



ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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December 16, 2022

Principal's Message

As we begin the winter break, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a healthy and peaceful holiday with your families. In her "Onward" book, Elena Aguilar describes how in the northern hemisphere, we have ancient traditions of celebrating light in the short days of winter. We gather around candles and fireplaces, display stars as symbols of promise, and decorate our homes with colourful bulbs. People celebrate miracles, hope, renewal, and resilience as our planet approaches the winter solstice. In December, as the first half of the school year comes to a close and our planet cycles into winter, we are encouraged to celebrate bright spots. We celebrate children and highlight their learning and development. We name our own growth and surface the connections between our own learning and the growth of others. We look for the light – in ourselves and in others – being reminded that when the nights are long and the sun hangs low on the horizon, we just need to pay closer attention. The light shines in different ways.

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. I would like to send a special THANK YOU to the Oceanside Community Church, Grace United Church, SD69 Backpack Program, and La Vida Lashes and Boutique for their generous contributions towards our holiday baskets going out to several families.

If you are going away during the winter break, have a safe and memorable trip. If you are staying close to home, we have gathered a list of creative and simple things to do while spending time with family and friends. The following are some suggestions compiled from The Parent Institute (December 2020 editions):

- Go on walks...around your neighbourhood and local trails. Explore our beaches. Point out things in the natural world...leaves, rocks, different trees and plants, sounds, smells.
- Talk about how animals survive the winter months. What do bears do? How about birds?
- Play board games, card games, and do puzzles.
- Prepare food together. Nearly every culture has some special foods and goodies associated with the holiday season. With your child, prepare foods you remember from your childhood. Share your memories. Or do some research and cook a dish you've never tried.
- Select a movie that is based on a book. After you and your child finish reading the book, watch the movie together. Discuss how the two are alike and how they are different.
- Encourage your child to learn more about the past and your family history by talking with grandparents, aunts, uncles – even you. Help her come up with a list of questions to ask, such as, "What was school like for you when you were my age?" and "What trends were popular?" She can record the conversations, write them down, or just listen.
- Create and keep a family journal. Everyone can share thoughts, reminders, and accomplishments.
- Tell your child a story about yourself when you were her age.
- Ask your child to write your shopping list before you go to the grocery store.
- Ask your child to choose a country and learn more about it.
- Make an "I Am Special" scrapbook with your child.

- Build a house of cards with your child. Challenge him to make the base as stable as possible.
- Give your child a piece of paper to decorate using paint and sponges. Use his finished design to wrap a gift for a loved one.
- Look online or in a book for a chart of the phases of the moon and star constellations. Together, compare what you see each night to the chart.
- Help your child clean out her closet and pass on gently-used toys or clothes to other families.
- Do some household projects that have been put off...re-organize cupboards, drawers, and closets.
- Have your child design a new cover for a much-loved book.
- Ask your child to name his favourite thing about you.
- Discuss ways you use numbers at home every day, such as when paying bills or setting the kitchen timer.
- Go for a drive in the evening to admire the many festive holiday lights on homes.
- Listen to music in the dark together and concentrate on the sounds.
- Emphasize the importance of writing thank you notes for gifts.
- Learn a tongue twister. At dinner, challenge everyone to repeat it three times fast.
- Take turns bringing a joke or riddle to the dinner table.
- Measure your child. How much did she grow this year?
- Make a calendar for 2023 using hand-made drawings.
- Set goals for the New Year.



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.

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



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.

- January 13 – Ricky's
- January 27 – Pizza
- February 10 – Sushi
- February 24 – Ricky's
- March 3 – Subway
- March 17 - 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.



District Food Drive – EES Participation



Great news! We collected **757** items for our local food bank! This is more than double what we collected last year, well done everyone :)

Ms. Smith's Room 10 class collected the most items at 82 - Alex was a keen encourager in their class! They won a new game and some little erasers.

Mrs. Barclay's Room 2 class was 2nd runner up with 69 items and Ms. Senchar's Room 3 class was 3rd runner up with 68 items!

It looks like our District will collect close to 10,000 items and almost \$1,000 in cash for our local food banks. Truly amazing giving in such a time of need in our communities :)

Thank you to our generous Errington families!

Ms. Richards and project student leaders Gracie, Macey, Aiden and Landon

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!

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.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook



Christmas Concert

ERRINGTON
WAR MEMORIAL HALL

**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*

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:

SOS Fall 2022 Program Guide

SOS Caring for Community at Christmas 2022

<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	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