



ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY

September 2025 Newsletter

We gratefully acknowledge that we are learning together on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish People

Tsiiatalu kwus 'i' hwualum namut (Welcome Back)!

Alexander families, thank you for a fantastic first two weeks back in the Wolf PACK. We are excited to welcome our students and to fill our school with the sounds of laughter and learning. As we come back together, we are busy reestablishing routines, building connections, and working together to create the foundation for a great school year. Families are a vital part of this foundation, and we look forward to working together with you.

Grade Groups & Classroom Placement

As we welcome new families to the Cowichan Valley and to the Alexander Wolf PACK, the month of September is an important time to make sure we know who our students are and that they are placed in the right learning environments.

To get to know students better, students in Grades 1-7 have transitioned into Grade groupings and will spend time learning and working with other grade grouping classes. As it is still early days and we continue to welcome new students, please note, **this is not necessarily your child's classroom teacher for the year**. As soon as we are able to finalize classes, families will be the first to know! Huy tseep q'u for your patience.

Teaching Staff

Please welcome our teaching staff for the 2025/2026 school year:

DIV	Teacher Name	Grade
1	Jaclyn Dupuis	6/7
2	Laura Stockie/Le Chandler	6/7
3	Erin Harvie	6/7
4	Rhonda LaForge	5/6
5	Tara Tannous	4/5
6	Lacey Moon	4/5
7	Heidi Gropp	3/4
8	Elliot Fox-Povey	3/4
9	Rachel Ridley	3/4
10	Cristin Smith	2/3
11	Brenda Lee/Christine Blakeway	1/2
12	Tara Loeffen/Ricki James	1
12	Tara Tannous	4/5
13	Catherine Ellis	K
14	Kate Johnston	K

Name	Position
Claudia Sylvester	Hul'q'umi'num Culture and Language Advisor
Candace Clark	Indigenous Education Teacher
Terry Daniels	Indigenous Student Support
Garry Johnny	Indigenous Student Support
Antonio Biello	Learning Assistance
Jaimie Olson	Library & PHE
Trish Dandy	Music/Arts Education
Mikaila Cardin	PHE
Shari White	Resource Teacher
Holly Bruce	Resource Teacher
Karen White	Ts'uwatun (Grade 7's)

A message from our district Indigenous Education Team

Indigenous Ancestry & Support

‘Uy’skweyul! Tansi!

Welcome to a fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success.

If your child has Indigenous ancestry - First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class. If you have self-identified with the school in previous years, you do NOT need to do a new form each year.

You can opt out of Indigenous Education services at any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250 748 0321 ext 235, or email at ined@sd79.bc.ca

As you may know, in 2017, the Federal Government changed from using the term Aboriginal people to using Indigenous Peoples when referring to First Nations, Métis & Inuit peoples. This change acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

It will take us some time to transition to the new language so you may see the terms Indigenous and Aboriginal both used.

We are looking forward to a positive school year together!

Alexander PAC Information

In the coming weeks, more information will be coming from our Alexander PAC regarding meetings and the annual AGM. Updates will be posted in our newsletters and on the Alexander PAC Facebook page. The first Alexander PAC meeting is scheduled for September 26th (2:45-3:45) Please check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/alexander.el.pac>

School Supplies 2024-2025

At Alexander, we have partnered with the local office supply company and are organizing a program where students have their school supplies provided to them directly in their classrooms. This promotes equality and ensures every child in school will have the supplies they need for the school year.

Thirty dollars (\$30.00) will be collected from students to pay for school supplies. Here are some options for making a payment:

- Cash, Debit/Credit in the office or online at <https://sd79.schoolcashonline.com/>

We will ensure each child gets supplies! Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions and would like more information, please email alexanderheadsecretary@sd79.bc.ca.

Additional Reminders from the Cowichan Valley School District

Please be aware that there is BC Provincial Government legislation that bans all smoking on any school property, including inside of all vehicles on the property, at all times.

In accordance with the Schools Protection Program, students and parents are reminded that students' personal property is not covered under the program, so students should not leave personal belongings at the school. Neither the school, nor the School District, are responsible for the loss or damage to students' personal property.

If any parents require any medications for their child to be administered by the school, please visit the office to fill out a "Request for Administration of Medication at School" Form.

