



# 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)**

**Principal: Ms. Jennifer Fuhrmann**

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

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April 1, 2021

## Principal's Message

Welcome back! We hope you had a safe and healthy spring break with your children. As the global pandemic continues and case counts have increased in our province and our region, we continue to be in a place of uncertainty. Please note that our SD69 website keeps all information and links updated. When there are updates to guidelines or information to share, the district office has been using the Messenger system to get news out to the school communities. Please make sure that if your contact information has changed, to please call the school office to update your child's profile. Thank you for continuing to support the health guidelines and thank you for trusting us with your children as you send them to school each day.

With the longer days and the spring weather trying to make an appearance, we hope that the children are spending time outdoors. For those students who do spend time on the computer, the article below provides suggestions on how to make online safety a priority in your home.

Technology has changed how students learn and how they socialize. Millions of kids in all age groups are online every day – at home, at school, at friends' homes, at the library – and many are creating online content. We know that some of our students are active on social media platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and chat groups formed through gaming devices. Did you know that most of those sites have a minimum age requirement of 13 to acquire an account? To keep your child safe online:

**Discuss rules and expectations.** Use software that helps to protect kids, but supervise carefully, too. Only allow your child to communicate with people you both know when he's online.

**Set limits on screen time**, such as 10 hours or fewer **per week**. Remember that screen time includes TV, computer and video game use.

**Do not allow your child** to reveal personal information online, such as his name, phone number, school, passwords or location.

**Keep Internet access** out of your child's room. Only let your child go online if you can see what he's doing.

**Learn about websites** your child wants to visit. Are they safe? Do you approve of their content?

**Encourage your child** to be honest with you if something inappropriate occurs online. React calmly if this happens. Report your concerns to the authorities.

**Stay informed** about online safety. Visit sites such as [www.fosi.org](http://www.fosi.org) (Family Online Safety Institute) and [Netsmartz.org](http://Netsmartz.org) for more tips.

*Source: Elementary School Parents (April 2013, Vol.24, No.8)*

## K-12 Daily Health Check

Please ensure you continue to screen your child daily for symptoms of illness and keep your child at home if they are not well. To support daily screening, **a new K-12 health-checker app** has been developed for students and their families and can be found at: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca> The app will allow people to answer simple questions every day. It will inform them if they can attend school or if they need to self-isolate and contact 811 to be screened for COVID-19.

## Health Update – Important Information from the Provincial Health Office



You will have likely heard about the updated Provincial COVID guidelines for K-12 settings announced on March 30<sup>th</sup>. We have now received the revised guidelines and our district office has sent a message out with a *one-page summary* of the impact to our schools (see link below).

[2021.03.31 Summary of Provincial Health Requirements v.5.docx](#)

The complete *Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings* can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

Students who are in grade 4 will be required to wear masks at school effective April 6<sup>th</sup>. Students who are not used to wearing masks indoors can be supported by viewing the video or poster listed below. We suggest you send your child to school in a clean mask and with a spare mask that they are used to wearing. Our school always has masks available if students forget their mask.

Video - [COVID-19: How to wear a non-medical mask or face covering properly - YouTube](#)

Poster - [Covid-SurgicalMaskv4 draft6 \(bccdc.ca\)](#)

Children who are in grade 3 and are in a grade 3 /4 combined class are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at the office and we can support you in answering any questions.

Additionally, **any visitor** to a school or worksite is required to wear a non-medical mask. Please call the office (250-248-8446) to make arrangements to collect or drop-off items. We reserve entry to our school for exceptional circumstances only. If you must enter the building, go only to the main office, maintain physical distancing, and keep your visit very short. We really appreciate your cooperation with this!

For staff and families, the daily health check remains a requirement, as do hand washing, staying home if you're sick, and of course abiding by the requirements list above.

Please know we are doing everything possible to keep our students and staff safe during this pandemic. As we have experienced a higher number of COVID-19 cases on the central Vancouver Island and a few exposures in some SD69 schools in the past few months, we pause to reflect on how close to home this virus really is. It is a good reminder to ask yourself, **“What can I do to reduce the risk of exposure for myself and my family”**. We know it is important to continue following the provincial health orders, follow the guidelines and protocols, and minimize our social contacts. As the months go by, we know how hard this is on everyone. Thank you for your continued support. We will get through this together!

### Morning Drop-off

For those students who are dropped off in the mornings, please remember that we encourage staggered drop-offs to help reduce crowds. Please drop-off your child as close to 8:12am as possible. School starts at 8:12am, but we wait to send attendance to the office until 8:30am. If your child arrives between 8:12am and 8:30am, they can go directly to their classroom. If your child arrives after 8:30am, they need to check in at the office.

We have noticed many cars pulling up to the school while buses are arriving. If you are dropping your child off BEFORE 8:12am, please use the lower parking lot. Students arriving AFTER 8:12am may drive up to the front of the school. If you have other family members dropping off your children, please remind them of our drop-off and pick-up procedures.

