



ESQUIMALT PARENT & STUDENT DOCKER

Dec. 15 – Dec. 19

Mon. Dec. 15		
Tues. Dec. 16		
Wed. Dec. 17	Deadline for Food Donations	Take to B Blk Class
Thurs. Dec. 18	GRAD Winter Formal	
Friday Dec. 19	Last Day before winter vacation Santa's Breakfast STUDENTS ARRIVE AT 8:50AM	GO TO B BLOCK CLASS

*Coming
Soon*

SAVE THE DATE

DEC. 22-JAN 2	Winter Vacation
JAN. 5	School Re-opens After Winter Break
JAN. 7	Challenge Info. Evening Theatre & Gym 6:30 – 8:30
JAN. 12	PAC Meeting 6:45pm
JAN. 12	Copernican Day Block A 9-11:30 Block C 12:30 -3:00
JAN. 13	Copernican Day Block B 9-11:30 Block D 12:30 – 3:00
JAN. 14	Early Dismissal 2:27pm

Please Note:
**GRAD Coffee can
be picked up in the
Main Office.**



IMPORTANT GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS:

Students in grade 9 will be offered immunizations in school-based clinics. Grade 9 immunization forms were handed out this week to your students B block Teachers.

Please discuss the information in the consent packages 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 HealthLinkBC: The Infants Act, Mature Minor Consent and Immunization

PLEASE REMIND your student(s) to hand the forms back to the office by DEC 19th, 2025.

Thank you!

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

svanderputten@sd61.bc.ca

Esquimalt High School

Literacy/Numeracy Assessment Schedule

Copernican Days: January 12/13th 2026

On Monday Jan. 12th and Tuesday Jan. 13th 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.

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

Jan 13th 2026 - Provincial French Immersion written assessments

Jan 20th 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 / Office: 250-382-9226

Keeping your Bike/Scooter Safe from Thieves

To ensure your bike/scooter is safe from potential thieves, be sure to lock it up correctly and visibly. Use the steps below to ensure your strategy is thief proof!

1. Use a high-quality lock – U-Lock (D-Lock) or a folding hardened steel lock is recommended.
2. Attach your bike/scooter to a designated bike/scooter rack – these are more visible areas and are solid and immovable. If rain is a concern, bring a garbage bag from home and cover your bike during the school day.
3. Lock the frame and the rear wheel
 - a. The frame should be locked through the triangle to the rack.
 - b. Rear wheels are more difficult to remove, so secure them with the frame.
 - c. If using a second cable lock, loop it through the front wheel.
4. Take accessories (e.g. lights, phone mounts, water bottles etc.) with you.
5. Register your bike/scooter with Project 529 Garage -<https://project529.com/garage>
(Recommended by VicPd: <https://vicpd.ca/crime-prevention/protect-your-bike/>)

Optional Extras for Extra-High Security

- Wheel or seatpost security bolts (replace quick-release skewers)
- GPS/airtag hidden in the frame, saddle, or bottle holder
- Use two locks of different types (thieves rarely carry multiple tools)

Watch: How do you properly lock your bike? <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6764188>

Watch: How to lock up your electric scooter? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Frp24eTUZ3I>



Notification: District's Acceptable Use Policy and Student Code of Conduct

We are writing to let you know that recently we were made aware of Google Chat activity that was in violation of the School District's Acceptable Use Policy and Student Code of Conduct. Given the limited educational/pedagogical use of Google Chat in the school district, the decision was made to disable Google Chat for students district-wide.

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/>



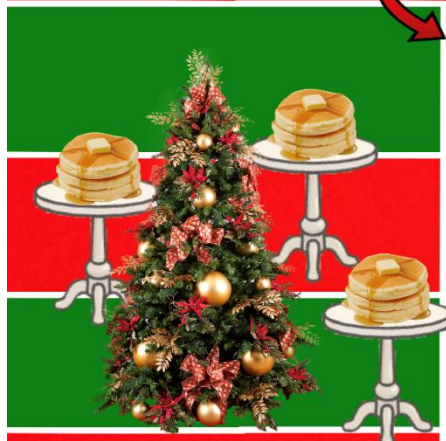
Santa's Breakfast

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*



PLEASE NOTE:

ALL STUDENTS ARRIVE

**AT 8:50 DEC. 19TH AND
GO STRAIGHT TO**

THEIR B BLOCK!

