



# ESQUIMALT PARENT & STUDENT DOCKER

**Dec. 8 – Dec. 12**

Mon. Dec. 8	<b>GRAD Photo Retakes</b>	See below
Tues. Dec. 9	<b>GRAD Photo Retakes</b>	See below
Wed. Dec. 10	<b>Early Dismissal 2:27pm</b>	
Thurs. Dec. 11	<b>School Lockdown Drill at 9:10 during Block A</b>	See below
Friday Dec. 12	<b>Robotics Qualifiers at Esquimalt Esquimalt Music Holiday Music Social</b>	After School

*Coming  
Soon*

## SAVE THE DATE

<b>DEC. 17</b>	<b>Deadline for Food Donations</b>
<b>DEC. 18</b>	<b>GRAD Winter Formal</b>
<b>DEC. 19</b>	<b>Last Day before Winter Vacation Santa's Breakfast</b>
<b>DEC. 22-JAN 2</b>	<b>Winter Vacation</b>
<b>JAN. 5</b>	<b>School Re-opens After Winter Break</b>
<b>JAN. 7</b>	<b>Challenge Info. Evening Theatre &amp; Gym 6:30 – 8:30</b>
<b>JAN. 12</b>	<b>Copernican Day Block A 9-11:30 Block C 12:30 -3:00</b>
<b>JAN. 13</b>	<b>Copernican Day Block B 9-11:30 Block D 12:30 – 3:00</b>

**PLEASE RETURN  
FIELD TRIP  
FORMS TO THE  
OFFICE.**



## Careers 10 Meeting

**December 9<sup>th</sup> - B Block**

ICBC Presentation in the Theatre  
See Google Classroom for more information



**Robotics: Saturday December 13** Esquimalt High will be hosting an official FIRST Technical Challenge Qualifier tournament for robotics teams from Vancouver Island (spectators welcome).



# ESQUIMALT HIGH SCHOOL

847 Colville Road, Victoria, B.C. V9A 4N9

phone 382-9226 fax 361-1263 [esquimalt@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:esquimalt@sd61.bc.ca)

FOUNDED 1915  
"ESSE QUAM VIDERI"

December 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On **Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025** at approximately **9:10am during Block A**, Esquimalt High will be conducting a lockdown drill.

Lockdowns occur when there is a perceived threat to the safety of students or staff, usually by an intruder who has or is thought to have a weapon. Our Superintendent has requested that all schools in the district conduct a lockdown drill each year.

We are currently going through a process to prepare for this drill. Teachers will be informing students and answering any questions they may have about the drill and lockdown procedures. Administrators are also available to answer questions.

The drill will last approximately one hour. An administrator will come on the P.A. system and say, "Attention, this is Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_ speaking. This is a lockdown drill. I repeat, this is just a drill. Lockdown."

At this time, teachers will go to their doors, check hallways for students and if necessary direct them inside. Doors will be closed and locked, window blinds closed and students will be instructed to remain quiet, out of sight and off electronic devices. The expectation is that students take the drill as seriously as they would a fire or earthquake drill.

If during the drill, students find themselves in a hallway, they are to go quickly to the nearest washroom. If in the washroom, they should remain there, shut the door and lock it - if possible, then get in a cubicle and raise their feet. Students in the gym area will be instructed by a teacher to go to an equipment storage room, the weight room, or a change room. For the purposes of the drill, any students outside, such as a PE class will assemble at the far end of the field.

The administration and officers from the Victoria Police Department will spend 30-45 minutes inspecting the halls and grounds to assess the lockdown response. In the event of a real lockdown, administration and police officers will go door to door to end the lockdown drill. As this is only a drill, administration will release classes over the PA system.

Please discuss this with your child(ren). If you have any questions or concerns about the drill or lockdown procedure, please call one of the school administrators at 250-382-9226.

