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Principal’s Message

Thanks everyone for a wonderful February. Pink Shirt Day is always a great reminder that we all have a role to play in helping to make the world a kind place; please help spread kindness through all the months of the year.

We hope all of our students are well into their studies for the second half of the school year. With Spring Break being just a few days away this means we are quickly entering the final three months of the school year.



The Island ConnectEd staff wish everyone a very enjoyable and relaxing Spring Break. The break starts at the end of the school day on Friday, March 13, and reopens on Monday, March 30.

Sincerely,
Patrick Young

PAC Fundraisers

Our PAC has two ongoing PAC fundraisers:

- *Cobbs Bakery*: if buying items from Cobb’s Bakery, please mention “Island ConnectEd” and a portion of your purchase will be donated to our school’s PAC.
- *Country Grocer*: if you shop at the Country Grocer, please save and submit your receipts in the envelop on the PAC board in the hallway outside of the school’s main office.

For any PAC-related inquiries, you may reach our PAC at ICEpac68@gmail.com

Scent, Citrus & Nut Aware

Due to staff and student allergies, Island ConnectEd is a **Citrus, Scent, and Nut Aware** Site. Please help keep our learning environment safe for all by keeping our site free of these items!

Upcoming Dates Of Interest

PAC Meeting (March)	Monday, March 9
Pizza Sale and "Green Day"	Tues., March 10 (12pm)
School Yard Clean Up	Tues., March 10 @ 1pm
Guest Speaker - Ryan Smith	Wednesday, March 11
Grade 3 - Swim to Survive	Friday, March 13
Spring Break Begins	Saturday, March 14
Spring Break Ends	Sunday, March 29
Gr. 3-7 Track and Field	Tuesday, March 31
Spring Celebration Dance	Thurs., April 16

Note: Our “[Year At A Glance](#)” calendar, located on our school website in the “Calendar” section, has a more extensive list of dates.

Safety Drills (Lockdown, Earthquake, Fire)

Each school year, our school holds various safety drills to help prepare our students and staff in the event of a real situation. On Tuesday, March 10, will be holding a triad of drills that flow from Lockdown, to Earthquake, to Fire Drill (only exiting on the Fire Drill). These drills are purposely being held during our K-7 lessons to ensure our younger students are exposed to the drills. The goal is to reduce anxiety around these drills while learning and following the proper procedures.

This is also a great time to discuss safety plans and preparedness at your homes. I encourage you to discuss at least two evacuation routes per room in your house. We have a Safety Brochure located on our website; look for it in the “Parents” sections of the “Students & Parents” tab.

Safe Practices to Control Spread of Germs

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has raised awareness of several things we can and should do to control the spread of germs. While the risk of getting COVID-19 in area is still considered to be low, our schools are promoting several safe practices that are always good reminders, especially during times of the year when many people are getting sick.

At our school, you will see Hand Washing signage that reminds us to wash our hands when:

- Entering the school or other businesses
- After using equipment used by others
- Before eating
- After using the washroom



Be sure to wash hands thoroughly for 20-30 seconds (sing “Happy Birthday” to yourself twice.)

It also reminds us that we can help keep each other safer by:

- Staying home if we’re sick
- Coughing/Sneezing into a tissue and discarding the tissue (preferred)
- Coughing/sneezing into Elbow (if no tissue)
- Washing hands after blowing your nose
- Doing elbow bumps and Hellos rather than high fives and shaking hands
- Not sharing food, water bottles, etc.
- Minimizing things like hugging and kissing as greetings

As a school staff, we will be promoting these recommendations. Even the principal, who is a fan of high fives, will be swapping “high fives” for hellos and elbow bumps.

Salmon in the Library

It’s EGG-xciting times in the Island ConnectEd library!

Our “salmonids in the classroom” project is up and running. Our coho salmon eggs arrived three weeks ago and have been busy incubating in the chilly 5 °C waters of our new aquarium. Right now, the eggs need to be in the dark, so the tank needs to stay covered in its styrofoam insulating shell most of the

time. But, if you are curious as to what these cool little creatures look like, ask a staff member (preferably the lead teacher on this, Kim Pepler) to turn off the lights in the library, and lift the lid so you can take a peek at our 100 baby salmon. Please don’t annoy the babies under any circumstances – no tapping on the aquarium, and no putting your hands in the water!



They are due to hatch just after Spring Break, so the coming weeks will be very interesting in terms of developmental stages in the salmon life cycle. Once they hatch we will be able to remove the styrofoam for large parts of the day and you will be able to watch them swimming about. WE plan to release them into the Nanaimo River sometime this spring. Timing will be critical, and not a given, so please watch closely for the announcement of this activity if you wish to join us as we release our salmonids into their home stream. < :)))<

School Registration 2020-2021

For families who are looking to change schools for next year, remember to complete the e-registration found on the district’s website (<https://www.sd68.bc.ca/>) prior to June 15 to help ensure student placement for the following year.

Grade 3-7: Track and Field

Our Grade 3-7 Track and Field season is starting on March 31. Students interested in participating are asked to look for the sign-up form recently sent out by Mrs. Watford.

Swim to Survive (Grade 3 & 7)

Our school district and Nanaimo Parks and Recreation have partnered up again to offer the Swim to Survive program to our grade 3s and grade 7s. The grade 3 program finishing up. The grade 7 program begins on Friday, April 6th.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SPRING BREAK.

