



ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1390 Fairdowne Road, Errington, BC V0R 1V0
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Principal: **Mrs. Sheila Morrison**

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February 11, 2022

Principal's Message

During the month of February, many teachers are focusing on the theme of friendship. When children are younger, you will often see them playing in a big group, with several peers. As they get older, they start to determine who their solid friends are – those who they feel good spending time with, those who share similar interests, and those who they can trust and count on. The number of friends your child has may decrease as they develop more solid friendships. The issue of sharing friends is something we support many students with. We teach students the important skill of sharing a friend with another person who may or may not be one of their own close friends. Sharing friends teaches students about empathy and tolerance. Often the ups and downs of friendships can interfere with learning as students worry about things that are going on with friends, but children learn important skills when they learn how to navigate conflicts peacefully and productively.

The article below suggests ways to boost relationship skills by resolving conflicts productively:

Whether it's a fight with a friend, a misunderstanding with a teacher or an argument with a sibling – all kids experience conflict in their everyday lives. To help your child resolve conflicts productively, encourage him to:

- **Avoid name-calling.** Teach him to use "I messages" to explain how he feels instead of "you messages" that blame the other person.
- **Hear the other person** out and try to understand their point of view.
- **Think before he acts.** Many times, a situation gets out of hand because people allow their emotions to control their actions.
- **Consider a compromise.** Your child is more likely to resolve a conflict successfully if he looks for a solution where everyone gives a little and gets a little, too.
- **Ask for help** when he needs it. Sometimes it takes a mediator to resolve a conflict. A parent or teacher may be able to help.
- **Stand up** for the rights of others who may have been wronged in the conflict.
- **Be willing** to apologize when he is at fault.

Source: *Elementary School Parents* (March 2022, Vol.33, No.7)

"Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget." -G. Randolf

Non-Instructional Days



Please remember that we have 2 days coming up where students are not in session. Friday, February 18th is a Professional Development Day and Monday, February 21st is BC Family Day.

K-12 Daily Health Check

We have been very impressed with how well our school community has been with the daily health checks. We appreciate that parents/guardians have kept their children home when they feel sick. This is the first line of defense in keeping our school community safe and healthy. Thank you!

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** 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. The following link will lead you to the more detailed BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool.

<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

Pink Shirt Day

We will be encouraging students to wear a pink shirt on Wednesday, February 23rd to celebrate national pink shirt day. We hope students may have one from previous years and we do encourage “hand-me-downs” as children grow.



The pink shirt campaign started in eastern Canada by a group of youth who were protesting the treatment of a fellow student who chose to wear pink. Students were making inappropriate remarks about boys wearing pink, so several male students decided to wear pink themselves to stand up to the name-calling and to support their peers who chose to wear pink. They wanted to make a statement about one of our fundamental freedoms of expression. The tradition has continued for several years now. We look forward to seeing a “sea of pink” in our school on February 23rd! We continue to help our students learn how to solve problems in peaceful ways. Please see the link in the “About Our School” section of our website for an interesting article that describes the difference between bullying, peer conflict, and mean behavior.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR GRADE 7 FAMILIES

We are in the process of planning for the transition of our Grade 7’s from Elementary to Secondary school. For those of you who wish to attend a school other than your assigned catchment school, we will provide the Cross-Boundary Application Forms after the BSS and KSS information sessions (see info below) Both virtual open house sessions will provide students and parents with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the secondary school programs and other offerings.

KSS and BSS staff will be visiting (virtually) Errington Elementary School soon to meet with our grade 7 students and provide them with course packages and answer questions the students may have.

Grade 7 Welcome to High School

KSS VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, FEB 17 AT 6:30 PM VIA ZOOM

[HTTPS://SD69-BC-CA.ZOOM.US/J/6299785951](https://SD69-BC-CA.ZOOM.US/j/6299785951)

WHO:

CURRENT GRADE 7 STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES WHO ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND KWALIKUM SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR GRADE 8 IN SEPTEMBER 2022

WHAT:

- LEARN ABOUT THE GRADE 8 PROGRAM
- BE PART OF A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE SCHOOL
- BRING QUESTIONS AND CURIOSITIES - WE WILL TRY AND ANSWER AS MANY AS WE CAN

WHY:

WE ARE PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR. OUR INCOMING GRADE 7 STUDENTS/FAMILIES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR SCHOOL AND WE'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU!



