



EES Newsletter

April 2024
Issue #11

Families on the
move

Families on the Move?

Please let the school office know if your family will be moving next year. We are beginning to plan for next year, and it is helpful if we are aware of any students who will not be attending EES in September.



EES Cross Country
Team

EES Cross Country Team!

Does your Child like to run trails? Errington Elementary School is starting a Cross Country Team for Grades 4 to 7 for April (starting April 10th).

Student Learning
Surveys

Child Dental
Benefit

We will meet on Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:55 am and run the RDN trails behind the school.

Drop-off and Pick-
up

Pete The Cat First
Steps to School

Planning for
September

- What does your child need? Runners and a water bottle.
- Where do we meet? Outside of Room 10.

Building Cohorts

Online Safety
Sessions, Safer
Schools Together

Wildcats Sports
Desk Report

Students will practice running each week and then at the end of the month, run a qualifying club race (by each Grade) to then participate in a district meet in May.

Health Education

EES Library News

If you have any questions, please email: Ms. Smith @ tsmith@sd69.bc.ca

Photo Gallery

See you on the trails!

Student Learning Surveys:

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 **May 3, 2024**.

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 have finished the survey, you will get a message "Thank you for sharing your views".

Child Dental Benefit

Families with an income of under \$90,000 are eligible for a dental benefit for uninsured children under 12. Applications are due **June 30**. Find out [more](#).

Drop-off and Pick-up

Please note that school begins at 8:10am and dismissal is at 1:56pm.

We would like to remind parents to us the Lower Parking Lot for drop off / pick up of their students, in the morning and right after school.

Pete the Cat is back! April 25th, 2024



Planning for September

In the coming months, we will begin developing a draft class organization for next school year. This includes projecting student enrolment and creating classes that make the most efficient use of our staff, while at the same time, observing provincial class size limits and building classes that can work together as a team. Below is a link to a letter from the Associate Superintendent regarding class formation for September 2023. If you would like to provide input to your child's placement, please do this by **Friday, April 12th**. Parent input is one of several factors that guide us in the formation of classes. We must pay attention to the other important considerations outlined in the letter below, which contribute to an optimum learning environment for all children. While a smaller school such as ours has many benefits, we are also faced with a very limited number of classes at each grade level – which limits placement options.

[Please refer to the following letter from the Assoc. Superintendent of Schools](#)



Online Safety Sessions

[Safer Schools Together](#) is offering *erase* virtual family learning sessions on social media awareness and online safety. Share them widely within your districts and school communities!

Additional information and registration [here](#).



QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
Yath cisum / Always growing / Grandissons ensemble

March 2024

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

RE: BUILDING COHORTS FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR 2024-2025

During the next month, staff at our schools will begin the complex process of forming learning groups for the upcoming school year. This work includes projecting student enrollment and creating environments that make the most effective use of our staff and most importantly, building balanced student groupings that can work together cohesively as learning communities. This is a challenging task as there are many factors that must be taken into consideration including:

- Social and emotional dynamics
- Academic strengths and needs
- Unique learning needs
- Class size goals

Staff take this work very seriously and collaborate extensively in order to make the best decisions about student placement. We strive to shape learning environments which will support the needs of all students.

There are many unknowns as we begin this task. For example:

- We are not sure who all of the teachers will be at our schools next year as the annual staffing process is not completed until late June.
- Some staff members may request, or be asked, to change their assignment for next year.
- We are never completely clear about our enrollment until early September so learner groupings must remain somewhat fluid.

As a result, the learner groupings that we create in spring are tentative and are not finalized until early in the new school year. For this reason, learner groupings will be kept confidential until they are finalized in September.

If you would like to provide staff at your child's school with input for next year, we encourage you to:

1. Talk to your child's current teacher; and then,
2. Send a note to the school principal outlining what you see as your child's learning needs, preferred learning style, or any other information you think might be relevant as staff work through the task of shaping learning environments for the upcoming year.

We ask that you do not request a specific teacher. Your input will be considered along with the other complex variables that go into constructing a learning group.

The **deadline** for submitting information regarding your child's learning group placement is **Friday, April 12, 2024**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Wilson".

Gillian Wilson
Associate Superintendent of Schools

PO Box 430, 100 Jensen Ave. East, Parksville, B.C. V9P 2G5
Phone (250) 248-4241 Fax (250) 248-5767 www.sd69.bc.ca

Wildcats Sports Desk

Wildcats Victory - Wildcats Claw their way to the Top

On Wednesday March 13th the Errington Wildcats Volleyball team made history by winning a first-place district banner. This is the first time that an Errington Elementary team has won first place in any sporting discipline. The girls had such great attitudes over the entire day, and they just got stronger and more confident as the day progressed. A huge congratulations to the entire Wildcats Volleyball team, especially to Karen Fairweather and Linda Weingart for all their efforts coaching this season. Also, a special shout-out to our assistant coaches and former Errington Wildcats, Alyssa Lane as well as Lily and Andrea Williams. Their coaching tips were so helpful over the season, and it was great to show our kids what high school volleyball looks like. Our final game was a dominant victory over Arrowview Elementary to clinch the title. It was a truly heartwarming conclusion with lots of screaming, cheering, tears and jumping for joy!



