use of the EDI questionnaire since 2001. To date, we have collected EDI data for almost 300,000 Kindergarten students in BC. We have one of the world's largest data sets on children's development as they start school.

You can find a sample copy of the EDI questionnaire at: [earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi).

Information from the EDI questionnaire has proven essential to educators, school districts, health professionals, early years care providers, community members, and governments in planning programs, services, and policies relating to children and families. Public institutions, including school districts, use EDI information (data) in their school district planning. Schools and communities use EDI information to understand how children are doing in key areas of development, and to plan interventions. The information obtained from the EDI questionnaire also supports provincial investment, policy development, and program planning and evaluation. The EDI questionnaire is never used to report on the development of individual children or to compare schools.

EDI data and research can serve as a way to provide insight into how kindergarten children are doing and facilitate discussions about the factors affecting children's early development in neighbourhoods across the province. The information from the EDI questionnaire is used to increase awareness of the ways in which we can create environments in which all children can thrive and develop.

## WHAT ARE WE LEARNING FROM THE EDI?

With over 18 years of EDI data now gathered, clear trends and patterns in children's development are emerging. HELP completed our last data gathering process in 2019. Based on our new data, 33.4% of BC Kindergarten children are vulnerable in one or more aspects of their development. This is the highest level of vulnerability we have seen in 20 years. Vulnerable children are children who, without additional support and care, may experience future challenges in school and society.

HELP's EDI BC: 2019 Provincial Report provides a comprehensive overview of the provincial trends that are emerging from over 18 years of EDI data collection and analysis. The information shared in the report offers a common place to start as we work together to improve child outcomes across the province. You can find the Provincial Report at: [earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/edi](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/maps/edi)

For more information about how HELP determines the vulnerability rate, see the Vulnerability Factsheet: [earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/edi-vuln-factsheet.pdf](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/media/edi-vuln-factsheet.pdf).

## DO YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Please see the EDI Parent/Guardian Informed Passive Consent Letter, distributed by your child's school, for more detailed information about the EDI research project. The letter can also be found at: [earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi/community-resources](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi/community-resources).

Please visit [earlylearning.ubc.ca](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca) to learn more about HELP and our program of research including the Toddler Development Instrument (TDI), Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CEQ), and Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI).

**Principal Investigator**  
Dr. Kimberly Schonert-Reichl

**TEL** 604. 822. 2215  
**EMAIL** [edi@help.ubc.ca](mailto:edi@help.ubc.ca)  
**WEB** [earlylearning.ubc.ca](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca)

## THE HUMAN EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) is a research institute based at the University of British Columbia. For 18 years, HELP has worked in partnership with schools and school districts across BC to gather population-health data related to healthy child development.

The EDI questionnaire is one of four research questionnaires that we use as part of our child development monitoring system at HELP. The information collected is shared with schools and communities.



THE ERRINGTON WAR MEMORIAL HALL PRESENTS

# A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

COME ONE

COME ALL

SONGS

STORIES

SKITS

CAROLS

DOOR 6:30

7 PM

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 14

ADMISSION BY DONATION

## ERRINGTON WAR MEMORIAL HALL

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

SNOWFLAKES: PATRICIA RASHMUSSEN & MAKAYA

DESIGN: MAMACA

2007 REV 2019

[WWW.ERRINGTONHALL.CA](http://WWW.ERRINGTONHALL.CA)



It is time once again for the Grade 4 & 5 SnowPass!

Canada West Ski Area Association are offering families the opportunity for their Grade 4 and 5 students to ski and snowboard for only

\$29.99 + tax.

Brochures are available from the EES school office.



### Hot Lunch Days

December 13<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Day

January 15<sup>th</sup> – Subway Day

All lunches close on Munchalunch a week prior to lunch date.

Munchalunch is now open for ordering!

\*\*\*

### PAC NEWS

A big thank you to all our volunteers and those who visited the EES Christmas Craft Fair – this was a great success and your support of this event is much appreciated.

Congratulations go to Linda Berry for winning the PAC “Volunteer of the Month” draw. Thank you for your service to our school community!

