



Esquimalt Parent & Student Docker

Dec. 9 – Dec. 13

moment is a fresh beginning”

Happy December!

Mon. Dec. 9		
Tues. Dec. 10		
Wed. Dec. 11	Early Dismissal 2:27	
Thurs. Dec. 12	Careers Grade 10 Students: ICBC Presentation in Theatre	B block
Fri. Dec. 13	ESQ Holiday Music Social (After School) Deadline for survey completion	4 pm See below

Save the Date

Dec. 19: GRAD Winter Formal
Dec. 20: Santa’s Breakfast



Esquimalt Food Drive 2024!

As the holiday season approaches, we’re coming together as a school to support our community with a Holiday Food Drive. Did you know that local food banks are struggling to keep their shelves stocked? This is our chance to make a real difference for people in need.

Here is how you can help:

Bring in non-perishable food items—just a couple of cans or boxes of food from each of you can add up to something incredible.

Our school-wide goal is to collect at least 1,000 items by December 16th. That’s about one donation per person—students, staff, and even Ola and Ollie!

And there’s a sweet incentive: the B Block class that donates the most will win Esquimalt Bakery Donuts in the new year!



Parent/Caregiver Resource:

Safer Schools Together “Raising Digitally Responsible Youth: A Parent’s Guide”

This Parent’s Guide to Raising Digitally Responsible Youth will equip you with the knowledge you need to stay in the loop about the most popular applications and trends. Correspondingly, this guide will give you a better understanding of your child or teen’s internet usage so you can relate to the digital world they live in.

<https://saferschoolstogether.com/raising-digitally-responsible-youth-a-parents-guide-2/>

2025-26 Annual Budget Survey

Hello parents/guardians,

The Greater Victoria School District is seeking initial feedback through an [online survey](#) focused on the 2025-2026 Annual Budget. Your comments will help inform initial budget allocation suggestions which will be presented to the Board of Education for consideration as a part of the overall budget development process. Further along in the process, there will be additional, hands-on opportunities to provide richer feedback.

- **Complete this survey by 4pm on Friday, December 13:** <https://forms.office.com/r/A8DGA5whpB>
- More information on the GVSD Website: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/news/title/2025-26-initial-budget-survey/>

Thank you for your input and for your continued engagement with our school district.

Thank you,

Ms. Sarah Garr, Principal

GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunization consent packages for grade 9 students will be sent home shortly. Follow the instructions inside the consent package and return the signed consent form to the school as soon as possible. Students in grade 9 will be offered immunizations in school-based clinics. Please discuss the information in the consent package with your child and include them in the decision to provide consent for immunization.

Students in grade 9 can make an informed decision about immunization regardless of their parent/guardian/representative decision to consent or refuse immunization. For more information visit:

[The Infants Act, mature minor consent and immunization | HealthLink BC](#)

*Immunizations will be provided at the school for **grade 9 students on January 24, 2025.***

Contact the local Health Unit at 250-519-5311 if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Sonja van der Putten, (she/her/s)

Vice Principal

Gingerbread Pick Up Information:



On behalf of our Culinary Program, we would like to Thank you for supporting our 11th Annual Gingerbread House Kit Sale Fundraiser for CFA Santa's Anonymous.

Kits can be picked up Dec 3-6, 10-13, 2024 at Esquimalt High from 9am-3pm. If you are unable to make it during these pickup times, please email esquimalt@sd61.bc.ca to make other arrangements. If you purchased a kit for a family in need, this year's donations will be delivered to families with hampers and to the women's shelter.



bit.ly/santasbreakfasttalentshow24

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uMM485nnGh4Ysw0P2VSTjPwZtadC-xWLvnGxkMKPuVE/edit?pli=1>

Food Programs at Esquimalt:

A reminder that our **Breakfast and Lunch programs** are intended for those students who are experiencing financial hardship/need. While we appreciate that other students may at times need to access breakfast on occasion, we are asking that those students who are able to access food at home please do so.

