



Ocean Grove Elementary

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

From the Principal's Desk

Spring is almost upon us! It is hard to believe we will be moving our clocks forward on March 8th and Spring Break is quickly approaching.

Winter term has been a busy one as promised. It is great to see all the progress our students are making in their academics and the sense of pride and accomplishment this brings with it. It continues to impress us how much growth our students experience at this time of the year. Student Learning Updates will be sent home on Thursday, March 19th.

This is the point in the year where we continue to look towards next year and our student enrolment becomes very important. If moving away is a possibility in your future, please let us know. Similarly, if you are aware of new families moving into our area, please ask them to give the school a call. The more accurate our count is, the more efficient we can be with our organizational tasks and best prepare staffing for next September.

It is a pleasure to be part of this great community, and your involvement does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. On behalf of the Ocean Grove Staff, we wish you all a relaxing Spring Break which begins on Monday, March 23rd! Classes resume on Wed., April 8th.

Hendrick Horsthuis, Principal

Upcoming Events

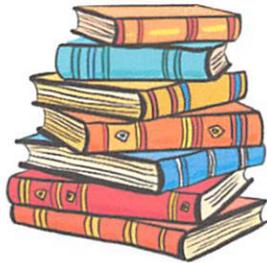
- **March 4th** - District Chess Tournament at Georgia Park
- **March 13th** - Cultural Event "Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch"
- **Week of March 16th** - Gunter Brothers Meats delivery (date/time will be emailed when confirmed)
- **March 16th** - PAC Meeting 6 pm
- **March 18th** - Lost & Found donated
- **March 19th** - Learning Updates home
- **April 7th** - No Classes (Pro-D Day)

Kindergarten 2026

We are busy with preliminary staff and class numbers for September - If you have friends, neighbours or family who have children starting kindergarten in September and have not registered yet, please ask them to do so as soon as possible. Thank you!

Used Book Fair

- Save the date for the PAC's annual Used Book Fair:
May 28 & 29, 2026
- We will be accepting book donations from April 13 to May 22.
- If you are able to volunteer for this event, please contact the PAC directly via email:
pacoceangrove@gmail.com



Lost & Found

Once again, we are asking families to check our over-flowing Lost & Found in the main foyer.

It's perplexing how many nice items are discarded and never claimed. We strongly suggest that you label your child's belongings to aid in the return of misplaced items (especially Orca Wear!). You may wish to check out the PAC's ongoing "Mabel's Labels" fundraiser.

Any unclaimed items at the end of the day on Wednesday, March 18th will be bagged up and donated to the Robron Store.

LOST & FOUND



Hot Lunch

- The last hot lunch before Spring Break is Wednesday, March 18th.
- The new and last hot lunch ordering session will be from MARCH 16 - APRIL 10, with the first hot lunch being on April 24th and the last on June 3rd.
- Reminder: If your child will be absent on a hot lunch day, you may request a "Hold & Pick-Up" of their lunch. Or, it may be given to another student.
- Requests must be made to the main office no later than 10:30 am. Items will not be held past 3 pm the same day.



Extra-Curricular Events

A huge THANK YOU to the staff volunteering their time for these special student activities:

- Lunch time Intramurals - Ms. Fasken and Mr. Wilson
- Grade 5 Basketball - Mr. Brzovic
- Chess Club - Mrs. Sharpe
- Running Club - Mr. Horsthuis
- Volleyball - Ms. Kretlow & Ms. Beres

Also, many thanks to our community volunteers who recently participated in our Sparks program.

THANK YOU!

Student Attendance

We do not have an AM warning bell, so if your student is late please make sure they sign in at the office or you will receive an absentee call-out.

If your student will be absent, late, or picked up early, please advise BOTH the classroom teacher AND the main office as early as possible. When notifications are received with minimal notice it may be disruptive to classes in session and/or difficult to track down students who are on walking fieldtrips.

If advising of an absence, please give a brief reason (ie illness, vacation) – we track the number of students absent due to illness and may receive additional custodial time for extra sanitization of certain areas of the school.

You may leave an attendance notification two ways:

(1) **phone call to our attendance line** – please ensure you speak very slowly and clearly, leaving your child's first AND last name, your name, and reason for the absence. Our phone messages are automatically transcribed to office emails, so if you have phoned in and still receive an absence call-out it may likely be due to an unclear message.

(2) **email to oceangrove@sd72.bc.ca** – again, please leave your child's first AND last name, your name, and reason for the absence.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring we have correct attendance information each day.



Happy
St. Patrick's
Day