



CALENDAR

January

9.....Family Grouping; 2:00 pm
10.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
18.....Ready Set Learn Open
.....House; 3:15 pm
25.....Kindergarten Info Evening
30.....Non Instructional Day
30-Feb 3. Kindergarten Registration

February

1.....Planet Protector Assembly
6.....Family Grouping; 2:00 pm
13.....Family Day-STAT
14.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
24.....Non Instructional Day
27.....Gr.4/5 Victoria Symphony

March

6.....Non Instructional Day
9.....Early Dismissal; 1:48 pm
10.....Basketball Jamboree
13.....Family Grouping
14.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
15.....Swim Meet; 12:00 pm

Mar 20 – 31...Spring Break

April

3.....Family Grouping
11.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
14.....Good Friday-STAT
17.....Easter Monday-STAT
28.....Non Instructional Day

May

1.....Family Grouping
8.....Non Instructional Day
9.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
22.....Victoria Day-STAT

June

5.....Family Grouping
12.....PAC Meeting; 6:30 pm
28.....Year End Assembly
29.....Last Day of School
30.....Admin Day-No School in
Session



SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

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

January 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I would like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone back to school. January is a great time at an elementary school. The rush of the holiday season is over and it is a great time of year to focus on academics.

I would also like to thank our Sidney School community for your support and generosity with our service learning project with Anawim in December. The Sidney Community was able to deliver 50 stockings for the less fortunate men and women in Victoria.

Each year our School District receives a “Capital Budget” Grant funded by the Provincial Government. This grant is used to update and maintain the facilities within the district. This year Sidney Elementary was selected as one of the top priorities in the district for renovation. Due to the unique time lines required by this grant, all work must be completed by the end of March 2017. This summer phase one of three phases was completed. The second phase will start mid January. In this phase a new Learning Commons will be built in the area beside our main office.

This will require three of our existing classrooms to be demolished. For the remainder of the year classes that were in those spaces will be relocated to other areas in our building. We are hoping that there will be minimal disruption to our daily routines and learning environments. We look forward to our new renovations.

As the cold weather begins, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately to stay warm and dry when outside for our breaks in the day. We believe it is important for children to get outside as much as possible to get fresh air and some exercise. We are right in the middle of flu season so if your child is sick, please keep them at home. Keeping everyone healthy is a priority.

I am positive that with all of the great things happening at Sidney Elementary, 2017 will be a great year.

Respectfully,
Tom Vickers, Principal

Family Literacy Day



To celebrate Family Literacy Day we want you to read with your child/children one of your favourite children's books and start the day with another family read in. If you need to borrow a book from our Learning Commons, come in and do it!

If possible, please plan on staying with your child (or have a family member or caregiver) and reading with them for the first 20 minutes of the day on Friday, January 27.

Thanks in advance for participating in another activity designed to promote family reading!

Saanich Schools (SD63) READY SET LEARN Open House

Introduce yourself – Parents and preschoolers (3 years and up) are invited to visit their neighbourhood school.



- Participate in hands-on learning activities.
- Tour your neighbourhood school.
- Learn about community resources available to support families.

Wednesday, January 18, 2017; 3:15-6:00 pm.

Join us at your neighbourhood school.

Brentwood Elementary	250-652-3996
Cordova Bay Elementary	250-658-5315
Deep Cove Elementary	250-656-7254
Keating Elementary	250-652-9261
KELSET Elementary	250-655-4648
Lochside Elementary	250-658-5238
Prospect Lake Elementary	250-727-3314
Sidney Elementary	250-656-3958

NEWSLETTER

Kindergarten Information Evening for Fall 2017



Please join us for an evening of information about SD63 Kindergarten programs on **January 25, 2017; 7:00-8:30 pm**, at **Keating Elementary**, 6843 Central Saanich Rd, Saanichton, V8Z 5V4

Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2017

January 30-February 3, 2017

All Children born in 2012 are eligible to register for Full Day Kindergarten at your neighbourhood school

To register at your neighbourhood school please bring:

- Proof of your address (resident driver's license, utility bill, etc.)
- Proof of your child's age (birth certificate).
- Your child's BC Care Card.

