



EES Newsletter

March 2024
Issue #10

Principal's Message:

February was a very busy month at EES, and now we are just a week away from our spring break (March 18-April 2, 2024). Despite the cooler weather bringing snow and ice this week, we appreciate the longer days and look forward to the warmer weather ahead. Our field and playgrounds are busy with students engaged in soccer, basketball, tag games and other active play, and it is wonderful to see students practicing "kindness" and helping support each other with problem-solving and building positive social connections.

Our second written Learning Update will be going home on March 12. To understand more about how teachers are communicating the learning of children, this link will help provide information for families - [Communicating Student Learning](#). Many teachers also have on-line portfolios and frequently share updates of student learning throughout the year.

We hope spring break provides families with time to enjoy some time away from the school routine. We look forward to seeing everyone back in April and ready to tackle the final term of this school year.

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.



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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](#).

Pink Shirt Day

On February 28th we held a student led school assembly to recognize National Pink Shirt Day. Together we learned about empathy and celebrated kindness and inclusion. Thank you to Mrs. Fernandez and Michelle Munroe supporting students with presentations and performances, and to Ms. Hamilton for teaching everyone the song, "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars.



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 attached the letter from the Assoc. Superintendent of Schools

All "*Applications for Cross-boundary Enrollment for Following School Year*" forms **must be submitted by Friday, March 15th, 2024.**

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.

Oscar

"Oscar joins our school community on Wednesday mornings as BC and Alberta Guide Dogs' first school ambassador dog. Originally trained and later adopted by former Wildcat teacher, Barb McLaughlin, Oscar has a temperament best suited for supporting children. He loves pets and visits but, please ask his handler first. You'll find him out on morning supervision, in Room 14, and around the school, working with students.

We love Oscar!"





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,

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

EES Library News

Seriously Awesome Series Book Draw - Congratulations to our 24 Book Draw winners!

We had 419 entries in our draw and drew two winners from each class! Room 16 had the most entries with 80! That is amazing. Congratulations to our winners who shopped at our shops with the help of our Senior Leaders who have been so helpful.

Gladiators Chess: Our Gladiators Chess Finals will be held Thursday March 14 in the Library. Games start at 11:55 pm sharp

Grade 4: Vincent vs Sean

Grade 5: Eli vs Tyson

Grade 6: Theo vs Ben Z

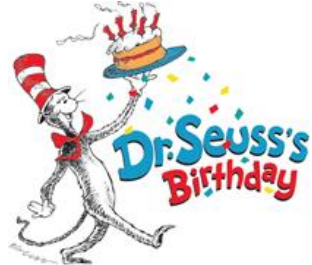
Grade 7: Jacob vs Gage

After the match, we will have a medals and certificates presentation. Our champions will have the opportunity to play at the district levels in May.

We will also be awarding two additional medals: the Sportsmanship Award and the Most Improved Player award!

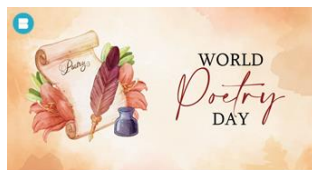
A special thank you to our chess club members who have been great at overseeing our chess activities this year: Thomas, Wyatt, Ben Z, and Jacob with help from Adaya, Tyson, Odin, Julie and Ms. Hamilton

March is Fun with Words month in our library! We are displaying books about puzzles, riddles, jokes, limericks, and poetry. What is an idiom? What does an epigraphist do? Did you know that the earliest joke ever found came from 4,000 years ago? Yes, it was a fart joke! Watch our school walls for fun jokes from Mrs. Barclay's class :)



Celebrate the Seuss! March 2 is Dr. Seuss' birthday! He was born in 1904 and is one of the best-loved authors in the world. Check out this link for stuff to do to celebrate the Seuss!
<https://www.seussville.com/educators/dr-seuss-birthday/>

Friday March 8 is International Women's Day, so we have put out some books to celebrate fantastic women in Canada and our world, past and present.



It is World Poetry Day on March 21. Check out our great collection of beautiful intentional words! We're happy to bring a little bin of poetry books for your class, just let us know:)

Please bring back all your library books! Mrs. Cook and I are trying to get books back before Spring Break. We will be sending out overdue notices on Monday March 11. Thanks everyone!

Ms. Richards and Mrs. Cook

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

MARCH

12 - Learning Updates home
 15 - Last day of school before Spring Break

18-28 Spring Break

29 - Good Friday

APRIL

2 - School reopens
 29 - Pro-D Day (no school)

MAY

17 - Conferencing Adjustment Day (no school)
 20 - Victoria Day (no school)

JUNE

27 - Final day of school - early dismissal