



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
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Vice-Principal: Ms. Florence Wong
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June 2, 2023

Principal's Message

As the end of the school year quickly approaches, it is time to show gratitude to the many people who have supported our school community in various ways. The gift of time is one of the most generous things you can share and we sincerely appreciate all that you do to enrich the students' experience at Errington Elementary School!

As you are most likely making plans for the summer break from school, we encourage you to consider having your child do some volunteer work. There are many opportunities to volunteer or provide service to our community. The article below suggests some ways that summer volunteer work can build character and leadership:

The world's problems can seem overwhelming. But kids can learn that every person can make a difference, and when people work together, the results are amazing! Summer volunteering is a great way to teach this lesson to your child – all while building his confidence, compassion and leadership skills. To get started, talk with your child about:

- **Interests.** What subjects interest him most? How do they relate to others' needs? If he loves animals, he could help an animal rescue group. If he's interested in business, he might help with a charity fundraiser. Your child's enthusiasm is a great motivator.
- **Skills.** Your child's strengths can be gifts to others. He might hold a bake sale or read to younger children. Sometimes it's fun to learn new skills, too, such as how to help with landscaping or home repairs.
- **Needs.** Perhaps your child has noticed a park that needs sprucing up. Or maybe a homeless shelter needs food. Go online with your child and search for upcoming community service events in your area. You could even ask your child's teacher if the school needs help over the summer.
- **Schedules.** Volunteering takes time, and families are busy! Set realistic goals that leave room for other priorities. Depending on your family's commitments, you and your child might volunteer just a few hours here and there - or decide to take on one large, exciting project!

Source: Elementary School Parents (May 2016, Vol.27, No.9)



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.

Criminal Record Checks

We value parent helpers and other volunteers who support with various different activities at EES. We want to remind you



that it is mandatory to have a Criminal Record Check completed prior to taking part in volunteer activities (classroom activities, school activities, field trips, etc.). We keep these on file for 5 years, so you do not need to do it every year while your child is at EES. With so many field trips and special activities coming up, we wanted to remind you of this expectation. We do have a letter available at the EES office for you to get so that you don't have to pay the usual fee for getting this done. The RCMP have advised us that there is at least a two-week timeline to complete the process, but it could take longer during peak times. Please note that due to privacy regulations, organizations cannot share this type of information, so you need a separate Criminal Record Check completed for each organization you volunteer with. If you are not sure if you have a completed a criminal record check on file, please call the EES office.

Unsafe Litter



We have been hearing reports of unsafe litter around public spaces in our community. We felt it would be a good time to teach/remind our children of what to do if they encounter unsafe litter. Please take some time to discuss items that are "safe" to pick-up and items that are "unsafe" to pick up. We know that children can be very helpful, but we don't want to put them at risk for picking up something that could be dangerous to themselves or others. Items such as broken glass, sharp metal, and needles need to be disposed of with care. Images of needles can be easily found online to show your child what they look like. If your child comes across a dangerous item, we advise them to report to an adult immediately. Sharp items should never be discarded straight into a garbage can. They should be in some kind of container so as not to poke through a plastic bag and injure someone who is handling garbage bags. There are several "safe" containers available around the community to dispose used needles so as not to put the public at risk. We still encourage everyone to help keep our public spaces free of litter – we just ask that people use extreme caution if they encounter unsafe litter.

Visitors to EES



During the school day, we have many visitors who come and go. We have noticed an increase in the number of people coming to the school to make a delivery to their child(ren), pass along a message, or check in with a teacher. We ask that you please report to the office and not go directly to your child's classroom during class time. If you need to speak with a teacher during the school day, we ask that you leave a message for them to contact you. Lunch and other deliveries can be dropped off at the office in order to minimize distractions during class time.

A reminder that for safety purposes, we need to know where every child is during the school day, therefore please make sure you sign out your child at the school office when leaving the school during the day. Students are required to sign back in at the office if returning to school during the day. Also, the school office must be advised by the parent/guardian if your child is not attending school. Please phone 250-248-8446 and speak with a secretary or leave a message on the attendance line.