Ballenas Secondary School

Building Successful Students



BSS Virtual Open House for students and families coming to Grade 8 2022-2023

Thursday, February 24th 7:00 p.m.

All grade 7 parents and students who plan to attend Ballenas in the 2022-2023 School Year are invited to attend the Virtual Open House. All Ballenas programs and departments will be on display along with the District Programs.

Join us via Zoom <https://sd69-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/8277941408?pwd=Z1J4ZisyYndsQVlzMFA0UWt2T3dtQT09> and have a chance to ask questions of the Ballenas team.



Phone: 250-248-5721

Web: [https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/Pages/Default.aspx#/="](https://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/Pages/Default.aspx#/=)

Lost and Found – Now Online!

Has your child misplaced a jacket that was just purchased? Can't find a favourite sweatshirt? Looking for a single boot or a cloth mask? There's a good chance that it has been left somewhere at school.

We have created an online site that aims to reunite children with their lost and found items. It is set up like an online store – only there's no payment! During the checkout process, make sure you've included: Your name, contact information, child's first name and child's teacher's name. Once you've placed the 'order', we'll collect the item(s) and return it to your child. It is so easy! Check out our Wildcat Lost and Found Store using the link below.

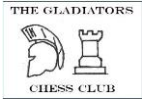
<https://ees.itselementary.ca/>

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.
- 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!
- 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.
- 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.

News from Your Library



Our **EES Gladiators Chess Tournament** is underway! Congratulations to our players this week. Our tournament continues until the final on March 3rd. Go Gladiators!

February is busy in the Library! We are celebrating **Lunar New Year** and **Friendship Day** with many books and resources available for students and staff. Come check it out!

Read A Canadian Author in February! Did you know that some of your favorite authors are Canadian? Robert Munsch, Margeret Atwood, Lucy Maud Montgomery, Thomas King, Marie Louise Gay, David Robertson, Jenny Kay Dupuis! We'll have them all on display all month long, come and explore our rich culture of storytelling in our country!



February 16 is **I Read Canadian Day**, read a book written or illustrated by a Canadian for 15 minutes, find a new favorite author!

Our **Seriously Awesome Series Book Draw** is on now until Spring Break. Students are invited to check out and read a series book, fill out the form from your class, enter to win! Prizes will be given out the week of March 7.

Return Your Library Books! Take a look under the couch and beneath your pillow! When you return a book, someone else gets to read it! Thank you!

Lost books can be replaced with a book of similar quality and genre from home.

Thank you.

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook

Washroom Etiquette



Once again, we are noticing 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.), there have been cases where graffiti has been written on the walls, and we've had crumpled and wet paper towels on the ceiling and 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.

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. Please also take caution and drive slowly in our new parking area. There is a slight incline that tends to get slippery.



Munchalunch Hot lunches are open and ready for ordering:

Feb 25 – Sushi

Mar 11 – Pizza Day

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

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



SPIRIT CLUB – 2021/2022

Mark these dates in your calendars and have your student join in some EES Wildcats Spirit fun:

- **FEB.18** **DRESS IN RED, WHITE, PINK**
- **MAY.20** **SUNGLASSES DAY**



To Enhance **Life-Long** Learning



**WE'RE
OPEN!**

**Errington After School
Licensed Child Care**

Kindergarten to Gr. 5
Monday to Thursday
2:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

For more information
please call
250-954-3027
or visit our website
www.oblt.ca/childcare





Hello Errington Families:

This February Errington Elementary is taking part in **Jump Rope for Heart**. Students can learn fun ways to get active for heart health while raising awareness and support for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

The school's digital kick-off assembly is **Tuesday, February 1st**. Leading up to our jump event on **Wednesday, March 2nd**, students can register online to fundraise and monitor their progress towards one of their healthy goals.

