

## Spooktacular Fun at the Halloween Dance!

*Written by Eleanor Hogg, photos by Matteo Galvano*

On October 30th, over a hundred students arrived at the gym to celebrate Halloween. The amazing costumes ranged from Alice in Wonderland troupes to Juno to Ken dolls to Mean Girls and many more. The concession stand held great snacks, and the decorations included balloons, spooky signs, and colourful lighting. A great first dance of the year, put together by the Leadership students and assisted by chaperones!

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Thanks for reading this newspaper and helping us get started again! If you're interested in contributing to our school's monthly newspaper, come join us in room 329 on Wednesdays at lunch. Join anytime!

# Welcome to Esquimalt Ink!

*An editorial by Arden Giles*



Welcome, students and staff of Esquimalt High School, to the very first issue of Esquimalt Ink 2024-2025!

At Esquimalt Ink, it is our pleasure to bring you up-to-date, factual information from the perspective of students! In addition to in-depth reports on current events, we offer fun sections to bring a spark of entertainment to our issues!

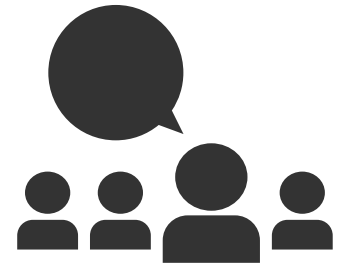
This newspaper is run completely off of the effort and time of students at our school. We are so excited to publish a monthly newspaper this year, following the tough start-up years since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among these pages, you'll notice a balance of news articles and creative submissions. We recognize that many students at Esquimalt have amazing artistic abilities, so we would like to open the floor for personal submissions. Be sure to get more information about this later in the issue, if you're interested!

With so much to look forward to this year, we can't wait to bring you along for the ride! We sincerely hope you enjoy this first issue and we look forward to the coming monthly issues as well. Stay tuned: This is only the beginning!

# The Israel/Palestine Conflict

*Written by Matteo Galvano*



In recent months, intense fighting between Israel and Hamas and between Israel and Hezbollah has led to escalating violence, severe civilian casualties, and growing international concern. The crisis erupted on October 7, 2023, when Hamas, the militant group governing Gaza, launched a large-scale attack on Israel, including rocket fire and ground incursions into Israeli towns near the border. The assault, which involved gunmen infiltrating residential areas and widespread destruction, resulted in over a thousand Israeli casualties, leaving the country in shock and prompting an immediate response from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

Following the Hamas attack, Israel has launched an extensive counteroffensive, carrying out continuous airstrikes across Gaza, aiming to target Hamas infrastructure and leadership. In addition to aerial bombardments, Israel has mobilized thousands of military reservists along the Gaza border. The bombardments have devastated parts of Gaza, with neighbourhoods, healthcare facilities, and basic infrastructure heavily impacted. Tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians have been killed or injured, with local health officials reporting an overwhelming number of casualties. As power, water, and essential services dwindle, Gaza's population faces a growing humanitarian crisis.

International aid organizations and human rights groups are sounding alarms about the deteriorating conditions in Gaza, where many hospitals are at or over their full capacity and essential medical supplies are in short supply. The blockade on Gaza has cut off fuel, food, and medicine, exacerbating the already critical situation. The United Nations and humanitarian organizations have urgently called for the establishment of humanitarian corridors to ensure access to food, medical supplies, and safe evacuation routes for civilians.

# The Israel/Palestine Conflict (continued)

The UN Secretary-General has urged an immediate ceasefire to prevent further civilian suffering, while agencies like the Red Cross have stressed the need to protect non-combatants as the situation grows increasingly dire.

Around the world, leaders are closely watching the situation, expressing concern over the escalation and the growing civilian toll. The United States has supported Israel's right to defend itself but has urged restraint in minimizing civilian harm, working with other countries in efforts of brokering ceasefires. Egypt, which shares a border with Gaza, is actively engaged in negotiations to open humanitarian aid routes and facilitate a ceasefire, while countries like Jordan, Qatar, and Turkey have called for immediate de-escalation. Demonstrations and protests in support of both Palestinians and Israelis have taken place globally, highlighting the emotional and political impact of the conflict on the international stage.

