



# ESQUIMALT PARENT & STUDENT DOCKER

**Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>**

Mon. Sept. 15	<b>PAC Meeting</b> <b>Music Ensembles Begin</b>	<b>6:45 All Nations Room</b>
Tues. Sept. 16	<b>Fire Drill</b>	<b>During D block</b>
Wed. Sept. 17		
Thurs. Sept. 18	<b>Community &amp; Connection Day for Grade 9s</b>	<b>During Block A and B</b>
Friday Sept. 19	New Student Welcome Day Club Sign Up Day	



## SAVE THE DATE

<b>SEPT. 22</b>	<b>Pro D No Scheduled Classes</b>
<b>SEPT. 25-27</b>	<b>GRAD Surf Trip</b>
<b>SEPT. 30</b>	<b>National Day for Truth &amp; Reconciliation NO Classes</b>
<b>OCT. 1</b>	<b>Choir &amp; Musical Theatre Vocal Clinic 3:30 to 5:30pm</b>
<b>OCT. 6</b>	<b>PAC Meeting</b>
<b>OCT. 7</b>	<b>Student Photo Retakes</b>

## Attention:

The **Student Verification Forms** were given out on Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Parent/Guardians please review information on the form and update the information, sign and students to bring back to B block teacher. Thank You!!

## Grade 9 RAFT Community Connection Day **Thursday Sept. 18th, 2025**

Welcome back everyone! On Thursday, September 18th, 2025 we will be hosting our grade 9 KELP CUP Day. This will be a morning of fun ice-breakers and activities at Esquimalt Gorge Park, followed by a BBQ lunch back at the school.

Be sure to:

- Dress for the weather – layers, sunscreen, hat, or jacket if necessary
- Bring appropriate footwear for outdoor activities
- Bring water bottles, and snacks
- Have a positive attitude! 😊

### **Shape of the Day:**

8:50am-9:15am- Students meet their RAFT classes on the field for introductory ice breakers  
 9:15am-9:45am Students to walk to the park with their RAFT classes  
 9:45am-11:40am Students to rotate activity stations in their RAFT classes  
 11:40-12:00pm Students to walk back to school  
 12-12:30pm Students to enjoy a bbq back at school

After lunch, students are expected to attend their C/D classes as regularly scheduled. Plan for a fun-filled and active morning!

Any questions please contact Kai Barker at: [kbarker@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kbarker@sd61.bc.ca)



# WHO WE ARE AT ESQ

Esquimalt High school values **diversity, equity and inclusion**, ensuring that all students, staff and guests feel **safe and respected**. **Relationships** form the foundation of our school community – as such, we strive to create a culture that fosters **belonging and connection** to support **academic success and social-emotional well-being**.



## DO's – How We Shine

- Show kindness, respect and inclusivity through our words and actions
- Take care of ourselves, our school and our community
- Arrive on time and ready to learn
- Use technology and resources responsibly, including storing cell phones out of sight unless permitted by the teacher
- Build a safe, welcoming space for everyone
- Choose words and actions that lift others up
- Make healthy choices for yourself and others
- Solve conflicts respectfully
- Be creative, original and honest in your work
- Express your ideas and opinions using respectful, polite and inclusive language
- Step in and speak out if you witness acts that don't align with who we are as a community



Reference: <https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/student-info/code-of-conduct/>



## **CAREERS:**

### **GRADE 12's DUAL CREDIT**

Grade 12 students, if you have room in your Semester 2 and would like to take a post-secondary course, now is your chance! High school students can enroll in a first year course or program at Camosun College in their Grade 12 year that earn credits towards High School and Post Secondary transcripts - **TRADES & NON TRADE OPTIONS AVAILABLE!**

Why Become a Dual Credit Student?

- **Your school district covers your tuition!!!**
- Most courses are transferable to other colleges and universities
- Avoid the five-course crunch in your first year. Five can be a lot!
- Build your confidence going into future options

**APPLICATIONS DUE: Sep 24, 2025**

Please email ESQ Careers for more information Tarra Clarke: [tclarke@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tclarke@sd61.bc.ca) or Mrs. Martinsen [kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca)

### **WORK EXPERIENCE CREDIT**

**If you are a student in Grade 10-12 who currently is working/volunteering, or interested in gaining experience and earn graduation credits, contact Ms. Coutts**

Enrolling in WEX 12A and 12B allows students to develop employability skills, and fulfill graduation requirements for Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies. It also satisfies the 30-hour experiential learning graduation requirement.