On behalf of the PAC we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Healthy and Happy Christmas and New Year!



# SANDY SHORES CANSKATE LESSONS



Tuesdays, 5:15-6:00 pm

Oct 1 to Dec 3, 2019

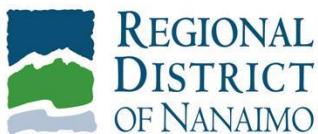
Jan 7 to Mar 10, 2020

Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:15 pm

Oct 2-Dec 4, 2019

Jan 8 to Mar 11, 2020

For all ages, beginners welcome.  
Lessons taught by Sandy Shores Skating Club.



Register at [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://rdn.bc.ca/recreation)

Ravensong Aquatic Centre  
737 Jones St, Qualicum Beach  
250-752-5014

Oceanside Place Arena  
830 W Island Hwy, Parksville  
250-248-3252

Find us on



11-14yrs

## BABYSITTERS CERTIFICATION

Get trained. Get hired.

### Courses offered:

Nov 3, Dec 1, Jan 18,

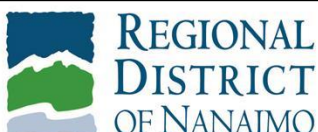
Feb 23, Mar 8

Sundays

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Qualicum Commons

\$49 Fee includes manual



Register at [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://rdn.bc.ca/recreation)

Ravensong Aquatic Centre  
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250-752-5014

Oceanside Place Arena  
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250-248-3252

Find us on



# HOME ALONE

You know you're growing up when you get to stay home alone, but there are a few things you should learn before you go solo.

**9-12yrs**                      **\$30**

Craig St. Commons  
Sat Oct 5 & Dec 7  
9-11:30am

Qualicum Commons  
Sat Nov 30  
9-11:30am & 12:30-3pm



**REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO**

**Register at** [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://rdn.bc.ca/recreation)

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250-248-3252

Find us on



# MARTIAL ARTS FOR KIDS

Give your child a kick-start! Learn the basics of karate or kung fu while building self-confidence and fitness.

Fridays Jan 17-Feb 21, 6 sessions

**Little Dragons Kung Fu 4-6yrs #11594 \$30**

**Kids Kung Fu 6-11yrs #11595 \$45**

Saturdays Jan 18-Feb 22

**Little Ninjas Karate 4-6 yrs #11592 \$30**

**Kids Karate 6-11yrs #11593 \$45**

Instructor: Element Martial Arts



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Ages  
6-11

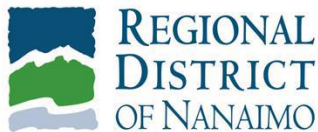
# AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVE

Get active after school with Jessie & Alison

Bowser Elementary  
Gymnasium

Tuesdays  
Jan 7—Mar 10, 2020  
3:00-4:30pm  
\$30.15

Pre-registration required



Register at [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://rdn.bc.ca/recreation)

Ravensong Aquatic Centre  
737 Jones St, Qualicum Beach  
250-752-5014

Oceanside Place Arena  
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250-248-3252

Find us on



# CLAYTIME CREATIONS 5-11 YRS

Join local pottery artist Anne Marie Veale to learn the skills and creativity of handbuilding and wheel work.

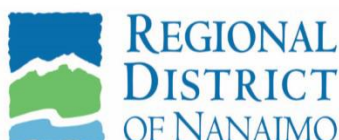
Tuesdays 3:00 - 5:00 PM  
Qualicum Commons

10516 Oct 1-Oct 22 Animal masks & banks  
10517 Oct 29-Nov 19 Super Heroes  
10518 Nov 27-Dec 18 Castles & Fairy Homes  
10576 Jan 14-Feb 4 Bugs & butterflies

\$92/ 4 sessions

\*includes all supplies and bisque firing.  
Start time is flexible after 3pm

\*Additional Glazing session available



Register at [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://rdn.bc.ca/recreation)

Ravensong Aquatic Centre  
737 Jones St, Qualicum Beach  
250-752-5014

Oceanside Place Arena  
830 W Island Hwy, Parksville  
250-248-3252

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# Winter Wonderland On Ice

December 14-31, 2019

Oceanside Place Arena



REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

Information at [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://rdn.bc.ca/recreation)

Ravensong Aquatic Centre  
737 Jones St, Qualicum Beach  
250 752 5014

Oceanside Place Arena  
830 W Island Hwy, Parksville  
250 248 3252

Find us on



# Caring for Community at Christmas

## Registration



Funded by community donations and  
offered to low income residents  
living in School District 69.