Please note that the **Rainbow Kitchen "Fridge of Love"** is open and accessible to ALL staff and students, regardless of financial need! 😊



TOY DRIVE

DECEMBER 14 1-3 PM

Drop off NEW, UNWRAPPED toys
and gifts at ESQUIMALT HIGH
(847 - Colville Rd)



Questions? Email us:
tokeeffe@sd61learn.ca
esqatomsmashers@gmail.com



Ukrainian Flag Pins



FREE "with donation"

Suggested \$10-\$20
Minimum \$5

All Proceeds Support
Ukrainian Refugees





ESQUIMALT HIGH SPIRIT & GRAD WEAR 2025 ORDER FORM

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO DEC 11, 2024

How to Order:

Complete the order form below and return it Grad/Docker Wear Sales Table in the hallway Nov 25 - Dec 11, 2024.
Cash, Cheque, Credit or Debit accepted.
Order can also be made online through School Cash Online.
Cheques are made payable to Esquimalt High School".



Docker Wear

Grad Wear

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

SCHOOL SPIRIT "DOCKER WEAR"

QTY	ITEM	Name for Customization "Print Clearly"	SIZE (SM-2XL) *UNISEX	COLOR (PLEASE CIRCLE)	COST PER ITEM	ITEM TOTAL
	Hoodie	N/A		BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY, LIGHT BLUE, KELLY GREEN, PURPLE, SAPHIRE	\$42.00	
	Hoodie with Name			BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY, LIGHT BLUE, KELLY GREEN, PURPLE, SAPHIRE	\$50.00	
	Zip Hoodie	N/A		BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY	\$50.00	
	Zip Hoodie with Name			BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY	\$58.00	
	T-Shirt -Unisex	N/A		BLACK	\$20.00	
	Sweat Pant	N/A		BLACK, ATHLETIC HEATHER	\$40.00	
	Sweat Pant with Name			BLACK, ATHLETIC HEATHER	\$48.00	
	Snapback Flexfit Flat Visor Hat	N/A		BLACK	\$35.00	
	Flexfit Wool Strech Hat	N/A		BLACK	\$30.00	
	Trucker Snapback Hat	N/A		BLACK	\$25.00	
	Hip Pack Bag	N/A		BLACK	\$20.00	
	Fanny Pack Bag	N/A		BLACK	\$20.00	

GRAD 2025 "GRAD WEAR"

QTY	ITEM	Name for Customization "Print Clearly"	SIZE (SM-2XL) *UNISEX	COLOR (PLEASE CIRCLE)	COST PER ITEM	ITEM TOTAL
	Grad Pinnie with Name			N/A	\$47.00	
	Hoodie	N/A		BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY, LIGHT BLUE, SANGRIA, GOLD	\$42.00	
	Hoodie with Name			BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY, LIGHT BLUE, SANGRIA, GOLD	\$50.00	
	Zip Hoodie	N/A		BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY	\$50.00	
	Zip Hoodie with Name			BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY	\$58.00	
	Sweat Pant	N/A		BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY	\$40.00	
	Sweat Pant with Name			BLACK, ATHLETIC GREY	\$48.00	

ORDER TOTAL	
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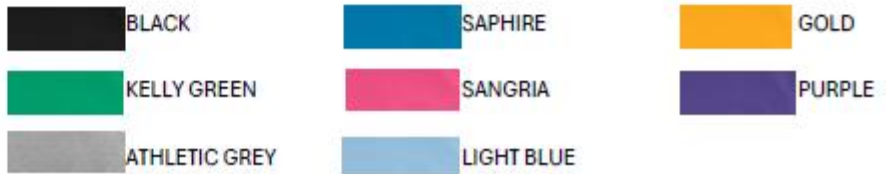
DOCKER WEAR



GRAD WEAR



***PINNIES WILL BE RED AND WHITE



The Interact Club:

BUDDIES WITHOUT BORDERS

What is Buddies Without Borders?

A program that unites international students with local students! Participate in fun social events and hang out with your new buddy for a chance to win prizes!



Who can join?