Students can EARN up to 8 credits.

**Esquimalt High School Work Experience Teacher:** Ms. Coutts [acoutts@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:acoutts@sd61.bc.ca)

### **CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITY**

**FOOD SAFE LEVEL 1 CERTIFICATION Opportunity**

**WHEN:** Tuesday September 23 OR Thursday September 25

**TIME:** 8:30 - 3:16 ALL DAY

**WHERE:** Lower Cafeteria

- This opportunity is open to ALL students Grade 9-12 but priority will be given to Grade 11 & 12's.
- Students are responsible for checking in with their teachers re: missing work ect.
- **Limited seats are available:** Open to grade 10 -12 students, but priority is reserved for those students in grade 11 & 12.

If Interested please Sign Up at: [bit.ly/esqfoodsafes1](https://bit.ly/esqfoodsafes1)



*Scan me*

If you have any questions, please contact the ESQ Careers Team:

Career Centre Coordinator – Tarra Clarke: [tclarke@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tclarke@sd61.bc.ca)

Career Teacher – Ms. Martinsen: [kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca)

**Canadian University Event (CUE)** On **Tuesday September 23, 2025** ESQ will be taking interested students to the Canadian Universities Event (CUE) at Oak Bay High School.

This event brings together representatives from major Canadian Universities and allows students to explore post-secondary options.

A few items to note:

- Departure from ESQ: 10:10 AM (sharp)
- Return from Oak Bay High: 11:30 AM
- Class missed: Block B - Students are responsible for notifying their teachers & completing any missed work
- Space is limited! Priority will be given to students in Ms. Bjornson's Scholarship Class
- CHECK YOUR SD61 LEARN ACCOUNT! **Confirmation of your seat on the bus will be determined by the order signed permission forms are returned to the office.**
- Permission Forms can be accessed when you sign up through the [bit.ly](https://bit.ly/esqcue) or hard copies are available in the office or see Tarra in the counselling wing

If interested, please sign [bit.ly/esqcue](https://bit.ly/esqcue)

If you have any questions, please contact the ESQ Careers Team:

Career Centre Coordinator – Tarra Clarke: [tclarke@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tclarke@sd61.bc.ca)

Career Teacher – Ms. Martinsen: [kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca)



Attendance Letters for Classes	
Block Letter	Time of Class
A	See Bell Schedule
B	See Bell Schedule
C	See Bell Schedule
D	See Bell Schedule
E	Focus Block
F	Mon Before School
G	Tues Before School
H	Wed Before School
J	Thurs Before School
K	Fri Before School
L	Mon Lunch
M	Tues Lunch
N	Wed Lunch
P	Thurs Lunch
Q	Fri Lunch
R	Mon After School
S	Tues After School
T	Wed After School
U	Thurs After School
V	Fri After School

### **Out of Timetable Blocks:**

**The student Schedules will show the following Blocks when the classes are before school, at lunch or after school. If the student will be absent, please let us know the block the student will be away during this time.**



# 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](mailto:ahoffman@d61.bc.ca) \*Monday to Friday

**Anastasia Andrews (she/her)**

(L to Z): [aandrews@d61.bc.ca](mailto:aandrews@d61.bc.ca) \*Monday to Friday

## YOUTH & FAMILY COUNSELLORS (YFC)

Personal and family counselling. NOT COURSE CHANGES.

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

**Michaela Louie (she/her):** [mlouie@d61.bc.ca](mailto:mlouie@d61.bc.ca) \*Monday to Friday

**Tanya Hadley (she/her):** [thadley@d61.bc.ca](mailto:thadley@d61.bc.ca) \*Tuesday-Friday

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISING

**Tim Zemanek (he/him):** [tzemanek@d61.bc.ca](mailto:tzemanek@d61.bc.ca)

**\*\*IF YOU ARE HAVING A  
MENTAL HEALTH  
EMERGENCY, COME TO  
THE COUNSELLING  
AREA!\*\***



WELCOME TO OUR  
GRADE 9 RAFT!

I ♥ ESQ



## What is Raft?

This is a “class” where students meet once a week to focus on connections, relationships and FUN! Our intention is to provide opportunities to **CONNECT** with the Raft teacher and peers over the course of the year to increase feelings of **BELONGING**!