The coming days are crucial as diplomats work to avoid further escalation, which could deepen the humanitarian crisis and heighten civilian casualties on both sides. Efforts to negotiate a ceasefire continue, with calls for safe passage of humanitarian aid and efforts to prevent the situation from worsening. The world watches as civilians on both sides bear the weight of the intensifying conflict, hoping that diplomatic efforts may soon bring some measure of peace.



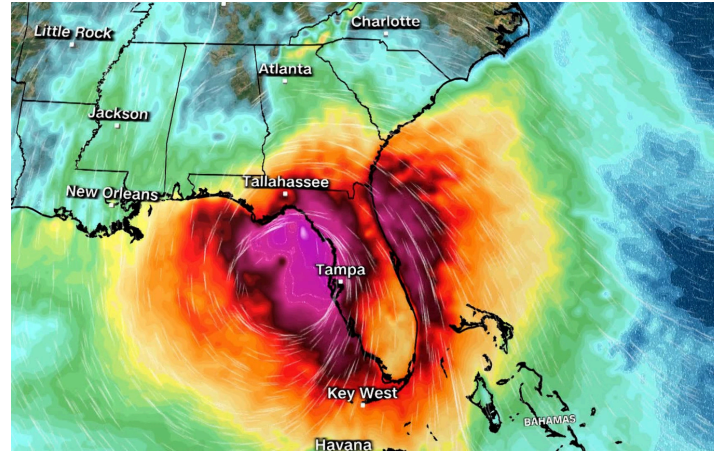
# Hurricanes in the United States

*Written by Sylvie Scott*

Hurricane Helene started in late September and quickly became the deadliest hurricane to strike the mainland U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Helene started to form on September 22nd in the Western Caribbean Sea. By September 29th, after travelling approximately 800 kilometres north (from Florida to the Southern Appalachians), it died down in the state of Tennessee. This hurricane reached wind speeds of around 220 kilometres per hour and created numerous tornadoes in the states that it crossed. Approximately 229 deaths have been recorded for Hurricane Helene.



© CBC News



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It seemed as though the United States couldn't catch a break, because it was only two weeks after Hurricane Helene when Hurricane Milton, just as Helene, formed in the Caribbean Sea and then travelled to Florida, devastating the area once again. Florida declared a state of emergency while wind speeds rose to around 285 kilometres per hour. Hurricane Milton was responsible for the deaths of 35 people, as of October 21st. Milton dissipated on October 12th, leaving the country to deal with the unprecedented and lasting effects of not only Milton, but its precursor Helene, as well. The two hurricanes are expected to have brought tens of billions of US dollars worth of damage to the states that they affected.

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT: INTERACT



Are you interested in making new friends & international connections? Do you like fun events and prizes? Make some lifelong memories in the Buddies Without Borders program this year! Find more information on the posters in the hallways.



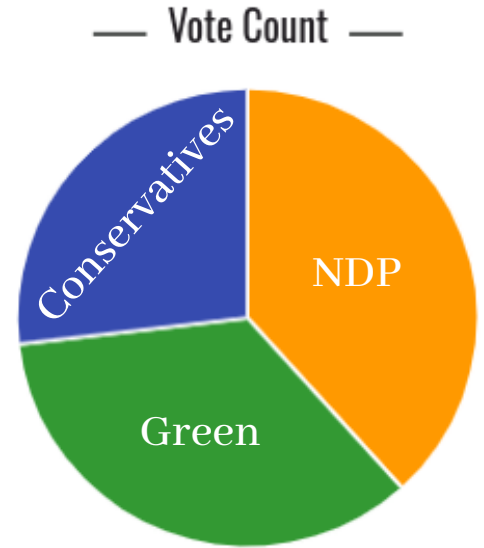
## The Results Are In: Report On the 2024 Student Vote