The healthy goals are EASY:

- E – Eat Fruits and Vegetables
- A – Active for 1 hour or more
- S – Screens for less than 2 hours
- Y – Yes to water, and no to sugary drinks

How to Participate: Read the attached letter from the Heart and Stroke foundation...but here's the quick step-by-step method.

1. Go to jumpropeforheart.ca
2. Click on "Join us"
3. Then type "Errington Elementary" into the search. (Not Errington Elementary School or it won't work!)
4. Once registered your student can track their progress towards their healthy goal and/or fundraise by sending emails to family friends or share on social media.
5. Online fundraisers can earn thank-you gift cards from: Toys R Us, Indigo, Amazon or Wall Mart.

Jump Rope for Heart – Event Day

On Wednesday, March 2nd classes will take turns going through a course of heart healthy stations to celebrate. If Errington Elementary raises \$3000 students will earn one week of P.E. class where they can choose the games and an extended 1-hour long lunch on the Friday!

Want to Donate?

If your child doesn't want to fundraise but you'd like to donate to this worthy cause please go to the school site: <http://support.heartandstroke.ca/goto/ErringtonJump2022>



Dear Parents,

Jump Rope for Heart is an event nobody wants to skip!

Our school participated in the Jump Rope for Heart digital kick-off assembly to kick-off our event. From now until the event, students can learn fun ways to get active for heart health while raising awareness and support for Heart & Stroke!

Be part of the movement!

We love participating in Jump Rope for Heart because:

Students learn life-long habits: Jump encourages kids to be active and live healthy. A lesson students will value for life!

Kids feel good by doing good: Jump helps teach social responsibility and the importance of giving back. By fundraising for Jump Rope for Heart, students are collecting donations that fund critical research that's saving lives, preventing heart disease and stroke, and supporting survivors and their families.

Fits any time, place, and activity: Jump, dance, move, on our schedule, at school, at home or online.

Jump gives back: Schools get 10% of net fundraising dollars back to the school, or earn points redeemable for sports equipment, learning materials like robotics kits, and more!

Join our school and help Heart & Stroke save lives by jump-starting your fundraising at jumpropeforheart.ca.

Here's how:

Join your school at jumpropeforheart.ca

**Help your child set up their fundraising page online.
It's never been easier!**

Jump puts the FUN in FUNdraising!



Fundraise online! jumpropeforheart.ca

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:

Other Community Events & Programs 2022

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

RDN Recreation and Parks Information for Spring 2022
TOSH Spring Break Art Camps 2022

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

Support for Parents:

Multicultural Parent Circle

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mbTFRRf2BEaQxK7YpNkEs3VK3aLUlsxArawjZ6tQt9UNEozT1pVQkFYS1BHMUK1NjFVTldTWFFJRyQIQCN0PWcu>

Vancouver Island Parenting Circle

<https://www.parentsupportbc.ca/>

Information for Families:

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan

2021-2022 Board SD69 Public Meetings of the Board of Education

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

EES Calendar of Events

February	17	Red, White, and Pink Spirit Day
	17	KSS Info Session for Grade 7 Families – 6:30pm by Zoom (see info in this newsletter)
	18	Professional Development Day – No School
	21	BC FAMILY DAY – No School
	24	BSS Info Session for Grade 7 Families – 7:00pm by Zoom (see info in this newsletter)
March	2	Jump Rope For Heart – Event Day
	11	Last day of school before Spring Break
	28	School Re-opens after Spring Break
April	15	GOOD FRIDAY – No School
	18	EASTER MONDAY – No School
May	4	Grade 6 Immunizations
	19	Wear your Sunglasses Spirit Day
	20	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	23	VICTORIA DAY – No School
	25	Grade 7 Health Fair`
June	3	Professional Development Day – No School
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early