



ESQUIMALT PARENT & STUDENT DOCKER

Jan. 5 to Jan. 9 Happy New Year Welcome to 2026!

Mon. Jan. 5	Welcome Back!	
Tues. Jan. 6		
Wed. Jan. 7	Challenge Info. Evening Theatre & Gym	7:00 – 8:30
Thurs. Jan. 8	Rugby Information Evening	Library 7:00 – 9:00
Friday Jan. 9		

Coming Soon

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
JAN. 19	Alumni Meeting
JAN. 21-22	Fine Arts Fiasco
JAN. 23	Grade 9 Immunizations

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



Please return the Grade 9 Immunization Forms!

If you are in Grade 12 and have not picked up your GRAD letter, please come to the main office.

Challenge Program Information Evening, January 7, 2026

Esquimalt High School Theatre, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

This information night provides an overview of the Challenge Programs at Esquimalt High School and Mount Douglas PKOLS Secondary. You can meet Challenge Coordinators from both schools as well as subject area teachers in the Challenge Program.

*Please note that the January intake process is for incoming grade 9 students only. There is a separate intake process in the spring for students going into grades 10, 11 & 12, subject to available space.

Omdrea Walker BEd, MEd,

Art & English

Challenge Coordinator



School Door Closures

To prevent individuals entering the school who have not signed in at the office, we will be re-instating the practice of closing certain entry/exit doors around the school.

The following doors will be locked at 9:15am:

- **Door by Art Room on 2nd floor**
- **Loading Dock door by Staff Parking**

If you arrive after 9:15am, the front door, as well as the first level back door will be unlocked.

Thank you for committing to keeping our school and students safe.

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

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](#)

E. svanderputten@sd61.bc.ca / Office: 250-382-9226

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

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/>





GRAD 2026



Coffee is available to pick up from the main office.



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

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 #11!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzbaPgCeAnY&list=PLCGdjG1wUBBL_WnNrsPfUB96OHPiHLI4G&index=1



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:

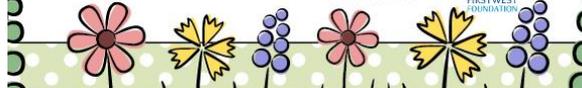
enable@vircs.bc.ca

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.



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 – Jan. 5 - 9

Mon.	No Café service
Tues.	No Café service
Wed.	To Be Determined
Thurs.	To Be Determined
Fri.	To Be Determined

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?

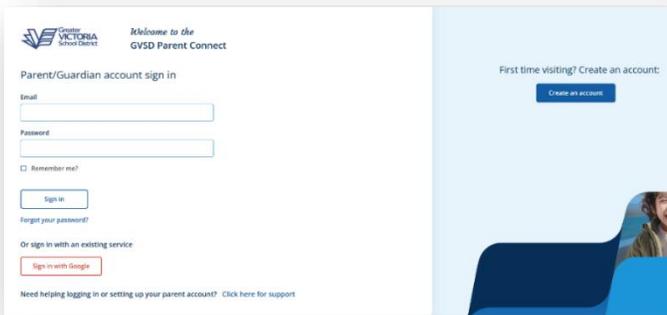
Our Learning Updates (Report Cards) are updated in the [Parent Connect Online System](#). The service reduces the amount of paper forms and allows parents and school staff to review a student's consent information on-demand.

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.

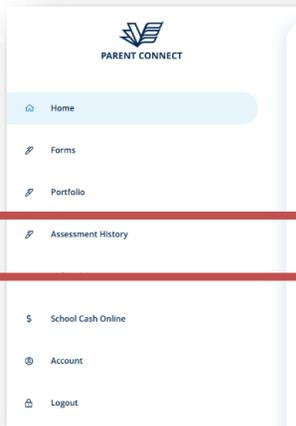
Paper copies will only be available **upon request** in person from the office.

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

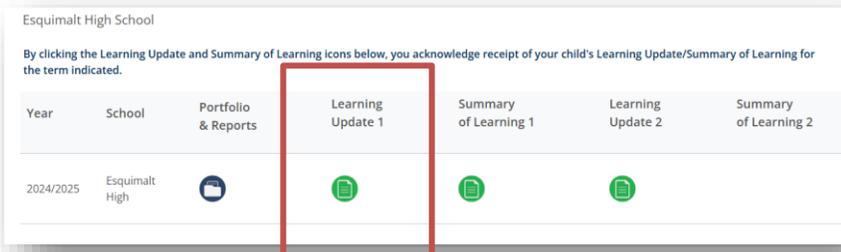
How to access to the Learning updates? Here are the steps



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

Esquimalt Indigenous Education students working with John Harris to prepare and smoke salmon.





SHARING OUR STORIES OF SUCCESS



Thank You Esquimalt High!

Thank you to all the B Block classes who generously contributed to the Esquimalt Food Hampers and a big thank you to the Leadership students and staff who organized this holiday tradition.

Challenge 10
Ice Skating



Challenge Students Celebrate:

The 4C Challenge students celebrated the season at the Challenge Winter Social, ice skating and competing in a gingerbread house competition!





SHARING OUR STORIES OF SUCCESS

ESQUIMALT HIGH ROBOTICS:

This past weekend, Esquimalt High School robotics hosted the FTCBC Qualifier for 15 Vancouver Island teams. The Esquimalt Atom Smashers 20025 was awarded the 2nd place Inspire award, the most prestigious judged award in FIRST Tech Challenge, honouring the team that best embodies the spirit of the program by excelling in all judging areas (engineering, outreach, community impact) and serving as a model for other teams, combining strong robot performance with deep commitment to FIRST values and STEM promotion. They were also a Finalist Alliance partner, earning them a spot for the FTC BC Provincials happening next February in Vancouver.

The Esquimalt Proton Pulverizers 23809 was awarded the Think award - recognizing the team with the most innovative and effective control system, emphasizing smart programming, sensor use, and consistent autonomous operation to solve game challenges, all documented within their Engineering Portfolio. They will compete in the next qualifier in January 2026 at St. Margaret's School, hoping to win a seat for provincials as well.

Fantastic work and congratulations to all team members. Well done!

