



# 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](mailto: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

### December

- 6-13 ..... Holiday Hamper Collection
- 9 ..... Winter Wonderland and Family Event;  
5:30-7pm
- 10 ..... Photo Retakes
- 10 ..... Reports Home
- 15 ..... PAC Meeting; 6-8:30pm (Virtual)
- 16 ..... Winter Concerts; 9am and 10:15 am
- 20 ..... **Winter Break to January 3**



## DECEMBER 2021

## NEWSLETTER

December is upon us, and it would be fair to say that this last month has been besieged by more challenges and grief. As we try our best to cope with the ongoing pandemic, health restrictions, and the loss of our loved ones, we are now faced with overwhelming floods. As school staff, we are continually astounded by the resiliency of the children at KELSET. All of us walk through those school doors each morning with varied degrees of emotional strength. It is remarkable and inspiring to watch students engaging in their school tasks, demonstrating care and compassion for others, and seeking fun and laughter in many moments of their day. We are so lucky to work here.

We give credit to our families for your strength, care, teamwork, and compassion. Your children are learning from you. We acknowledge the challenges and grief that you may be experiencing, and we thank you for maintaining a cohesive and strong community.

It was wonderful to see many of our families took the opportunity to meet with their child(ren)'s teachers on November 17 & 18 during our Communicating Student Learning conferences. Research demonstrates that children learn best when the significant adults in their lives - parents, teachers, and other family and community members - work together to encourage and support them. Schools alone cannot address all of a child's developmental needs; meaningful involvement of parents and support from the community are essential.

December will be filled with many fun activities in classes as we lead up to the holidays. We are planning spirit days – stay tuned for more information. Ms. Sue Robinson, our music teacher, is organizing two short winter concerts during the school day. Each class will share a festive song at both concerts. Unfortunately, we are not inviting families into our school for these large events yet, but we are hoping to share a recording of this concert with our families – we will keep you posted! The PAC is also organizing fun and safe ways to celebrate the start of the holidays. Please see information below about Winter Wonderland!

Please welcome Caroline Mullen and Fraser Coull, our new Education Assistants.

Enjoy the last 3 weeks before the winter holiday!

Tassie Harris

Philip Jungen

### SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

please email

[kelset\\_attendance@saanichschools.ca](mailto:kelset_attendance@saanichschools.ca)

or call 250-655-1194

if your child will be absent or late.

## STUDENT ABSENCES DURING WINTER BREAK

As we approach the upcoming Winter Break some families may be planning trips away from home. Should you anticipate that your child may miss some school, either due to your travel schedule or any necessary isolation period following your return, it is important that you communicate with your child's teacher and school before you leave to ensure that your child is aware of any schoolwork they would be missing.



### BUSES

The SD63 school buses transport 3,000 students to/from school each school day. We have 16 regular bus routes and 4 Special Needs routes. Information can be found on

Twitter by searching SD63bus or <https://twitter.com/sd63bus>

## SAANICH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM – HOSTS NEEDED!

Saanich International Student Program (SISP) is actively looking for new Host Families for our international students joining us in January/February, as well as host families who would like to be available on short notice for students currently here.

Make lifelong friendships, provide a student with a home away from home and share the beauty of your community!

If you are interested in this opportunity, host families are provided:

- \$975 per month per student (students must have their own bedroom)
- If necessary, an additional \$300 per student for the 14-day quarantine (to help cover any extra expenses), although the expectation is students will be fully vaccinated when they arrive in Canada
- Ongoing support from the SISP Homestay team

Sign up for a [no-commitment consultation](#) with one of our Homestay Coordinators or start your [application](#) to become a host family!

**Saanich International Student Program**  
Now recruiting new host families!

OPENING AND FOR THE 2100 SCHOOL YEAR

**WHAT YOU OFFER YOUR STUDENT**

- Private bedroom and a study space
- Three wholesome meals a day and snacks
- Integration into the family
- Emotional and academic support

**WHAT WE OFFER YOU**

- Monthly reimbursement of \$975
- Ongoing support
- Host family orientation
- 24/7 emergency phone access

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- Visit our website: [studyinsaanich.ca](http://studyinsaanich.ca)
- Email us! [homestay@saanichschools.ca](mailto:homestay@saanichschools.ca)
- Call our Office: 250-455-2735

**COVID-19**

The expectation is students will be fully vaccinated when they arrive in Canada. If necessary, an additional \$300 per student for the 14-day quarantine (to help cover any extra expenses) will be provided to host families for students who require quarantine. We have extensive safety protocols in place and all students who arrived in September 2021 successfully completed their quarantine.