Health Education Starts Mid-April

Health Education is a part of the Physical Education curriculum and this year classes will begin in Mid-April. For younger classes this will mean a couple of classroom visits to talk about ways to stay safe and learn the scientific names for our private parts. For middle grades it's a few more classes to discuss similar content in more detail. For our older learners we have more classes which cover areas such as puberty, sexual health and identity and ways to keep our bodies healthy.

Below I've included the main learning outcomes from the P.E. curriculum that will be covered at each grade level. Please note the information your child receives may be slightly different from another child in the same grade depending on if they are in a split grade classroom. For example, a student in grade 3 might learn about some of the grade 4 content if they are in a grade 3 / 4 split class; whereas if that same grade 3 were in a grade 2/3 split class they would hear more of the primary content.

Kindergarten & Grade 1

- Names for parts of the body, including male and female private parts
- Appropriate and inappropriate ways of being touched
- Reliable sources of health information

Grade 1, 2, 3

- Names for parts of the body, including male and female private parts
- Strategies for accessing health information
- Strategies and skills to use in potentially hazardous, unsafe, or abusive situations

Grades 3,4,5

- Describe ways to access information on and support services for a variety of health topics
- Strategies and skills to use in potentially hazardous, unsafe or abusive situations, including common lures or tricks used by potential abusers.
- Factors that influence self-identity, including body image and social media
- Physical, emotional, and social changes that occur during puberty, including those involving sexuality and sexual identity.

Grades 5,6,7

- Practices that promote health and well-being, including those that prevent communicable and non-communicable illnesses.
- Sources of health information and support services
- Strategies to protect themselves and others from potential abuse, exploitation, and harm in a variety of settings
- Physical, emotional, and social changes that occur during puberty, including those involving sexuality and sexual identity, and changes to relationships

EES Library News

This month:

SEASONAL ROUNDS - POLLINATORS, FROG AND CRANES: It's Earth Month in our Library. We have many books and resources on display about pollination, animals and plants in this season of **tum qwilus** (Time of Ripening) under the **litmus** moon (Moon of the Sandhill Crane). This month on our nature walks, we'll study pollinators and plants along our Forest Stewardship Trail. Did you know we have a Butterfly Alley? We'll be talking about water, conservation and companion planting. We've got lots of great stuff available in the library, come on in and check them out! Special thanks to our student Nature Leaders Anna, Adaya, Luca, Axsel and Desiree!

GLADIATORS CHESS: Congratulations to our Gladiators Chess Champions! We enjoyed a very exciting tournament just before spring break and the following students won their grade level:

- Grade 7 - Gage E
- Grade 6 - Ben Z
- Grade 5 - Tyson S
- Grade 4 - Vincent L

Lukas. S won the Sportsmanship Award and Adaya. B won Most Improved Player. These students are invited to the District Chess Tournament on May 2nd at QBES. Our Special Thanks to our Gladiators Chess Club members who ran a great tournament!

COAST SALISH WEAVE COLLECTION: We are thrilled to welcome 10 pieces from the Coast Salish Weave Collection. The collection will arrive the week of April 15 and stay for a month in our Lobby Gallery. We will be sharing some fun activities with classes including Coast Salish Shapes, Geometry and Animal Traits. We'll also be learning about the Spindle Whorl design including the history of spindle whorls and the Coast Salish Woolly Dogs. Click here for more information about this fabulous collection <https://salishweave.com/>. Thank you to Sarah Elson-Haugan and Indigenous Education staff for helping us with this special presentation.

LOST AND OVERDUE BOOKS: Please check at home and bring back your overdue books. If you have lost a book, let us know and we can figure out how to replace it. Thanks!

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook

PHOTO GALLERY

Salish Weave Examples from 2023



Gladiators Chess 2024



Gladiators Chess 2024



***Congratulations
to the
Gladiators Chess
Champions!***



Daily Lunch available @ EES

Our daily lunch program is underway and while we have experienced some hiccups along the way in launching this new program, we are grateful to be able to provide meals at school for students.

Our dedicated PAC continues to offer Hot Lunch on specific Fridays. Ordering for both programs will be done through Munch-a-Lunch, however, it will be through separate accounts.

**Please note that the ability to order lunches is a week prior to the date of the lunch.

EES Lunch Program (daily lunch)	EES PAC Hot Lunches (select Fridays only)
Errington School Meals If you already have a PAC account use: ADD Errington School	PAC Hot Lunches

Community Programs & Events

We get numerous advertisements for community programs and opportunities to include in newsletters. Please click on the link below to view the events/programs offered within the community – access is via the Qualicum School District Community Page:

<https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Community69/Pages/default.aspx#/>

RDN - REC Connect

RDN Recreation and Parks offers programs and services year-round.
 Link: <https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/rec-connect>

Information for Families:

- [Family Accident Reimbursement Plan](#)

KEY DATES

APRIL
 29 - Pro-D Day (no school)

MAY
 15 - Showcase of Learning (2:15-7:00 pm)
 17 - Conferencing Adjustment Day (no school)
 20 - Victoria Day (no school)

JUNE
 27 - Final day of school - early dismissal