International & local students of any age. Join today!



Scan the QR code or follow the link to fill out the interest form! Please do this ASAP.



INTEREST FORM

or go to bit.ly/buddies-without-border



DUAL CREDIT COURSES IN EARLY LEARNING & CARE (TO BECOME AN ECE)

Course Option One: Blended Online + On-Campus

Health 111 - Indigenous Peoples Health

Students will explore Indigenous peoples' health experiences: past, present, and future. Using a strength-based and holistic perspective, students will learn about the current realities of Indigenous peoples' health experiences, and will be introduced to traditional healing practices. Students will be able to use this knowledge to further their own understanding of Indigenous peoples' health, and can apply this experience to work with children, families and in community.

Course Option Two: On Campus Delivery

ELC 170 - Working with Family & Community

Students will be introduced to understanding the changing roles of families in our current society. Students study developmental tasks of families, historical and emerging themes with an emphasis on supporting families and establishing respectful, reciprocal partnerships. Students will be introduced to Indigenous world views in order to broaden their thinking about children and their families, including the impact of residential schools and on-going colonization and skills of reconciliation. Families are viewed within a strengths-based perspective and special emphasis is placed on the knowledge, skills, beliefs and values required to work in partnership with diverse families.



Health 111 & ELC 170 are part of the following great programs:



Course Delivery Details

Health 111. Online. Wednesday's. 5:30 - 8:20pm.
Jan 8, Feb 26 & Apr 9 classes are on-campus

ELC 170. On Campus. Fri. 3 - 5:50pm Jan - Apr
@ Camosun's CHW Building, Interurban

Classes are scheduled over Spring Break

Course prerequisites: Hlth 111 = C in Eng 12 / ELC 170 = C+ in Eng 12
Students need to be taking Eng 12 in Semester 1. Call SIP to review.

For more information talk to your school based Careers Team

CAREERS:

Health DUAL CREDIT

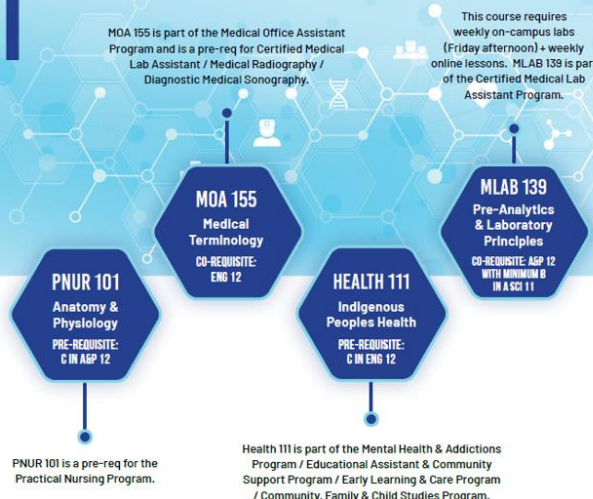
Grade 12 students are you interested in taking a Health Dual Credit course in Semester 2?
See ESQ Careers Team for more information/application

DUAL CREDIT COURSES IN HEALTH

GET A JUMP START INTO THE FOLLOWING FIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS

- HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT
- PRACTICAL NURSING
- CERTIFIED MEDICAL LAB ASSISTANT
- MEDICAL OFFICE ASSISTANT
- MEDICAL RADIOGRAPHY

TUITION IS SPONSORED BY YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT



FOR MORE INFORMATION TALK TO YOUR SCHOOL BASED CAREERS TEAM

GRADE 12 SEMESTER 2 DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

Grade 12 students planning to apply for post-secondary education in any of the following areas should connect with ESQ Careers to determine if you meet the prerequisites for starting a course in Semester 2. This opportunity can help reduce your course load for your first year of post-secondary and have it be covered by the district. Additionally, courses may be transferable to other colleges and universities!

