



Ecole Willow Point Elementary
250 Larwood Road,
Campbell River, BC, V9W1S4
sd72.bc.ca/willowpoint

December 1, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the holiday season approaches, we are working hard to maintain steady, consistent, and safe learning environments. Although student's energy levels inevitably climb, we do our best to maintain structure, routines, and consistent expectations. Our amazing PAC members have planned wonderful events for our students: **Photos with Santa** (Dec. 7th) and **Santa's Workshop** (Dec. 19). We are very thankful to them, for creating joyful school memories for our students.

Our **lock down drill** went smoothly. We hope you found the information sent out beforehand helpful in supporting your child to understand and participate in this emergency preparedness practice.

Our teachers have been working on writing meaningful **learning updates** (formerly known as report cards). You can expect these to be sent home the week of December 18th. Teachers have been gathering evidence by using observations, rubrics, frameworks, interviews, and conferences to evaluate student learning according to curricular standards in the BC K-12 curriculum. If you have questions or concerns about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

We hope you can join us for our **Winter Concert** on Thursday, December 21st, at either 9am or 1pm. Our students have been practicing very hard and are looking forward to showing off their performance skills!

We have begun collecting non-perishable food items for the **Knights of Columbus Christmas Hampers**. If you are able to contribute, the donation box is located in the school lobby. Thank you, for your generosity.

Monsieur Hendrick will return to EWP on Monday Dec. 4th from his leave of absence. We are thrilled to have him back! On behalf of our staff, we wish all our students, families, and caretakers a joyful holiday season and best wishes for the New Year. Thank you for your continued trust in us, to guide and lead your children in their learning.

Rachel Black
Acting Principal (until Dec. 4)

Knights of Columbus Hamper Drive

The Knights of Columbus delivers food hampers to over 1100 families in Campbell River each Christmas. 2023 will be the 50th consecutive year, as in previous years our school would like to help out and we are asking families to donate non-perishable food or cash donations by **December 11th.** (they will not be taking toys this year) eTransfers to: willow-point@sd72.bc.ca can be used to make cash donations. Cheques should be made out to École Willow Point.

The Knights of Columbus make their deliveries to families in need on December 16th. Hampers are delivered to seniors, families with children and individuals who often are working but just don't have the extra funds required at this time of year to fill stockings or have a festive Christmas dinner. Hampers also go to people with disabilities and those on low and fixed incomes. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Collection boxes will be set up outside the front entrance. Our schools generosity was amazing last year, lets do it again!!



Possible School Closures:

Tune into the Eagle, the River or Jet FM by 7:30 am to hear about any school closures. You can also check the School District website <http://www.sd72.bc.ca> as well as the SD72 Facebook page.



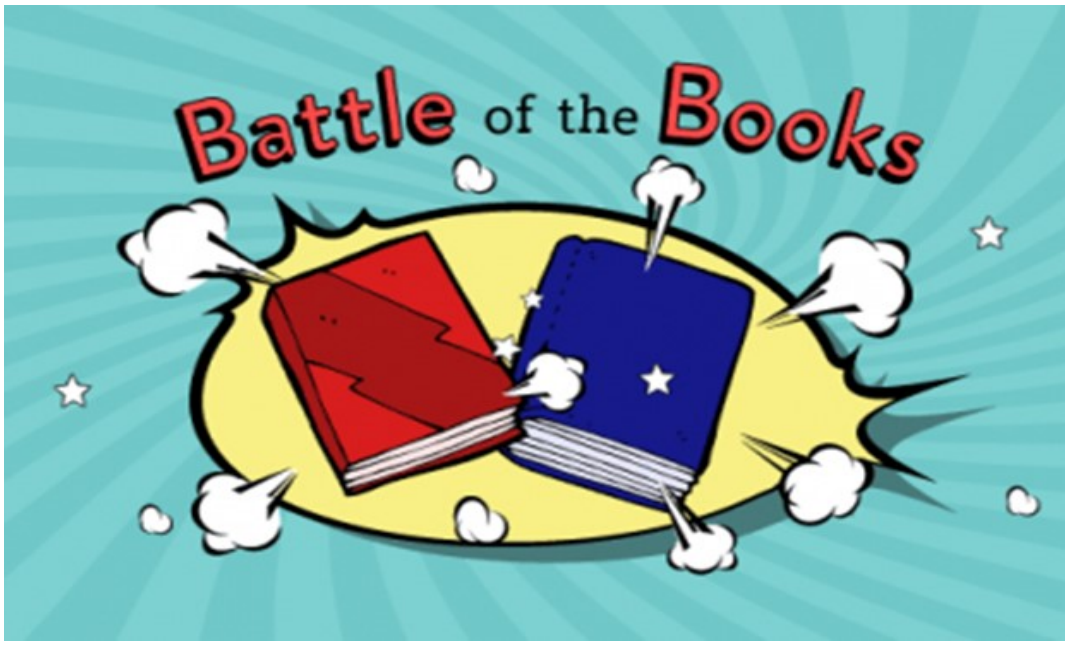
LOST & FOUND

There are MANY items in lost & found: Mitts, hats, coats, water bottles, shoes, etc.

