



Tillicum Community School

April 2019

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Hello Tillicum students, families, and staff

Welcome back! We hope you had a restful spring break and are returning to school recharged. This newsletter brings us to April, with much to celebrate and reflect upon, as well as much to prepare for! As we enter the final three months of the school year, we delight in the many highlights of the past term around our school, as well as look forward to some of the exciting events ahead!

Our fields are open once again for play and track practice. Daily physical activity is a focus at Tillicum and we have a significant amount of equipment and activity available for students throughout the day. Outdoor play is very important to student learning, health and well-being. Particularly at this time of year, please help your child be prepared for all types of weather by reminding them to dress in layers and have closed toe, flat shoes at school at all times for active and safe participation in the gym and outside. Your continued support is much appreciated.

April 10 & 11, students and families are participating in one of the most important events of our year, Student Led Conferences. This is an opportunity for students to share the work they have been doing. This is a very special event; celebrate the accomplishments of your children with pride. As a reminder, both of these dates, **April 10 & 11, we have an early dismissal at 11:45 AM.**

Tillicum **ROCKS!** and we continue to focus on **Respect, Organization, Cooperation, Kindness and Safety** in class, on announcements, and throughout the school. Expected behaviours in all areas of school have been defined on our Behaviour Matrix and have been taught in all classes. This matrix is available on our school website as well. Using **WITS** is also common practice at Tillicum. We work hard to ensure that Tillicum is a safe and nurturing place for us all. Every day at Tillicum we focus on kind and friendly behaviours, providing all students the opportunity to fix any mistakes and for everyone to demonstrate learning from each mistake. Thank you for all you do to reinforce these beliefs. It is definitely a pleasure to work with such a supportive community.

READY, SET, LEARN

Hello families of three and four year olds! Do you have questions about kindergarten? Join us Tuesday, April 9th at Saanich Neighbourhood Place in the Pearkes Rec Centre (5:00-7:00 pm). This is a free event! (Poster attached)

Class Placements for 2019-20

We are beginning to plan for our classes for next year! Our current grade five students will be transitioning to various middle schools. We have been busy registering kindergarten students for the fall. If your child is currently in kindergarten to grade four and will not be attending Tillicum Elementary School next year, please advise the office staff. As we work together to place students we consider the following factors:

- **Specific learning strengths, need and styles**
- **The child's need for attention in social, emotional and behavioural areas.**
- **The child's need for learning support or access to special education services.**
- **Interests, learning styles, effort and independence**
- **Class size and composition**

The staff at *Tillicum* will continue to put considerable time and effort into forming balanced classes according to the criteria noted above. Should parents wish to provide input to the class placement process citing educational and social/emotional reasons, please send an e-mail to Mr. Duyndam (jeduyndam@sd61.bc.ca) no later than Friday, May 10th, 2019.

Greek Lunch

The Greek Community is an important sponsor of the Tillicum Community School meal program. Their generosity is so greatly appreciated!

In addition, each year, the Greek Community provides a wonderful traditional lunch for our whole school. This event is followed by a short, all-school assembly. We are looking forward to this annual event at the beginning of May.

Music News

Congratulations to our Senior Choir for representing Tillicum so well in Victoria Sings at UVIC on March 7th. Great job! Ms. Palermo is looking forward to meeting families at our Student Led Conferences in April. Please be sure to pop by the music room on your visit to the school. Our music classes are preparing a special presentation on the afternoon May 29th. More details to follow.



Spring Cross-Country

Thank you to Ms. Pinkus who is coaching cross-country this spring. It's a short season (3 races). Event locations will be announced shortly. Tentative race dates are: April 16, 23 and 30. Interested students were given an information/ registration form on Friday. Please ensure the permission piece is filled out and returned to the school promptly as the first race is on the horizon. The practice schedule will be Tuesdays & Wednesdays 8:15am on the Maddock field.

Track

We are just beginning our track season with the grade 3-5 students at Tillicum. Practices for 100m will be held at recesses starting later in April. The 800m practices will be Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:20am but these practices will begin once our cross country season finishes at the end of April. Our zone track meet will be on Thursday, May 23rd and those who qualify will be in the city finals the evening of Thursday, May 30th.

Please remind your child that athlete attendance at practices is required for participation in the meet(s). Please ensure your children wear or have runners at school for the track season.

Rugby

Notices went home before the break... more info coming out soon! Be sure to listen to the announcements for game and practice times.

April book recommendations by students in Div 1

These are book recommendations by students in Division 1 that students thought other children in Grade 3-5 might enjoy.

"The Penderwicks" is a series of five books by award winning author Jeanne Birdsall. The main characters are four girls, their father, and their dog who all go to a vacation house owned by the snooty, stuck-up Mrs. Tifton. They become friends with her son and make mischief around the mansion. They also help their new friend overcome his snooty mother. With relatable characters a funny, interesting and ridiculous story this makes a great read or read-aloud for grades 3-5. – Hosanna

"Beware The Ninja Weenies" by David Lubar, is a compilation of thirty three short twisted, evil, sad, and shocking stories that follows multiple different characters through very strange interactions. The Weenie series divides itself from other stories because it builds up the tension for a big finale twist, but it just ends. Leaving the end to you. – Haroun

We are hiring!

The Greater Victoria School District is looking for passionate and qualified individuals to join our team in the following key roles:

- Educational Assistant Spareboard
- Clerical Spareboard
- StrongStart Program - Early Childhood Educators



If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about what positions we offer, please visit our website here: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/employment/>
You can submit your resume, cover letter and qualifications to: hrrs@sd61.bc.ca

Screen Time

Our health and safety team would like to remind parents that they can protect their children from potential harm from video games by following a few common sense strategies — particularly if they are concerned that their children might be vulnerable to the effects of violent content. These simple precautions may help:

- Check the ESRB rating to better understand what type of content a video game has.

- Play video games with children to better understand the content, and how children react.
- Place video consoles and computers in common areas of the home, rather than in children's bedrooms.
- Set limits on the amount of time youths can play these games. The AAP recommends two hours or less of total screen time per day, including television, computers, and video games.
- Encourage participation in sports or school activities in which youths can interact with peers in person rather than online.

Video games share much in common with other pursuits that are enjoyable and rewarding, but may become hazardous in certain contexts. Parents can best protect their children by remaining engaged with them and providing limits and guidance as necessary.

For the full article please see: https://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter_article/violent-video-games-and-young-people

As always, our office door is open to discuss any concerns or questions you may have about our school or the programs/services we offer. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education.

Jeff Duyndam & Sue Ottenbreit
Principal Vice-Principal



Tillicum Community School Calendar



April 2019

For events specific to each Division, please speak with your child's teacher.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Welcome Back!	2	3 Recognition Assembly 2:10 PM	4	5	6
7	8 Ready, Set, Learn Saanich Neighbourhood Place 5-7 PM	9	10 Early Dismissal 11:45 AM Student-Led Conferences Book Fair - Gym PAC meeting 6:30 PM Library	11 Early Dismissal 11:45 AM Student-Led Conferences Book Fair - Gym	12 Pro-D Day School is not in session	13
14	15 Fire Drill 10 AM	16	17 Recognition Assembly 2:10 PM	18	19 Good Friday School is not in session	20
21	22 Easter Monday School is not in session	23	24	25	26 Food For Fun	27
28	29	30	Early May: May 1 - Recognition Assembly May 8 - PAC meeting 6:30 PM			