Please review these important Policies/Procedures (<https://sd79.bc.ca/board-of-education/>). If you would like a paper copy, one can be provided for you, from the school's main office:

AP 164 – Food and Nutrition

AP 104 – District Code of Conduct

AP 358 – Intimidation, Harassment, Aggression

Policy 13 – Appeals Procedure Bylaw

Policy 25 – Identity, Belonging, and Connection

Water Only Initiative

After SEVEN amazing and successful years of celebrating “Water Only,” we want to carry forward this healthy initiative! Please save juice boxes, energy drinks, and soda pops for at home.

To celebrate Wolf PACK Wednesday, we have provided all students with a water bottle again this year.



We look forward to a fantastic year together! Please do not hesitate to reach out to Heidi Manfield in the office if you have any questions or concerns.

SafeArrival System: Reporting a Student Absence

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring all students arrive safely at school each day.

As part of our absence-checking procedures, we use a reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This system helps reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

To report your child's absence, use any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store or from <https://home.schoolmessenger.ca>.

The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.

OR:

2. Use the SafeArrival website home.schoolmessenger.ca. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.

OR:

3. Call the toll-free number **1-833-784-0364** to report an absence using the automated phone system. ***Please save this number to your contacts, as it is the number that will contact you, if you did not call in your child's absence. And a notification call is made.***

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future planned absences may also be reported at any time.

Note#1: *You must use the email and phone number on file with the school. If you update either of these, you will need to re-register for the system to recognize you.*

Note#2: *Please save **1-833-784-0364** into your phone contacts, as this will be the number to contact you, if you did not call in your child's absence to the system.*

If after trying the three listed absence reporting options above, you are unsuccessful, please contact the school office directly at **[enter number here]** to report an absence.

Notification of Unexplained Absences

The Safe Arrival System will contact parents whose child is absent when an absence was not reported. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up. The system will use the email and phone number(s) provided by you to the school. You will also be notified by the App if you have downloaded and installed it on your phone, and by text message if you chose to enroll.

If you report your child's absence before the attendance cut off using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive notifications. You are only contacted in the case of unexplained absence.

Huy tseep q'u

Darren Hart – Alexander Principal

Brenda Lee - Alexander Vice Principal

Please check out our Facebook page for weekly updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/alexanderelementaryschool/>



North Cowichan/Duncan RCMP's 2nd Annual Community Safety Expo!



Join us at our New Detachment, 6430 Ford Road, from
12pm – 2pm Saturday September 20th for a free, fun,
family friendly event!

Lunch generously provided by Country Grocer!

Prizes donated by local businesses!

Hot chocolate and coffee provided by Starbucks!

Kids can enjoy a mock crime scene, impairment simulation goggles,

Fire Safety House, boats, helicopters and much more!

Adults can explore both volunteer & career opportunities & learn
more about all the agencies working hard to keep our families safe!

Parking available at the Cowichan Commons



NORTH COWICHAN/DUNCAN RCMP'S

COMMUNITY SAFETY EXPO

JOIN US FOR A FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!

Saturday September 20th

12:00pm to 2:00pm



Lunch generously
provided by
Country Grocer!



Please leave your pets at home as there will be bright lights, loud noises and Police Service Dogs doing demonstrations

EVERY CHILD MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025





SPEAKERS
Hear from Residential
School Survivors and
Legacies for the future

9AM



DETAILS
Charles Hoey Park
9am - 10am - Welcome & Prayer
Speakers, Tzinquaw
10am - Walk
11:30am - Closing Prayer

to



PERFORMERS
Traditional Dancers,
drummers and singers
Pow Wow Dancers

2PM

Main Contact Audrey George at ageorge@makola.bc.ca

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION





Filmmaker Peter Campbell returns to Penelakut Island 25 years after documenting abuse at Kuper Island Indian Residential School

Community Screening & Discussion

Reflect on the impacts of residential schools and their ongoing effects on Indigenous communities. Together, we can deepen our understanding, honor the stories of those affected by residential school, and promote healing.

September 24 2025
7pm

Cowichan Performing Arts Centre
2687 James St, Duncan, BC V9L 2X5

16+ Event
Cedar brushing & emotional support available on site



EVERY CHILD MATTERS