



ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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March 3, 2023

Principal's Message

As we begin March, our thoughts turn towards spring break. The time away from school will be a good chance to reflect, rest and recharge our bodies and minds, and prepare for the spring term.

We continue our focus on supporting students to develop social awareness. The article below provides some suggestions on how you can support your child at home:

When children have the ability to understand and empathize with others, they are able to form solid connections with classmates, teachers, and friends. Social awareness allows kids to feel compassion for others – even when their background, beliefs, and culture may be different.

It is important to for children to see all people as equal and to accept and recognize the strengths of people who are different from them. To guide your child:

- **Remember** that you teach by example. Do you use slurs? Have you formed opinions about people based on their colour, religion, or culture? If so, your child may too.
- **Talk about** your family background. Unless you are an [Indigenous Person], someone in your family came here from another country. Remind your child that at some point, everyone has struggled to find their place.
- **Let your child** know it's never OK to judge, insult or treat someone badly because of their appearance or background.
- **Talk about** prejudice and stereotypes. Remind your child that background does not show how smart a person is, how good they will be at sports, or even what kind of food they like.
- **Explain** that rules and laws have not always treated everyone fairly, and that we are trying to change that.
- **Welcome** people of many backgrounds into your family's life. Encourage your child to do the same.

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



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.

All "Applications for Cross-boundary Enrollment for Following School Year" forms **must be submitted by Wednesday, March 15th, 2023.**

Applications submitted after that timeframe will be placed on a waitlist for consideration closer to the start of the upcoming school year. All students making a cross-boundary application must **FIRST** be registered at their catchment school prior to being considered for cross-boundary enrollment.



Kindergarten registration is underway! Please see message below for further information. If you have any questions, feel free to stop by the EES office or contact us at (250) 248-8446.

All new students must register online with their catchment area school. Information for those students wishing to attend a school outside their catchment is below.

If you know of any families who will need to be aware of this information, we ask you to please pass this along to them.

School District 69 (Qualicum) **Kindergarten REGISTRATION**
January 23 to February 3, 2023

Online Kindergarten Registration for the 2023-2024 school year opens on January 23 through to February 3, 2023. To qualify for Kindergarten enrollment in September 2023, a child must become five years of age on or before December 31, 2023. Proof of Age for a student includes a birth certificate or passport. Check out the School District website registration page to see what else you need.

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS OF CHOICE
French Immersion – when registering your Kindergarten on-line at their catchment school, please be sure to indicate in the notes field that you wish to enroll your child in the French Immersion Program.
Primary Learning Community - when registering your Kindergarten on-line at their catchment school, please be sure to indicate in the notes field that you wish to enroll your child in the Primary Learning Community Program.
More information and the application form for the Primary Learning Community can be found on the District website www.sd69.bc.ca.

CROSS BOUNDARY INFORMATION
The Board of Education believes that, in general, students should attend schools designated by the Board for their particular attendance area. Transfer of a student to a school outside of their catchment area will be considered upon written application of the parent to the Superintendent of Schools or designate.
Parents wishing to enroll their Kindergarten child at an out-of-catchment school within the district **MUST FIRST** register their child at their catchment school, and then make their cross boundary request by completing a cross boundary application form. The application process for the 2023-2024 school year will commence January 23rd until March 13th.
A fillable cross boundary application form can be found at www.sd69.bc.ca > About > Student Registration > Cross Boundary

Grounds Update

We are very pleased to report some upcoming improvements to our school grounds!

You may notice that the dome play area at the front of the school has been fenced off. At spring break, we will have work crews removing the aging play structures and gravel. This area will be levelled and will be the location of our new outdoor structure! Thank you to our EES PAC, SD69, and the Parksville Rotary Club for working together to provide funds to build this outdoor learning and gathering area!

Work crews are planning to remove all the gravel from around the “Rainbow Playground”. The gravel will be replaced by “soft fall” bark mulch, similar to other local playground areas. This will eliminate the amount of gravel that spills onto the walkways in that area.

Later in the spring, we look forward to the resurfacing of our field area. We now have a second water source that will be hooked up to provide the necessary irrigation to keep our field in better condition. We will also be installing stairs to the field, which will provide a safer access point.

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 and taking care of our place.



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.

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.schoolcashonline.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.

March 17 – Pizza

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 – Visit from The Mayor of Parksville

Students in Miss Smith's Grade 3/4 class, Ms. Petley-Jones Grade 5/6 class and Ms. Ray's 5/6 class were fortunate to have a visit from Mayor Doug O'Brian, the Mayor of Parksville. A variety of topics were covered during this visit to include:

What are the roles and responsibilities of a Mayor?
Learning about the different levels of government.
Community and what the meaning of community is.



Fun was had yesterday here at EES as we celebrated Dr. Seuss's Birthday, with many Dr. Seuss books on display for students to read in our library. Mrs. Diewold joined in with the fun dressed as The Cat in The Hat!



EES LIBRARY NEWS

Fun With Words: This month we're having fun with words! We're putting out books on limericks, jokes, riddles and poetry. Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss this week! Have you ever tried to eat green eggs and ham? We invite you to celebrate World Poetry Day on March 21 and be inspired by the beauty of language.

Coast Salish Weave Collection: We're very excited to host the Coast Salish Weave Collection in our school starting March 8. These 12 pieces will be on display for a week or more 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/>

Seriously Awesome Series Book Draw: Our Seriously Awesome Series Book Draw saw 24 excited readers come into the Library to choose their prizes. We had over 400 entries and every class had students enter the draw. Congratulations to all of our winners and special thank you to Mrs. Cook and our Senior Leaders for making our "mall" shopping so fun!

Our Winners:

Room 16: Vicky, Ella
Room 15: Ava B, Isabella
Room 14: Marina, Renae
Room 13: Greyson, Rylan
Room 11: Chase, Talia
Room 10: Tyson, Jackie
Room 8: Sloane, Kerrik
Room 7: Peter, Tate
Room 5: Annabella, Sienna
Room 4: Ben L, Payton S
Room 3: Declan C, Anne
Room 2: Madison, Farrah A

Gladiators Chess Club: Our EES Gladiators tournament finals were held this week and it was a nailbiter! Our winners Jayden (Gr 7), Travis (Grade 6), James (Grade 5) and Tyson (Grade 4) will now go on to the District Tournament at QBES on Thursday! RJ won the Sportsmanship Award and Ben Z. was awarded the Most Improved Player. Congratulations to our winners and good luck next week!

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



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:

BCED.GOV.BC Presents ERASE (Expect Respect & A Safe Education) – online sessions:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/bulletin/20230210/erase-student-and-parent-sessions.pdf>

Oceanside Track and Field Registration

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

SOS Winter-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

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