



# 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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## Principal's Message

We are pleased to say that most of our families have signed up to receive the online newsletter and we are now producing less than 5 paper copies to those families who have indicated to us that they prefer to receive a paper copy. We publish a newsletter every two weeks, on a Friday. Families who have signed up to receive our online newsletter get a notification email with a link sent as soon as the newsletter is ready. Signing on to the online newsletter also means that your email address is on the list to get important updates in emergent situations. Families who have contacted the main office to sign-up for a paper copy receive their newsletter either on the Friday or the following Monday. We also post our newsletters to the EES website in the "Newsletter Archives" quick link. We have heard that some families are not receiving newsletters. We hope that if you are reading this, you can help spread the word to anyone who mentions that they are not receiving newsletters. School newsletters, classroom newsletters, and the EES website are all places to get important information about the things we have going on at school.

We have continued to promote the common language used in our Code of Conduct for social responsibility: We are SAFE, We are RESPECTFUL, and We are RESPONSIBLE. The article below suggests some habits at home which can help your child thrive in school and in life:

Every family – and every child – is different, but there are ways all families can set their children up for success. Studies show that kids are more likely to achieve in elementary school and beyond when their parents give them the tools to succeed. To help your child:

- **Assign chores.** Kids who have responsibilities around the house learn how to be responsible. Give your child a list of weekly tasks to complete. He may grumble, but don't give in.
- **Teach social skills.** Your child's success in life hinges on more than grades; it centers on his ability to get along with others. Model good behavior – like cooperation and courtesy.
- **Set the bar high.** Expect your child to do well and he'll rise to the occasion. Don't demand perfect grades but do insist he work to the best of his ability. And praise him when he tries hard – even if he falls short. When you show him you believe in him, he'll believe in himself.
- **Nurture your relationship.** You are your child's parent, not his friend. But you're also his ally. So, make time to have fun together! Share a hobby. Play catch in the yard. Never let your child forget you're on the same team.
- **Take care of yourself.** If you're always stressed, your child will be, too. Carve out time to relax, exercise, or curl up with a good book. A calm, peaceful home starts with you.

Source: *Elementary School Parents*  
November 2017  
Vol.29, No.3



## Picture Day

Concept Photos will be here to take individual and class photos on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mark your calendars! COVID protocols will be followed.



## Conferencing Adjustment Day and Pro-D Day

A reminder that school is not in session next Thursday and Friday (October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>). On Thursday it will be a "Conferencing Adjustment Day" and on Friday it will be a "Provincial Professional Development Day".

### Parent Teacher Conferences

EES teachers will be scheduling meetings with parents between November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Due to the ongoing pandemic, teachers will mainly be meeting over the phone or a Zoom/Skype (virtual) meeting. We are using the "Parent Conferences" online program again this year to book your appointment. Directions on how to use this booking system are listed below and will be open for bookings on Monday evening (October 19<sup>th</sup>). If you are not able to schedule an appointment during one of the times listed, please contact your child's teacher directly to arrange an alternate time.



#### School Appointments - Parent Instructions

1. Go to our school appointments web site: <http://ees.parentconferences.net>
2. Click to "**REGISTER**" (top box).
3. Complete all the required fields.
4. Click "**REGISTER NOW**".
5. Click "**Add Student**".
6. Complete the required fields.
7. Click "**Insert**".
8. Next to your child's name, click on the **blue calendar icon**. Click on the **blue calendar** beside your child's teacher name. When teacher is highlighted, click on **View Calendars**.
9. Click on **an appointment day and time** that you would like to book. *Note your name is automatically put into the field at this time. Others who look on this calendar will not see your name, they will just see that the time slot is not available.*
10. Click **Book Appointment**.
11. **If you have more than one teacher:**  
Go back to **Home**.  
Click **Manage Students**.  
Add **New Student**.  
Complete the fields as above and continue with the rest of the process to book your other appointment(s).

**Note: You can edit or delete names if you have made a mistake.**

If you have any problems or questions, please contact the office at 250-248-8446. Thank you! We are looking forward to seeing you at the parent/teacher conferences!

Please note that October 22<sup>nd</sup> is a "Conferencing Adjustment Day", where students do not attend. Conferences will not be scheduled on this day.

Communicating student learning is an essential part of education. Here is an article outlining questions to ask at your parent-teacher conference:

Parent-teacher conferences can help you learn more about your child's strengths and weaknesses. They can also give you a better idea about the year ahead. Here are 10 questions you might ask your child's teacher:

1. **What will you cover** in this grade or subject this year?
2. **What are your expectations** for homework? Has my child missed any of her assignments so far?
3. **How are my child's** work habits? Does she use time in class well?
4. **Does my child** read at the level you would expect for this grade?
5. **Is my child able** to do the math you expect for a student in this grade?
6. **Is my child** in different groups for different subjects?
7. **Has my child missed** any classes other than the ones I contacted the school about?
8. **Does my child qualify** for any special programs?
9. **Does my child** get along well with the other students?
10. **What can I do at home** to help my child be more successful?