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

Vice Principal  
[École Secondaire Esquimalt High School](#)  
Greater Victoria School District No. 61  
[E. svanderputten@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:svanderputten@sd61.bc.ca) / Office: 250-382-9226

# Esquimalt High School

## Literacy/Numeracy Assessment Schedule

### Copernican Days: January 12/13th 2026

**On Monday Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>** we will be hosting the Literacy and Numeracy Assessments (Copernican days) – which are BC Ministry of Education Assessments. Both days are double-block days for students.

	<b>Monday Jan 12th 2026</b>	<b>Tuesday Jan 13th 2026</b>
<b>9:00am- 11:30am</b>	<b>Block A</b> Literacy 10 For all grade 10 students.	<b>Block B</b> Numeracy 10 For all grade 11 students.
<b>LUNCH 11:35-12:25pm</b>		
<b>12:30pm- 3:00pm</b>	<b>Block C</b> Literacy 12 For all grade 12 students.	<b>Block D</b> Grade 12 Catch-Up For all grade 12 students who have missed a prior assessment.

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 2026 - Provincial French Immersion written assessments  
 Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 2026 - Provincial French Immersion oral assessments

Students: check your school email for confirmation of the assessment you need to write and the date, time and classroom location. Your relevant block A-C teacher will also let you know on the day of. If you are in Grade 12 and have missed a previous assessment, you will write it on Jan 13th in Block D.

Teachers will review the assessment process with students in Block B prior to the assessments. If you want to review the assessment process at home, check out these links:

Literacy 10 assessments: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-10-literacy-assessment>

Literacy 12 assessments: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-12-literacy-assessment>

Numeracy 10 assessments: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-10-numeracy-assessment>

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

Vice Principal

[École Secondaire Esquimalt High School](#)

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

E. [svanderputten@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:svanderputten@sd61.bc.ca) / Office: 250-382-9226

Interact



where?

There will be donation boxes set up in the library as well as in front of the office. You can drop by anytime!

when?

Book collection will begin from  
**November -  
December 1st**



# 1000X5 donate your books!

The Interact club is looking for book donations (either in brand new or in good condition) that are targeted towards young babies and toddlers!

why?

Your books will help young children develop a healthy relationship with reading. It encourages parents to read to their kids and give them a boost on their reading journey later on in life.



The Interact club is affiliated with Rotary International!

VISIT [1000X5.CA](http://1000X5.CA)  
FOR MORE INFO!

Esquimalt High

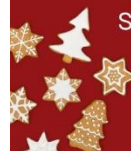
# FOOD DRIVE

Support Esquimalt families by donating canned goods and non-perishables

December 3-17  
**CANNED FOOD | NON-PERISHABLES**

**DROP-OFF IN B BLOCK CLASSES**

Class with the most donations eat first at Santa's Breakfast on Friday, December 19th





# *Santa's Breakfast*

## *2025*

*Organised by ESQ leadership, supported by staff volunteers, school clubs and the music program*

*December 19,  
8:50 - 12:00*

*Talent show  
12:00 - 1:30*



*Talent show  
sign up*



## **GRAD 2026**



GRAD Winter Formal \$45  
Tickets on Sale by Office Nov 12- 26  
Dec 18, 2025 6:30-10pm

Students must arrive by 7:30 or they will not be admitted

NO INS AND OUTS

NO SMOKING or VAPING on the venue property

**This is a school event and our code of conduct applies to all students!**

Address:

**Delta Hotels Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort 100 Harbour Road**

We are in the Harbour Room and will enter via the Harbour Foyer located on the Harbour side of the hotel. Come straight through the main lobby, down the stairs and the entrance is on your right hand side.



Parking: The hotel parking is \$8 - free parking available in the surrounding areas - or even better - get dropped off!!

Note:

This is APPETIZERS/Small Bites only, so have a meal before you arrive - lots of yummy food for all- but not enough for dinner for all - **please alert us to any allergies**

Dance!! Have fun!!!

## **Hello Grads and Parents!**

**Exciting news! Your online gallery from your grad portrait session is now live!** Visit this link to access your gallery:

<https://vando.imagequix.com/K9L3W9Z>

You will use the QR code that was given to you at your appointment.