Please check the lost & found for any of your child's belongings. It is located just inside the front doors.

Any thing left on the last day before Winter break will be taken to the Salvation Army thrift store.





The 2024 Battle of the Books titles have been released. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are invited to participate. The theme for our battle of the books this year is “Laugh out loud” or “LOL”.

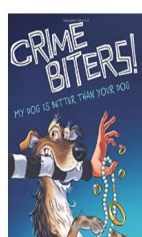
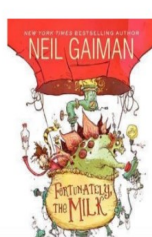
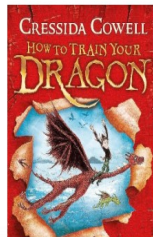
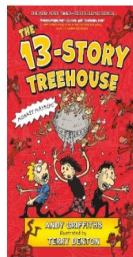
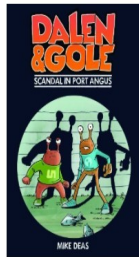
Teacher Librarians across the district have chosen six titles for each participating grade that are either funny or fun to read to encourage reading for pleasure. These books are available to students in our library and also in e-book and audio book format through the Sora app. Students will meet with Mme. Alex weekly to work out teams, make posters, discuss the books and practice for the battle.

The zones and district Battle of the Books competition will be held the week of March 4th to 8th, the school battle will be the week of February 26th to March 1st, exact dates TBA. If you have any questions, please contact Mme. Alex Simonut our teacher librarian alessandra.simonut@sd72.bc.ca

Battle of the Books 2023-2024

JUST FOR LAUGHS

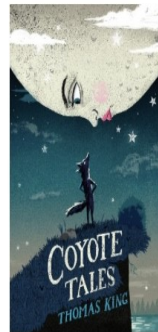
Grade 4



Battle of the Books 2023-2024

JUST FOR LAUGHS

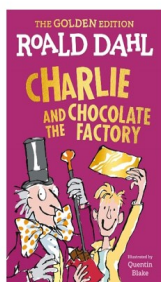
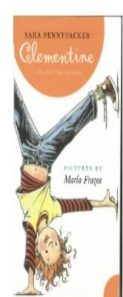
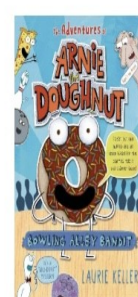
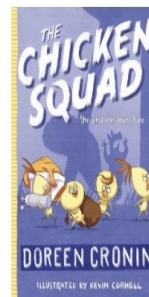
Grade 3



Battle of the Books 2023-2024

JUST FOR LAUGHS

Grade 5





Rainbow Club

Grade 3, 4 and 5 students are invited to attend our rainbow club on **Mondays** at lunch recess starting Monday, January 15th, 2024.

This club will be led by Mme. Alex Simonut (Teacher Librarian)

This club is a safe space for students to talk about sexual orientation and gender identity. Every session will start with a read aloud, a video or a lesson and then we will have some time to hang out and chat. This club might organize some school wide activities or decorate the school.

This is entirely optional; students can choose to participate and attend some weeks then decide to skip occasionally. Attendance will not be taken or shared with anyone not attending.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mme. Rachel Black, and for more information on the BC SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) curriculum you can check out: SOGI 1 2 3 (sogieducation.org)

Thank you,

Mme. Alex Simonut

Teacher Librarian

Ecole Willow Point

Alessandra.simonut@sd72.bc.ca

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY BOARD



Ava 08	Quinn 10	Emersyn 13
Sophie 13	Avery 17	Raeya 20 Gus 21
Brittany 22	Aurelie 24	Wynne 28 Franciso 29
Landon O 30	Gage 31	
Mme Brassard 14	M Hendrick 19	



EW P WINTER

CONCERT

December 21, 2023
9am or 1pm

Please join us for
either performance.

Shine Bright! Brille!



December 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Knights Of Columbus Food Hamper Donations Nov 23- Dec 11					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Santa Photo's & PJ Day	8	9
10	11	12 Bake Sale	13	14	15 Young Entrepreneur Fair	16
17	18	19 Santa's Workshop	20 	21 Winter Concert 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM	22 Last day of school before winter break. Xmas Attire Day!	23 
24 	25 	26	27	28	29	30



*Winter Break Dec 23- Jan 8th
School re-opens on January 9th
Happy Holidays*





November 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Government of British Columbia is pleased to inform you that your child may be able to receive a \$1,200 training and education savings grant.

Children are eligible if:

- ☐ The parent or guardian, and the child, are BC residents.
- ☐ The child's birth year is listed below, and the deadline has not passed:

BIRTH YEAR	APPLY BEFORE
2014	Apply before 9 th birthday in 2023
2015	Apply before 9 th birthday in 2024
2016	Apply before 9 th birthday in 2025
2017	Start applying on 6 th birthday in 2023

Once you open an account, known as a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), the Government of British Columbia will deposit a \$1,200 BC Training and Education Savings Grant into the RESP for your child. Students can use the money to pay for their education expenses (e.g., books, tools, rent or transportation) in an apprenticeship program, a trade school, CEGEP, college, or university.

