



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

Principal: **Ms. Jennifer Fuhrmann**

Email: jfuhrmann@sd69.bc.ca

December 11, 2020

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 healthy and peaceful holiday with your families. It will certainly be much different this season, given the restrictions put in place during the pandemic. Later in this newsletter are some suggestions to consider doing with your families as you stay close to home and keep to your household "bubbles".

Thank you for sending your children to us. We have truly appreciated your support with our pandemic protocols. We recognize how challenging these past few months have been for everyone. We have hope that better days are ahead. In her "Onward" book, Elena Aguilar reminds us that in December when the days are short and we cycle into winter, we look for light and are encouraged to find bright spots out of challenging situations. "We look for light – in ourselves and in others – being reminded that when the nights are long and the sun hangs low on the horizon, we just need to pay closer attention. The light is always there".

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. I would like to send a special THANK YOU to the Oceanside Community Church, Grace United Church, SD69 Backpack Program, and Mainroad Contracting (in partnership with Eat Fresh Parksville) for their generous contributions towards our holiday baskets going out to several families.

Visitors to School

Please know we are doing everything possible to keep our students and staff safe during this pandemic. As with all School District 69 sites, we require you to 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, we do require you to wear a mask, go only to the main office, maintain physical distancing, and keep your visit very short. We really appreciate your cooperation with this! We also ask that you wear a mask while on school grounds.



Munchalunch Hot lunches are open and ready for ordering:

December 18 – Pizza Day

January 15 – Pizza Day

January 29 – Sushi Day

February 11 – Subway Day

February 26 – Sushi Day

March 12 – 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.
- The cold, wet weather is upon us. 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 winter clothing.
- If you haven't paid your child's school fees, please contact the school office or classroom teacher.
- 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!

Happy Holidays!



Only 2 weeks till Santa comes and the Elf goes home! December is flying by.

Thank you to those of you who helped volunteer this month. I feel I need to say a special thank you to our PAC regulars, for always making every meeting and sharing their thoughts and ideas.

It was mentioned in our last meeting that we would like to increase these numbers. There are currently about 5-6 of us who regularly attend our monthly meetings. Two of those are Errington School Staff members and the rest consist of our board and volunteers. So we would like to "PLUMP" the PAC. I would love to hear from more of you. So I'm just wondering... how can we make it easier for you parents?

We have some big plans that need to be talked about and voted on. I want to make sure that the Errington families are feeling well represented and heard. Due to the pandemic, we are currently meeting on ZOOM, in the evening, every second Tuesday of the month. The link is always posted a day or two earlier on the Errington PAC Facebook page, as well as the Errington Elementary School Facebook page. If anyone has any thoughts and/or ideas, please let us know.

Our next meeting will be on **January 12, 2021**.

Hope everyone has very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Naomi
PAC Chair
eespacchair@gmail.com

Winter Break

As this winter break will be much different than other years, we challenge you to think of simple and creative ways to spend time with each other close to home. The following are some suggestions compiled from The Parent Institute (December 2020 editions):

- Go on walks...around your neighbourhood and local trails. Explore our beaches. Point out things in the natural world...leaves, rocks, different trees and plants, sounds, smells.
- Talk about how animals survive the winter months. What do bears do? How about birds?
- Play board games, card games, and do puzzles.
- Prepare food together. Nearly every culture has some special foods and goodies associated with the holiday season. With your child, prepare foods you remember from your childhood. Share your memories. Or do some research and cook a dish you've never tried.
- Select a movie that is based on a book. After you and your child finish reading the book, watch the movie together. Discuss how the two are alike and how they are different.
- Encourage your child to learn more about the past and your family history by talking with grandparents, aunts, uncles – even you. Help her come up with a list of questions to ask, such as, “What was school like for you when you were my age?” and “What trends were popular?” She can record the conversations, write them down, or just listen.
- Create and keep a family journal. Everyone can share thoughts, reminders, and accomplishments.
- Tell your child a story about yourself when you were her age.
- Ask your child to write your shopping list before you go to the grocery store.
- Ask your child to choose a country and learn more about it.
- Make an “I Am Special” scrapbook with your child.
- Build a house of cards with your child. Challenge him to make the base as stable as possible.
- Have an indoor snowball fight with cotton balls.
- Give your child a piece of paper to decorate using paint and sponges. Use his finished design to wrap a gift for a loved one.
- Look online or in a book for a chart of the phases of the moon and star constellations. Together, compare what you see each night to the chart.
- Help your child clean out her closet and pass on gently-used toys or clothes to other families.
- Do some household projects that have been put off...re-organize cupboards, drawers, and closets.
- Have your child design a new cover for a much-loved book.
- Ask your child to name his favourite thing about you.
- Discuss ways you use numbers at home every day, such as when paying bills or setting the kitchen timer.
- Challenge your child to make music by strumming on stretched rubber bands.
- Go for a drive in the evening to admire the many festive holiday lights on homes.
- Listen to music in the dark together and concentrate on the sounds.
- Emphasize the importance of writing thank you notes for gifts.
- Learn a tongue twister. At dinner, challenge everyone to repeat it three times fast.
- Take turns bringing a joke or riddle to the dinner table.
- Measure your child. How much did she grow this year?
- Make a calendar for 2021 using hand-made drawings.
- Set goals for the New Year.