To take part in this program, please **register in person** at:  
**SOS Community Services Centre** 245 West Hirst Avenue, **Parksville**  
Starting November 13, 2019. Monday - Friday, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm.  
Evening registrations are available by appointment.

Registrations will also be accepted at these outreach locations:  
**SOS Community Services Centre** 744 Primrose St. **Qualicum Beach**  
Wednesdays Nov. 13 - Dec. 4, 2 - 4 pm. **Fridays** Nov. 15 - Dec. 6, 9:30 - 11:30 am.

**Wildwood Community Church** 113 McColl Rd. **Bowser**  
**Thursdays:** Nov. 7, 10 am - 12 pm. Nov. 28, 1 - 4 pm. Dec. 12, 10 am - 1 pm.

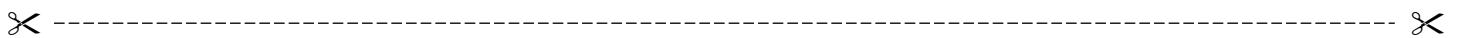
When you register remember to bring:

- Photo ID for each adult (19 yrs +)
- Proof of residency
- Care Cards for minor children

250.248.2093 ext. 229 | [coordinator@sosd69.com](mailto:coordinator@sosd69.com) | [www.sosd69.com](http://www.sosd69.com)

<b>December</b>	18	Winter Concert 12:45pm and 6:00pm
	19	Pajama Day
	20	Last day of school before the Winter Break
<b>January</b>	6	School Reopens after Winter Break
	15	PAC Lunch (Subway)
	21	Dad's Night Out - EES Gym 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
	24	Jersey Day
<b>February</b>	5	Learning Updates get sent home
	11	Dad's Night Out - EES Gym 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
	14	Red/White/Pink Day
	17	BC FAMILY DAY
	24	Professional Development Day – No School
<b>March</b>	13	Last day of school before Spring Break
	29	EES PAC Comedy Night – Fundraising Event at the Errington Hall
	30	School Re-opens after Spring Break
<b>April</b>	10	GOOD FRIDAY – No School
	13	EASTER MONDAY – No School
	21	Dad's Night Out – EES Gym 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
	28	Grade 7 Health Conference
<b>May</b>	1	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	15	Professional Development Day – No School
	18	VICTORIA DAY – No School
<b>June</b>	25	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early (11:00)

\*\*Please note the above calendar will be updated as new events occur\*\*



### Electronic Newsletters

EES newsletters are provided bi-weekly on Fridays. Newsletters are posted to the EES website and parents who have registered will receive a notification email and link when a newsletter has been posted. Most parents use this option and it certainly reduces the amount of paper and time required to prepare newsletters. Subscribing to the electronic newsletter is very simple.

Sign up through the Errington Elementary School website (<http://ees.sd69.bc.ca>) by entering your email address in the area "Sign up for our newsletter & keep in touch" found near the bottom of the home page. After you enter your email and click on "GO" an email will be sent to your email address. **You must respond to the email to become a verified member to receive newsletters.** There is an option to "Unsubscribe" at any time you choose.

If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please fill out the tear-off below and return to the school by September 20<sup>th</sup>. All newsletters after today will be provided online and we will only print a paper copy to those who have filled out the tear-off below. Please note that you need to indicate your desire for a paper copy of the newsletter each year. We will keep a few extra copies in the main office for pick-up if necessary.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Grade(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Classroom Teacher(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to receive a paper copy of the EES Newsletter.