



ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Vice-Principal: Ms. Florence Wong
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September 8, 2023

Principal's Message

Welcome Back! I hope you enjoyed the summer break with your children. As we commence another school year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all students and parents, and a special welcome to those who are new to Errington Elementary. Thank you to all staff for their efforts to help promote a successful start-up. It was really nice to reconnect with the students this week and we look forward to the exciting months ahead – learning, growing, and being together.

As the students settle into their new classrooms, please remember that we are a team that supports your child – celebrating the good things that happen and working through the challenges together. We value the student-teacher-parent relationships we have as an important part of our learning community. We know that various situations or concerns come up from time to time throughout the year. Please contact your child's teacher if you have a question or concern. It is recommended that you leave a note, email, or phone message for your child's teacher to set up a suitable time. It is challenging to have meaningful and/or sensitive conversations at the busy drop-off and pick-up times.

I will be continuing to share my time between EES and my District Principal of Early Learning and Childcare position this fall, but I am able to carry out much of my district work from EES. Ms. Wong (Vice-Principal) has taken on additional responsibilities this fall, one of which being the bi-weekly newsletter. Ms. Wong has some great ideas on how to improve our newsletter, so stay tuned for a new and improved format coming soon!






This week I have included some information that you may find useful on developing strategies to get this school year off to a good start.

The start of a new school year is the perfect time to develop strategies to help your child have a successful year. Here are some strategies to help your child get this new school year off to a great start:

It's the beginning of the school year – the perfect time to set the stage for learning success. Help your child get off to a great start with these simple strategies:

- **Get a head start.** Many families find that organizing at night prevents morning “rush hour.” You can review school papers, pack and refrigerate lunches, set backpacks by the door and agree on outfits.
- **Establish sleep routines.** Choose reasonable bedtimes so everyone is rested when it's time to wake up. Make sure everyone sticks to their bedtimes.
- **Develop morning habits.** If your child does the same things (in the same order) each morning, it's less likely that she will forget a step. For example: make bed, get dressed, eat breakfast, brush teeth and put on shoes
- **Choose a homework time.** With your child, pick a time when she will have the most energy and motivation to do assignments. Create a quiet study spot (complete with necessary supplies) where she can work at the same time each day.
- **Use tools for organization.** Teach your child how to use calendars, to-do lists and a filing system for schoolwork and important papers.
- **Set priorities.** Schedule things like schoolwork, family meals and even free time on a calendar. Treat them like appointments. If there are open blocks of time, your children can add activities.

EES Bell Schedule 2023-2024

8:10 am	Instruction begins	
9:45am	Morning Recess begins	
10:05am	Morning Recess ends	
11:35am-11:50am	Eating Period	
11:50am	Lunch Recess begins	
12:20pm	End of playtime, Instruction resumes	
1:56pm	Dismissal	
2:11pm	Students not picked up report to office	

Drop-off and Pick-up

Please note that school begins at 8:10am and supervision begins at 7:50am. 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.



We would like to welcome the following people who have joined our staff:

- Hilary Begin (Speech/Language Pathologist)
- Elaine Chandler (Educational Assistant)
- Brianne Hodgson (Educational Assistant)
- Karen Richards (Educational Assistant)
- Nicole Snazel (Early Childhood Educator)
- Paul Wright (Learning Support Teacher)



Picture Day

Concept Photos will be here to take individual and class photos on October 27th. Mark your calendars! Photo re-takes will take place on November 15, 2023.

Meet the Teacher Night

Mark your calendars! We are planning an open house and "Meet the Teacher" evening on Thursday, September 21st. Stay tuned for more details!



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.

Important 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!

Inclement Weather and Clothing

Although we have had sunny days, we know that soon the rainy weather will be upon us! It is extremely important for students to have appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor use, along with a pair of inside shoes to change into when inside the building. These shoes are also



used for gym use. We expect students to wear warm coats (hoods are a good idea) and we recommend boots, hats, gloves, and umbrellas. In general, students go outside to play during recess and lunch breaks, even if it is raining or snowing. Each day, we assess the combination of weather, wind, and temperature to determine whether or not it is suitable for the students to play outside. We recommend that students have a spare change of clothing kept at school in case of various emergencies.

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.



Volunteering

At EES we love to have volunteers in our school! If you would like to help out in the classroom, library, go on fieldtrips or help on our PAC, please fill out a Police Information Check form available in the EES office. It is simple to do! Just fill out the form and bring to the R.C.M.P. office in Parksville. If you bring in the letter template indicating it is for Errington Elementary School, it is free. This needs to be done once every few years. Due to privacy laws, you must complete the Police Information Check separately for each organization you are involved with. It is best to take care of this now so that you can support throughout the year.



Questions parents can ask students about their day

Here is a useful link to an article to support parents when asking their questions about the school day; other than the same old question..... "How was your day?"

<https://herviewfromhome.com/50-questions-to-ask-your-kids-instead-of-asking-how-was-your-day/>

Bike Safety

It has been wonderful to see some students choosing to ride their bikes to and from school! Please remind your children that we expect bike helmets to be worn at all times while riding. We highly recommend sending your child with a lock for their bike while parked at EES during the school day. At the end of the school day, we ask that students wait to leave on their bikes until AFTER the buses have left the parking lot. We ask that bikers remember that when using crosswalks, please stop and look before walking out; dismount bicycle and check for traffic and walk across; DO NOT just ride up and ride across. Drivers need some notice.

Community Programs & Events

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:

Community Events & Programs 2023-2024

Please click on the PDF link below to view the events/programs offered – access is via the SD69 Community Page:

Oceanside Volleyball Club – Train & Play

BC Youth Rocks – Curling

Free Books for Preschoolers! (for children born in 2021 & living in Qualicum School District #69 (Bowser to Nanoose Bay)

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

Information for Families:

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan

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

EES Calendar of Events

September		
	21	Open House/Meet the Teacher
	30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October	2	Statutory Holiday (no school)
	9	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
	20	Provincial Pro-D Day (no school)
	27	Photo Day
November	10	Conferencing Adjustment Day (no school)
	11	Remembrance Day
	13	Statutory Holiday (no school)
	14	Pro-D Day (no school)
	15	Photo Re-take Day
December	1	District-Wide Planning Day (no school)
	22	Last day before winter break
January	8	Schools Re-open after winter break
February	19	BC Family Day (no school)
March	1	Pro-D Day (no school)
	15	Last day before spring break
April	2	Schools Re-open after spring break/Easter
	29	Pro-D Day (no school)
May	17	Conferencing Adjustment Day (no school)
	20	Victoria Day (no school)
June	27	Last day for Elementary students. Dismissal is 3 hours earlier than usual (10:56am)