Popcorn sales continue, every Wednesday!! \$2.50 each or a punch pass online or in the office for \$20.00 (for 10 bags).



Rollin' with it

Walk or stroll with us!

Thursdays 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Meeting at the parking
lot of QB Museum

Birth to 5 years old
In stroller or carried

8 families maximum

Starting Nov. 19th!

Book your spot at
www.rdn.bc.ca/recreation

 **OBLT**

Recreation Building Learning Together

Rain or shine

(but cancelled if snow or sideways rain)

New!



OBLT Cares

- Reaching out to seniors and families with children aged birth to 5 years in Oceanside during this special time of need.

Sign up to collect your care package that includes: meal ingredients, recipes, resources and special surprises.

For more details, to find Oceanside pick up locations and reserve your care package, please email admin@oblt.ca or call 250-947-8252.

We are grateful to the United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island and to Rotary Club of Parksville AM for their support of this OBLT initiative



United Way
Central & Northern
Vancouver Island



Oceanside Building Learning Together

Rotary 
Club of Parksville AM

Family Night

A safe and relaxing place where families can spend quality time together



- Engage in fun activities with your family.
- Connect with others and learn about other supports and services in the community.
- Enjoy a nutritious meal served by SOS volunteers.

Pre-registration is required.

Parksville Tuesdays, 5-7 pm. Call 250-248-2093 ext. 249 or Text 250-228-4066



Qualicum Wednesdays, 5-7 pm. Call 250-752-2040 ext. 201 or Text 250-248-0997

SOS Community Services Centres

Child, Youth & Family Programs

Parksville 245 West Hirst Avenue | cyfcoordinator@sosd69.com

Qualicum 744 Primrose Street | childandfamily@sosd69.com

www.sosd69.com |   



**Society of
Organized
Services**

Community Services Centres

● Meals on Wheels

Helps residents maintain health and independence by delivering hot, nutritious meals, three times a week. Cost: \$7.50/meal. Call Parksville ext. 225 to register

● Income Tax Returns

Assistance with the preparation of basic, low-income tax returns. Call Parksville ext. 229

● Homeless Prevention Program

Funded by the Government of BC, this program is aimed at assisting with homelessness due to crisis or transition. Individuals must meet one of four criteria to receive rental subsidies.

Call Parksville ext. 234

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

● Counselling Referral

Referrals to one-on-one professional counselling. Fee is determined on an individual basis. Call Parksville ext. 225

Currently on hold:

● Women's Personal Growth

12-week group that explores self-esteem, personal boundaries, healthy relationships and more. Cost \$5 per session. Call Parksville ext. 225

● Men's Personal Growth

This 12-week group involves self-exploration while developing better communication and a deeper sense of purpose. Cost \$5 per session. Call Parksville ext. 225

SENIORS

● Seniors' Advocacy Services

Individual's needs are determined through a private and confidential discussion. The Coordinator assists in finding supports and solutions through SOS programs and other resources.

Call Parksville ext. 239

● Oceanside Better at Home

Administered by SOS in partnership with the United Way of the Lower Mainland, and funded by the Government of BC. The Better at Home program is designed to help seniors who are 65+ remain at home by providing a range of non-medical support services such as:

- Friendly visiting
- Light housekeeping
- Grocery shopping
- Yard maintenance
- **On hold:** Transportation to non-medical appointments

Call Qualicum ext. 4 to register

Currently on hold:

● Seniors Connecting

A friendly, comfortable place to meet other people and enjoy social interaction and a sense of well-being. Learn more about issues relevant to seniors through guest speakers and information sharing. Healthy refreshments are provided and transportation can be arranged. Parksville Wednesdays, 1-3 pm. Qualicum Tuesdays, 11-1 pm.

Call Qualicum ext. 3

SOS Program Guide

Fall/Winter 2020



Society of Organized Services

www.sosd69.com

All programs have been modified to comply with COVID-19 safety procedures

SOS Community Services Centres | Parksville 250-248-2093 Qualicum 250-752-2040

SOS Child, Youth & Family Programs

Parksville 240-248-2093 ext. 249 | cyfcoordinator@sosd69.com | Cell 250-228-4066

Qualicum Beach: 250-752-2040 ext. 201 | childandfamily@sosd69.com | Cell 250-248-0997

EARLY YEARS

(0-5 years, pre-Kindergarten)

● TIC TAC (Time in Comfort for Tots & Caregivers)

A welcoming and nurturing environment for parents/caregivers to take a break and recharge, while children play and build social and emotional skills.

