

May 2026

HADESTOWN: AN OLD SONG WITH A NEW MEANING

Written by Jeannie Slamet

In the past two weeks, you may have been able to witness the product of what Esquimalt theatre students have been working on since October—the unforgettable Hadestown production.

Hadestown is a musical written by Anaïs Mitchell, and is based on the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. Orpheus loses Eurydice to the industrial dystopia of Hadestown, and travels down there to bring her back. The once-gentle Hades, hardened from years of loneliness in the underworld, is skeptical. After a convincing song from Orpheus, Hades allows them to leave, along with all the other workers who have been trapped in a mindless cycle of labour.

However, there was one condition: Orpheus must walk all the way back out of the underworld without ever looking back at Eurydice. It's a story that ultimately ends in tragedy when, just before he reaches the surface, Orpheus gives in and looks back at his love, dooming her to go back to Hadestown forever.

This show has been received with overwhelming amounts of praise and recognition. I've heard so many comments on the lighting, set design, and the power of the story's message, not to mention the talent and skill of the cast members who tell it. Ultimately, the goal of performance is to move people; to make them think about how they see the world, and maybe even inspire them to change it.

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The story of Hadestown is not that we should accept the tragic ending and move on with our lives; it is to keep imagining a world where Orpheus *does* succeed, and to keep hope alive even in the face of failure and loss. Because at the very end of the show, after everything seems lost, the story resets. We see the beginning happen again, as if we will get another chance, and maybe another... if we just keep trying.

It has been an absolute honour and privilege to be a part of this project, and I extend immense gratitude to every single member of it, as well as everyone who came to see the shows and support us. I hope this has left you all with something to remember, and something to hope for.



MAY THE BEST TEAM WIN: CANADIAN TEAMS' PROSPECTS FOR THE STANLEY CUP



Written by Violet Lane

The first round of NHL playoffs is coming to an end, and there's been no shortage of drama and upsets already. As of April 30th, 2026, four teams have been eliminated: The Dallas Stars, Pittsburgh Penguins, Ottawa Senators, and Edmonton Oilers. One Canadian team remains, the Montreal Canadiens, who recently fought for a second round spot against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

For those unfamiliar with the format of the NHL playoffs, 16 teams compete in 3 rounds of elimination playoffs to get to the Stanley Cup Final. This trophy is widely regarded as one of the hardest ones to win in all of sports. Every round consists of a seven game series, meaning two teams will play against each other up to seven times. The first team to get to four wins advances to the next round.



Recently, the Montreal Canadiens were locked in a tight series against the Tampa Bay Lightning. By the time this article releases, they will likely either have moved on or been eliminated, but at the time of writing they are about to go into game six. At the time this article was written, they led the series 3-2, with all but their most recent win having gone into overtime. Update: the Montreal Canadiens won their series and will move up to face the Buffalo Sabres!

Montreal's fanbase is one of the most electric in the whole league, given their history as one of the original six teams in the NHL. They haven't won the Stanley Cup since 1993, but this year is setting up to be a promising one.

The Edmonton Oilers were matched up against the Anaheim Ducks in the first round, and were eliminated 4-2 after six games. They were compromised by many injuries going into the playoffs, but many fans still had hope for a strong run this year. This was especially devastating for fans because their team has a history of missing the mark when it matters most. For the past two years, they've made the final and fallen short to the Florida Panthers both times.

The team has two of the best offensive players in the NHL—Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl. However, a lethal front line can't compensate for the defensive problems they've been dealing with in the past. In December 2025, they traded previous goalkeeper Stuart Skinner for Pittsburgh's Tristan Jarry. This trade has been widely criticized because of Jarry's suboptimal performance so far for the team.

Their defensive line has also faced critique for their lack of chemistry and underperformance on penalty kills. Some people believe that in order for Connor McDavid to ever win a Cup, he'll have to play for another team. The argument is that if Edmonton couldn't deliver two years in a row, it's likely that they've missed their chance for good with their current roster. Despite some pushback and doubt, one early round exit won't define the team forever. In my opinion, they will only come back stronger after an offseason of rebuilding and recovery.