*Written by Arden Giles*

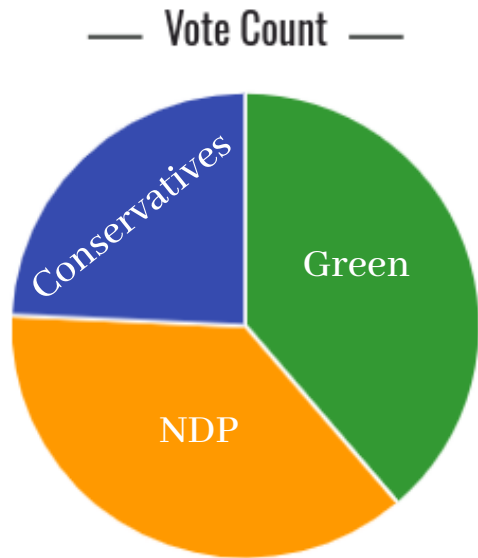
Thank you to everyone who participated in the student vote on Thursday, October 17th. We've got some exciting news for you: the results are in!

Here at Esquimalt High School, we had a total of 287 votes cast. The leading party is the BC NDP (represented by Darlene Rotchford in the Esquimalt-Colwood district) with 110 votes. Coming in second place is the BC Green Party (represented by Camille Currie in our electoral district) with an even 100 votes. The Conservative Party of BC (represented by John Wilson) got 77 votes.

### ESQUIMALT HIGH SCHOOL



### ESQUIMALT-COLWOOD

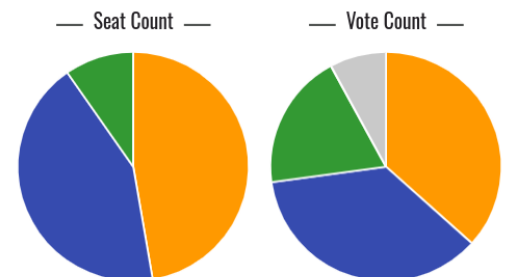


Let's broaden our view to all of the schools in the Esquimalt-Colwood district. According to the Student Vote website, a total of 13 schools participated in this year's student vote! In our electoral district, Camille Currie took the lead with 1,019 votes (which makes up 38.75% of the total votes cast). Darlene Rotchford got a total of 972 votes (36.96%) and John Wilson ended up with 639 votes (24.30%).

Across BC, a grand total of 177,961 student votes were cast, submitted by 1,034 different schools! The provincial results vary from our own electoral district and our neighbouring districts. The BC NDP won the provincial student vote with 63,057 votes and 44 of 93 seats (47.31% of seats). The Conservative Party of BC came in second with 62,242 votes and 40 of 93 seats (43.01% of seats). The BC Green Party ended up with 33,052 votes and 9 seats (9.68% of seats). Check out the diagrams below, courtesy of the BC Student Vote website!

In other parts of BC, there are a few other parties aside from the main three we've been talking about here. None of these parties won any seats in the student vote this year, but it's still important to acknowledge that voting looked different for people around the province. If you're interested in seeing the results for these other options, we recommend that you visit [studentvote.ca/bc/results](http://studentvote.ca/bc/results).

### PROVINCE-WIDE SUMMARY



# A Nail Biting Election: Results Following the Transformation of BC Parties

*Written by Molly Chan*

The reconstitution of political parties has drastically changed BC's political landscape. The Conservative party has experienced a resurgence. They are now competing heavily with the New Democratic Party; ridings are becoming more precious as the voting margins between the two parties become smaller and smaller.

Four years ago, the Conservatives were completely swept aside by the New Democrats. They won no seats, having only 1.91 % of the vote across the province. The New Democrats won the 2020 election with a resounding majority of 57 seats, with BC United trailing with only 28. However, on August 28, 7 weeks before the 2024 election, Party leader Kevin Falcon announced that BC United was bowing out of the election. As a result, many of their voters voted for the remaining right-wing party. Still, the implosion of BC United does not completely explain how the Conservatives gained so much of the vote.

Leading up to the election, the BC NDP and the Conservatives were neck and neck. Initial counts of the provincial election concluded on October 20th, with officials calling for a second round beginning on October 26. In the preliminary round of counting, the BC NDP led by a narrow 1.1 % margin over the Conservatives, with 46 seats over the Conservatives' 45. Both governments are shy of the 47 seats needed for a majority government. The final recount, which began on October the 26th, included the 65 thousand absentee and mail-in ballots that were missing in the initial round.