Vice-Principal Performance Review

This month, our Vice-Principal (Flo Wong) will be engaging in a performance appraisal as part of a new district-wide process for all principals and vice-principals. Information will be gathered from surveys, interviews with staff, parents, and students, and then used alongside her own reflections and her supervisor's observations to create a report, and to help her and her supervisor to set professional goals for the next few years. Ms. Wong is inviting you to be a part of this process by taking just a few minutes to respond to the questions in this survey and, if you like, adding a few comments.

The link below is attached to a Form only Ms. Wong's supervisor (Principal Sheila Morrison) can see, and she will be sharing data in chart form only and in comment themes without any names attached. Some quotes may be used in the report that goes into Ms. Wong's personnel file, but again, these will be anonymous and content will be paraphrased if the source is identifiable.

[Vice-Principal Parents and Guardians Appraisal Survey for Flo Wong - PARENTS](#)

Thanks for helping out. Ms. Wong really appreciates your time and your feedback.



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.

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.



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.

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/>



Introductory School Newsletter – Grades 1 & 2

Grade 1 and 2 Immunizations

To make routine immunization more accessible to children, Island Health is trialing in-school immunization clinics for students in grades 1 and 2 at select schools. Some grade 1 and 2 students' parents/guardians will be receiving a phone call from a Public Health Nurse in the next couple weeks. Parents/guardians may provide consent or refusal for each/all vaccines during this call. Students will be offered immunizations in a school-based clinic with the consent of a parent/guardian. Public Health Nurses will be at **Errington Elementary on Wednesday June 21st, 2023**. The drop in clinic will be from **2:30-4:00pm**.

If you have any questions please call Oceanside Public Health at 250-947-8242.



SD69 staff, parents/caregivers and the school community are invited to join us for a live Zoom session on June 6 at 6:00 p.m. as Superintendent Jory reviews the data, frameworks and processes that led to the DRAFT of the goals and outcomes for the Qualicum School District. This will be followed by a question/ conversation period and a link to a form for stakeholder feedback. Click [HERE](#) for the Zoom link.

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).

EES LIBRARY NEWS

Stop Motion Animation Group at EES:

Creative exploratory students are busy creating stop motion animated films at EES with Teacher Librarian Janet Richards. Visual stories are written, then created on the Koma Koma app, then imported into iMovie. From Star Wars to Minecraft, visual stories using clay or toys are coming to life and will be shared at a school screening next month.



World Bee Day at EES:

To celebrate World Bee Day, two exploratory groups shared their knowledge with students and staff at EES. Students from the Beekeeping group with Ms. Siedlecki talked about bee history and the vital importance of these pollinators to our world. The students from the Beeswax wraps group with Ms. Whetstone showed how to make wraps with cloth and beeswax. Students also introduced BeeBots, programmable floor robots, and showed students how to code them to move in certain ways.

Beautiful Beeswax Wraps for Sale: EES student leaders are creating beautiful beeswax wraps and selling them to raise funds for our outdoor classroom. You can buy our wraps 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



Last Day – Thursday, June 29th – Early Dismissal

As you likely know, the last school day is on Thursday, June 29th. Dismissal is 3 hours earlier than usual (**10:58am**). If your child will not be attending on the last day(s) of school, please be sure to contact your child's teacher and arrange for collection of year-end items (school supplies, special projects, shoes and other personal belongings, report card, etc.).

World Bee Day at EES



Stop Motion Animation Group at EES





Dear staff and parents,

Right now, there are more than 4,500 kids across BC who need temporary foster families while they cannot live at home. Approximately 750 children and youth of those children come from Vancouver Island. Right now, Parksville and surrounding areas have a growing list of children and teens waiting to be cared for in a safe and loving home. Some can't be at home because the actions of the parents put them at risk, some because they need some help with their behaviour, and some because their support needs mean their parents need a break. Right now, there is a child in YOUR community who needs you.