Plan today: you don't have to put any money into the RESP for your child to receive the \$1,200.

Step 1: Get Social Insurance Numbers (SINs) for you and your child. Go to <http://www.canada.ca/social-insurance-number> or call 1-800-622-6232 to find out how.

Step 2: Make an appointment with a financial organization that offers RESPs. Bring the **SINs for you and your child** and say:

"I want to open an RESP and get the BC Training Education Savings grant for my child."

Learn more: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/BCTESG> Contact: BCTESG@gov.bc.ca Your child may also be eligible for other, federal incentives, see: canada.ca/education-savings.

Deputy Minister's Bulletin

Ministry of Education and Child Care



Communicable Disease Update: Respiratory Illness Season

November 18, 2022

PHO Update Regarding the Respiratory Illness Season

The Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, recently gave an [update on the respiratory illness season](#). Key messages included:

- Vaccination remains the best defense against COVID-19 and influenza.
- People are encouraged to practice health awareness, including regularly checking themselves and their children for symptoms of respiratory illness, and to stay home when sick.
- Everyone should be washing hands regularly and practicing respiratory etiquette
- Masks should be worn if a person has mild symptoms of illness.

There are no changes to the [Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K–12 School Settings](#). Districts and schools are encouraged to remind everyone:

- to practice [health awareness](#) and to stay home when sick.
- that schools are supportive environments for mask wearing, and a person's choice should be supported and respected. Evidence-based, trusted information on masks is available from [BCCDC](#).

BCCDC Updated Web Information

BCCDC has recently updated their information on [COVID-19 illness and outcomes in children](#) and is also providing regularly updated information of their ongoing surveillance of other [respiratory diseases](#).

Reminder: Notify Ministry of Functional Closures

Schools and districts are reminded to notify the Ministry (erase@gov.bc.ca) if they are considering or implementing a functional closure. Please include the reason for the closure and when you expect the school to re-open.

Free Personal Protective Equipment at PEAK Health

Additional supplies of certain non-medical protective equipment (e.g., non-medical masks, gloves, etc.) continue to be available to schools and districts at no charge, except for shipping costs. Supplies can be ordered through [PEAK Health](#) and shipped directly to your site. The link for the specific PPE available and ordering was previously sent to your district contact.

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS

In partnership with The Ministry of Education and Childcare's *erase* strategy, due to high demand, we are offering an additional "Social Media Awareness" Family Session on December 5th at 6:30pm. This 60 minute session will be held virtually via zoom.

To register for this session please click on the link below.

[Family Session: Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities Tickets, Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)



KINDERGARTEN IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Public 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.

Vaccine	Vaccine Schedule
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio (given in one poke)	Most children in kindergarten are due for this vaccine.
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Most children in kindergarten are due for a second dose of this vaccine.
	Children who have had chickenpox disease or shingles when they were over one year of age do not need this vaccine.
	Children who had chickenpox disease when they were younger than one year of age OR who have never had chickenpox disease should have already been given 1 dose of this vaccine and now need a second dose. If the second dose is necessary, it can be mixed with the measles mumps and rubella, so the child will be getting only one poke.
Hepatitis B	Most children in kindergarten should have already been given 3 doses of this vaccine.
Measles, Mumps and Rubella (given in one poke)	Most children in kindergarten should have already been given 1 dose of this vaccine. Most children in kindergarten are due for a second dose of this vaccine. In kindergarten it can be mixed with chickenpox vaccine so children will be getting only one poke.
Meningococcal C	Most children in kindergarten should have already been given 2 doses of this vaccine.

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:

Your local [Public Health Unit](#)
[HealthLinkBC](#) or dial 8-1-1 (a free call)
[HealthLink BC Files](#)



BC HEALTHY KIDS DENTAL PROGRAM

Healthy Kids Program. Dependent children under 19 years of age may be covered for dental care if the family is approved to receive premium assistance for BC Medical Services Plan (MSP).

Children are eligible for up to \$2000 of basic dental services every two years. This includes services such as exams, x-rays, fillings, cleanings and extractions. Some services are limited. For example, the program does not cover orthodontic treatment. Healthy Kids may not cover all of the costs and there may be additional charges for each visit. Before treatment begins, confirm that your dentist is accepting children covered by the BC Healthy Kids Program, and what part of the services will be covered.

To use the services, take your child's BC Care Card to the dental office and they will confirm coverage before each appointment.

To find out if your child is covered call:

- **1-866-866-0800** (have your child's Care Card Number handy)

Or access the [Healthy Kids Program](#) website.

For more information:

- Island Health, Public Health - Dental:
Comox Valley Health Unit 250-331-8520
Campbell River Health Unit 250-850-2110
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