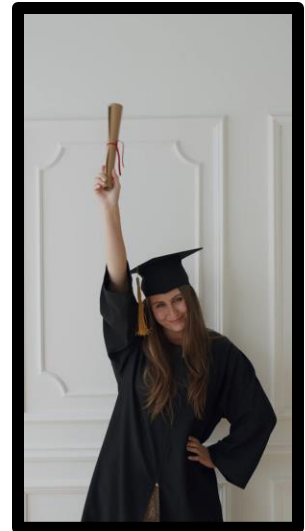
**Your order deadline is: December 19, 2025**

**Missing your login code? No problem!**

Visit <https://www.mountainwest.ca/support-for-families>

Click on "Looking for your login code? Enter the information required.

Your code will be emailed within 1 business day.



### **Regarding yearbook image selection:**

Log in to view your grad images

Click on 'Choose Yearbook Pose' at the top of the page, and then "Select Photo"

Photos that are eligible to be selected will appear; after you have chosen, click confirm.

The deadline to select your yearbook image is: **November 28, 2025**

*\*\* If you miss selecting a pose by the date indicated,*

*our team will select one for you! If you wish to change your pose after the deadline has passed, a handling fee will apply.*

### **Photo Retakes**

If you missed the opportunity to have

graduation photos taken during the first sittings or wish to have retakes done, please visit the link below to book an appointment.

### **This is an important reminder!**

Your graduation photo must be taken by Mountain West Studios in order for your image to be included in your school yearbook and on the commemorative composite of the graduating class.

### **Grad Cap and Gown/Fashion Retakes - December 8, 2025**

[https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule/04313d09/appointment/85949505/calendar/12869991?appointmentTypeIds\[\]=85949505](https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule/04313d09/appointment/85949505/calendar/12869991?appointmentTypeIds[]=85949505)

Kind Regards

**Tim Zemanek**

Teacher: ELL; ISP Support; English

Esquimalt High School

847 Colville Rd,

Victoria, BC V9A 4N9



# 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 10 Meeting

December 9<sup>th</sup> - B Block  
ICBC Presentation in the Theatre  
See Google Classroom for more information



# Strengthening Connections

**Empowering Indigenous Futures:  
Explore, Connect, and Thrive!**

**December 8th - 12th, 2025**

Thinking about your future? Connect with Indigenous recruiters and advisors from post-secondary institutions across BC at your school!



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Contact your Indigenous Support Worker for more information.

# Interview Skills

Workshop for  
gr. 10-12 students

17 December, 2025

Big Conference Room

During Focus Block



Students must sign up and  
attendance will be taken

SIGN UP



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



## **DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Health & Early Learning & Care Dual Credit STARTS January!**

Grade 11 or 12 students with an interest in the following areas should connect with ESQ Careers re: Semester 2 Dual Credit Opportunities.

- 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

### **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

**Connect with ESQ Careers for more Information/To apply:**

Career Coordinator Tarra: [tclarke@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tclarke@sd61.bc.ca) | Career Teacher Ms. Martinsen [kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca)

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

### **In-School Mentoring: Connecting High School Students with Young Learners**

**In-School Mentoring** is a program offered through Big Brothers Big Sisters that runs throughout the school year on an ongoing basis:

- Each Volunteer Teen Mentor (14 years old and up) is paired with a child (Kindergarten to Grade 5) at a nearby elementary school.
- Mentors and mentees spend one hour together once per week at the school.
- Activities include connecting and sharing interests, playing games and sports, doing arts and crafts, etc.
- Mentors receive training and support.
- Mentors are provided with activity ideas and supplies for visits.

**Connect with ESQ Careers for more Information or to Apply**

Career Coordinator Tarra: [tclarke@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:tclarke@sd61.bc.ca) | Career Teacher Ms. Martinsen [kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca)

### **Athletics:**

#### **X-Country:**

X-Country is entering into the off season, but we will continue running Tuesday and Thursday after school (prepare for cooler weather and rain) and adding strength training sessions in the morning 7:30 am Monday and Thursday on school days.