## **Halloween**

As you know, Halloween is on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. We recognize that many community events will not be happening this year, due to the ongoing pandemic. We are planning some safe, fun activities for students to do with their learning group



at school on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our Grade 6/7 leadership club students for planning such a great day for our school community. We have decided to once again allow students to wear costumes if they wish! Students may wear a costume on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. If your child does not want to wear a costume, we encourage students to wear black and/or orange. We do have some costume guidelines that must be followed to ensure everyone has a safe and fun day:

- Masks are NOT to be worn outside on the playground or in the hallways and washrooms. Teachers will give direction on the expectations in classrooms.
- No heavy make-up.
- Leave all costume "weapons" at home (swords, knives, guns, etc.).
- Bring a change of clothes (some students have PE class and may be asked to change if the costume interferes with mobility).
- Due to ongoing concerns about "Creepy Clowning", we ask that students avoid costumes of this nature.

## **Food and Treats**



Please be reminded that 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.

## **Parents on School Grounds**

We would like to thank you for being so respectful while on school grounds. We have noticed most parents keeping their time very short, wearing a mask, maintaining physical distancing, and using the classroom designated meeting areas. We really appreciate your cooperation!



We would like to welcome the following student teachers who will be spending time at EES to complete practicum experiences:

Mr. Curtis Pooghkay will be working with Mrs. Benoit and her Grade 6/7 class.

Ms. Joelle Burrows will be working with Mrs. Armstrong/Ms. MacLeod and their Grade 1/2 class.

## Reminders from the Office

If you haven't done so already, please complete the required forms sent out a few weeks ago:

- Student Verification Form (white sheet)
- Student Health and Emergency Information (green sheet)

These are annually updated and are required in order to keep our records current. If you haven't received the forms mentioned above, please contact your child's teacher or the office.

If you haven't done so already, please click the link below to fill out the required form to indicate that you agree to conduct a "Daily Health Check" prior to your child arriving at school each day. You don't need to fill out the form every day, but we do require to fill out the form once to indicate that you are checking for symptoms each day.

<https://forms.schoolmessenger.ca/qualicum/forms/submit/fAYsRdTLGh4/1>

Please note that if you are reporting your child's absence from school and the absence is NOT health related, it is helpful to know this so we can avoid some of the necessary follow-up phone calls. You can simply state that the absence is NOT health related.

## 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!



Popcorn sales start **Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>!!** \$2.50 each or a punch pass online or in the office for \$20.00 (for 10 bags).

## Special Thanks



Although these groups like to help families discreetly from "behind the scenes", we would like to recognize the Oceanside Community Church and Grace United Church for the ongoing support they provide. Both organizations have been contributing to our meal programs, supporting families with groceries and most recently, providing all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. We are so fortunate to live in a caring, generous community who supports families, especially during challenging times.

## Inclement Weather and Clothing

Although we have had sunny days, we know that soon the rainy weather will be 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



## Questions parents can ask students about their day

Here is a useful link to an article to support parents when asking their questions about the school day; other than the same old question..... "How was your day?"

<https://herviewfromhome.com/50-questions-to-ask-your-kids-instead-of-asking-how-was-your-day/>



EES Spirit wear orders are now being taken until October 26<sup>th</sup>! Orders can be done either online through School Cash Online, or an order form is available from class teacher or the office.

GO WILDCATS!

## 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.



## School Fee Payment Reminder

Just a reminder that school fees are now due. Each student in the school has school fees to pay - if you haven't yet paid or are unsure of your student's school supply fee amount please contact the school office or classroom teacher.

## **EES PAC NEWS**

EES PAC Co-Chair Beverley is a Norwex Representative. Norwex sells many products, including cleaning solutions that are chemical free. Since our EES PAC is not able to do much fundraising this year, Beverley has generously offered to donate her commission from any sales to the EES PAC. Anyone (including friends and family) who orders through Norwex can indicate that they are associated with EES and Beverley will pass her commission along to the EES PAC. If you have any questions, please contact Beverley at [beverleymccoy1974@gmail.com](mailto:beverleymccoy1974@gmail.com). You can up Beverley through the Norwex site under Beverley Craig you can messenger her on Facebook Beverley McCoy.

Here's the link to the Norwex site:

<https://beverleycraig.norwex.biz/>

### EES Winter Fundraiser

EES Winter Fundraiser is fundraising with Purdys Chocolatier, just in time for Christmas! If you'd like to support us through purchasing some very sweet Christmas gifts for friends, family and yourself, please click the link below:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1043268-77294>

After you've signed in you can buy our amazing chocolates or invite others to join and support our Fundraising Campaign.

Thank you so much!

## EES Calendar of Events

<b>October</b>	22	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	23	Professional Development Day – No School
	30	Halloween Costume Day
<b>November</b>	2-10	Range of dates for Parent-Teacher Conferences
	3	Photo Day
	11	Recognition of REMEMBRANCE DAY – No School
	13	Photo Re-Takes
<b>December</b>	18	Last day of school before the Winter Break
<b>January</b>	4	School Reopens after Winter Break
<b>February</b>	12	Professional Development Day – No School
	15	BC FAMILY DAY
<b>March</b>	12	Last day of school before Spring Break
	29	School Re-opens after Spring Break
<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

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

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### **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. All newsletters 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.