The Ottawa Senators, although based in Canada, have a bit of a unpopular reputation among Canadian hockey fans. They were eliminated 4-0 by the Carolina Hurricanes. Many people dislike the Senators because of their captain, Brady Tkachuk. He's from the US and is one of the most controversial players in the league. This is largely due to his style of play, which is very physical and confrontational.

CANADIAN TEAMS IN THE PLAYOFFS, CONT'D

After the Sens were eliminated, Tkachuk claimed that it was disappointing that they had lost after “such a tight series.” He didn’t put up a single point in all four games.



As someone who only started following hockey this year, there isn’t a better time to start watching than during the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The intensity is dialed up to 100, tensions have never been higher, and every minute of every game is crucial. The sport itself is fast-paced and easy to get into, and I couldn’t recommend it enough. If you’re interested in following a sport this spring, or even just willing to feel some national pride that’s not about war for once, tune into TSN or a second hand streaming website to watch the Stanley Cup NHL Playoffs.

A highlight of the team during their short playoff run was goalkeeper Linus Ullmark. Ullmark has been an advocate for athletes’ mental health since taking a personal leave of absence in December 2025. After public and invasive speculation into his private life, he spoke up about his struggles with anxiety. He has returned for the playoffs and put up a 0.930 save percentage, which is an all-time career high.

For next season, many Senators fans have been vocal about hoping for a Tkachuk trade and more minutes for Ullmark. In my opinion, I think that it would be a great idea for the future well-being of the team.



ESQUIMALT INK SURVEY

With only one issue left, it seems like the perfect time to ask you what you think of *Esquimalt Ink*! Have you been enjoying our publications? Is there anything you would change to make it easier to read? Let us know!



We are always looking for Creative Corner submissions, too! If you have a short story, poem, photos, or other creative media you’d like to share, please email it to us at esquimalt.ink@gmail.com.



TO THE MOON AND BACK: A SUMMARY OF THE ARTEMIS II MISSION



Written by Annabell Everett

April 11th, 2026 now marks an important day in the history of space exploration and travel, as the spacecraft Integrity returned home victorious from the Artemis II moon mission.

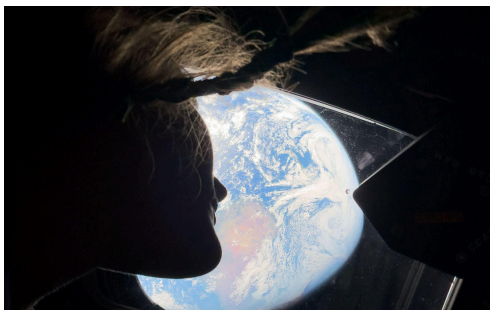
The spacecraft launched April 1st from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, setting out to travel over 1 million kilometres before landing ten days later back on Earth off the coast of San Diego.

This mission set off not only to test the functionality of the spaceship and its life support technologies, but also to gather key data on human health in space and explore the possibility of sustaining life past Earth.

Artemis II serves as a sort of stepping stone for future missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond!

During this 10-day mission, the Integrity circled the Earth twice and ventured within 4,070 miles of the moon's surface.

Several notable accomplishments can be credited to this mission. It is the first crewed flight beyond low Earth orbit since 1972 and the farthest crewed flight ever, flying beyond even the far side of the moon.



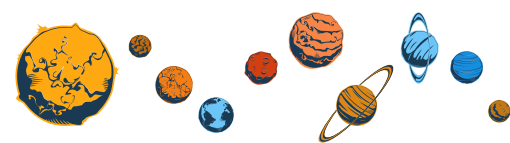
Jeremy Hansen is the first Canadian to participate in a lunar mission, and Christina Koch is the first woman to do so as well. This marks a huge milestone in a new age of space travel and research, and brings hope for more diverse perspectives in future space explorations.

The Artemis program altogether is a mission to achieve the goal of lunar and further space exploration, maintaining NASA's superiority in space research. Artemis I launched on November 16th, 2022 and orbited the moon uncrewed to test the Orion spacecraft technology, and ensure the safety of the Artemis II crew.

The third installation of the Artemis program, Artemis III is set to launch in 2027 and test commercial landers in low Earth orbit, in preparation for Artemis IV in 2028 which will have astronauts actually landing on the moon.