## Parking Lot Safety



When using the drop-off/pick-up lane, please remember to pull forward as far as you can to reduce congestion behind you. When people stop right at the foot of the path to the school, cars tend to back up quickly around the bend. If you are parking in the lower lot, please make sure your child is with you when walking through the traffic towards the path. Please also remember to use your turn signals while using the drop-off/pick-up lane. After dropping off your child, please pull all the way around the loop rather than doing a “u-turn” through the lot.



### 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.



Kindergarten registration is ongoing. Please see below for further information about the new online registration.

Please contact us at (250) 248-8446 if you have any questions regarding the upcoming Kindergarten registration requirements.

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.



**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 69 (QUALICUM) IS MOVING TO  
ON-LINE REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

**KINDERGARTEN" AND "PROGRAMS OF CHOICE" AND "CROSS BOUNDARY" REGISTRATION**

- **FRENCH IMMERSION SIBLING REGISTRATION ONLY - JANUARY 18 TO JANUARY 22**
- **ALL OTHER REGISTRATIONS WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 5**

Policy 7015 Excerpt: "The Board of Education believes that, in general, students should attend their neighborhood school. Transfer of a student to a school outside of his/her catchment area will be considered upon written application of the parent to the Superintendent of Schools"

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Qualifying Age: To qualify for Kindergarten enrollment in September 2021, a child must become five years of age on or before December 31, 2021.

Required Documentation: Proof of Age for student (Birth Certificate or Passport); Proof of Residency (see SD69 website for list of acceptable documentation or contact catchment area school: [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca) ~ About ~ Student Registration)

Where to Register: On-line registration will be available on the district website: [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca) ~ About ~ Student Registration. Please ensure you register at your neighbourhood (catchment) elementary school. School catchment information is available by using School Locator on the district website: [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca) ~ About ~ Student Registration ~ School Locator

**CROSS BOUNDARY INFORMATION**

Cross Boundary Process: Parents wishing to enroll their Kindergarten child at an out-of-catchment school within the district are to **make their request upon registration**. For students who are currently registered and wish to apply for cross-boundary, the application process for the 2021-22 school year will commence February 1<sup>st</sup> until the last Friday in March prior to Spring Break. A fillable form can be found at [www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca) ~ About ~ Student Registration ~ Cross Boundary



**PROGRAMS OF CHOICE**

School District 69 (Qualicum) is proud to offer a range of Programs of Choice that provide unique and innovative learning opportunities for our diverse student population.

Programs of Choice are staffed consistent with the district's overarching methodology and philosophy regarding financial prudence. For these reasons, Programs of Choice classrooms are often (like regular classrooms) organized into combined grade configurations. All program options either align with or support the B.C. curriculum and help provide a pathway towards Grade 12 graduation.

The Board of Education is committed to Programs of Choice placement sustainability to the best extent possible, but must balance this commitment with emergent building capacity pressures, and the importance of students being able to attend their neighbourhood school. All Programs of Choice are reviewed annually as part of the budget process. Programs of Choice typically generate much interest and are continued each year, however they can be subject to cancellation due to enrollment and budgetary considerations. Please note that space in these programs is limited.

<b>NEW!</b> Primary Learning Community Program	The Primary Learning Community Program is a new primary program for children between the ages of 5 and 8 years old which explores learning for students and educators through play, inquiry and curiosity. The community will encourage collaborative conversation between educators, learners and families. Play is the foundational principle of the program as research has indicated child development and growth requires children to practice, imagine, and be curious so that they are able to build resiliency and take necessary risk to grow and learn. Our goal for the Primary Learning Community Program is to work and learn in multi-age learning spaces.
CEAP Program	The Collaborative Education Alternative Program provides a blended-learning kindergarten program that consists of home-schooling in addition to being supported by scheduled student activities at Qualicum Commons – CEAP classroom. Learning resources as well as support for parent(s) is provided by the program teacher.  For more information, please contact the program at 250-752-5628 or visit the CEAP website at <a href="http://www.ceap.ca">www.ceap.ca</a>
French Immersion	French Immersion is intended to develop fluency in French learning to functional bilingualism. Students study in French while following the regular BC Curriculum Learning Standards. The French Immersion Program for Grades K – 7* is located at Oceanside Elementary School. The French Immersion Program for Grades 8 – 12 is located at Ballenas Secondary School.

**Please visit the district website for further information regarding all District Programs of Choice:  
[www.sd69.bc.ca](http://www.sd69.bc.ca) ~ Programs & Services ~ Education Programs - Programs of Choice**

## **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 during April. 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 30, 2021.

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

1. Go to any computer that has an up-to-date internet browser access.
2. Go to [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm)
3. Under the "Parent" section *Direct Access – no logon number required* select:
  - District: the name of your child's 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".

## **Cell Phone Use at EES**



Cell phones are becoming an increasing distraction for students during learning and break times. We would like to remind parents that student cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. We would ask that if you need to contact your student during the day to please use the school phone (250) 248-8446 instead of texting.

We recognize that many students carry a cell phone, for a variety of different reasons. Our school expectation is for students to keep cell phones tucked away in their backpacks. If students are not comfortable with this, they can ask their teacher to place the phone in a locked cupboard during the school day. Electronic devices are NOT to be brought outside or around the school at recess or other break times.

