



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

Vice-Principal: Ms. Florence Wong
Email: fwong@sd69.bc.ca

April 6, 2023

Principal's Message

We hope you had a nice spring break with your children. With signs of spring appearing all around us, we enter this final stretch of the school year with optimism. Thank you for your ongoing support.

With the longer days and warmer weather, we hope that 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 (Family Online Safety Institute) and Netsmartz.org for more tips.

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



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.

Celebration of Learning/Spring Conferencing

Communicating student learning is an essential part of education. EES Teachers are planning an opportunity to connect with families on **April 19th and April 20th, 2023**, to celebrate the learning that has taken place so far this year.

This will be an opportunity for students to take a central role in sharing where they are at with their learning as well as sharing what they see as their next steps. Students will share their portfolio at this time. As educational researcher Anne Davies says, "When students communicate with others what they have learned, they come to better understand what they have learned and what they need to learn."

There will be up to 4 or 5 students per class sharing during a 30-minute block. Teachers will mingle with families during this time. Please see the instructions below on how to use the online appointment booking system. Most families will find this time very informative and won't have a need to have a separate appointment with the teacher; however, if you still feel you need to discuss specific questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher directly to book an individual appointment.

To control congestion in the hallways, we ask that families please enter their child's classroom through the OUTSIDE door.

School Appointments - Parent Instructions (Booking is available starting March 16th, 2023)

1. Go to our school appointments web site: <http://ees.parentconferences.net>
2. Click to "**REGISTER**" (top box). *If you already registered last fall for a parent-teacher conference, please skip to STEP 10.*
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 celebration of learning!



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 needs 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!
- School begins at 8:10am. If you are dropping off your child prior to 8:10am, please use the Lower Parking Lot. If you are dropping off after 8:10am, you may pull up to the front of the school. Students who arrive after 8:15am must report to the office before going to their classroom.
- Please make sure your child's teacher is aware of your child's after school schedule. We need to know if your child is getting picked up (and by who) or taking the bus.

Planning for September

In the coming months, 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 2023. If you would like to provide input to your child's placement, please do this **in writing** by **Friday, April 14th**. 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 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

RE: BUILDING COHORTS FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR 2023-2024

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 **Friday, April 14, 2023.**

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

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 in the coming months. 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 29, 2023**.

To complete the survey:

1. Go to any computer that has an up-to-date internet browser access. Acceptable browsers include Firefox, Internet Explorer, Chrome or Edge.
2. Go to www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm
3. Scroll down to the "Parent" section and select *Direct Access – no logon number required*; then select:
 - District: the name of your child's school 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".

The Board of Education of School District 69 (Qualicum) follows an annual Budget Development process each school year in order to establish the final annual budget for submission to the Ministry of Education. This process begins with providing an opportunity for stakeholders to share input toward this decision making. Click **HERE** for more information and a link to the district's 2023-2024 budget survey.

Government of Canada – Canada Dental Benefit (Dental Benefit for Kids)

The [Canada Dental Benefit](#) provides eligible parents or guardians with a direct tax-free payment of up to \$650 per year for two years to help cover dental expenses for children under 12 (please click on the link embedded above for full information).

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, 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.



Munchalunch Hot lunches is **open** and ready for ordering.

April 14 – Thalassa

April 28 – Pizza

May 12- - Sushi

May 26- Thalassa

June 9- Chinese Food

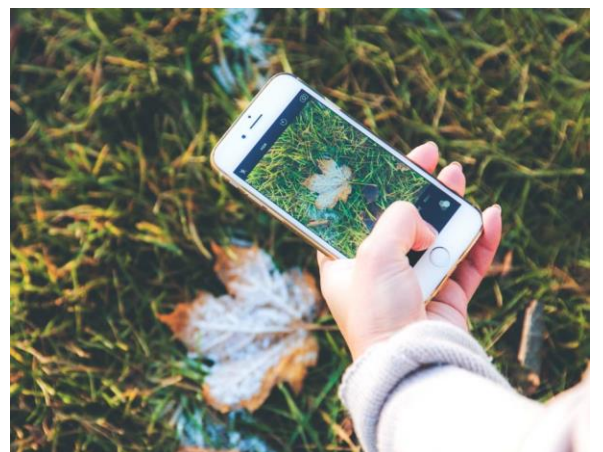
June 23- Pizza

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

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


Use of Technology

We value the use of technology as an integral part of teaching and learning. Our handheld devices have become part of our daily routines and give us access to a wide variety of tools, including photographing our students doing all sorts of activities at school. We have noticed that some photos of our students have appeared on social media – we understand that people taking and sharing photos during school sanctioned activities are doing so with good intentions. What people may not realize is that we have a number of students who have media restrictions in place and parents have indicated they do not want their child's photo to appear publicly. In order to respect the privacy of our students, we ask that you do NOT download, copy, or distribute any pictures or other personal information through social media that contain images of students and/or student work other than your child's.



School District 69 is hiring school bus drivers.