- Early Learning & Care
- Mental Health & Addictions
- Community, Family & Child Studies
- Educational Assistant & Community Support
- Practical Nursing
- Health Care Assistant
- Certified Medical Lab Assistant
- Medical Office Assistant
- Medical Radiography

Interested?, check in with ESQ Careers Team: Tarra tclarke@sd61.bc.ca or Ken Henderson khenderson@sd61.bc.ca



Are You Interested in Pursuing a Career in Firefighting?

Join the Esquimalt Fire Department for a presentation where firefighters will share their personal journeys into the firefighting profession. Attendees will also have the chance to apply to attend an interactive Springboard Experience at the Esquimalt Fire Department in February and a week-long Fire Camp during Spring Break.

DATE: Wednesday December 11, 2024

TIME: BLOCK C

WHERE: Theatre

Current Careers 11 classes will be attending with their classes, other students who are interested in attending, please email ESQ Careers: Tarra tclarke@sd61.bc.ca or Mr.

Henderson khenderson@sd61.bc.ca

**students are responsible for checking in with their current teacher about attending.*

GRAD 2025:

IMPORTANT GRAD INFORMATION: Attention GRAD families!

See important information about grad below.

Important Dates:

December: Winter Formal - December 19th

Tickets on sale in November

May: Grade 12 Capstone Presentations - May 21st

June 2024- Grad events

- ESQ GRAD Recognition Ceremony Monday June 2, 2025 UVIC Farquhar Auditorium
 - Tickets on sale in Spring (6 per family- this MAY increase to 8**)
- Dinner dance June 21



GRAD ASSEMBLIES:

All the upcoming assemblies will have a newsletter to bring home

Dates *subject to change*

- GRAD Status letters will be coming when term one marks are in (November) you will get a letter about whether or not your child is in a position to graduate. If you don't have the letter please come to the office for pick up.

Feb 19-1pm in to focus

April 30-1pm in to focus

May 28- 1pm to focus

May 30- BLOCK D

June 2- Rehearsal at UVIC- grads away all day

Ally Hoffman, Counsellor École Secondaire Esquimalt High School

DON'T MISS OUT: GRAD PHOTO

INFORMATION!

LINK to book grad photos is now open!!!

Grad Photography Dates: January 6th to January 15th 2025 @Esquimalt High School in the Green Room on 1st floor

From Prestige Portraits:

The sessions will be 20 minutes, and we will do formal cap/gown photos as well as casual photos. (ex. Jeans/Tshirt, Sports uniform, etc)

We highly suggest Grads bring a dress shirt and tie or wear v-neck or scoop neck top for formal photos. Unfortunately, we will not have shirts and ties for graduates to use.

The use of props provided by Lifetouch (roses, diploma scroll) is voluntary, we have implemented safety protocols for sanitizing props or will provide one time use props for each sitting.

Graduates may also bring appropriate props to be included in their sitting. (ex. basketball, musical instrument, etc)

<https://prestigeportraits.ca/>

There is no 8-digit code, students/parents can search by Province and City- DISREGARD 8 digit code



Grad 2025 Skate -
Never too old to
have fun on the ice!
[#grad2025](#)



REMINDERS:

Reminder about taking photos and filming at Esquimalt:

CONSENT is important. BEFORE taking a student or staff members' photo or filming, you must ask for permission first.



Student Connect:

GVSD Student Connect allows students to review privacy information and choose which online digital services they consent to use. Students should review their current consent items at the start of each school year.

New items can be added at any time (for example if a student needs access to a service in Gr. 11 that they did not need previously). Consent can also be revoked at any time if a student is misusing technology.

Important consent items in Student Connect include:

- School Yearbook and In-School Photo/Video Consent
 - School and School District Media Consent
 - Broadcast Media Consent
 - Student Acceptable Use of Technology

Permissions for Digital tools:

- Google Workspace for Education
- Adobe Creative Cloud
- MyBlueprint
- Canva

Student Connect: <https://studentconnect.sd61.bc.ca/>

Parent Connect:

Parent Connect is an online service developed by the Greater Victoria School District to expedite consent requests and access Learning Updates (report cards). The service reduces the amount of paper forms and allows parents and school staff to review a student's consent information on-demand. The service also includes Google Translate to support parents who prefer to communicate in languages other than English.

