



ELEMENTARY

Tom Vickers – Principal

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## CALENDAR

### December

5.....Early Dismissal @ 1:48 pm  
11.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm  
12.....Soccer Jamboree  
13.....Hot Lunch Day

### Dec 24-Jan 4....Winter Break

### January

8.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm  
28.....Non Instructional Day

### February

12.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm  
14.....PAC Hot Lunch  
15.....Non Instruction Day  
18.....Family Day – STAT

### March

4.....Non Instructional Day  
6.....Early Dismissal; 1:48pm  
8.....Basketball Jamboree  
12.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm  
13.....District Elementary Swim Meet

### Mar 18 – Mar 29 Spring Break

### April

8.....Non Instructional Day  
9.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm  
11.....Hot Lunch Day  
19....Good Friday  
22.....Easter Monday

### May

10.....Non Instructional Day  
14.....PAC Meeting; 6:30pm  
20.....Victoria Day STAT

### June

11.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm  
13.....Elementary School Track Meet  
13.....Hot Lunch Day  
27.....Last Day of School  
28.....Admin Day-no school in session

### SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Please phone **250-656-7425**  
if your child will be absent or late.

## December 2018

## NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with mixed emotions that I write this message. I am incredibly sad that I will be leaving the staff, students and parents/guardians that I have worked with so closely over the past seven years. The relationships I have made will always be cherished and never forgotten. I look forward to my new opportunity at Lochside Elementary but hope to stay connected with our Sidney School Community.

Our staff have been using a wide variety of assessment strategies and tools to communicate their students learning this term. The following statements of belief and value related to reporting student learning have come from teachers and administrators working in collaboration.

As educators in Saanich Schools, we believe that report cards ...

- Reflect the needs of the intended audience (parents and students) to be informed about student learning and progress.
- Reflect a celebration of learning and growth (progress over time) in relation to defined learning standards.
- Assist in moving student learning forward, including a collaborative partnership between students, parents and teachers.
- Be reflective of essential elements of learning (e.g. Core Competencies, Big Ideas and concepts).
- Be personal and reflect the teacher's knowledge of the individual student as a learner.
- Include comments that are strength-based and reflect what the learner is able to do and areas for continued growth.
- Are done in alignment with and in support of on-going communications about student learning (e.g. e-portfolios), thereby becoming less of an 'event'.
- Reflect that these are "progress" reports and should show student progress to that point in time.
- The process and report card should reflect the student's voice.

The staff at Sidney have begun and continue to be working with a product called FreshGrade. FreshGrade is a local product (developed and hosted in Kelowna) that offers a means of sharing student learning in an ongoing way with students and parents. FreshGrade creates an opportunity to gather evidence (anecdotal, voice, photo, video) of student learning and share it with the student and their parent/guardian. It also offers the opportunity to create a report card template consistent with our beliefs. We look forward to sharing our students progress with you during the early weeks of December.

With appreciation,  
Tom Vickers

### BEE BULLETINS



Important information and reminders are sent out via email to our Sidney community through our website as BEE Bulletins on a regular basis. Visit [www.sidney.sd63.bc.ca](http://www.sidney.sd63.bc.ca/), on the left select Forum Subscriptions. **Subscribe to stay informed!** If you have difficulty subscribing or opening the BEE Bulletins please contact the office.

### FALL WEATHER



The weather can be wet, cold and windy these days. Students are reminded to follow our Sidney BEEliefs by 'taking care of yourself'. We need fresh air throughout the day and to be physically active so it is important to layer clothing, have a warm jackets and proper footwear as outside can get wet and muddy.

### EARLY DISMISSAL DAY



We will have our next Early Dismissal Day on Wednesday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:48pm. Please take this opportunity to connect with your child's classroom teacher.

## SAFE SCHOOLS



We are reviewing our Safe School procedures and want to make sure that all our students are safe. Below are a couple of things that you can do to ensure student safety:

- **Contact our Safe Arrival at 250-656-7425** if your child is absent or will be late.
- Be sure to **sign your children in/out if your child is arriving late or leaving early** from school at the office.
- Contact the office if you have a change in your phone number, address or emergency contacts.
- Check in at the office when visiting the school during school times.

## TECH TUESDAYS



Starting in two weeks we are having Tech Tuesdays from 8-8:40 on Tuesday mornings in the Learning Commons (LC). Intermediate students are invited to program and build with North Saanich Middle School Students. The Librarian from NSMS will be here as well. To participate students must be in the LC at 8 am as the activities will not allow students to come in and out throughout the time. We are looking forward to inventing, building, coding and creating. If successful, we will offer the opportunity to younger grades. We are looking forward to continuing to foster creative and innovative thinking at our school!

## REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY



On November 9<sup>th</sup>, Sidney staff and students honoured all those who have served Canada over its history. This student led assembly was very moving and demonstrate a depth of understanding by our students on what Remembrance Day is all about.

Thank you to the students, staff, parents and community members who are able to come and be a part of this special assembly. We would also like to thank Ms. Kjernisted for her help with organizing this ceremony.

## LOST & FOUND



We have **MANY** unclaimed clothing articles in our Lost and Found located near the office / breakfast club area. Please come check the lost and found for hoodies, jackets and various other clothing items your child may have left at school.

## SIDNEY SCHOOL GRADE 4 & 5 INTRA-MURAL SOCCER



We are at the mid way point of our season. We currently have over 50 Intermediate boys and girls participating in our weekly games. We have our final jamboree on the morning of Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Panorama Rec. Please watch for permission forms coming home.

## BICYCLES, SCOOTERS & SKATEBOARDS ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



For the safety of everyone, we ask students (and adults) to get off their bicycles, scooters and skateboards at the edge of the school property and driveways. This will help to ensure that no one gets injured by a bike, scooter or skateboard.

A reminder that approved bicycle helmets are the law for all cyclists. To ensure the helmet is doing the job it is meant to, please check the fit of your child's helmet.

## HEALTHY BREAKFAST PROGRAM



We would like to inform staff, parents and students that we will once again serve a breakfast program for children from 8:15-8:35 am each morning. Please enter through the doors near the gym. Research has shown that students who have a healthy breakfast achieve greater academic success. We are confident that our Healthy Breakfast Program helps our students start their school day with the energy they need to focus on their schoolwork.

## SCHOOL PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF PARKING



Just a friendly reminder to please not park or idle in the "No Admittance Parking" area, when picking up your children. This area is for staff, service vehicles, district maintenance vans and handicapped parking. It is important that we keep these spaces open at all times.

## PETS ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



We are asking families to remember to always keep their dogs on a leash when on the school grounds. This is essential for the safety of students on the playgrounds who are not familiar with your pet or may be allergic to animals. We also ask that you do not bring your pets into the school for the above reasons.

## SUPERVISION IN THE MORNING AND AFTER SCHOOL



Each morning we have supervision outside from 8:10 am to 8:35 am. Unfortunately this means we do not have any supervision in the school until 8:35 am when the bell rings. It is very important that if you take your child to their class in the morning prior to the bell, you speak with their teacher so that you do not leave them in the room unsupervised. When it is nice outside we are asking students to wait outside until the bell as this is a great time to make connections with their peers.

After school we have supervision until 3:00 pm. We will be asking children who have not been picked up at that time to wait in the office for their parents.

## PAC NEWS



The next PAC Meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 11<sup>h</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons. All parents/guardians of Sidney School students are welcome to attend. We hope you can join us!

## FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

### HEAD LICE AWARENESS



Head lice are common in BC communities. Although they are a bother, head lice are not a health risk.

**island health** Head lice spread quickly by close, head-to-head contact. Lice cannot live on furniture or carpet, and they cannot jump or fly. There may be few or no symptoms, but itching may occur.

You can help by:

- Checking your child's head with the wet-combing method of detection once a week throughout the school year.
- Review the pamphlet Wet Combing –How to Get Rid of Head Lice, available online, at your school and Public Health Unit.
- Encouraging your child to wear their hair tied back.
- Treating if you notice live lice on your child's head.
- Reminding family and friends about the importance of routine head checks.

## PREVENTING COLDS AND INFLUENZA (FLU)



Cold and influenza season is here. As the weather gets cooler and we move indoors, so do germs. Children need reminders to decrease the risk of colds and flu in your house by:

- Washing hands often
- Coughing and sneezing into their elbow
- Not sharing facecloths or towels
- Keeping hands away from nose and mouth
- Not sharing food or drink with others

To help limit the spread of germs, please keep your child at home if they are feverish, coughing a lot, has a thick yellow or green discharge from the nose, or is otherwise obviously unwell.

### Remember:

- Viruses cause colds and influenza
- The most effective treatment for a cold is rest and fluids
- The influenza vaccine will protect against specific types of influenza
- Antibiotics will not make a cold or other virus go away faster
- Call your doctor if your child has an earache, fever higher than 39C (102F), rash, is very sleepy, very cranky or fussy, has trouble breathing or a cough that will not go away.
- Handwashing is the most effective way to stop the spread of germs that cause colds, influenza, diarrhea, and other illnesses
- Wash hands, before and after eating or handling food, after using the toilet, handling pets, coughing, sneezing, or wiping noses