Personally, I am very excited for these upcoming moon missions, and the prospect of space exploration in the near future. These projects truly put into perspective how incredible it is to be alive in the 21st century. There are limitless possibilities that lie before us, greater than at any other point in history.





MAY TRIVIA QUESTIONS

Organized by Cassandre Paul-Hus



1) What day in May is *Star Wars* Day?

- a) May 4th
- b) May 17th
- c) First Monday of May
- d) May 20th

2) Sigmund Freud was born on May 6, 1856. Where was he born?

- a) Vienna, Austria
- b) Frankfurt, Germany
- c) Freiberg, Moravia
- d) Antwerp, Belgium

3) Who was the month of May named after?

- a) Gaia, Greek Goddess of Earth
- b) Mars, Roman God of War
- c) Maia, Greek Goddess of Fertility
- d) Minerva, Roman Goddess of Wisdom

4) What song contest is held each year in May?

- a) Singers Got Talent
- b) Toronto Sing Idol
- c) The Voice
- d) Eurovision

5) Who originated the idea for Mother's Day?

- a) Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- b) Anna Jarvis
- c) Eleanor of Aquitaine
- d) Olympias



6) What famous film franchise premiered its first installment on May 25, 1977?

- a) The Godfather
- b) Star Wars
- c) Harry Potter
- d) Lord of the Rings

7) What is May's birthstone?

- a) Quartz
- b) Jade
- c) Ruby
- d) Emerald

8) What major cycling event traditionally takes place in May?

- a) Tour de France
- b) Giro d'Italia
- c) Paris Roubaix
- d) Vuelta a España

9) Which European country celebrates Constitution Day on May 17th?

- a) Sweden
- b) Denmark
- c) Iceland
- d) Norway

10) What is May's birth flower?

- a) Lily of the Valley
- b) Buttercup
- c) Baby's breath
- d) Daisy

FIND THE ANSWER KEY ON PAGE 11!

SMASHING THE COMPETITION: ESQUIMALT ROBOTICS TEAM GOES TO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

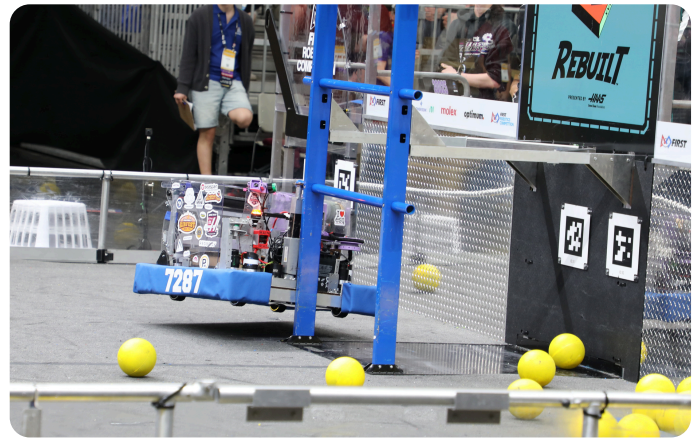


Written by Arden Giles

From April 29th to May 2nd, the Esquimalt Atom Smashers competed in the World Championships in Houston, Texas. I interviewed Steven, a member of the robotics team, to find out more.

CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT ROBOTICS?

“[FIRST Robotics] is competitive robotics where we build according to a rule book given out, to complete tasks in the game. The robots that we went with to Worlds are up to 3 feet tall, a couple feet wide, and a couple feet deep. They weigh up to 130 pounds when the robot, the battery, and the bumpers are included.”



EXCITING! HOW MANY TEAMS WERE YOU COMPETING AGAINST, AND WHERE WERE THEY FROM?

“In our division, there were 75 teams. And across the whole event there were 600 FRC (*bigger robot*) teams, 300-ish FTC (*medium-sized robot*) teams, and then another 200-ish FLL (*small, Lego robot*) teams. So over 1,000 teams there! They were from everywhere across the world, from Turkiye to Australia to the Netherlands.”

AWESOME. WHAT WAS THE BEST PART OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS?

“I’m gonna say the people. Getting to meet people who are as passionate about robotics as I am was just incredible!”

AND WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FOR THE TEAM?