HO... HO... HO....

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
Santas Breakfast on Friday, December 19th



GRAD 2026



Coffee will be available to pick up from the main office next week.

GRAD 2026

Activity Days

15
DECEMBER

Music Trivia
12:00 PM TO 12:30 PM
Rm 330

16
DECEMBER

Cookies and Hot Chocolate
12:00 PM TO 12:30 PM
Rm 330

17
DECEMBER

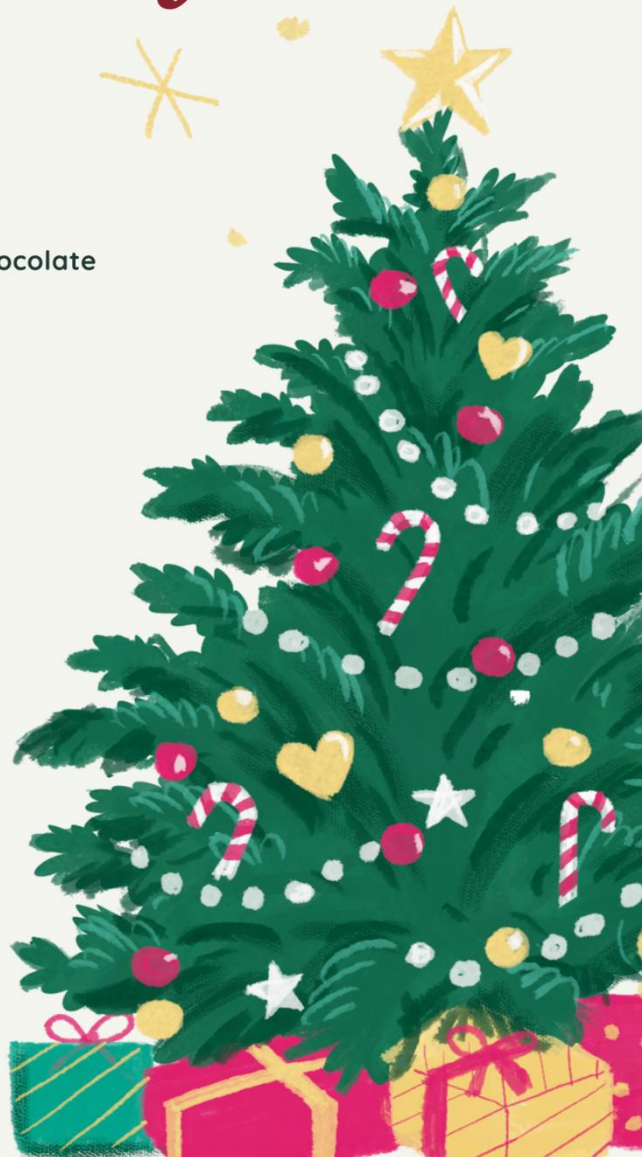
Cookie Decorating
11:20 AM TO 12:05 PM
Rm 330

18
DECEMBER

Winter Formal
6:30 PM TO 10:30 PM
Delta Hotel (Tickets must
have been purchased)

19
DECEMBER

Santa's Breakfast
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
ESQ - GRADS WEAR
PAJAMAS



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!!!



CERTIFICATION OPPORTUNITY: Standard First Aid Level 1

8 HOURS ONLINE + 8 HOURS IN-PERSON - FEBRUARY 13, 2026 (Pro-D Day)

SIGN UP DETAILS

- **Register** at bit.ly/esqfirstaid2026
- **Pay the \$20 fee:** Visit Mrs. Bradshaw in the office to complete your payment
- **Check your email:** You will receive instructions for accessing the online modules
- **Complete the online modules by** February 3, 2026
- **Seat Confirmation:** After we verify you have completed the online modules, you will receive an email confirming your secured seat!

Please NOTE: SPACE IS LIMITED!

- We have **more students than available seats** for the online section!
- **Students who do not finish the online module will be unable to participate in the in-person certification**
- Seats will be assigned based on **both payment AND completion** of the online modules.
- Submitting payment and completing the online modules **before February 3** increases your chance of **securing a spot.**

TO SIGN UP: bit.ly/esqfirstaid2026

Connect with ESQ Careers for more Information:

Career Coordinator Tarra: tclarke@sd61.bc.ca

Career Teacher Ms. Martinsen kmartinsen@sd61.bc.ca

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



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 | Career Teacher Ms. Martinsen 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 | Career Teacher Ms. Martinsen 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



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 2nd 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 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

Warmest regards,

Samantha Rubin (she/her)
District Multicultural Liaison Support Worker
 Email: 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 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

For more resources and other options to get care locally, visit 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. 15 – Dec. 19

Mon.	To be determined
Tues.	To be determined
Wed.	No Café Service
Thurs.	No Café Service
Fri.	No Café Service

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?