We strictly follow all requirements, guidelines and protocols set out by the Federal and Provincial government at all times.

• To become a host family, apply at: <https://www.studyinsaanich.ca/apply>

• Build lasting relationships and help give a young person the experience of a lifetime!

## MESSAGES FROM OUR KÉLSET PAC

### Holiday Hamper Collections

It is that time of year again to start collecting for our KÉLSET Family Holiday Hampers! This year each division will be assigned one item out of the 18 listed below and then hampers will be assembled with all items. **We will be collecting items from December 6th-13th. Items can be sent with your child and will be collected in their classrooms.**

Please review the list below and have your child bring in the item assigned to their class if you are able to donate:

|                    |                    |                                 |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Rose               | K – Div 1          | stuffing and gravy              |
| Cole               | K – Div 2          | dry spaghetti/pasta             |
| Simmonds/Skrivanos | K – Div 3          | soups                           |
| Hay                | K/Gr 1 – Div 4     | cranberry sauce                 |
| Dupree             | Grade 1 – Div 5    | sweet potatoes                  |
| Clark              | Grade 1 – Div 6    | onions                          |
| Coyne              | Grade 1/2 – Div 7  | potatoes                        |
| Steele             | Grade 2 – Div 8    | juice                           |
| Underwood          | Grade 2 – Div 9    | flour                           |
| Hodgson            | Grade 2/3 – Div 10 | regular oranges only            |
| MacKinnon          | Grade 3 – Div 11   | sugar                           |
| Sheridan           | Grade 3 – Div 12   | apples                          |
| Swift-Fry/Martin   | Grade 3/4 – Div 13 | bags of rice                    |
| Rice               | Grade 4/5 – Div 14 | canned vegetables/chili         |
| Lurie              | Grade 4/5 – Div 15 | spaghetti sauce                 |
| Hale               | Grade 4/5 – Div 16 | long whole carrots              |
| Jungen/Robinson    | Grade 4/5 – Div 17 | cooking oil                     |
| Stewart            | Grade 4/5 – Div 18 | tape/bows/ribbon/wrapping paper |

Contributions through money or gift cards are also welcome and should be brought directly to the office - these will be distributed as needed to round out hampers or used to purchase items missing from individual hampers.

Thank you for your support during another uniquely challenging year!



## Class Reps

We are looking for a volunteer from each classroom to be Class Rep! The Class Rep is a parent / guardian or other adult in a student's life who is willing to be the main connection between the students, their families, and the broader school community. We hope that our teachers will have a person in their class they can lean on to help them keep families up-to-date on what is happening within the school. The class rep role is quite simple, but important.

We have found that when parents/guardians receive emails from another parent/guardian in their child's class that they are more likely to remember and act on the information they receive. The class rep is a critical key for parental/guardian engagement with the school.



### What does a Class Rep do?

- Attend monthly PAC meetings (3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm, currently online) and share news with your class
- Help recruit volunteers for fundraisers and school events when needed (i.e. Grade 4/5 Reps will help recruit volunteers to plan Grade 5 Farewell)
- Assist the teacher with any other communications or jobs required (field trips, community walks, Christmas hampers, etc.)
- Organize teacher appreciation or class gifts if your class desires.

*\*\* Please advise your classroom teacher if you do not consent to having the Class Rep contact you by email. \*\**

Please consider volunteering or sharing this role with another parent. If you are unable to attend PAC meetings, don't let that stop you from volunteering! We can send you our meeting minutes and you can share the important parts with your class that way.

To volunteer - please reply to your teacher. We look forward to working with you!

Thank you for your support!



The PAC is excited to be offering our first post-pandemic community event on **Thursday December 9th**. From 5:30pm to 7pm, stop by KÉLSET and wander the exterior of our school building to enjoy the wonderful window displays put together by each of our divisions! The windows will be lit and decorated for all to enjoy. We encourage you to bring your own pen to leave Warm Fuzzy comments for each of the classes. Flashlights are also encouraged as it will be dark on the school grounds. We will be selling hot chocolate and pre-packaged holiday treats so please bring cash if you would like to buy some! We look forward to bringing some light and cheer to these dark December nights and connecting with other KÉLSET families. Please consider wearing a mask when you cannot maintain 2m distance from other visitors and dress for the weather as this will be an outdoor event, rain or shine! Watch for the Food Bank Collection box near the concession area. Donations of cash or non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted. We are especially looking for donations of snack items like granola bars which are used in our Forgotten Lunch program, which is sponsored by the Food Bank.