The process of recounting took longer than anticipated. Automatic recounts were invoked for the ridings with margins of 100 votes or less, which included the Juan de Fuca - Malahat riding, where NDP candidate Dana Lajeunesse beat BC Conservative Marina Sapozhnikov by around 20 votes. These ridings were key in the election, in which one or two seats could have decided a majority government. When the final count was completed, the difference was slim; the NDP won with 47 seats to the Conservative's 44.

The BC greens received both good and bad news following the initial counts. Though they won only two parliamentary seats, those seats could have been used to leverage both the Conservative and NDP parties, who needed them in order to form a majority government. The power to form a coalition was one the Greens no doubt were keen to keep as they followed the final results the following week. Unfortunately, though the Green Party kept their seats following the final count, the NDP's additional riding meant a coalition was no longer needed for a majority government.

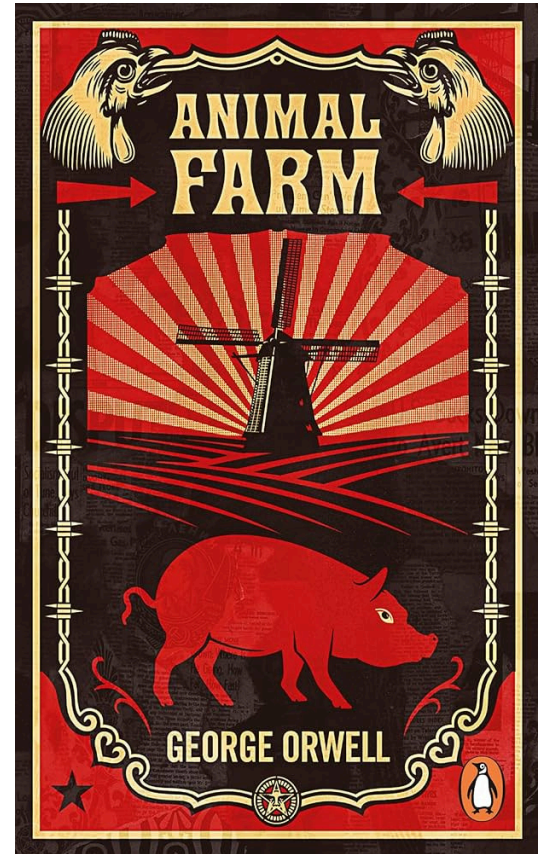
The final results of the provincial election were much closer than anticipated. Though the New Democratic Party clinched a victory, there is, no doubt, concern within the party about the narrow margins of its victory. The Conservatives only just missed a chance at majority government; a far cry from the 2020 election. The re-elected government will have to think on how to respond to the changing views of the electorate.

# George Orwell's *Animal Farm* Review

Written by Eleanor Hogg

Rating: ★★★★★

Short and easy to read, the politically satirical novella *Animal Farm* is an allegory for the Russian Revolution. It tells the story of a group of barnyard animals, as they host a revolution and run out the humans inhabiting the farm. As the animals continue to follow 'Animalism', chanting the maxim 'four legs good, two legs bad!', new accomplishments are made and their presence becomes well known throughout the rest of the town. It dives into the concepts of power, equality, authority, and politics in simple but thought-provoking writing. It was released in 1945 and has faced an array of censorship all over the world. All in all, it starts a conversation which is still relevant today, and it makes sense why it's so highly regarded.



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## Notable November Dates

Organized by Eleanor Hogg

**NOVEMBER 1ST:** Music program sharing session

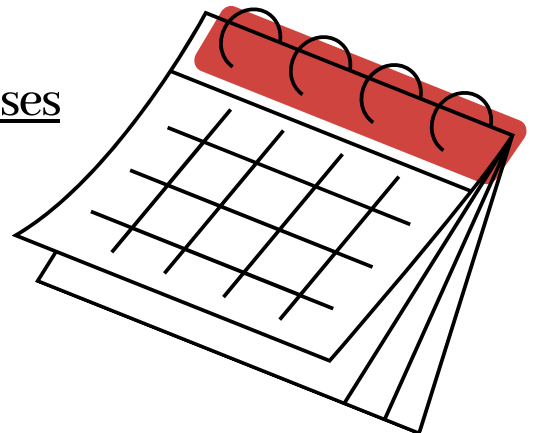
**NOVEMBER 8TH:** Remembrance Day assembly

