



**PARENT DOCKER**  
March 30 – April 3, 2020

Monday, March 30		
Tuesday, March 31		
Wednesday, Apr. 1		
Thursday, Apr. 2	Spring Dance	TBD
Friday, April 3	4C Social Night	TBD

**Mark Your Calendar:**

March 16-27 – Spring Break  
April 7 – Parent Info Night  
April 9 – Fantasy Adventure Improv  
April 9 – Term 3 Ends  
April 10 – Good Friday Stat Holiday No School  
April 13 – Easter Monday Stat Holiday No School

**ESQUIMALT CAFETERIA MENU FOR THE COMING WEEK:**

**Culinary Program:**

<i>Monday Mar. 30</i>	There will be lunches served this week, however, the menu has not been decided.
<i>Tuesday Mar. 31</i>	
<i>Wednesday Apr. 1</i>	
<i>Thursday Apr. 2</i>	
<i>Friday Apr. 3</i>	Pizza by the Slice: Cash Sales Only

**Reminder:** Reunification Drill on April 21<sup>st</sup>,  
please return the **STUDENT  
EMERGENCY RELEASE FORM** sent  
home on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> **soon as  
possible.**  
Thank you very much

## **EMERGENCY REUNIFICATION DRILL**

**SAVE THE DATES: (Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2020) & (Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup> 2020)**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

To enhance the level of emergency preparedness for all schools, the District is implementing Standard Emergency Reunification Procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students in the aftermath of a disaster. This process includes staff training, parent education, and an emergency reunification drill for staff, students, parents, and authorized guardians at the school.

Esquimalt High School will be practicing this **Emergency Reunification Drill** on **Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2020**. Parents and all authorized guardians listed on a Student Release Form are encouraged to participate. This will be an opportunity for families to exercise their emergency plan with the school's emergency plan and to familiarize themselves with the District's procedures.

**A Presentation on Emergency Planning and Community Recovery will be held on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Esquimalt High School, 7:00 - 8:00 pm.**

This presentation will explain the District's post-disaster emergency student release procedures, and what to expect during the school's upcoming reunification drill. Consider your family's state of emergency readiness and join in the discussion on strategies to help your community to recover from a disaster. Emergency planning resources will be available to all participants.

Please register in advance for this free event!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sd61-emergency-planning-and-community-recovery-presentation-tickets-95297841409>

**Emily Kirzinger**

Vice Principal, École Secondaire Esquimalt High School

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

Ph: 250-382-9226

# Office of the Superintendent

*Shelley Green - Superintendent*

March 13, 2020

**RE: COVID-19 Update – Morning of March 13, 2020**

Dear GVSD staff and families,

In the past 12 hours, there have been new developments regarding COVID-19, which affect our learning community. As things continue to quickly evolve, our School District will be providing information for staff and families to keep everyone informed on how our school communities will be impacted. We ask you to please continue checking your emails and our district website ([www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca)) over spring break for updates about the status of schools.

As of late yesterday afternoon, the Provincial and Canadian Government is advising against all non-essential travel outside of Canada due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The School District continues to adhere to the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer, Ministries of Health and Education and the Government of Canada, and wishes to remind staff and families of the following:

#### **TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF CANADA**

- Anyone who travels outside of Canada, including work-related travel, is asked to self-isolate at home for 14 days upon their return.
- Staff and families who choose not to follow the advice of the Provincial Health Officer do so at their own risk, and potentially the risk of others.
- All international school trips scheduled to take place before April 30th are cancelled. Out of country trips taking place after this date will be under review.

#### **SCHOOL CLOSURES**

At this time, the Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry is advising that closing schools is not appropriate. Health Minister Dix added, public health officials will be working with stakeholders in the education sector during spring break to continue monitoring the pandemic and B.C.'s response to it.

Effective immediately, all new arrivals to Canada who register to enroll at a GVSD school will be notified of the 14-day self-isolation period prior to starting school. Students and staff currently out of country, arriving home during Spring Break will be required to self-isolate for a 14-day period.

*\*It is important to note that decisions surrounding school closures are made by Public Health Officials in cooperation with Schools District and the Ministry of Education.\**

*The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, and we do our work.*

*One Learning Community*

## PUBLIC GATHERINGS

When it comes to public gatherings, public health has advised against any large gatherings over 250 people. As a result, immediately following spring break, assemblies or large gatherings or events at schools will be postponed.

## SPRING BREAK – RENTALS AND FACILITIES

Special education programming previously scheduled for students and childcare services will continue over Spring Break. Childcare in the GVSD is provided by third party providers. Any childcare closures will be at the discretion of the provider.

External rentals, beyond K-12 instruction and childcare, will be cancelled to provide space for deep cleaning of facilities.

Managers and custodial staff will be thoroughly cleaning all facilities over the break.

## COPING DURING COVID-19

To help minimize the spread of transmission, we are continuing to ask families to practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

In addition, we are asking families to talk to their children about the outbreak. We know there is a lot of concern over the spread of COVID-19 and that the current situation may be stressful for many families, especially children. The CDC has many helpful facts and tips on how we can support children and build their confidence to alleviate anxiety: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html)

We've also included helpful links below with resources, including the Ministry's Pandemic Response Framework and Planning Guidelines for additional supports.

We understand this is a challenging situation for our families as we head into the holidays—and tough personal decisions will have to be made regarding travel. However, we must take all measures at this time to keep our schools safe and healthy for our students.

Please take good care of yourself and those closest to you. We will continue to stay connected with our learning community over the break.