Learning Updates (report cards) are shared digitally with both parents and students through Parent Connect and Student Connect.

Starting in Q2, all Learning Updates will only be shared via [Parent Connect](#) and [Student Connect](#). Paper copies of Learning Updates will only be available upon request.

Please click on the link below for information on how to create an account and access Parent Connect. When you access the account, student Learning Updates will be available as a pdf document.

[Parent Connect instructional video](#) and link to the portal.
[PDF Instructions for how to access Parent Connect](#)

Student and Family Affordability Fund:

In March 2024, the Ministry of Education and Child Care provided districts with additional **one-time Student and Family Affordability Funds (SFAF)**. The Student and Family Affordability Fund is intended to support families with costs associated with going to school that they may be struggling to pay. The aim is to make life more affordable for families who are temporarily facing financial challenges and need temporary assistance with the current cost of school supplies and education-related fees. The funds will be provided in as flexible, private and stigma-free manner as possible.

Funding use includes, but is not limited to:

1. Goods:

- Providing basic school supplies that might otherwise be purchased by parents, guardians, and students (e.g., pens, paper); and
- Supporting with clothing/footwear required for school sports or other school activities.

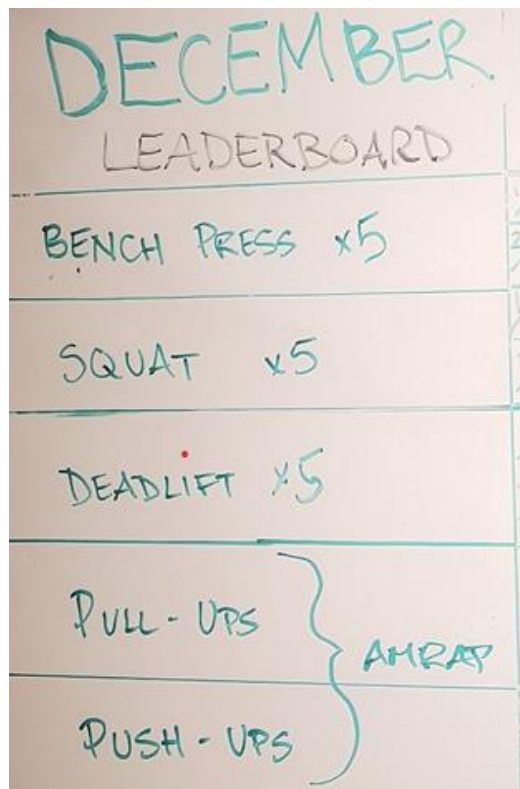
2. Fees:

- Waiving education-related fees (e.g., additional supplies for shop, culinary and craft classes, workbooks, camps, field trips, relevant cultural events, other student society meetings including those related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and instrument and equipment fees or other fees charged by school districts); and
- Fees for school sports and other school activities.

If your family or student have any questions or require support, please reach out to Sarah Garr (Principal) by phone or email sgarr@sd61.bc.ca

Athletics

Weightroom Monthly Record Board: Students, there now exists a monthly record board in the weight room. Come one and all and be recognized for your achievements; December is a short month and a great opportunity to get your name on the board of records.



Need a counselling
appointment?

Scan the QR code below or
email us directly for an appointment.



SCHOOL BASED COUNSELLORS

Personal counselling, course changes, post-secondary and academic advising.

Allyson Hoffman (she/her)

(A to K): ahoffman@d61.bc.ca *Monday to Friday

Anastasia Andrews (she/her)

(L to Z): aandrews@d61.bc.ca *Monday to Friday

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING

Tim Zemanek (he/him): tzemanek@d61.bc.ca

YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS (YFC)

Personal and family counselling. **NOT COURSE CHANGES.**

Bob Beattie (he/him): bbeattie@d61.bc.ca *Monday to Wednesday

Michaela Louie (she/her): mlouie@d61.bc.ca *Tuesday to Friday

Akki Mackay (they/them): akmackay@d61.bc.ca *Monday to Thursday

Are you interested in Programming? Photography? Graphic arts?
Marketing? Game strategy? Social media and or web design?
If so...