Any questions email Sarah Thornber at [sthornber@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:sthornber@sd61.bc.ca)



### **NEW Model United Nations Club!**

The Model United Nations Club is a student organization that simulates the real-world work of the United Nations. Members take on the roles of delegates representing different countries, debating global issues, and working together

to find diplomatic solutions. **First meeting:**

- **When:** Tuesdays
- **Location:** Room 330
- **Time:** lunch



## New Edition for Dockside Dispatch:

**Here is the latest episode dockside dispatch #10!**

<https://youtu.be/gXWsXa0asII?si=9k3IBzGcdp-2pba2>



## Youth Night

Youth Night will be starting October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM every Thursday at the NLC.



### Come Join Us!

Mark your calendars! We have a lineup of events planned for everyone. All newcomer immigrant and refugee students in grades 8-12 registered in School District 61 are welcome to join us at the NLC (located at Victoria High School).



If you enjoy arts and crafts, games, and other fun activities planned by VIRCS staff and volunteers please contact [enable@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:enable@vircs.bc.ca) for any questions.



## Youth Night for newcomers at the NLC at Victoria High School on

**Thursdays:** I am delighted to announce that again this scholastic year VIRCS (Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre) and I are co-hosting a weekly **Youth Night (grades 8 - 12)** for newcomer immigrant and refugee youth at the NLC at Victoria High School. Youth Night will occur on **Thursdays beginning October 2 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM**. See above for a map of the NLC for your reference as well as a poster about the event. Yes, there will be pizza! 🍕 🌍

**Grade 8 – 12 newcomer immigrant and refugee students** are welcome to register anytime for Youth Night with the QR Code on the poster or at the following email address: [enable@vircs.bc.ca](mailto:enable@vircs.bc.ca)

Warmest regards,

**Samantha Rubin (she/her)**  
**District Multicultural Liaison Support Worker**  
 Email: [srubin@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:srubin@sd61.bc.ca) Welcome Centre: (250) 475-4157





## **PEER TUTORING AT ESQUIMALT!**

The Esquimalt High Peer Tutors are looking for students to help! All grades, all subjects! Use the bit.ly to make a request. Mrs Bjornson will connect with you within 1 or 2 days. Feel free to visit Mrs Bjornson in 211a if you have any questions.

✦ Peer tutoring services are FREE!

## **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.

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

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) welcomes all parents and guardians to their meetings. **The next meeting is Jan. 12 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.

## **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.



**DROP-IN Youth Clinic**

**TUESDAYS 11:30AM - 2PM**  
@ Medical Room

**Services include:**

- ✓ Contraception (e.g. birth control)
- ✓ Emergency Contraception (e.g. Plan B)
- ✓ STI testing & treatment (sexually transmitted infections)
- ✓ Pregnancy tests
- ✓ Sexual decision making
- ✓ Free condoms & lube
- ✓ Immunizations

**Need help NOW?**  
Scan QR code or visit [www.SexAndU.ca](http://www.SexAndU.ca)

For more resources and other options to get care locally, visit [SmartSexResource.com](http://SmartSexResource.com)

**FREE. Confidential. No judgement. Everyone is welcome.**

island health

## **Health and Safety:** **ESQ School Nurse**

We have Youth Health Clinic at Esquimalt High on Tuesdays 1130-2 in the medical room. Students can access the nurse for general questions during breaks.

### **Services provided outlined below:**

- Contraception (birth control) dispensing
- Emergency Contraception dispensing (aka morning after pill)
- Referrals for IUDs
- Pregnancy testing (discuss options, referrals etc if needed)
- Sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment
- Urinary tract infection testing and treatment
- Immunizations
- Naloxone administration training and kits available
- Free condoms and lube
- Sexual health questions/educations
- Support following a sexual assault (either support accessing SA resources or can support myself)

**Cafeteria:** The ESQ Café menu offers a hot lunch, salad and a variety of baked goods daily. The Café accepts cash and reloadable Café cards. Café cards can now be loaded through the student's account on School Cash On-Line.