**NOVEMBER 11TH:** Remembrance Day --> no classes

**NOVEMBER 12TH:** Start of term 2

**NOVEMBER 13TH:** Early dismissal

**NOVEMBER 22ND:** No classes





# We Live In Time

*Written by Elisa Gandolfo*

Our time on earth is limited, and even though we are well aware, everyday life likes to remind us constantly. Our time is beaten, whether it's by clocks, alarms, timers, or sometimes even a countdown at an international cooking competition. Whether we like it or not, time passes quickly and ruthlessly.



Time is the protagonist of this new John Crowley movie, starring Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield. Almut, played by Florence Pugh, is a professional chef. Tobias (Andrew Garfield) has recently gone through a divorce. The two meet by accident (literally!) and start dating. In less than two hours we explore their relationship, changing and evolving through three different stages of their lives.

The non-linear storytelling quickly switches focus between three storylines: the birth of their daughter, their weird but inevitably sweet encounter, and Almut's cancer diagnosis. At that point, their relationship is challenged by the inevitable course of time. While they have to learn how to cherish every second and make the most of the little time left, Almut has to decide between going through treatment that might not save her, or use the time she has left to reach her life goals.

The great performances from the lead actors and the chemistry between them make this otherwise somewhat forgettable movie into an incredibly moving piece of media.

"Going into this movie, knowing that we're going to feel something is a great thing. It's exactly why the movie has been made. There are so many scenes in there that are designed to make you feel things. That's the point. What a wonderful thing," Pugh said, and it really is what the movie does.

So if you feel like a cry, bring a box of tissues and check for the next screening near you!



**SEASONAL POETRY** *Organized by Eleanor Hogg***The Road Not Taken***Written by Robert Frost*

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
 And sorry I could not travel both  
 And be one traveler, long I stood  
 And looked down one as far as I could  
 To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
 And having perhaps the better claim,  
 Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
 Though as for that the passing there  
 Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
 In leaves no step had trodden black.  
 Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
 Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
 I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
 Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
 Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
 I took the one less traveled by,  
 And that has made all the difference.

© Kat via Flickr

**CREATIVE CORNER  
SUBMISSIONS**

Are you interested in contributing to Esquimalt Ink's Creative Corner? As a student-led paper, we're always looking for new ways to include the student body in our issues.

So, what's *your* artsy thing? Do you like to draw? Are you a poet? Do you enjoy writing short stories? We want to hear from you!

To submit a piece for Esquimalt Ink's Creative Corner, send an email to [esquimalt.ink@gmail.com](mailto:esquimalt.ink@gmail.com). We'll get back to you ASAP and you'll be able to get your creative piece featured in one of our monthly newspapers.



# November Cookie Recipe *Organized by Elisa Gandolfo*

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup unsalted butter, cubed
- 2/3 cup caster sugar
- 2/3 cup light brown sugar
- 3 large egg yolks
- 1/3 cup whole milk
- 2 1/4 cups plain flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 3/4 tsp baking soda
- 3 tbsp cornstarch
- ~1 cup dark chocolate, chopped
- ~1 cup milk chocolate, chopped



## DIRECTIONS

- 1) Cube the butter into small, evenly sized pieces, and melt it in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir frequently until it turns to golden brown (it should take around 5-7 minutes) and be careful not to burn it! Leave it to cool slightly before you add it to your dough.
- 2) Cream the butter, caster sugar and brown sugar together in a large mixing bowl and, once combined, add the egg yolks and the milk. Mix until well combined.
- 3) In a separate bowl, sift together the plain flour, baking powder, bicarbonate soda and cornstarch.
- 4) Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture, and stir until your dough has a nice smooth consistency.
- 5) Gently fold in the chocolate chunks into the cookie dough. Using chopped chocolate instead of chocolate chips ensures that the chocolate melts evenly throughout the cookies, enhancing their flavor and texture.

6) Wrap the cookie dough in plastic wrap or transfer it to an airtight container. Refrigerate the dough for at least one hour, it's best to wait for 24 hours but it's not necessary.

7) Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

8) Line a sheet with parchment paper. Make sure to use a baking sheet large enough to accommodate the cookies with space in between. They will get bigger so it's important to leave enough space!!!

9) Using a spoon, portion your cookies and place them on the baking sheet.

10) Optionally, add a few chunks of chocolate on top of the cookies!

11) Place the baking sheets in the oven and cook for around 10-13 minutes, until they're brown around the edges. If the inner part looks undercooked don't worry, it should be fine once they cool down!

12) Once out of the oven, allow your cookies to cool down on the baking sheets for at least 5-6 minutes and then transfer them to a wire rack to cool them completely.

13) Optional: sprinkle a few grains of coarse salt on top and enjoy!!!

Organized by Arden Giles

## Word Search



## November Word Scramble

I	C	B	F	X	O	L	Z	C	S	R	L	N	N	J
I	Y	O	I	E	A	F	W	G	Q	E	A	X	Z	F
P	Z	H	F	U	L	R	R	K	H	M	V	Y	Q	E
L	Z	U	T	F	A	J	R	N	P	E	V	A	S	R
I	F	U	I	I	E	P	X	I	T	M	C	M	E	L
X	M	Z	N	Q	U	E	K	B	O	B	C	D	A	L
N	D	E	V	D	G	Q	K	F	T	R	B	T	E	E
N	X	F	X	B	O	E	V	H	E	A	Z	E	V	J
T	O	K	B	Y	N	H	O	G	U	N	L	L	A	F
E	N	V	Z	T	N	B	K	S	Q	C	P	H	P	O
A	E	O	E	U	J	G	G	K	O	E	B	X	O	S
W	C	G	R	M	L	S	U	T	T	R	O	L	R	K
G	O	F	N	P	B	F	I	R	E	P	L	A	C	E
A	R	K	M	R	G	E	O	L	J	V	X	H	W	B
P	X	V	G	A	R	L	R	C	G	W	X	U	B	W

1) EMECRAENBMR

2) NEOREVBM

3) RNTEBONAIHI

4) ROAMNRITS

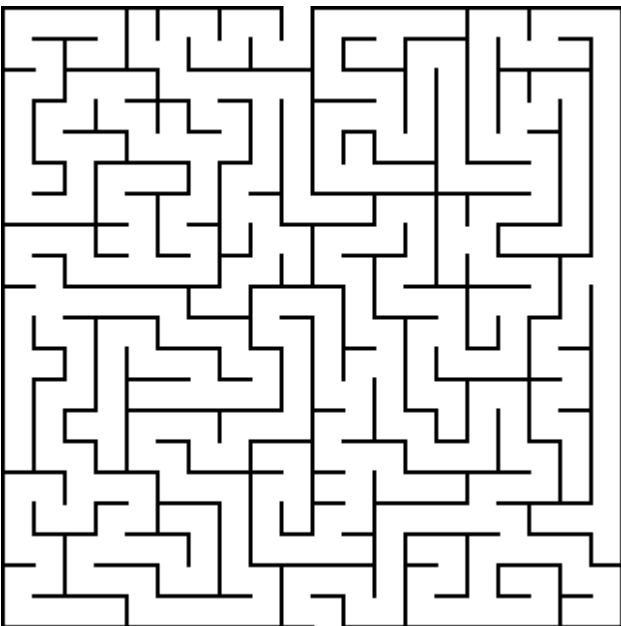
5) TOCREVSA

6) DOROWIFE



- |        |             |          |       |
|--------|-------------|----------|-------|
| Autumn | Remembrance | November | Fog   |
| Fall   | Coffee      | Coffee   | Rain  |
| Leaves | Fireplace   | Cozy     | Toque |

## Maze



### OUR TEAM

- Arden Giles - writer, editor, organizer
- Eleanor Hogg - writer
- Matteo Galvano - writer
- Elisa Gandolfo - writer
- Molly Chan - writer
- Sylvie Scott - writer
- Geoff Orme - teacher sponsor, publisher

Have any questions or concerns? Contact us at [esquimalt.ink@gmail.com](mailto:esquimalt.ink@gmail.com)!