“Honestly, waking up on time was kind of the hardest thing there! They would end up being kinda late nights and then an early morning, followed by a long, long day of competition. So, kind of just keeping our energy level up.”



The Atom Smashers ranked 57th out of 75 teams in its division, 64th out of 185 teams in all of Canada, and is now the #2 team in all of British Columbia. At Worlds, they won the Team Spirit award!

CONGRATULATIONS, ATOM SMASHERS!!

MAY HOROSCOPES

Spring "most likely to" edition!

ARIES (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19)

Most likely to learn you have debilitating allergies.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)

Most likely to pick up a new creative spring hobby.

GEMINI (May 21 - Jun. 20)

Most likely to forget a school deadline because it's so nice out.

CANCER (Jun. 21 - Jul. 22)

Most likely to feel rejuvenated by all the sunshine.

LEO (Jul. 23 - Aug. 22)

Most likely to get sunburnt even when it's overcast and UV 4.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sep. 22)

Most likely to go overboard on the iced lattes.



Organized by
Violet Lane



LIBRA (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22)

Most likely to get distracted while spring cleaning and end up messier than before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Most likely to get grass stained pants.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Most likely to go watch a new spring sport.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Most likely to get deceived by the weather app and get rained on even after it said it'd be sunny.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Most likely to try to curate a whole new spring playlist.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20)

Most likely to lock in like crazy and pass all your finals.



WHEN MUSIC MEETS MEANING: ESQUIMALT'S NIGHT OF GIVING

On Wednesday, April 15th, the bands Belladonna and the Endorphins played in the Esquimalt High School's gym to support a local charity. Our Place Society is an organization dedicated to providing aid to the homeless. There was quite the turn out of students, either excited to hear and cheer on their friends, or to meet the local bands. Raising \$196, this fundraiser was put on by Avery Gwyn along with some help from other students.



MADE WITH LOVE: MOTHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS

This Sunday, May 10th is Mother's Day! This is the perfect time to give back the love. But what should you get, make, or do? Well, here are a few ideas!

- A homemade card is a simple, no-fail way to go. Add lots of colours, a special message and maybe even an origami flower taped to the front!
- Speaking of flowers, those are also a Mother's Day staple! You can get some at just about any grocery store, or if that's not the way you want to go, you can always get construction paper, roll it up, and pick some flowers for a makeshift bouquet.
- Now it's time for the chocolate! A box from Purdy's or her favorite bar from your usual grocery store is always a good choice. If that's not to her taste buds, a bag of candy or gummies can never go astray.
- If you're looking for something you can do for your mother, a breakfast in bed, a nice lunch, or their preferred dinner dish is a nice way to show you're thoughtful.
- The outdoors is beautiful right now with all the blossoms! Going for a walk with your mom is a perfect way to celebrate. You could even end it with a picnic!
- Memories are super precious, and a framed photo is a perfect way to print a fantastic one! At London Drugs, you can get frames, tote bags, blankets, pillow cases or even water bottles that showcase your special moment.

Written by Kara McIlwain



A Brief History of Mother's Day

The idea of a day completely dedicated to mothers around the world was first brought to life in 1870 by Julia Ward Howe, an abolitionist. Horrified by the tragedies of the Civil War (U.S.) and the Franco-Prussian War, she urged the newly-founded tradition of Mother's Day to be celebrated throughout the globe in June of each year. But, this idea never saw the light of day. A few years later, a woman called Anna Jarvis would establish what we now know as Mother's Day. She originally intended to unify families from different sides of the war, but it was eventually more in the purpose of honouring one's mother. The second Sunday of May was declared Mother's Day, the day her mother died. She wanted to honour the hard work her mother had done in restoring communities by creating "Mother's Friendship Day". |Written by Cassandre Paul-Hus|



- A makeshift spa day is a great way to make her feel refreshed. With candles, face masks, music, and maybe even nail polish, you can turn almost anywhere into a relaxing space.
- Last but not least, the best gift of all, your time. Spending time with your mom will make memories, and show that you care.



QUEEN VICTORIA

A girl in a dress she possessed,
 A guarded household, who could have guessed?
 The crown called before she blinked,
 Yet she stood tall with distinct,
 Empires built underneath her gaze,
 Like blazing fire inked with her name,
 The world roared with vibrancy,
 In this everlasting dynasty,
 Within that gaze a man she found,
 A prince she felt with her was bound,
 Bridged their bodies and minds,
 Passionate love that was kind,
 But grief fell cold upon,
 In a shadow she felt comfort,
 A remaining symbol of power,
 Reaching until this very hour.