ESQ
A LUM
SMASHERS
20025 7281

COME JOIN ESQ'S
ROBOTICS
TEAM

A promotional poster for the ESQ Robotics Team. The background is dark blue with glowing circuit lines. The text 'COME JOIN ESQ'S ROBOTICS TEAM' is prominently displayed in a light blue, glowing font. There are four hexagonal photo cutouts showing students working on their robots. One robot is red and has '20025' on it. Another is purple and has '20025' on it. The bottom right photo shows a student's hands working on a robot. At the top right, there is a logo for 'ESQ A LUM SMASHERS' with the numbers '20025' and '7281'. At the bottom, it says 'Meetings afterschool on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays @ Room 221.'

Meetings afterschool on Mondays,
Wednesdays, and Thursdays @ Room 221.

CAFETERIA: The Esq Café menu offers a hot lunch, salad and a variety of baked goods daily.

Lunch \$7.00, Salad \$5.00

Baked Goods range from \$1.50-\$5.00

The Café accepts reloadable cafeteria cards and cash.

Cafeteria Cards will be available to purchase on [School Cash Online](#) September 14, 2024. Cards purchases or re-loads will be ready for pickup at 11:30am in the office one business day after purchase. If you have a card from last year please bring it to the Accounts Office so it can be reactivated.

What's on the Menu? ESQ Café – Dec. 9 to Dec. 13

Mon.	Sweet n sour pork meatballs over rice
Tues.	Pulled pork taco, fire roasted tomato salsa, pickled cabbage, cumin crème fraiche
Wed.	Baked pasta and meat sauce
Thurs.	Chicken pad thai
Fri.	Grilled cheese and veggies and dip



[Mental Health and Wellness](#)

[Snapshot:](#)

Family Ties and Community Bonds

Click: <http://cm.pn/il3y>

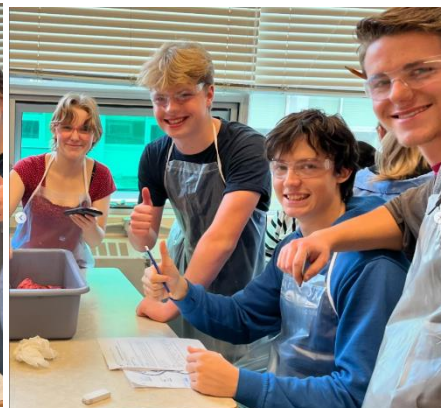
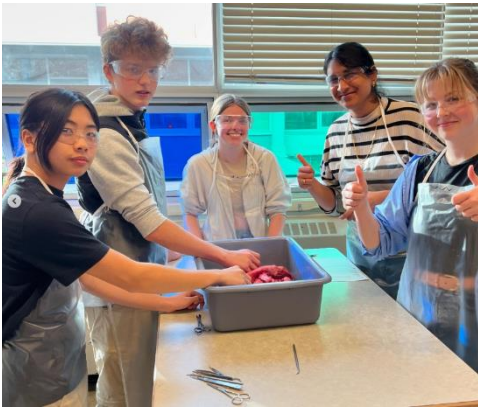


Some recent highlights from the Indigenous Garden at Esquimalt High!

Julia from Silk Flower Nurseries shared her plant expertise and guided us in the garden, alongside Rachel Trebilco from GVSD Indigenous Education and Mr. Orme. A wonderful collaboration with our students! 🏆 ✨



Ms. Alpert's Anatomy and Physiology class is exploring anatomy through hands-on dissections, giving students an up-close look at the structures and systems they've been learning about. This hands-on experience brings learning to life and inspires curiosity about the fascinating world of anatomy!



It's Careers Week in BC, and ESQ wants to recognize this student who has volunteered over 60 hrs this year! For his efforts, he is now employed P/T and will be doing the SD61 trades training program next semester. (TASK) Well done J!