



KELSET Elementary School

1800 Forest Park Drive North Saanich, BC V8L 4B8

Phone: 250.655.4648 SAFE ARRIVAL: 250.655.1194 Fax: 250.655.4384

Email: KELSET_Elem@sd63.bc.ca Website: <http://KELSET.sd63.bc.ca/>

Mission: At KELSET School, our overall goal is "Success for Each Student". We want everyone in our school community to feel cared for, connected, capable and appropriately challenged.

Beliefs: We take care of ourselves. We take care of each other. We take care of our community & our world.

CALENDAR

October

- 4 Kindergarten Bus Safety
- 7 Meet the Staff Event
- 11 **Thanksgiving** Stat. Holiday
- 13 Photo Day
- 21 Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill
- 22 **Non-Instructional Day**; students do not attend

November

- 11 **Remembrance Day** Stat Holiday
- 12 **Non-Instructional Day**; students do not attend
- 17 **Early Dismissal**; 1:48pm
- 18 **Early Dismissal**; 1:48pm
- 18 Photo Retakes



OCTOBER 2021

Dear KELSET Families,

The first days of autumn have been a little wet – which has been a refreshing change! When the rain is super heavy, we do our best to offer dry spaces for our students. Please do your best to send your child to school with appropriate clothing and items for the rain and keep a change of clothing at the school for our youngest students. This is a great time of year, when the leaves start turning beautiful warm colors and the weather cools. We need to continue to focus on things in life that bring us joy, especially during this challenging time.

We had a successful school startup this year. It is wonderful to see all of our students return to in-person learning each day. We welcomed many new students at KELSET in our four Kindergarten classes and a few new faces in our older grades.



The weather was beautiful for our Terry Fox run and fundraiser on Friday, September 24. All of our students and staff ran laps on the school field in support of someone special. Our school raised \$973 for the Terry Fox Foundation – Way to go KELSET!

On September 27, all of our school staff participated in a District-wide Professional Development Day, "Reimagining Schools as Places of Healing – Truth and Reconciliation through Education". We had a very impactful day of listening, sharing, and learning with Kevin Lamoureux as our keynote speaker.

Please welcome Ms. Megan Hay, our Kindergarten teacher who will be covering for Ms. Lexus Thouli during her leave. Unfortunately, Ms. Sandra McCallum, our current grade 3/4 job share teaching partner with Mr. Swift-Fry is unable to stay with us. Thank you for your care with our students these last couple of weeks Ms. McCallum! We are excited to welcome Ms. Nicola Martin as our new grade 3/4 teacher in Division 13.

We would like to offer our gratitude to all families for bringing your questions forward with kindness, for sharing with transparency when your child is unwell, and for the trust you have put in us leading our school during a pandemic. These last couple of years have been tough, yet we will continue to act and move forward with the lens of safety, communication, connection, and learning. Thank you for managing your expectations so that we can manage our own and be well. We will strive to always do the very best we can for our learners.

Tassie Harris

Philip Jungen



NEWSLETTER

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

please email

kelse_attendance@saanichschools.ca

or call **250-655-1194**

if your child will be absent or late.

ALL STUDENTS TO WEAR MASKS IN SCHOOL

Today, Dr. Henry announced a change to the Provincial Health Order to mandate masks for K- Gr3 beginning Monday, October 4. Please watch for an email from Saanich Schools before the end of the day. This will not be a significant change from where we are now as masks have been encouraged, but we will see an uptake on mask wearing for our youngest students. Thank you for doing your best to teach your child how to wear a mask properly. Students will need to know how to put a mask on independently and wear it during instructional time. School staff will guide students on how to store their masks safely while eating. The school will have disposable masks available for any child who misplaces or forgets a mask. Thank you for your cooperation!

DAILY HEALTH CHECK

BRITISH COLUMBIA	
DAILY HEALTH CHECK	
KEY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS	WHAT TO DO
Fever (above 38°C)	If yes to 1 or more of these symptoms: Stay home. Contact a health care provider or call 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.
Chills	
Cough	
Difficulty breathing	
Loss of sense of smell or taste	If yes to 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better.
OTHER SYMPTOMS	
Sore throat	
Loss of appetite	
Headache	If yes to 2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home for 24 hours. If symptoms don't get better or get worse, contact a health care provider or call 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.
Body aches	
Extreme fatigue or tiredness	
Nausea or vomiting	
Diarrhea	If yes: Fully vaccinated students, staff and other adults who have travelled outside of Canada may qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption . Students, staff and other adults who are not fully vaccinated and have travelled outside of Canada CANNOT attend school for 14 days after arrival, as part of federal requirements .
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:	
Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	If yes: Follow the instructions provided by Public Health.
CLOSE CONTACT	
Have you been notified by public health that you are a close contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	

You can also check your symptoms with the [K-12 Health Check](#) or the [BC Self-Assessment Tool](#).

Call 8-1-1 with any questions about symptoms of illness. If you have severe symptoms, like difficulty breathing (struggling to breathe or you can only speak single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

Visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#) for more information on COVID-19.

