



# ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Principal: **Ms. Jennifer Fuhrmann**

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May 28, 2021

## Principal's Message

It is with mixed emotions that we announce today that Ms. Jennifer Fuhrmann (Vice-Principal) will be leaving EES at the end of this school year. Ms. Fuhrmann has accepted the position of Principal at Arrowview Elementary School, commencing August 1, 2021. While Ms. Fuhrmann will have a heavy heart as she says goodbye to the EES community at the end of June, she is excited to have the opportunity to be a Principal in our school district. Ms. Fuhrmann is grateful for the time she has spent at EES and looks forward to the next few months with us.

We welcome Ms. Florence Wong, who will be taking on the Vice-Principal role at EES next school year. Ms. Wong has most recently been working as a teacher at Oceanside Elementary School. Prior to moving to our school district, Ms. Wong worked as an educator in the Lower Mainland area for several years. Ms. Wong has extensive experience working in the area of learning services and assistive technology.

We are about to close the month of May and begin the final month of the school year. There are some field trips and special activities coming up and I encourage you to keep your calendars updated and keep in touch with your child's teacher of all the important dates. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous and supportive PAC. Through their hard work this year and with limited ways they have been able to raise funds during the pandemic, they have been able to offset the costs of many of the field trips and special activities your child has had throughout the year and coming up in June. Please take some time to thank our PAC executive and those parents who have been helping with all sorts of fundraising initiatives, including the hot lunch program.

The article provided this week focuses on building your child's character, which is easy if you have a lesson plan:

It's great to know that teachers are there to help your child learn the capital of Brazil or how to do long division. But when it comes to teaching values, parents are the best teachers. Still, like any teacher, you need a "lesson plan". Here are some steps for building your child's character:

1. **Think about the values** that are important to you. Talk about them openly with your child.
2. **Teach by example.** A parent's example is the most powerful teacher of all. Ask yourself, "If my child could watch my behaviour all day, what lessons would he learn?"
3. **Set high standards.** Expect your child to act responsibly, to be kind to others and to tell the truth. Some families make it a point of family pride. "In the Smith family, we tell the truth".
4. **Teach the Golden Rule.** Teaching your child, "Treat others as you would like to be treated," will help him make good decisions. He can ask himself, "Would I want someone to talk to me that way?"

## Shelter-in-Place



As you know, we share our rural area with an abundance of wildlife. After receiving several reports today of both bear and cougar sightings close to our school, we moved into a “Shelter in Place” mode at about 9:15am. This was a precautionary “response to threat” measure where staff and students move freely within the building but stay inside the building. We lifted this measure at about 11:45am.

## 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 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.



### Families on the Move?

We are well underway with our planning for next school year. Please let the school office know if your family will be moving next year. It is very helpful if we are aware of any students who may not be attending our school in September.

## Bike Safety

It has been wonderful to see some students choosing to ride their bikes to and from school! Please remind your children that we expect bike helmets to be worn at all times while riding. We highly recommend sending your child with a lock for their bike while parked at EES during the school day. At the end of the school day, we ask that students wait to leave on their bikes until AFTER the buses have left the parking lot.



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

[https://www.sd69.bc.ca/About/StudentRegistration/Pages/Kreg.aspx#/="](https://www.sd69.bc.ca/About/StudentRegistration/Pages/Kreg.aspx#/=)

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.

## **Unsafe Litter**



We have been hearing reports of unsafe litter around public spaces in our community. We felt it would be a good time to teach/remind our children of what to do if they encounter unsafe litter. Please take some time to discuss items that are “safe” to pick-up and items that are “unsafe” to pick up. We know that children can be very helpful, but we don’t want to put them at risk for picking up something that could be dangerous to themselves or others. Items such as broken glass, sharp metal, and needles need to be disposed of with care. Images of needles can be easily found online to show your child what they look like. If your child comes across a dangerous item, we advise them to report to an adult immediately. Sharp items should never be discarded straight into a garbage can. They should be in some kind of container so as not to poke through a plastic bag and injure an employee who is handling garbage bags. There are several “safe” containers available around the community to dispose used needles so as not to put the public at risk. We still encourage everyone to help keep our public spaces free of litter – we just ask that people use extreme caution if they encounter unsafe litter.

## **Cyber Safety**

Please see below for a couple of resources about online safety that may be of interest to families.

[https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/app/en/social\\_media](https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/app/en/social_media)

<https://protectchildren.ca/en/get-involved/media-kit/>

## **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!



Munchalunch Hot lunches are open and ready for ordering:

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/>



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)

## 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, an extra change of clothes, and a refillable water bottle. We also recommend having a warm coat, hat, and umbrella for wet days and sunscreen and a hat for warm days.
- 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 (i.e. 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.

EES PAC News

*The next PAC Meeting is on Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm, via ZOOM!*

## **Public Health Request – Notice of Youth Clinic Hours Change**

Please see below changes to the hours of operation for the Parksville Youth Clinic:

Parksville Youth Clinic – Oceanside Public Health – 494 Bay Ave, Parksville

“New Summer Hours” June 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Services: 2:00-3:00 pm “Birth Control Pick Up Only” 3:00-4:30 pm “All services” Offered

Call 250-947-8242 Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm and “Ask to speak to a Youth Clinic Nurse” if you ever have questions.

