

SOOKE ELEMENTARY NEWS

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Friday, January 29, 2016



Principal's message

We are half way through the year and it is finally calmer throughout the building. We have our portable in use for music and our last classroom renovated and ringing with student learning. Unfortunately we had to see a great community partner, KidsQuest leave our site to go farther afield because of our growth.

This site is blessed with excellent teaching and learning in the school and it shows to our visitors. We are often praised for the quality teaching and commitment we have to student learning and the 'vibe' as visitors walk in. We are very proud of this site! One thing we want to improve on is our late students and the resulting loss of instructional time during the morning routine. We notice that when children arrive late this causes interruptions at the classroom door and with the children settling in late the teacher is losing approximately 10-15 minutes each day getting that child 'up to speed'. That is over an hour a week!

We are asking for all parents to help us decrease this loss of instructional time by making sure your children arrive at school by 8:45 every morning. The bell rings at 8:40 to let children into the building from the playground. After children enter the building important time is spent preparing them for the day.

Also for the safety of your children, and to minimize interruptions at the classroom door, we are going to be very diligent in enforcing the expectation of not taking your children to the classroom door or delivering any items to them in the classroom during the school day. This sometimes takes teachers away from the classroom for up to ten minutes

by parents wanting to speak to the teacher about a particular concern. The best time to communicate with your child's teacher is afterschool, by e-mail or notes sent with students indicating you would like them to contact you. Schools are very busy places so please help us to provide the safest and most efficient educational experience for all children by having your children to school on time and avoiding class disruptions.

Hych'ka or HÍSWKE

Literacy Week

Our literacy week was between

January 25 and

the 29th. We celebrated all things literary. We dressed as our favorite character, enjoyed pancakes and read, read, read.

Ready, Set, Learn

This event is held every year at the Sooke Community Hall and introduces younger children to the 'learn by playing' approach. A great deal of time goes into organizing an event and our Kindergarten teachers participate. It is a wonderful addition to our community.

Kindergarten Registration



Do you know someone with a child turning five by Dec. 31, 2016 and lives in our catchment? We are taking registrations, on a first come first serve basis, starting at 8 AM, Jan. 25 through to the 29th. You can always register after this. Look to our website for registration forms and our new online registration link.

It's muddy out there!



As we are having B.C. winter weather, the ground is quite muddy and wet. It is appreciated if you can have a set of replacement



clothes in your child's back pack or in a bag on their hook in the classroom. That way we will not have contact you to bring a replacement to school for your child.

Food Bank and our Sooke Elementary Family

Of course we won the food fight!

Our school collected approximately 4 items of food per student at this site. In the end it is the Sooke Food Bank and our greater community who benefit and it is a great life lesson to our students to help out those in need.



Grizzlies

January 20th we had 12 Victoria Grizzly players come and read to our students and play a pick-up game with our grade 5 students. This organization is always willing to come to Sooke Elementary and the students love it when they are here.

Pancake Breakfast

Thank you to the Sooke Lions who provided the pancakes for our pancake breakfast. The Lion's day starts very early, bringing in the grills and mixing pancake batter in 5 gallon buckets. They made about 400 pancakes! Thanks also goes out to our parent community who helped to serve the pancakes and kept the line moving. Of course final thanks has to go to our PAC who paid for all the 'stuff' needed to eat the pancakes. What a superb event!

Norman Foote Concert

The students are busy practicing the songs to sing with Norman at our fundraising concert on Feb. 23rd. This event benefits our music program and any funds raised will go towards purchasing risers for the music room. Tickets are available for \$10 each for adults and \$5 each for children. Sooke Elementary students do not need a ticket as they are the performers!



There are only 350 seats at EMCS so there are only 350 tickets. Look for the order form in your child's backpack.

Parking on Golledge

Our neighbours on Golledge Avenue are asking that you respect their driveways and parking spots between Golledge and our gravel parking lot. They are noticing that people are parking/blocking their property when waiting to pick up their children. There is overflow parking down the side of the building please use this instead of parking on Golledge Avenue, thank you!



Dog Feces

Again we are noticing an increase in the amount of dog feces on our playgrounds and fields. If you are bringing your dog to the area after hours please ensure you, or your child, are picking up after your dog. Feces and children do not mix and this causes a great deal of anxiety. Thank you for your help.



Dates to Remember

Feb 3 – PAC Meeting
Feb 8 – Family Day, No School
Feb. 10 – Axis theatre production
Feb. 11 – Valentine's Dance
Feb. 17 – K Screening day
Feb.19 – Pro D No School
Feb. 23 – Norman Foote concert
Feb. 24 – Pink Day
Mar 14-Mar 29 – Spring Break

KIDS!
Come Sing and
Dance With...



With Special Guest
Thom Southwood



**FREE
Admission**
Donations gratefully accepted
Seating limited

**Sunday January 31
2:00
Sooke Community Theatre
at EMCS
250-642-6371**

**Doors
Open at
1:30**

Brought to you by:



Decoda

Artistic & Creative / Making sense of the world around us

Enhance Parent-Child Connection

February 2nd – March 1st – Tuesday Nights, 6:00-7:30 pm



An Attachment Based Skills Group for Parents and Caregivers.

This Attachment Based skills group is to support parents or caregivers of children ages 6-9 to think about behaviour from a different perspective, to develop awareness of relationship issues and patterns, and to learn new skills and consider fresh approaches to parenting.

Contact: Amanda or Natasha: (250) 391-4327 or email: amoulton@pcfcsa.org

Pacific Centre Family Services, Affordable Counselling Program: 345 Wale Rd.

Cost: 75\$ for 5 sessions.



Sooke Elementary

and

Norman Foote

Concert details

Come enjoy a fun and entertaining hour featuring renowned children's entertainer Norman Foote and the students of Sooke Elementary. This event is a fundraiser for the Sooke Elementary music program. Tickets will be available in the last week of January and they will cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. In order to buy your tickets please return the form your child brings home in the last week of January. You will also need to attach cash or a cheque for the tickets. Sooke Elementary students don't need tickets because they will be performing on stage! Buy your ticket early to avoid disappointment.

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 23RD

6:30 PM at the
EMCS Community
Theatre



2016 VANCOUVER ISLAND PARENT CONFERENCE

PARENTS AND EDUCATORS LEARNING TOGETHER

Launching the Framework: Changing Our View of Education

Saturday February 27, 2016

8:30 am to 4:30 pm

NEW LOCATION! Royal Bay Secondary School
3500 Ryder Hesjedal Way in Colwood

OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

Yong Zhao | Rod Allen | Jeff Hopkins | Shelley Moore

Advances in the science of learning have shown us that we need to see every child as an individual to be served, encouraged and supported. Technology and globalization have driven us to redesign the education system.

Our conference speakers will challenge our traditional view of education and propose a new paradigm aimed at cultivating creative and successful learners.

Our afternoon will feature interactive discussions designed to generate an action plan for a successful launch.



Registration: \$110 includes lunch and refreshments

Early bird rate: \$80 if registered by February 10th



For info updates or to register visit www.vipc.ca or email: info@vipc.ca
Presented by District Parents' Advisory Councils of Greater Victoria, Sooke & Cowichan Valley