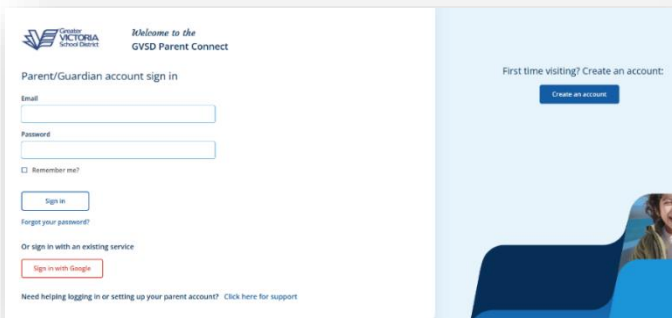
Our Learning Updates (Report Cards) are updated in the [Parent Connect Online System](#). The service reduces the amount of paper forms and allows parents and school staff to review a student's consent information on-demand.

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.

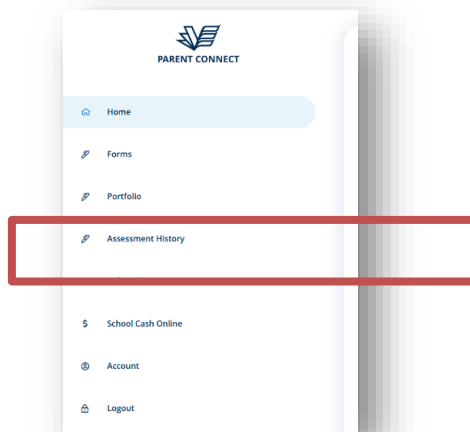
Paper copies will only be available **upon request** in person from the office.

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

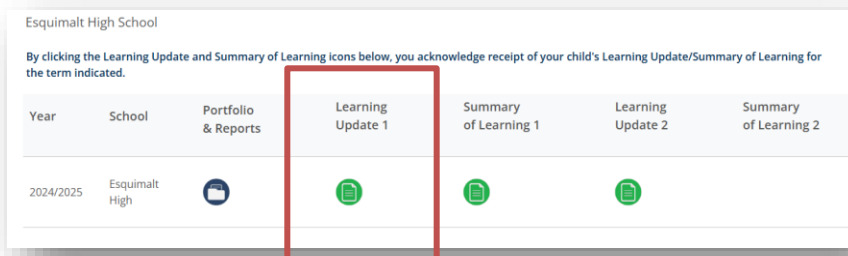
How to access to the Learning updates? Here are the steps



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



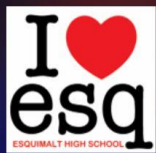
Congratulations to **Shane Tanner-George:**

Congratulations to Shane Tanner-George for being awarded the [@songheesnation](#) "You Rock" Award! Shane is an outstanding student and community member who has contributed to our school community in so many ways. He is a kind, encouraging and endlessly positive individual. We are proud of Shane as he moves into the next stage of his educational journey as part of the Culinary program [@camosun](#) in January! [#yourock](#) [@sd61schools](#)



Esquimalt Winter Music **Concert:**

Night 2 of our Esquimalt Winter Music Concert was a hit! Thank you to our Esquimalt musicians for sharing your talent with us and bringing joy to our community.



SHARING OUR STORIES OF SUCCESS



Thank You Dave, Dell and Jen:

For the past six years, Inclusive Education and the Foundations class have partnered with the Compassion Resource Warehouse to build relationships, support authentic learning, and help students develop lifelong skills. We are deeply grateful to Dave, Dell, and Jen for bringing these goals to life through generous volunteer guidance and hands-on experiences within our greater Esquimalt community.



Student Teachers at Esquimalt High:

A huge thank you to our Student Teachers who wrapped up their 10 week practicum at Esquimalt High today. It was their last day with us, so of course we celebrated with donuts. We hope to see you back with us again soon!