Happy Victoria Day!

Written by Beaver Cruz



FUN FACT!

Many people think Victoria Day is about the city! Did you know it was actually named after Queen Victoria? She became Queen in 1837 at the age of 18. She then reigned for a whopping 63 years!



Written by Sylvie Scott

SUMMER



The summer air rolls in waves
 Heat radiates off the grass

A breeze pulls the warmth away,
 Cooling the students standing outside
 Complaints about the heat drift across the field,
 Everyone forgetting how much they missed this in winter

The sun presses into their backs,
 Tan lines forming on their arms

They wish they were at the beach,
 Where rushing water could cool the heat
 Where laughter could replace the slow ticking of the clock
 Where summer isn't something to complain about

Organized by Cassandre Paul-Hus

MATCHAMISU

Ingredients

Matcha Tea for Lady Fingers

- 2 ½ tablespoon (17 g) matcha powder
- 2 cups (473 ml) hot water (176°F or 80°C)

Mascarpone Filling

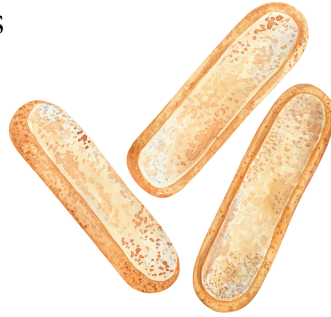
- 16 oz mascarpone
- 1 ½ tbsp (10 g) matcha powder
- ¼ cup (60 ml) hot water (176°F or 80°C)
- 6 large egg yolks
- ¾ cup (170 g) granulated sugar
- 2 cups (473 mL) heavy whipping cream
- 2 teaspoon (10 g) vanilla extract

Assembly

- ¼ cup matcha powder for dusting
- 40 ladyfingers (you may need more or less depending on your dish)

Directions

1. Whisk the matcha tea for the ladyfingers: In a small bowl, whisk the 2 tbsp matcha and 2 cups hot water in a bowl and set aside to cool.
2. Whisk matcha tea for mascarpone cream: In a separate small bowl, whisk 1/2 tbsp matcha powder and 1/4 cup of hot water in a bowl and set aside to cool.
3. Mix mascarpone and matcha tea: In a large bowl, transfer the mascarpone and pour the second cooled 1/4 cup of matcha tea. Using a hand mixer, whisk until combined.
4. Gently cook egg yolks and sugar: In a medium heat-proof bowl, add the egg yolks and sugar. Whisk together, then place over a pot of simmering water making sure the water does not touch the bowl (double boiler). Whisk over heat until sugar has dissolved and the mixture is LIGHT yellow in colour and thickened. About 10 min.
5. Whisk egg yolks with mascarpone mix: Place in the fridge to chill.



Recipe & photo from *Takes Two Eggs*

6. Whip heavy cream and vanilla to medium peaks: Add the cold heavy whipping cream and vanilla to a large bowl. Mix with a hand mixer on low for about 30 seconds, then slowly increase the speed to high. Beat until the whipped cream has medium stiff peaks but don't over whip.
7. Gently fold the whipped cream into the mascarpone mixture.

Assembly

1. Quickly dip the top and bottom of your ladyfingers in the matcha tea mixture. 1-2 seconds on each side.
2. Arrange the ladyfingers in the 9"x13" dish, or in small cups if you prefer. Cut the pieces so there are no gaps.
3. After the bottom layer of dipped ladyfingers is arranged, add the mascarpone mixture on top and smooth out to the edges using a rubber spatula. You can also pipe the mascarpone mixture for a more even distribution of cream.
4. Dip more ladyfingers, arranging them on top of the filling as you go. Add another layer of mascarpone mixture.
5. Dust the top with matcha powder and chill overnight.

ENJOY!