Sincerely,



Shelley Green  
Superintendent of Schools

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## Useful Links

- Pandemic Response Framework and Planning Guidelines: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/healthyschools/pandemic\\_response\\_framework.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/healthyschools/pandemic_response_framework.pdf)
- Information about COVID-19, including advice and guidance to schools, is regularly updated on the BC Centre for Disease Control site: [http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19\\_schools\\_childcare\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19_schools_childcare_guidelines.pdf) Please routinely check this site and its resources.
- All joint statements from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister of Health Adrian Dix are posted here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/ministries/health>
- The Provincial Pandemic Coordination plan: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/reports-publications/pandemic-provincial-coordination-plan.pdf>
- KIDS and COVID-19 QA: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)#For--schools--and--childcare](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel)#For--schools--and--childcare)
- CBC Kids along with the PHO produced a kid-centric Q and A video about COVID-19: <https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/watch-coronavirus-facts-versus-fiction>
- Ministry of Health response plans - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/pandemic-influenza>
- Novel Coronavirus Q&A from HealthLinkBC: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus>
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))
- Government of Canada - Novel Coronavirus in China Travel Health Notice: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notices/210>

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One *Learning* Community



*For more information please visit our school website at <https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca>*

**YOU ARE  
NOT  
ALONE**

## **Suicide Prevention Presentation**

**Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2020**

*Learn about:*

***Warning signs of suicide***

***Resources that are available***

***How to help yourself and others***

Anyone who interacts with youth can benefit from identifying and understanding the signs of depression and suicide

*Presented By: Need 2 Suicide Prevention*

*Date & Time: March 18, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm*

*Location: Camosun Interurban, Liz Ashton Campus Center Atrium - room 124*

*RSVP: Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/2TrK9fc> or [Jasonzare117@gmail.com](mailto:Jasonzare117@gmail.com)*



**Awareness and a willingness to talk about depression and suicide saves lives**





To access this month's SNAPSHOT click on the following link:

[Secondary Snapshot Human Trafficking March 2020](#)



We have a special edition SNAPSHOT to share with families. This edition focusses on talking to kids and teens about COVID-19 and includes information for elementary, middle and secondary aged students as well as resources for families.

[How to talk to your kids about COVID-19](#)

# 'intheknow'

information + support

## "Self-Harm: Overwhelming Emotions and Coping Skills."

### Join us for a Video Presentation\*

Learning that your child is self-harming can be scary and overwhelming. Self-injury takes many forms and the reason why someone self-injures is complex. Hear from a young adult with lived experience and a Health Care Professional as they discuss what self-harm is, why youth self-injure, and other options for healthy coping strategies.

### Topic Presenters:

Ciara, Young Adult with Lived Experience

Kim Leifso, Health Care Professional

Victoria Keddis, Manager, FamilySmart Practice

Michelle Horn, Program Manager, Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre

Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Saanich Neighbourhood Place

3100 Tillicum Road

Victoria, BC

### FREE OF CHARGE

Please RSVP by email: [lisa.tate@familysmart.ca](mailto:lisa.tate@familysmart.ca)



what is the  
'intheknow'?

'intheknow' provides expert speakers on topics important to families and/or to those working to support the mental health of children and youth.

### Viewing is available:

Online at:

[www.familysmart.ca/in-the-know](http://www.familysmart.ca/in-the-know)

In person at community sites:

[www.familysmart.ca/events/](http://www.familysmart.ca/events/)

The in person viewing also provides an opportunity for supported conversations.



# Parent Education Event



Greater Victoria  
School District  
Parent Education Night



## Becoming an Effective Advocate for your Child

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Reynolds High School - Theatre

3963 Borden Street

Victoria, BC V8P 3H9



**Presenter:** John Gaipman, Chief Executive Officer, BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) and former Superintendent of the Greater Victoria School District (SD61).

This is a presentation for all parents and PAC leaders of SD61. Join us to better understand how the School Act provides parents/guardians with the right to appeal any decision they feel significantly affects the education, health or safety of their student within the Greater Victoria School District.

Parents and guardians are their child's natural advocate, making sure their child's rights, needs and opinions are respected. Advocacy is about working to achieve a successful solution for the benefit of the child.

This workshop will provide you with knowledge and tools to successfully handle situations that negatively impact your child's education, help you understand what might be a decision to appeal, and to navigate the school district Appeals Process (Section 11 of the School Act).

John has been involved with public education for over 35 years. He spent 14 years as a Superintendent of Schools; twelve of which were with the Greater Victoria School District. It is his hope, through his vast experience in public education, that he can continue to support and empower parents for the success of each learner.

**Brought to you by:** Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (VCPAC) & BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)

To register for this FREE event, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/becoming-an-effective-advocate-for-your-child-tickets-97412422177>

To Register:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/becoming-an-effective-advocate-for-your-child-tickets-97412422177>

For more information please visit our school website at <https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca>



# JOIN US FOR THE 3rd ANNUAL 3on3 Vanilla Thunder Basketball Tournament

Register now @ [bit.ly/VT3032020](https://bit.ly/VT3032020)

When: April 17-18, 2020

Who: Youth grade 9-12 & alumni

Where: Esquimalt High School gym

**Awesome prizes and great basketball!**

**ALL PLAYERS WELCOME!**

Funds raised will support mental health for youth.



## Want to HOST a Russian student?

May 2 - 9, 2020

\*\*\*Don't miss out on this unique and awesome opportunity!



Contact Chris Wignall

Email: [cwignall@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:cwignall@sd61.bc.ca)

Phone: 250-382-9226