## FOCUS BLOCK

Wednesdays (1:19 - 2:05) between Block C & D

### WHAT IS FOCUS BLOCK ALL ABOUT?

#### Student Choice

- Time for Students to self-direct, explore and FOCUS on their learning
- An opportunity to catch up on work, get some help, or practice skills
- Students can work independently, in partners or in small groups - it just depends!
- Teachers will not be assigning new work
- All students are required to attend FOCUS BLOCK.
- Staff will take/record **ATTENDANCE** and communicate home absences in the same manner as other scheduled classes
- Instructional time: No clubs, sports, or rehearsals during this time

### HOW TO SIGN UP FOR SEMESTER 1 FOCUS BLOCK?

[bit.ly/ESQFBSEM1](https://bit.ly/ESQFBSEM1)



- Provide us with your top THREE choices where you would like to spend your time
- Students will sign up once and remain with the same Teacher for all of Semester 1
- Teachers can support students in multiple teaching areas
- Focus Block is for classes that you are enrolled in for Semester 1:

**Example - if you DO NOT have Art this semester, you cannot sign up with Ms. Walker**

★ STUDENTS WHO DO NOT SIGN UP FOR A FOCUS BLOCK WILL BE ASSIGNED A TEACHER/SPACE

## A FEW THINGS TO NOTE!

- FB has been implemented into the timetable between Block C & D (1:19 - 2:05)
- Will run ALMOST all Wednesdays (*except for ESQ Staff Collaboration days*)
- Staff will be taking attendance: All students are required to attend Focus Block
- Attendance will be recorded and communicated home in the same manner as your other scheduled classes
- Teachers/Classes have limited space for sign-up. Make sure you SIGN UP asap!
- Link **Opens** During Block B on Tue, September 9 and **Closes** on Fri, Sept. 12 at NOON!



## Supporting Our Students: Food Programs at Esquimalt

At Esquimalt, we believe that no student should go through the day hungry. Our **Breakfast and Lunch Programs** are here to support those facing financial hardship, ensuring they have access to nourishing meals. If your family can provide meals from home, we kindly ask that you leave these programs available for those who need them most.

For **everyone in our school community**, the **Rainbow Kitchen "Fridge of Love"** is always open! Students and staff are welcome to grab a snack—no questions asked, just kindness shared. 😊

Thank you for helping us take care of one another!

## **Student and Family Affordability Funding 2025-2026**

For those families who require support with costs directly related to school, such as school fees, school supplies, field trips, school sports or school activities, we now have some limited funding available. Please contact Sarah Garr (Principal) at [sgarr@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:sgarr@sd61.bc.ca) if you have any questions and/or would benefit from some support.



### **Student Costs Information 2025-2026**

<b>Textbook Deposit</b>	\$22.00	Onetime deposit required for all <u>new</u> students. Deposit is refundable, upon request, when the student finishes/leaves the school provided there are no outstanding liabilities.
<b>Student Activity Cost</b>	\$27.00	Optional - provides student with photo IDcard and supports special school events.
<b>Grad Cost</b>	\$42.00	Optional - recognition ceremony costs & grad cap/gown rental.
<b>Yearbook</b>	\$53.00	Optional – distributed in June 2025
<b>Locker</b>	\$8.00	Optional – locker includes a lock. Onetime cost for <u>new</u> students.

#### **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

Payments can be made by credit card through School Cash Online at <https://sd61.schoolcashonline.com/>

Link is also available on the Esquimalt High website. A School Cash Online registration guide is attached.

Payment by cash, cheque, debit, and credit is accepted in the office for those who cannot pay online.

*\*No student will not be denied the opportunity to participate in educational opportunities due to financial hardship. Please contact the Principal or a Vice-Principal if finances are an issue.*



Fast, safe, and convenient! **Greater Victoria School District** would like you to get started today and register. It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions, so you will begin to receive email notifications of upcoming events and fees involving your child(ren).

**NOTE: If you require assistance, select the *GET HELP* option in the top right-hand corner of the screen.**

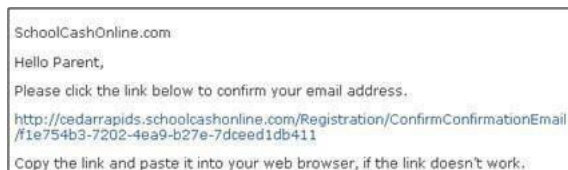
## Step 1: Register

- Go to the *School Cash Online* home page  
<https://sd61.schoolcashonline.com/>  
and select the ***“Get Started Today”*** option.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps  
\*For Security Reasons your password, requires **8 characters, one uppercase** letter, one **lowercase** letter and a **number**.