Come help us deliver the future!
Minimum Class 2 License with Air Endorsement Required.
For more information go to www.sd69.bc.ca





EES Beeswax Wraps For Sale

At EES we are selling student-made beeswax wraps for \$4 each and 3 wraps for \$10.

We are selling the wraps to fundraise for our StoryWalk outdoor classroom.

You can buy the wraps through our School Cash Online link below and in person during our Celebration of Learning on April 19 and 20.



<https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>

EES LIBRARY NEWS

Earth Month: This month we're pulling out all the stops! We've put some really wonderful books and resources out for students and staff including many new books purchased for our Season Rounds learning this year.

Coast Salish Weave Collection: We've loved having the Coast Salish Weave Collection in our school these past few weeks and hope to bring them back next year! These 12 pieces have been on display as teachers, staff and students learn about weaving, storytelling and Coast Salish design. Check out this video link about Salish wooly dogs and the history of weaving in our indigenous communities! With special thanks to Tracie Finstad and Indigenous Education.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9Uvv4e6iYU> <https://salishweave.com/>

Tree Planting Day Apr 12: To celebrate Earth Month, we are bringing some new life to our forest trail. All students and staff will be out on the Forest Stewardship Trail on Wed April 12 to plant trees, ground cover and shrubs. We'll be joined by Kaitlin Fader from the RDN who has planned our planting activities and gathered experts and volunteers to spend the day with us. Kevin Frampton is a local tree planter who will be joining groups to talk about his job and give us tips on planting in the forest. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this wonderful community day at EES!

Spring Book Fair Apr 19-25: Our spring book fair is coming with fabulous books for the spring and summer! We will be open Wed Apr 19 for families from 2-6 pm during our Celebration of Learning. The Fair will be open for class visits Thurs to Tuesday with a special Family Time Monday Apr 24 from 2-3 pm. Come and check out the Fair, and thank you for supporting our school library!

PAC Movie Night Friday Apr 21: Your wonderful PAC is hosting a family movie night Friday Apr 21 at EES. Stay tuned for more information.

Beautiful Beeswax Wraps for Sale: EES student leaders are creating beautiful beeswax wraps and selling them to raise funds for our outdoor classroom. We will have a sales table open during our Celebration of Learning on Apr 19 and 20. You can also buy ONLINE anytime at <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>

Lost Books: If you have lost a book, you can replace it with a similar book from home. Please look for overdue books and return them to the Library.

Your Library Card: Did you know that your family members can take books out on your student library card? Ask us about bringing great books home for the whole family :)

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook



Keynote Address

UNDERSTANDING & SUPPORTING 2SLGBTQ+ COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND FAMILY

Inclusion and diversity matter




Mischa Oak
Presenter


- ✓ Excellent presentation for families who want to learn more about 2SLGBTQ+ issues, increase their allyship, or connect with their own 2SLGBTQ+ identities. **This 90-minute talk is suitable for families and youth.**
- ✓ This fun, inspiring and motivating speech gives participants tools to start making a difference right away. Mischa Oak guides understanding and meaningful strategies to improve and save lives.
- ✓ Evidence-based strategies and personal insights, audiences are supported to benefit their communities right away.


Mischa Oak is a former SD69 teacher who now advises communities, First Nations and international development projects on supporting diversity and LGBTQ+ inclusion through his company LGBTQ Corporate Training.



www.lgbtqcorporatetraining.com

 **Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

 **6:30pm - 8:00pm**

 **BSS Theatre - 135 Pym St, Parksville**

With two decades of teaching and LGBTQ+ advocacy, Mischa Oak (he/him) provides families with an understanding of how to empower, support and welcome Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ community members.

Presented by SD69 DPAC
All SD69 families are invited



Questions? Email: sd69dpac@gmail.com

EES PAC NEWS



On Friday April 21ST, PAC will be holding a Movie Night in the EES gym and are planning to show the Sonic 2 movie!

Doors to the gym will open at 6:00 pm and the movie will start at 6:30 pm. A concession will be open with drinks, hot dogs, Popcorn and Candy bags.

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 2021

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

VI Regional Library Spring Events:

- **Family Storytime**
- **Spring Break Scavenger Hunt**

MAC Youth Exhibit Call Out for Students (May 2nd – May 28th)

BGCCVI FREE Parent Education Session - Parenting Without Power Struggles

Oceanside Minor Baseball Registration 2023

Rotary Youth Art Exhibition (Gr.6-7 students) – Mindfulness in May

SOS Spring 2023 Program Guide

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

Information for Families:

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan

2022-2023 Board SD69 Public Meetings of the Board of Education

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

EES Calendar of Events

April	7	GOOD FRIDAY – No School
	10	EASTER MONDAY – No School
	19	Scholastic Book Fair (In the library) – runs until Apr.25
May	18	Professional Development Day – No School
	19	Conferencing Adjustment Day – No School
	22	VICTORIA DAY – No School
June	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early