



Ocean Grove Elementary

NEWSLETTER

2026



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Here we are in June! Already! This is the time where we are preparing for the end of this school year and at the same time the beginning of next year. Soon our grade 5 students will be heading off to middle school and from our conversations with them, they appear confident and ready for this next challenge. The staff at Ocean Grove will continue to prepare them for this transition and we wish our grade 5 students well. They will be missed!

Ocean Grove is a very busy place and will be for the month of June. Recently, we hosted our Welcome to Kindergarten event, and it was wonderful to see all the new kindergarten students and their families attend. Classes are heading out daily on field trips and we are looking forward to our entire school going to Miracle Beach on June 12th.

Our district is in the process of staffing. Due to declining enrollment, we will be down a division next year. As a result, Ms. Lauren will be working at Cedar Elementary next year. We are sad to see her go and I know Cedar Elementary is excited to have her join their team; we wish her all the best. After 39 years of service, Ms. Deb Beres is retiring. Recently, I asked staff to share a few words to describe Deb. The response was immediate and enthusiastic, with many words repeated: kind; flexible; loyal; dedicated; supportive; knowledgeable; committed; bright; advocate; approachable; fair; inclusive; reliable; compassionate; calm; unflappable; positive; always ready to help; warm and caring; student-centered; and welcoming. Finally, at the end of the day, I asked our custodian how he would describe her and he paused for a moment and then said, "maternal – always caring".

These words paint a beautiful picture—not just of an educator, but of a truly exceptional human being. We celebrate your passion, your leadership, your kindness, and the countless lives you have touched along the way. There is no doubt—you have made a lasting difference. Congratulations on an amazing career. You will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

To the wonderful Ocean Grove staff, thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our students. To our PAC and parents, who have tirelessly given their time and resources, thank you for your support with what we do at Ocean Grove Elementary School. On behalf of the entire staff at Ocean Grove, we wish you all a safe, restful, and memorable summer.

With gratitude, Hendrick Horsthuis

Upcoming Events

June 10th – Staff vs Students Kickball Game

June 12th – Whole School to Miracle Beach

June 24th – Grade 5 Celebration

June 24th – Final Learning Updates (Report Cards) sent home.

June 25th – Last day of classes; **Early Dismissal at 10:55 am** (school buses are running)

June 25th – Last day to claim Lost & Found items before they are donated

Please refer to communication directly from teachers regarding class fieldtrips.

Last Day of Classes

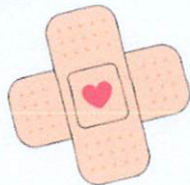
The last day of classes is **Thursday, June 25th** with **early dismissal at 10:55 am**. After school buses will be running.

It is a tradition at Ocean Grove to have a water fight shortly before dismissal for the summer. Participation is optional, not mandatory.

Footwear

With lots of outdoors activities, we are noticing an increased number of minor student injuries due to inappropriate footwear.

We strongly suggest that students wear runners or sandals (with heel straps) for running, playing outside, and fieldtrips. Safety first!



Indigenous Paddle

Renowned carver Will Henderson Jr. spent some time at our school in April carving and painting this amazing Thunder Bird paddle.

Students had the opportunity to observe and ask questions. The paddle is now on display in the main foyer.



Next Year School Supplies

We will again be purchasing bulk student school supplies for September, and asking that families pay **\$45.00** (all grades) per student to cover the cost.



The bulk order of supplies is purchased from a local company and ensures that consistent quality of exact items is provided for classroom use.

Please note, **we will not be requesting payment from students until the end of August**. An email will be sent to all Ocean Grove families just before September start-up requesting payment and providing full details on payment options.

Student Medications

All student medications provided to the school this year must be **PICKED UP before leaving for the summer**.

We are not permitted to keep medications at the school over the summer. New medical information forms will be required again in September.

Library News

The first week of June (1-5) is the final week to check out any library books. ALL library books are to be returned the second week of June (8-12).



Next Year Bus Passes

Families will not have to re-apply for a bus pass for their child for September UNLESS they have moved schools or residences.

If there are no changes, bus passes will carry forward. Please keep them safe over the summer break.

Crisis Chat/Text

Vancouver island Crisis Society is making changes to its crisis services. As of May 1, 2026, its local evening chat and text service ended. Families and students can continue to access 24/7 crisis support by calling or texting 9-8-8, Canada's national suicide crisis helpline. This service is free, confidential, and available at all times. Phone support is also available through the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888.

Lunches

With growing students and increased activities outside at this time of the year students require more food fuel to get through the day.

Please ensure that your child has extra healthy snacks and a refillable water bottle each day.

Class Photos

Each student will be provided with a FREE class photo for this school year. Unless advised otherwise by the classroom teacher, this photo will be placed in the student's report card envelope.



Free Concert!

Our very own musician "Janitor James" periodically provides free mini concerts for the students at Ocean Grove. Here he is with Gina Farrell's KF-1 class.

Wildlife Sightings

Given the close proximity of our school to forested areas, it is important for everyone to be aware of how to respond to wildlife sightings. In accordance with district policies, at the first word of a wildlife sighting the principal will take precautions to ensure student safety as appropriate in the circumstances. Examples may include increased supervision on the playground, students kept out of fields and away from treed areas, or in the gym during recess.

It is important that **whoever sees the wildlife** reports it directly to the conversation officers at [1-877-952-7277](tel:1-877-952-7277). Be sure to request that they provide the school district with updates. If the school receives a confirmed sighting report a notice will be sent home to parents and a wildlife special announcement will be activated on the school website.

As wildlife sightings can be common this time of year on Vancouver Island, please take some time to review precautions of "what to do" with your child. The following are some recommendations:

- Don't run! Sudden movement may provoke an attack.
- Stay calm and keep the animal in view.
- Back away slowly, ensuring the animal has an avenue of escape. Make yourself look as large as possible. If with others, stay in a group.
- If a cougar shows interest or follows you, respond aggressively. Maintain eye contact, show your teeth and make loud noises. Arm yourself with rocks or sticks. Crouch down as little as possible when bending over to pick things up from the ground.
- If a cougar attacks, fight back. Convince it you are a threat and not prey.
- Do remain calm, wildlife often just pass through a neighbourhood and move on.