## Step 2: Confirmation

- A confirmation email will be forwarded to you.
- Click on the link provided to confirm your email and School Cash Online account
- Sign into account with credentials.



## Find Student

### School Information

School Board Name: School Board 1575  
Looking for a student in a different school board? ☐ ?

School Name:  ?

### Student Information

Do you have the student number? ☐

Student Number:  ?

First Name:  \*

Last Name:  \*

Birth Date:  \*

Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

(No students? [Click here](#))

## Step 3: Find Student

***Note: Student Number is Not Required***

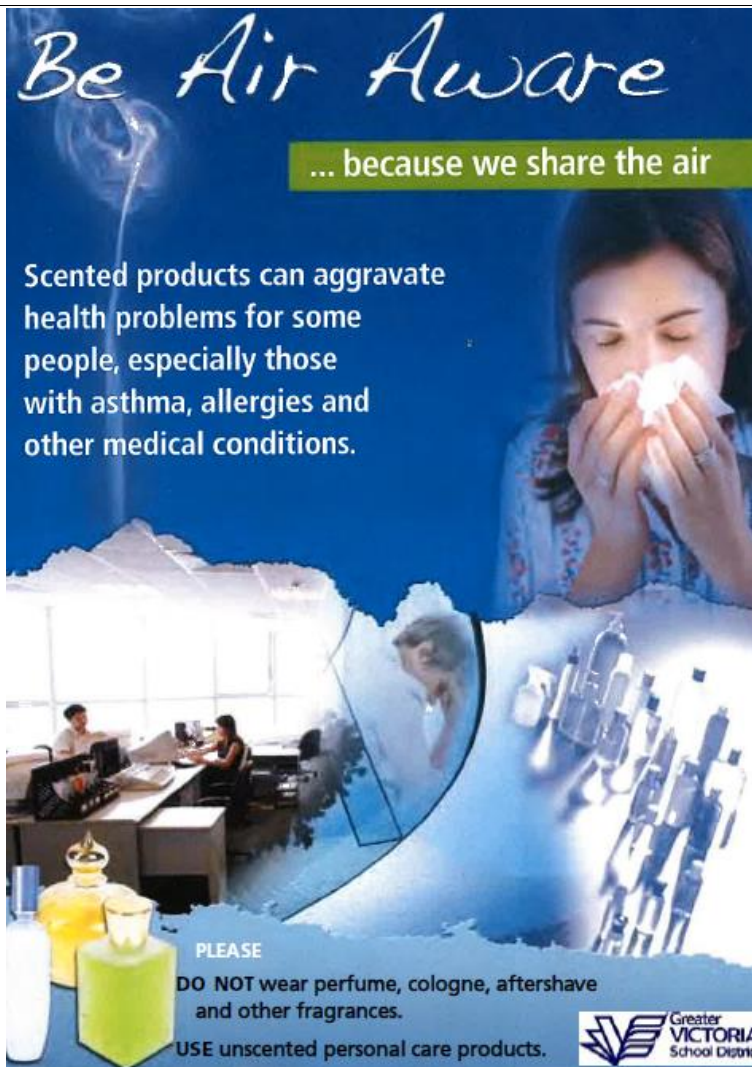
*This step will connect your children to your account.*

- Enter the School Board Name
- Enter the School Name
- Enter Your Child's Name & Birth Date
- Select ***Continue***
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select ***Continue***
- Your child has been added to your account

## Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select ***“Add Another Student”*** option and repeat the steps above. 5 children can be added to one parent account.

If you do not wish to add additional children, select ***“View Items For Students”*** option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.



## Tokyo Study Abroad December 2025



## Tokyo Study Abroad Opportunity

Tokyo Board of Education recently invited our district to participate in a study abroad program this December.

The cost will be approximately \$1800 (includes flight, homestay, meals, and school fees) for just over a week in Tokyo. It's about as affordable as it can be for this type of travel opportunity. If any students are interested, please visit the QR code to the info.



## **Lockers are a hot topic! So how do you get one?**

There is a one-time charge of \$8.00 that covers Grade 9 through 12. If

### **Brand New Locker:**

1. Go to **Schoolcash Online** – you can find the link on our school website or scan the QR code:
2. Register or Sign In and purchase a Locker 8\$



### **Previously Paid for Locker:**

1. If you have previously paid, please click on the following Bitly: <https://bit.ly/3JI1yhl> and a locker and a lock combination will be sent to you in your Learn Email Account.