Organized by Annabell Everett, Nina Towner, and Tabby Towne



GRINDER'S SUDOKU



EASY

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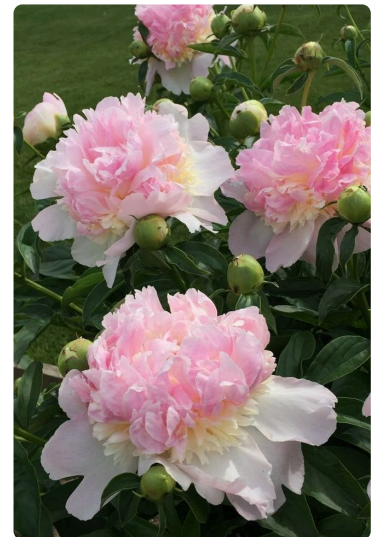


WORD SEARCH



- Begonia
- Carnation
- Daisy
- Hibiscus
- Jasmine
- Lily

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- Marigold
- Peony
- Petunia
- Rose
- Tulip
- Violet

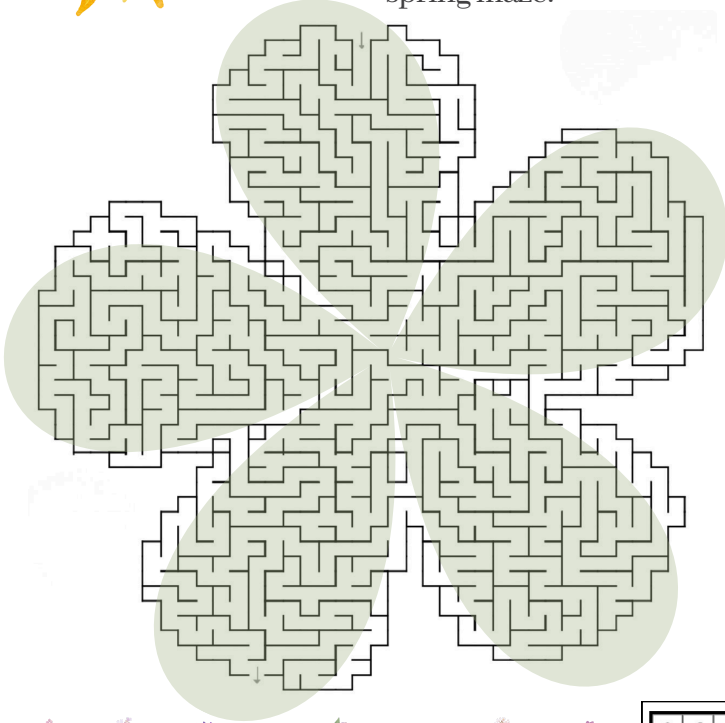
TRIVIA ANSWER KEY: 1) A 2) C 3) C 4) D 5) B 6) B 7) D 8) B 9) D 10) A

Organized by Annabell Everett, Nina Towner, and Tabby Towne



MAZE

Make your way through the fun spring maze!



CONNECTIONS

Make groups of four!

| | | | |
|---------|----------|--------------|------------|
| Mabel | Pine | Daisy | Rose |
| Maple | Lavender | Crab | Oak |
| Arbutus | Gala | Buttercup | Sandalwood |
| Bessie | Vanilla | Granny Smith | Honeycrisp |

Connection 1: _____
 Connection 2: _____
 Connection 3: _____
 Connection 4: _____



CONNECTIONS ANSWERS:
 Types of apple: Gala, Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, crab
 Perfume scents: Sandalwood, vanilla, lavender, rose
 Trees: Arbutus, oak, maple, pine
 Popular cow names: Bessie, Buttercup, Daisy, Mabel

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HARD

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MODERATE

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| 5 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 4 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 |

EASY

SUDOKU KEYS:

HYGIENE PRODUCT DRIVE donate now!



From May 11th to June 1st, donate some hygiene products to the box in your B block class. The class with the most donations gets a prize!

OUR TEAM

Have any questions or concerns? Contact us at esquimalt.ink@gmail.com!

- Arden Giles
- Cassandra Paul-Hus
- Bren Grundy
- Violet Lane
- Sylvie Scott
- Annabell Everett
- Kara McIlwain
- Nina Towner
- Tabby Towne
- Beaver Cruz
- Eleanor Hogg
- Meganne Stuart
- Molly Hansen
- Geoff Orme