



ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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December 02, 2022

Principal's Message

Well, December is upon us and as we look towards another unusual but festive season ahead, we are noticing many examples of how the spirit of giving is happening here at EES. 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. The article below suggests ways to show your child how to give meaningful gifts that are free:

Many people exchange gifts over the holiday season. While children love receiving gifts, they also enjoy being able to give them. Giving gifts can give your child a sense of pride.

Does your child know that the most meaningful gifts don't have to cost money? They simply take time and come straight from the heart.

Share these thoughtful gift ideas with your child. She could:

- **Offer to do chores** for an elderly neighbor
- **Record herself reading a book** for a younger sibling to read along with.
- **Make a list**, such as "My 10 Best Memories with Grandpa."
- **Do a chore** for an entire month without whining.
- **Play** a favorite game with a family member or a neighbor who is home-bound.
- **Record an audio** or video message for a loved one who is far away.
- **Create a playlist** with a bunch of her favourite songs to share.
- **Bake cookies** and deliver them to someone who may not receive many homemade gifts.
- **Create a calendar for 2021** and decorate it with personalized artwork, one drawing for each month.
- **Make a gift certificate** good for two hours of help around the house.
- **Create a beautiful picture** or poem about a special person.

Source: Elementary School Parents
December 2015
Vol.27, No.4

COVID-19 Update

Please note that the BC Centre for Disease Control has updated the isolation protocols for COVID-19, eliminating the 5 or 10 day self-isolation window. As of November 17, 2022, people who have COVID-19 are no longer required to self-isolate. However, it is still important for people with symptoms to stay home as much as possible to reduce any potential spread of illness until your symptoms have improved, and you are able to participate in your usual activities. More information can be found on the link below:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation>

Washroom Etiquette

We have noticed 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.), and there is evidence that some students have been standing on the toilets and throwing wet paper-towel balls onto the ceiling. This has caused all sorts of 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.

Inclement Weather and Clothing

Our cold fall/winter weather is 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.



Snow

As you know, we've had our first blast of snow this! We wanted to send out a reminder about our expectations around sledding. When we have a significant amount of snow accumulate, we allow students to slide down the hill to the field. We only allow this during recess and lunch breaks (not before or after school) and we only allow students to slide down on a sliding device and they must be wearing snow clothes (waterproof pants and coat, boots, gloves, etc.)! Our expectation is that snow has to cover the ground completely (no grass showing) in order to slide. We set up a coned area for the students to slide down and expect them to wait until previous sliders have exited the area before sliding. We ask students to walk back up the hill on either side of the coned off area.

We do allow students to bring items to slide on, but please note that they are not accepted on the school bus and they are not stored inside the school. Teachers will be asking students to leave their sliding devices on the walkway outside the classroom during instructional time. Please make sure your child's sled is labelled clearly with their name!

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

Winter Safety

There are many things we can do to prepare for a safe fall and winter season. Our weather is certainly getting more extreme, and for many areas of our province, winter weather can be harsh. Winter storms and cold temperatures can be dangerous, which is why it is important to plan ahead to stay safe and healthy. The article attached includes a comprehensive safety checklist. Please [click here](#) to view the tips from the National Center for Environmental Health.



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.



SPIRIT CLUB – 2022/2023

Let's celebrate our Wildcat Spirit!

Dates for your calendar:



Crazy Christmas Day on December 9, 2022



Pyjama Day on December 16, 2022

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





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

Friday December 16 – Pizza

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

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

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.



The Errington Christmas Concert Returns on December 17th

(Doors open at 6:00 and Concert starts at 6:30)

**Featuring the Errington Children's Choir
and a showing of the beloved 'Snowman' film.**

Admission is by donation of cash or non-perishable food items.
Visit our website for more info www.ErringtonHall.ca

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 publically. 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.



EES LIBRARY NEWS

We have many Christmas-themed books on display now in the library and encourage students to take books home to share.

Please return your library books over these next few weeks and any lost books can be replaced. Our free book table will be busy in January so keep an eye out for cool books for home!

Our Scholastic Book Fair was very successful and we thank all staff, students and families for supporting our Library and thank you to our fabulous PAC for administering our Fair! We took over \$213.00 in books from the fair and will also receive \$686.00 in cash for this year! Wow! Thank you, Errington! Our Virtual Book Fair was successful too, thanks to all those parents who gave it a try!

Student Leadership: We have many Leadership students working this year. Our Leaders work in a variety of roles here at EES: delivering and picking up technology, checking in and out books, helping in classes with tech, delivering lunches, helping with lost and found, helping on the playground and more. Our Leaders will help with Winterfest on Dec.15th, when teachers present many fun activities for students in all of our classrooms. Thank you, Leaders!

Lost Books: We have been noticing a lot of misplaced books lately. Please check backpacks, cars, dog houses and friends' houses! If a book is lost, you can replace it with another book of similar genre and quality. Please speak with us.

Donate Your Books: We always accept donations of good quality, interesting books for our Library, thank you!

Family Library Card: Did you know that everyone in our student families can take books out from our Library! You're welcome to come and borrow books to take home and share with your family :)

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook



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:

PQB News Story Contest (Deadline: Friday December 2, 2022)
SOS Fall 2022 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

December	2	PAC Craft Night
	13	Grade 6 Immunizations
	15	WinterFest at EES
	16	Last day of school before the Winter Break
January	3	School Re-opens after Winter Break
	30	District Wide Planning Day – No School
February	17	Professional Development Day – No School
	20	BC FAMILY DAY – No School
March	17	Last day of school before Spring Break
April	3	School Re-opens after Spring Break
	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