As the registrations come in, we will be assigning students to lockers. Students will need to check their **SD61 student learn email accounts** in the next couple weeks for confirmation of locker number and combination.

## **Does Your Student Drive to School?**

Student drivers will need to **register** for a parking permit to park on school grounds. Please complete the parking permit application attached in full and return it to the office.

**Cafeteria:** The ESQ Café menu offers a hot lunch, salad and a variety of baked goods daily. The Café accepts cash. The new link to purchase café cards will be available shortly.



## **CAFETERIA ESQ Café Menu – Sept. 15 - 19**

<b>Monday</b>	Thai curry chicken, jasmine rice, basil and fresh lime
<b>Tuesday</b>	Taco Tuesday, pulled pork taco, corn salsa, avocado crema
<b>Wednesday</b>	Chopped tenderloin steak with peppercorn sauce, roasted garlic mashed potatoes, roasted carrots
<b>Thursday</b>	Beef or vegetarian Chili served with corn bread
<b>Friday</b>	Beef Dip, tender shaved beef, caramelized onion, garlic aioli on a hoagie bun, served with beef Jus and house cut fries

## **Athletics:**

### **Track and Field:**

X-Country practices after-school meeting in room 301 at 3:15 on Tuesday and Thursday. Races start September 24th.

Any questions please contact: **Sarah Thornber** (BSc, PDPP, SPED)

## **Volleyball Athletes:** Sept 2nd-

Open gym for all interested volleyball athletes (330-5)

Jr. Girls Try outs

Sr. Girls Tryouts (week of Sept 8-15th) more info to come.

Any questions please contact Mr. Witzke at:

[awitzke@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:awitzke@sd61.bc.ca)



## **Parents' Advisory Council (PAC):**

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) welcomes all parents and guardians to their meetings. **The next meeting is September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm.** The PAC is an important part of our school and we value our partnership with our parents. A student's school experience is enriched when parents, staff and students are working together. Please see below for a quick description of Parents' Advisory Council.

# PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

## WHAT IS THE PAC?

The PAC provides a forum for membership to exchange ideas, express concerns, and ask for support in all matters relating to the school.

## PARTICIPATE

### Executive | Committees | Events

Through the Executive, the PAC advises the board of school trustees, school principal and school staff respecting any matter relating to École Secondaire Esquimalt High School.

Committees may be formed based on need and interest. Examples of committees include Indigenous Relations, Communications, and Alumni.

Opportunities to volunteer exist year-round. Tell us about your special skills and how they can help the school community.

## MEETINGS

### General Meetings | Annual General Meeting | Special

General meetings are open to all PAC members. Check the school e-newsletter or the PAC Facebook page for dates and times.

Yearly, there is an Annual General Meeting (AGM) wherein a new Executive is named.

Occasionally, a meeting may be called to discuss a topic of special interest to membership. Socials happen, too!

**We can't wait to meet you!**

## DID YOU KNOW?

You must opt-in to be included in PAC correspondence. Send us your email address, or follow us on Facebook to stay informed. Also, keep an eye out for us in the weekly school newsletter.

Make sure your voice is heard.



[esquimaltpac@gmail.com](mailto:esquimaltpac@gmail.com)



@EsqPAC



[ESQUIMALT.SD61.BC.CA/  
PARENT-INFO](http://ESQUIMALT.SD61.BC.CA/PARENT-INFO)

**847 COLVILLE RD  
VICTORIA, BC V9A 4N9**

# **Parent Connect: How to Check Report Cards online?**

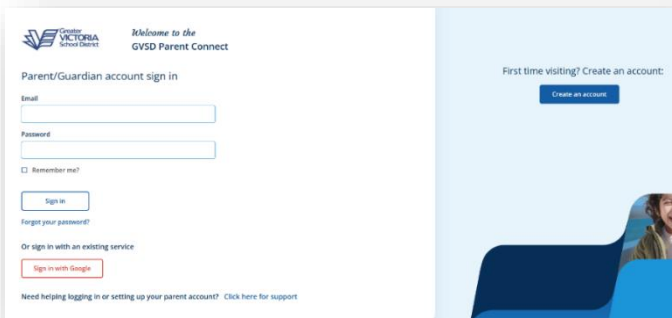
Our Learning Updates (Report Cards) are updated in the [Parent Connect Online System](#). The service reduces the amount of paper forms and allows parents and school staff to review a student's consent information on-demand.