Therefore, the Ministry of Children and Family Development is currently recruiting new foster families to care for these children in the Parksville, Nanoose, Errington and Qualicum areas.

***"Being a foster caregiver makes your life worthwhile. You aren't just achieving for yourself, you are helping the most vulnerable in our community."
- Foster caregiver of 40 years.***

Our foster families come from a variety of backgrounds, each with different life experiences, skills, and qualities. To be a foster caregiver you must;

- Be a resident of BC who is (at least) 19 years of age.
- Have a safe and nurturing home environment.
- Be comfortable in providing guidance and supervision that meets a child's needs and cultural heritage.
- Be an active member of the child's care team.

If you cannot be a full-time foster caregiver, consider becoming a respite/relief caregiver who supports families by caring for children a few days throughout the month.

***"I really enjoy what I do as a respite/relief caregiver because it means I get to support the children and the family as a whole."
- Foster caregiver of 30 years.***

Participating in either a group information session or meeting with a social worker is a helpful way to learn more about foster caregiving. This will help you make an informed decision about whether fostering is a fit for you and your family. To learn about the application process and to find details about a Foster Caregiver Information Session in your community, here are three options:

- Reach out to your local MCFD office Resources Team;
 - Helen Wagg; Team Leader; (250) 947-2703
 - Alison Bandi; Resource Social Worker; (236) 936-2026
 - Noël Matchett, Resource Social Worker; (250) 947-2666
- Visit www.fosterhope.ca : online Zoom sessions with the Foster Parent Support Services Society.
- Visit the Indigenous Caregivers of BC (ICOBC) website www.fostercaregiversbc.ca

***"If you are a person who is drawn to or simply curious about fostering, I encourage you to lean into exploring that urge. You could be setting yourself on the path toward the most fulfilling calling of your life."
- Foster caregiver of 8 years.***

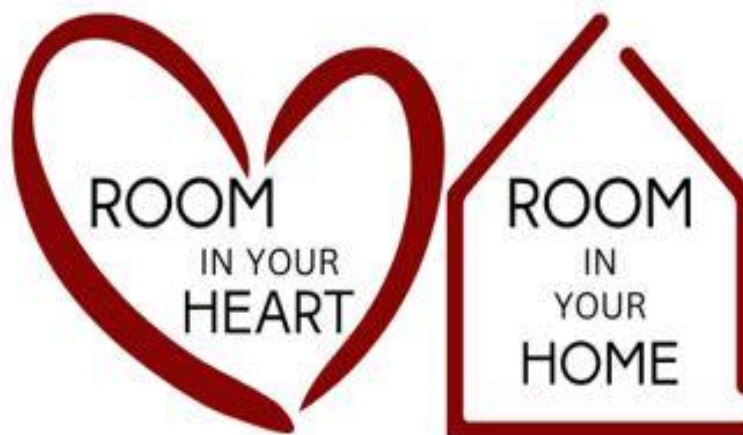
Our best source of new foster parents is word of mouth. It is one person who cares about children and youth encouraging another caring person to open their home and heart to a child in need. We encourage you to either consider becoming a foster parent or spread the word to someone you know who may be interested.

Myths about becoming a foster parent:

- You don't have to be perfect
- You don't have to own your own home
- You don't have to be rich
- You don't have to be married
- You don't have to have a college degree
- You don't have to already be a parent

You do have to have:

- A big heart
- An open mind
- A sense of humor
- A stable home
- A desire to help



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 Summer Events:

- **Summer Reading Club 2023**
- **Teen Summer Challenge 2023**

Creative Kids Summer 2023 at the MAC (July 11th – August 17th)

Qualicum Beach Triathlon June 25, 2023

BGCCVI FREE Parent Education Session - Parenting Without Power Struggles

<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

June	29	Final Assembly & Gr.7 Recognition, Time TBA
	29	Last day of school, ends 3 hours early