Please check BCDC's [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) regularly to ensure the list is up to date. Updated September 22, 2021

You can also download the App on your device:
[K-12 Health Check](#)

ORANGE SHIRT DAY



September 30 has been declared as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is a day of recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and wellbeing and as

an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters. This day is also an opportunity for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. The students and staff at KÉLSET marked this day on September 29 by wearing orange and discussing these important issues within their classes. Let us all do our part to ensure we are taking collective action in support of reconciliation in education. HÍSWĪKE



KÉLSET COMMUNITY WELCOME NIGHT

This year, we are excited to welcome all parents/guardians to meet our staff on Thursday, October 7 at 5:30pm. We will begin with gathering families (with distance) on the school field for a quick introduction at 5:30pm and small treats. Our KÉLSET PAC will share information with families as well. At 5:45pm, families can begin to visit their child's classroom(s), with these measures in place:

- external door entry to classrooms
- a record sheet will be at each door to write the names of all family members visiting the classroom
- no hallway access
- maximum capacity of 4 families in one classroom at a time
- your child's teacher(s) will reach out to you regarding a sign up for time to visit

Please reach out to Jessica Underwood, junderwood@saanichschools.ca by October 5th, if any families need transportation to/from this event. We thank you ahead of time for your respect, compassion, and support for our teachers and staff who have been working hard to set up a safe and positive beginning of the year. We look forward to meeting all of you!



HALLOWEEN

Many staff and students will wear costumes on Friday, October 29 in anticipation of Halloween festivities. Student's will be provided with a choice to wear a costume, wear orange and black or their regular clothes. There is no pressure for your child to come to school with a costume. There will be fun activities within each class that will be inclusive for all students. Costumes need to be elementary school appropriate. Nothing gruesome or scary, and any weapons need to be left at home. Masks need to be easily removed for learning activities and for safety. If there is any concern about a costume being in good condition for trick-or-treating by the end of the day please do not send it to school.



It's important to be safe this Halloween. Before you take part in Halloween celebrations and activities this year, check out the [BCCDC](#) website for COVID-19 safety advice and refer to the [Government of Canada](#) site for trick-or-treating safety tips.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT KELSET!

If any parents (or grandparents) are interested in helping out in our 'light' breakfast and forgotten lunch program, please let us know! We are quite flexible and willing to work with anyone interested on how this program is delivered. Additionally, if there are concerns about coming in the school during a pandemic, we can ensure health & safety measures are in place, including lessened contact with students and staff. Please reach out to Philip Jungen pjungen@Saanichschools.ca or Tassie Harris tharris@saanichschools.ca for more information. Thank you!



DROP OFF ZONE

As safety is our main focus, please be reminded that the front of our school is a bus zone. Thank you to everyone for NOT leaving your vehicles unattended, this is greatly appreciated by the bus drivers and staff!

LUNCH

Please be reminded that we encourage students to drink water while at school. Also, we encourage pack-in and pack-out of all recycling materials.

SAFE ARRIVAL

Please remember to call the special number - 250-655-1194 - if your child is going to be absent from school or late. There is a designated voice mail box on this line so you can call any time of day/night. You can also email kelset_attendance@saanichschools.ca

MESSAGES FROM OUR KELSET PAC

The KELSET Elementary Parents' Advisory Council's (PAC) primary mandate is to promote effective communication between the home and school. All parents and/or guardians of students registered at KELSET Elementary School are voting members of the PAC and are welcome and encouraged to attend, participate in or just observe our monthly meetings. PAC meetings take place on the third Wednesday of each month at **6:30pm**. Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday October 20th**. We are currently meeting virtually but hope to offer hybrid (in-person with virtual log-in) meetings soon. The PAC is responsible for raising funds for many of the amazing programs offered to students such as Reflex Math, field trips, school supplies, rainy day funds, and special events. We greatly appreciate the help of all our KELSET families in supporting or promoting these fundraisers. We hope to one day add a second playground to our school and we will need a lot of support to make that happen. Here are some roles we are still looking to fill:

- Fundraising committee members
- Event committee members
- Event Food Coordinator
- New Playground committee members
- Grade 4/5 (end-of-year recognition) committee members
- Bottle Drive Coordinator*
- Morning food program helpers
- Indigenous Voice(s)**
- Members at Large

* Urgent as we hope to offer a bottle drive in November - last year Bottle Drives raised over \$4000 for our school!

** Either as a named position or simply more Indigenous members on our council

If you would like to know more about one of these positions, or to volunteer, please email us at kelsetpac@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/KELSETPAC](https://www.facebook.com/KELSETPAC). We encourage all families to follow our Facebook page for reminders and updates throughout the year (including photos of items in our Lost & Found!).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Our classroom teachers have purchased school supplies (duotangs, paper, markers, glue, etc.) for the students in their classrooms. If you haven't brought in your own school supplies, please submit payment of \$45 by etransfer to kelsetpacfundraising@gmail.com or by cheque to KELSET PAC as soon as possible. Make sure your child's full name is on the etransfer notes or cheque memo line. The PAC reimburses the teachers for the supplies they purchase and we count on families to contribute. If this is a financial hardship for your family, please speak to your child's teacher, Tassie Harris or Philip Jungen and accommodations will be made. Thank you to everyone who has already submitted payments!

*****NOTE: Kindergarten supplies are purchased directly by the Kindergarten teachers. Please do not send money to the PAC for your Kindergarten students.*****