## **EES Library**



**Gentle Reminder to Return Your Books Please:** Please take some time this weekend to look under beds and in cupboards and bring back any EES library books so that other students can enjoy them!

We're always happy to receive good books in great condition which would be of interest to our students.

Thank you.

## **Canada Learning Bond (CLB) – Government of Canada**

If you have a child that is between 6 and 9 there are many thousands of dollars available to families who are saving for future education.

Please go to <http://www.smartsaver.org/> to see if you qualify for this. Also for families who need support for RESPs there is a great deal of untapped funds from the Canadian Government. See if you qualify here - <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/learning-bond/eligibility.html>. These are available every year but there are cut off dates so applications are time sensitive.

BC Training and Education Savings Grant PowerPoint Presentation:

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Lists/Events/Attachments/1045/BC%20Training%20and%20Education%20Savings%20Grant.pptx?Web=1>



**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.

### **A Message From The Kwalikum Secondary School Parents Advisory Council:**

The Kwalikum Secondary School Parents Advisory Council is seeking new members! Does your child attend, or will they be attending KSS? The majority of our current council is 'aging out,' so this is your opportunity to be a part of the team that distributes the annual gaming grant funds. The time commitment is minimal: meetings are held once a month on the first Tuesday of the month and generally last from 1 – 1 ½ hours. There is NO fundraising involved. The plan is to continue holding meetings via Zoom, so no driving! Enjoy a cup of tea (or wine, we don't know what's in that mug!;) in the comfort of your home while having the chance to connect with school administration to hear all about what's happening in the school and district. Take this time to ask admin any questions that you have and offer your input. Current PAC members have all greatly valued this opportunity to be well-informed and more connected to their teen's school. Council positions that are available to be filled are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and DPAC representative. If you are interested in learning more about these roles, please feel welcome to join us at our next meeting [at 6:30 pm on June 1<sup>st</sup>](#). For more information, and to receive a Zoom link for the upcoming meeting, email us at: [ksspac@gmail.com](mailto:ksspac@gmail.com)

## Words from our Wildcats



An addition to our newsletter is words of wisdom from our students on various subjects. The contribution this week comes from Mrs. Diewold's Kindergarten/Grade 1 class. They have been reading "The Six Cedar Trees" as a springboard to the Core Competencies. The following conversation came out of the "Beaver" topic:

"Today we can make the world a better place like Beaver" by:

- Wishing people would dispose of their used masks and gloves safely and not litter
- Wishing there was no littering and especially no littering of unsafe material
- Wishing to let our forest grow – especially the old fir trees. We learned that maple, alder, and bamboo grow quickly and could be harvested sooner, so we think this is better than cutting down our slow-growing fir trees. We also wish that people would go to places like Demxx and bring their old good wood there and find wood to re-use for projects there too!
- Wishing more people shared their things like clothes and toys and furniture in places like the SOS or even among their family and friends
- Wishing that a quad/dirt bike track could be built so people wouldn't go through the forest and scare the animals and destroy their habitat. We learned that when these vehicles go through creeks and rivers, that they can kill Coho eggs and fry, which we think is really bad
- Wishing that there were no mean/bad people. We think that there are many reasons why people might behave this way, and that there are many things we can do to be understanding and kind and helpful so others don't behave in that way
- Wishing for COVID-19 to be over and for us to be able to have birthday parties and other fun things

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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>

SOS Kids Got Talent! Friendly Competition 2021

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

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

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

**GoByBike Week!**

<https://gobybikebc.ca/>

**MAC Summer School – Art Classes for Kids**

<https://mcmillanartscentre.com/workshops-and-classes/>

The MacMillan Arts Centre (the MAC) would like to invite parents and students to attend our YOUTH Arts Exhibit at the MAC - on now until May 30th. We are featuring the artwork of senior art students from PASS-Woodwinds, Kwalikum Secondary and Ballenas Sr Secondary School in our Nemeth Gallery, and we are very proud to also have in our Oceanside gallery the work of 15 yr old artist, Emily Dao. The work of our local students is extraordinary, and the MAC would like to thank the teachers - Jayne Lapper, Graeme Nailor, Crystal Burgess and Jason Fenton - who encouraged their students to participate in this important exhibit at the MAC.

**Oceanside Track Renewal at Ballenas Fundraiser**

<http://www.oceansidetrackfield.ca/>

**Grad Wear**

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

**Rotary Bottle Drive for District 69 Backpack Program – May 15, 2021 (follow upcoming events)**

<https://www.parkvilleamrotary.org>

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

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

**Oceanside Track & Field****Oceanside Minor Baseball Spring 2021**

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



## EES Calendar of Events

<b>June</b>	2	Kindergarten Parent Orientation (6:30pm by Zoom)
	4	Professional Development Day – No School
	16	Kindergarten Orientation (individual times to be confirmed)
	29	Virtual Assembly at 9:00am (via Zoom; link will be sent closer to the date)
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early