



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

May 5, 2023

Principal's Message

During the last few weeks, families have taken part in the Celebration of Learning in classrooms. It has been an important opportunity for students to share their learning portfolios and celebrate the growth that has occurred throughout the school year. If you have not had a chance to connect with your child's teacher, please contact them by phone or email to arrange a time to discuss your child's progress.

With the last few months of the school year upon us, it is a good reminder that we continue to work on our ongoing school-wide goal of social responsibility. Our Code of Conduct outlines three pillars which help guide our work in this area: We are SAFE, We are RESPECTFUL, and we are RESPONSIBLE. The article below provides some suggestions on how to help your child become more responsible with time management:

Are you teaching your child to use time wisely?

Time management is an important skill for school success – especially as students work to finish end-of-the-year projects and assignments. Are you helping your child make the most of study time? Answer yes or no to each of the questions below:

Have you reviewed your child's assignment and study schedule and made adjustments as necessary?

Do you have your child record dates for tests, projects, and family commitments on the family calendar?

Do you try to keep a balance between your child's schoolwork and the rest of your lives? Elementary schoolers need plenty of time for exercise, family time, and sleeping.

Do you help your child break down big assignments into smaller tasks to complete step-by-step?

Do you make sure that your child has some time each day for pleasure reading?

How well are you doing?

Each yes means you are helping your child learn to use time wisely. For no answers, try those ideas in the quiz.

Source: Elementary School Parents (May 2022, Vol.33, 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.



Upcoming Non-Instructional Days

A reminder that we have 3 non-instructional days later in May. School is not in session on **Thursday May 18th** (In-District Professional Development Day), **Friday May 19th** (Conferencing Adjustment Day), and **Monday May 22nd** (Victoria Day).

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.



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.



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.

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.

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/>

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).

May The Fourth Be With You!

We've had a blast this week celebrating STAR WARS and SPACE!

On Wednesday, 20 teams raced pods in the gym and on Thursday it was costume day. We've enjoyed daily jokes and trivia and on Monday prizes for the colouring contest will be awarded. We enjoyed a fabulous concert on Thursday by the EES band, the Nanoose Bay Elementary Band and a high school band from Maple Ridge. Thank you to Room 2 for helping organize our special fun week!



Star Wars Pod Car Racing!



EES LIBRARY NEWS

May The Fourth Be With You!

Space and Star Wars: This month we've decorated the Library to celebrate May The Fourth Be With You and everything about SPACE, PLANETS AND STAR WARS! Come and check it out!

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



EES Spring Book Fair – Door Prize Winners

Congratulations to Emma who won the Family Door Prize at the Book Fair! She won \$25 worth of books and prizes, and so did her teacher, Ms. Diewold!



Beeswax Wraps at EES

Our student leaders have been making beeswax wraps as an ongoing fundraiser for our outdoor classroom. They sold over \$100.00 of wraps during our Celebration of Learning last week, well done!



Health Education - Errington Elementary

Dear Parents,

Health Education is an important part of the BC curriculum that is designed to teach students age appropriate information about their bodies, growing up and staying safe. Health lessons will be taught starting the last week of April or early May (depending on the class) and the basic curricular goals are listed below, by grade level, for your information. The health information and safety training provided are critical for students to understand. The number of lessons varies by grade level with only a few lessons for our kindergarten students and bi-weekly lessons for our upper intermediates.

If you have questions or concerns please reach out to me by email.

Sincerely,

Mr. Avis

mavis@sd69.bc.ca

BC Curriculum

Kindergarten / grade 1 Classes

- ✓ Identify sources of health information
- ✓ Names for parts of the body, including male and female private parts
- ✓ Appropriate and inappropriate ways of being touched
- ✓ Hazards and potentially unsafe situations

Grade 2/3 Classes

- ✓ Describe ways to access information on and support services for a variety of health topics
- ✓ Identify and describe avoidance or assertiveness strategies to use in unsafe and/or uncomfortable situations
- ✓ Strategies and skills to use in potentially hazardous, unsafe, or abusive situations

Grade 4 Classes

- ✓ Identify and describe avoidance or assertiveness strategies to use in unsafe and/or uncomfortable situations
- ✓ Strategies and skills to use in potentially hazardous, unsafe or abusive situations, including common lures or tricks used by potential abusers
- ✓ Physical, emotional, and social changes that occur during puberty, including those involving sexuality and sexual identity
- ✓ Potential effects of psychoactive substance use, and strategies for preventing personal harm

Grade 5/6 Classes

- ✓ Identify and describe strategies for avoiding and/or responding to potentially unsafe, abusive, or exploitive situations
- ✓ Explore and describe strategies for managing physical, emotional, and social changes during puberty
- ✓ Explore and describe how personal identities adapt and change in different settings and situations
- ✓ Sources of health information and support services
- ✓ Strategies to protect themselves and others from potential abuse, exploitation and harm in a variety of settings
- ✓ Factors influencing use of psychoactive substances, and potential harms
- ✓ Physical, emotional, and social changes that occur during puberty, including those involving sexuality and sexual identity, and changes to relationships

Grade 6/7 Classes

- ✓ Assess and communicate health information for various health issues
- ✓ Identify and describe strategies for avoiding and/or responding to potentially unsafe, abusive, or exploitive situations
- ✓ Describe and apply strategies for developing and maintaining healthy relationships
- ✓ Describe and assess strategies for managing problems related to mental well-being and substance use, for others
- ✓ Create and assess strategies for managing physical, emotional, and social changes during puberty and adolescence
- ✓ Explore the impact of transition and change on identities
- ✓ Practices that reduce the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections and life-threatening communicable diseases
- ✓ Signs and symptoms of stress, anxiety, and depression



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.***

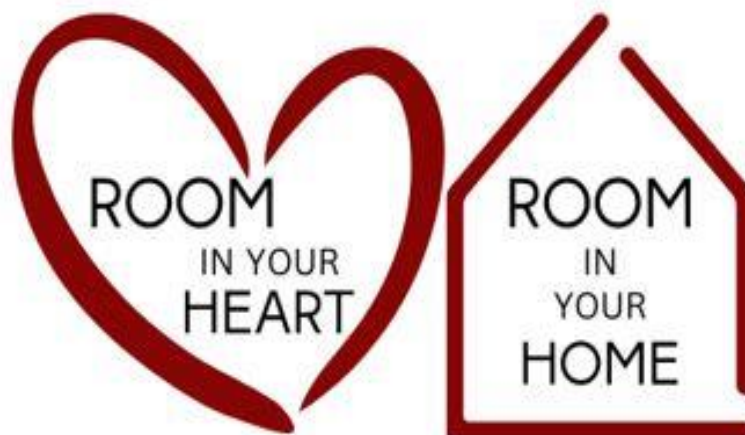
Our best source of new foster parents is word of mouth. It is one person who cares about children and youth encouraging another caring person to open their home and heart to a child in need. We encourage you to either consider becoming a foster parent or spread the word to someone you know who may be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

- **Family Storytime**

Qualicum Beach Triathlon June 25, 2023

Colours for Kids Fun Run – Saturday, May 27

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

BGCCVI FREE Parent Education Session - Parenting Without Power Struggles

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

May	10	Grade 7 Health Fair
	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