Some classroom teachers allow students to use cell phones and other electronic devices in the classroom for research and learning purposes. Please ask your child's classroom teacher about specific guidelines they have around the use of electronic devices.

Devices are a fantastic tool and we continue to help students learn when and how to use them appropriately. Thank you for your support!

## **Planning for September**

Soon 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 2020. If you would like to provide input to your child's placement, please do this by **Thursday, April 15<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 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

### **RE: BUILDING COHORTS FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR 2021-2022**

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 **Thursday, April 15, 2021**.

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)



Munchalunch Hot lunches are open and ready for ordering:

April 16 – Pizza Day

April 30 – Sushi Day

May 14 – Lefty's Fresh Food Day

May 28 – Pizza Day

June 3 – Subway Day

June 18 – Pizza Day

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

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

## Other Important Reminders

- We are required to follow the BC Healthy Food and Beverage Guidelines when serving food in schools. If you are wanting to send treats to school to help celebrate a special occasion, please contact your child's teacher in advance to make arrangements. Food must be prepared and packaged in a Food Safe Certified facility.
- 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 is in need of 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!
- Due to current guidelines, school buses are **not** to be used for any other purpose (ie. play dates). The Transportation Department have asked that parents **do not send notes with their child requesting to ride another bus**. Students are only permitted to ride the bus they are registered with. Please refer to the School District website for all school bus information.



With the onset of spring there will now be Mega Ice Cream Sandwiches for sale every Wednesday!! \$2.00 each or a punch pass online or in the office for \$20.00 (for 10 ice cream treats).

Current popcorn cards will carry over. If your child does not want the ice cream treat please call the office (we have limited bags of popcorn remaining which can be substituted at present)

## PAC News

Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter – just a reminder that the next PAC Meeting is as follows:

*PAC Meeting: Tuesday, April 6th at 6:30 pm, **via ZOOM**. Hope to see you there!*

Naomi  
PAC Chair  
eespacchair@gmail.com

## EES Library News

### Earth Day:



We would like to wish our EES families a very Happy Earth Month! We encourage our students to come check out the awesome Earth Day decorations in our library – a big thank you goes out to our Senior Library Pages for a decorating job very well done!

We have many exciting Earth Day resources for our staff and students on display in our library at present.

Happy Easter everyone!



**LIYING**  
OUR VALUES

**C·A·R·E**

Due to the ongoing pandemic and initial rollout of COVID vaccine, public health has postponed some routine Grade 6 and 9 immunizations originally planned for January and February. This delay is temporary and follows the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) guidelines for the school age immunization program. Routine school immunizations will resume in the coming weeks and continue until the end of the school year, resulting in immunizations being offered to all Grade 6 and 9 students before the end of June.

Public Health offered the first round of Grade 6 vaccines in the Fall of 2020 and will be contacting families in late Spring to book appointments for the second dose. Grade 9 consent packages were sent home from school last week. Please complete these forms and return them to the school ASAP. Public Health will receive these packages and contact families who wish to book an appointment. If you have any questions, please contact Oceanside Public Health at 250-947-8242.



## Words from our Wildcats



A new addition to our newsletter will be words of wisdom from our students on various subjects. We don't have a written piece this week. Instead, we have an artistic submission from Mrs. Spencer-Dahl's Grade 4/5 class. They have been noticing signs of spring while outside on their daily forest walks. Students were inspired to sketch the daffodils they see blooming. The sketch below comes from Ben in Grade 4.



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## **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.

### **SOS Child & Youth and Family Programs 2021**

Please click on the PDF link below to view the programs offered:

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Documents/SOS%20Program%20Guide%20-%20Spring%202021.pdf>

### **Other Community Events & Programs 2021**

Please click on the PDF link below to view the events/programs offered/access the SD69 Community Page:

[https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Lists/Events/Attachments/1020/4-H%202021 Enrollment.pdf](https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Lists/Events/Attachments/1020/4-H%202021%20Enrollment.pdf)

[getinvolved.rdn.ca/rec-connect](http://getinvolved.rdn.ca/rec-connect)

<https://www.thenextgenartists.com/2021contest>

[ChARTing Change](#) [Read more](#)

[Oceanside Minor Softball Clinics - U12, U10 & U8 \(born 2009-2013\) FASTPITCH SOFTBALL WINTER/SPRING](#)

**Spring Season Baseball Registration**

**Oceanside Track & Field**

**Parksville Royals Baseball Club – Spring Break Training Camp**

**Oceanside Minor Baseball Spring 2021**

**Child & Youth Mental Health Anxiety Workshop (March 4, 2021) and,**

**CYMH Collaborative & Proactive Solutions Sessions (April 7, 2021) – follow link below:**

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

## EES Calendar of Events

<b>April</b>	2	GOOD FRIDAY – No School
	5	EASTER MONDAY – No School
<b>May</b>	21	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	24	VICTORIA DAY – No School
<b>June</b>	4	Professional Development Day – No School
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early