After February 3rd, all K-5 registrations will be done at:

Saanich School Board Office
2125 Keating Cross Road
8am to 4 pm

Chocolate Lily Book Award



Chocolate Lily is coming to Sidney Elementary once again! Grade 3 students will read nominated titles and vote for their favourite book. Students will be exposed to some of the best fiction by British Columbia's children's authors and illustrators. For a full list of nominees, please visit: <http://www.chocolatelilyawards.com/>

- Winners will be announced June 9th, 2017.

Creative Writing Contest - A Celebration for Readers & Writers



Attention Intermediate Students! Write your story, poem, non-fiction article or memoir for a chance to win a prize!

If you are in Grade 4 or Grade 5 you must write at least 2 poems, or a max. 500 word piece based on a photo, picture, topic of your choice, or one of these opening lines:

- *Canada has to be the best country in the world.*
- *I finally got my first pet, but I sure didn't expect this!*

Prizes are awarded to the 2 best entries. All entries will be published in a special booklet available at the Sidney Literary Festival at <http://www.sidneyliteraryfestival.ca>

The Submission deadline is **March 15, 2017**.

Submit your entries to your Teacher-Librarian, Ms. Mattila.

Library Books



Please look carefully for Sidney School Library books. We have many overdue books that other children are waiting to read. Your child can get a printout from the Learning Commons if you are unsure which books are late.

Swim Club



Grade 3, 4 & 5s are invited to join our Sidney Swim Club starting January 11th on Wednesdays at 3:00 pm. The focus of the club is to encourage stroke improvement and develop stamina. Permission forms are at the office.

The District Swim Meet is scheduled on March 15th, 12:00-3:00 pm.

Intramural Basketball



Intermediate students interested in participating in basketball may sign up this week. Mrs. Collins, Mr. Vickers, Ms. Meausette, Ms. Ellison & Ms. Black will be running weekly practices culminating in a District Jamboree on March 10th.

COMMUNITY NEWS



PCEC "1000 X 5" Children's Book Recycling Project

PCEC "1000 X 5" Project needs your help in collecting children's picture books for redistribution to babies, toddlers, and other young children whose families live on the Peninsula. The vast majority of these books are donated through schools in Saanich

District.

Research indicates that home libraries have a significant positive effect on the literacy development of young children and their early success in school. Success begets success. For these reasons, the PCEC "1000 X 5" Project work will continue through to the end of June. Please continue to donate books your children have outgrown and encourage them to share the gift of literacy with others. Books may be left at the office.

Box Lacrosse Registration

Registration is open for the 2017 season at www.penlax.com Pre-season sessions will take place next month and the season starts up after spring break. Open to players born 2012 or later...mixed or girls only teams.... come out and play the fastest game on two feet!

PAC NEWS



The next PAC Meeting is Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons (Library). All parents/guardians of Sidney School students are welcome to attend. We hope you can join us!

Smile Cards



Smile cards from Thrifty Foods can be requested in the office. All proceeds go toward our PAC to use for our children supporting field trips, playgrounds, etc.

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.

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
- reating if you notice live lice on your child's head.
- Reminding family and friends about the importance of routine head checks.

For more information:

- [HealthLink BC File#06Head Lice](#)
- Contact your local [Public Health Unit](#)

KINDERGARTEN IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM



Child, Youth and Family Community Health offers immunization clinics throughout the year for Kindergarten aged children.

The following are the most common vaccines given to children at this age. Some children may be missing some vaccines and have not completed their childhood immunizations. Public Health Nurses or Family Physicians can ensure that your child is fully immunized against the following vaccine preventable diseases:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chickenpox
- Hepatitis B
- Meningococcal C

All of these vaccines are provided free of charge by the health unit or your family doctor. To check your child's immunization status or to make an appointment, phone your local Public Health Unit.

For more information contact:

- Your local Public Health Unit
- HealthLinkBC or dial 8-1-1 (a free call)
- HealthLink BC Files
- Your family doctor
- www.immunizebc.ca