## CAFETERIA ESQ Café Menu – Dec. 8 – Dec. 12

<b>Mon.</b>	Beef stroganoff over rice
<b>Tues.</b>	Shane and Dion's Bannock tacos
<b>Wed.</b>	Buffalo Chicken wings and potato salad
<b>Thurs.</b>	Pork chops, mashed potatoes, roasted carrots
<b>Fri.</b>	Smash burgers, bacon and cheddar, spiral fries

## Host an International Student



### JOIN VICTORIA'S HOSTING COMMUNITY

Short Term Stays (2 weeks - 3 months) & Long Term Stays (5 months +)  
Middle School Students & High School Students

*\$1260 per month provided for student support (pro-rated for short term programs)*



250-592-6871  
homestay@sd61.bc.ca  
www.studyinvictoria.com



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

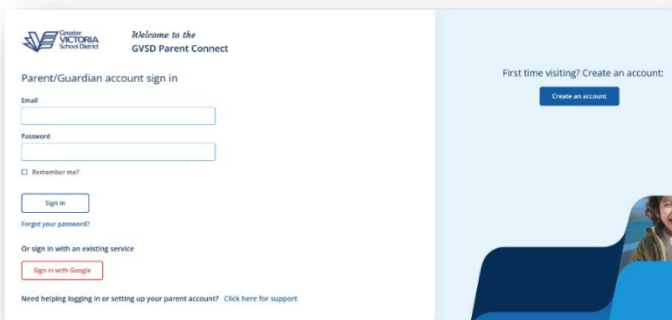
Our Learning Updates (Report Cards) are updated in the [Parent Connect Online System](#). The service reduces the amount of paper forms and allows parents and school staff to review a student's consent information on-demand.

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.

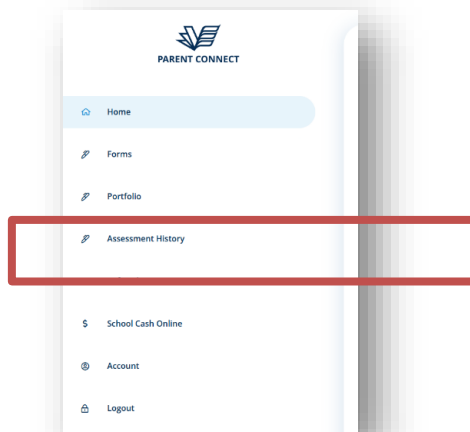
Paper copies will only be available **upon request** in person from the office.

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

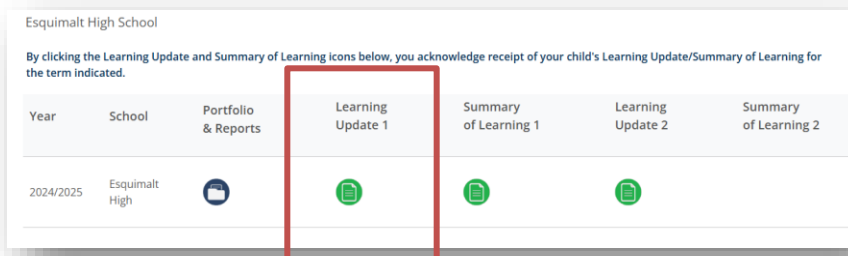
## How to access to the Learning updates? Here are the steps



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.





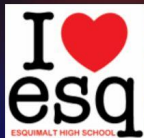
# SHARING OUR STORIES OF SUCCESS

## Did someone say, “BINGO IN THE HALLWAY?”

Huge thanks to our Culture & Climate Committee for bringing joy to the day.

Good news! More spirit-boosting surprises are on the way!





## SHARING OUR STORIES OF SUCCESS



### Congratulations!

to Midhat Abbas who travelled overseas to compete at the Pakistan Age Group National Swimming Championship. Midhat came away with 5 medals: Bronze 200m freestyle, Silver 400m freestyle, Silver 1500m freestyle, Silver 400m IM and a GOLD in 88m freestyle

**WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR SENIOR GIRL'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM!  
YOU ROCKED THE PROVINCIALS COMING IN 13<sup>TH</sup> PLACE OUT OF 83 AAA TEAMS  
IN VERNON BC.**