Pre-registration is required.

Parksville Tuesdays & Thursdays 9-11 am

Qualicum Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11 am

CHILDREN & FAMILY

● Family Night

Spend quality time with family, as we serve a meal and clean up afterwards! We provide the entertainment such as arts, crafts, games, music and outings. **Pre-registration is required.**

Parksville Tuesdays 5-7 pm

Qualicum Wednesdays 5-7 pm



● Kids Movement: Play, Express & Grow Grades 4, 5 & 6

Separate programs for girls and boys

Fun activities inspire confidence, friendships and a healthy self-image. Staff and volunteers provide mentorship and support.

Pre-registration is required.

Parksville Thursdays 3:30-5:30 pm

Pop-up dates: Oct. 8, Oct. 29 and Nov. 19

Qualicum Mondays 3:30-5:30 pm

Pop-up dates: Oct. 5, Oct. 26 and Nov. 16



YOUTH

● School Night Out Grades 7, 8 & 9

A safe space for young people to connect and express themselves through games, art, crafts and music. Adult mentors support, guide and listen.

Pre-registration is required.

Parksville Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 pm

Pop-up dates: Oct. 1, Oct. 22 and Nov. 12

Qualicum Mondays 3:30-5:30 pm

Pop-up dates: Sept. 28, Oct. 19 and Nov. 9.

● Youth Open Space

Grades 10, 11 & 12

Connect with others, eat great food, play games, shoot some pool, make creative artwork, play music, get support from staff and have fun.

Parksville Thursdays 3:30-5:30 pm

Pop-up dates: Oct. 15, Nov. 5 and Nov. 26

Qualicum Mondays 3:30-5:30 pm

Pop-up dates Sept. 21, Nov. 2 and Nov. 23

● After School Education Assistance Grades 6-12

After school professional tutoring services available in Math and English at no cost. Available to School District 69 students attending regular classes.

Pre-registration is required.

Parksville Monday-Thursday 3-4 pm or 4-5 pm



● Gradwear

For local grads and their dates

Find a new or gently used grad dress, date dress, tuxedo or suit for only \$5, including accessories.

Community Services Centres

● Recreation Assistance for Children & Youth

Assists with costs for low-income families to register local children and youth in recreational activities.

Call Parksville ext. 241

● Emergency Assistance & Advocacy

Provides help in cases of hardship and unexpected financial emergencies, and may advocate for clients to reconcile financial obstacles. Also provides guidance to promote self-sufficiency.

Call Parksville ext. 241, or if age 60 or older, call ext. 239

● Caring for Community at Christmas

Provides special gifts to local children and youth. Adults receive grocery store gift cards. Christmas stockings are also provided for seniors who are house-bound. Pre-registration in person is required and begins in November. Donations are gratefully accepted at both locations.

Call Parksville ext. 229

Currently on hold:

● Medical Appointment Transportation Service

Safe and friendly transportation to and from medical appointments within District 69 and surrounding area.

Caring for Community at Christmas

Supported by community since 1968 and offered
to low income residents in School District 69



Registration by appointment

Families and grandparents get assistance providing gifts for children and youth, and residents get help buying food. **Call 250-248-2093.**

Support the program

You can make Christmas brighter for local families and individuals

Financial donations: Donate online, by phone or in person.

Gift donations: New, unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the SOS Community Services Centre in Parksville on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 am to 11:30 am at the Christmas Tent (drop-off schedule implemented due to the pandemic.) Attend a local event benefitting the program, or locate an SOS Angel Tree at a participating business.

Thank you for helping create magic for residents in need!

SOS Community Services Centres

245 West Hirst Ave. Parksville | 744 Primrose St. Qualicum Beach

250.248.2093 ext. 229 | coordinator@sosd69.com

www.sosd69.com |   

EES Calendar of Events

December	18	Pizza Lunch for those who ordered from Munch-a-Lunch
	18	Last day of school before the Winter Break
January	4	School Reopens after Winter Break
	15	Pizza Lunch for those who ordered from Munch-a-Lunch
	29	Sushi Lunch for those who ordered from Munch-a-Lunch
February	3	Learning Updates go home to parents
	11	Subway Lunch for those who ordered from Munch-a-Lunch
	12	Professional Development Day – No School
	15	BC FAMILY DAY
	26	Sushi Lunch for those who ordered from Munch-a-Lunch
March	12	Last day of school before Spring Break
	12	Pizza Lunch for those who ordered from Munch-a-Lunch
	29	School Re-opens after Spring Break
April	2	GOOD FRIDAY – No School
	5	EASTER MONDAY – No School
May	21	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	24	VICTORIA DAY – No School
June	4	Professional Development Day – No School
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early