Considering that 20% of the students in SD61 speak different languages than English and French, the service also includes Google Translate to support parents who prefer to communicate in other languages.

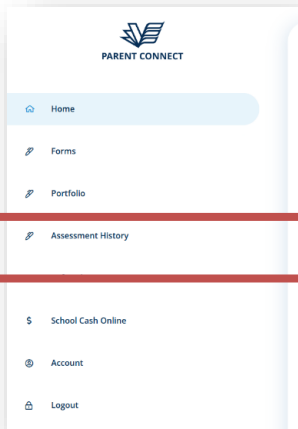
Paper copies will only be available **upon request** in person from the office.

**How to create an account and access the system:** [Parent Connect instructional video](#) or [PDF Instructions](#)

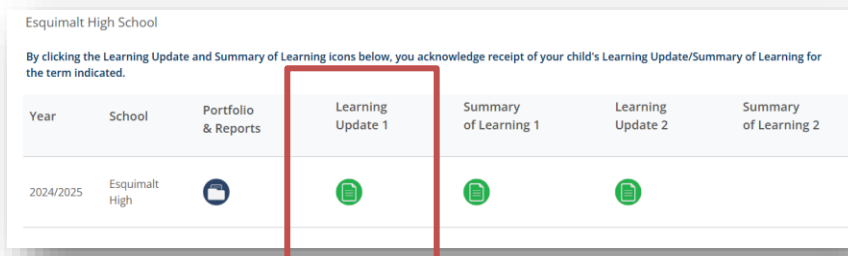
## **How to access to the Learning updates? Here are the steps**



1. Log In to the system with your email and password or with your Google (Gmail) account.
2. If is your first time, click in the blue bottom "Create an account".



3. On the left side panel click on Home. Click on the name of your student, if you only have one Student in the District.
4. Click on "Assessment History".



5. Click on **"Learning Update 1"**. A PDF file will download.
6. Check your Downloads file. Open the Report Card for your student.





# ESQ MUSIC

## Important Information!

### Upcoming Dates:

Sept 5 - Music Student Info Meeting,  
2:45-3:30pm, Theatre

Sept 12 - Fall Music Social Extravaganza.  
2:45-5:00pm, Theatre

Sept 15 - Regular Music Class Schedule Begins!

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### Have you joined our ESQ Music Hub Google Classroom?

All students should join this Google Classroom for up-to-date announcements and information.

**Join with the code: 43fyt74**

### Are you missing music classes from your timetable?

No problem! All students are encouraged to come to all of the classes they are interested in.

### Need to get in touch with a music teacher?

**Ms Allison** - [kallison@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kallison@sd61.bc.ca)

Concert Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Senior Concert Band, Musical Theatre,  
General Music

**Mr Leeson** - [cleeson@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:cleeson@sd61.bc.ca)

String Orchestra, Junior Concert Band, Junior Jazz Band,  
Senior Jazz Band, R&B Band, Guitar



**Rotary**  
Club of Victoria

**ESQUIMALT  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**BOTTLE DRIVE!**

**SAT Oct 4, 2025**  
**10am-2pm**

email  
esqatomsmashers@gmail.com  
to arrange pickup within 3km of  
the school Saturday morning  
between 9-9:30

**DROP OFF LOCATION AT:**  
Esquimalt High School,  
847 Colville Rd, Victoria,  
BC V9A 4N9  
Bring your bottles and come help support  
the Rotary Club of Victoria &  
Esquimalt Atom Smashers Robotics Team!

MORE INFO: [tokeeffe@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tokeeffe@sd61.bc.ca)



### **Bottle Drive:**

Save your bottles and cans - Saturday Oct 4, 2025, 10am-2pm Esquimalt Atom Smashers and Victoria-Saanich Rotary will be hosting a bottle drive here at Esquimalt High School. We can pickup bottles from residences within 3km of the school on Saturday morning from 9am-9:30am with previous arrangement - email [esqatomsmashers@gmail.com](mailto:esqatomsmashers@gmail.com)



## SHARING OUR STORIES OF SUCCESS

A huge thank you to our amazing Community Leadership students who shucked 750 cobs of corn today in preparation for tomorrow's Kernel Korn Lunch!







Big thanks to our Culinary Arts and Community Leadership students for hosting the event.



Fantastic to see so many of our students volunteering at RibFest! Be sure to visit the langos booth as well run by Alumni and pick up some ESQ swag!

