



Tillicum Community School

September 2024

3155 Albina Street, Victoria, B.C., V9A 1Z6

Phone: 250-386-1408 Fax: 250-380-2805

Website: <https://tillicum.sd61.bc.ca>

Attendance email: attendance20@sd61.bc.ca



Hello Tillicum students, families, and staff!



We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits, and we are delighted to say that we are excited and ready for another successful school year at **Tillicum**! It has been our intent to have all students at our school feel like they belong here – it is their place! Our standards of behaviour and respect are set high, to create a positive, safe environment for teaching and learning.

Our staff at **Tillicum** are committed to working with each and every student in our care, and we strive to create a professional relationship with parents, as this is integral to the success of our

work with our students.

Two very important school documents will be sent home with students during the next week. Please take the time to read, update, sign and return these to your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible. The **PINK** Student Information Verification Form is extremely important as it is vital that we have current contact information for you and your child on file. Please take extra care to review the verification form. The Student Emergency Release Form is also important to ensure safe release of your children during an emergency.

Parent Connect

Each year, consent is required for use of digital/online tools used in the classroom. Consent is also required for media release for data privacy reasons, and for any field trips students may take. Our school district has created a way to provide consent using an online platform called **Parent Connect**.

If you have not already signed up for **Parent Connect** please go to parentconnect.sd61.bc.ca and click, "Create an Account". The information used to create an account and verify your information comes directly from the contact information we have on file. If the information is outdated, you will need to contact the office to ensure all data is up-to-date.

After signing up, you will see on the homepage that there may be digital/online tools for you to consider granting consent or denying consent after reading the information regarding student data privacy. Anytime a new item is added by your child's teacher(s) you will be sent a notification to the email with which you signed up. If you deny consent for an item, please speak with your child's teacher for accommodations when the digital/online tool is being used or regarding any field trips.

Safety Around Tillicum

Our school enrolls approximately 465 students and we have over 65 staff members. We are encouraging alternative forms of transportation to and from school, hoping to avoid congestion problems and excessive traffic.

FOR SAFETY - PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILDREN OFF IN THE STAFF PARKING LOT.

The main entrance to the school from the parking lot on Albina Street is for staff and adult visitors to the school only. We ask that you practice having students come and go through the Orillia entrance or any of the smaller entrances in the fence around the perimeter of the school.



We also ask that you respect our neighbours by NOT parking in or blocking their driveways.

There is a designated bus drop-off zone along Orillia Street. This area must be kept clear for the school bus. You are reminded to observe the no parking signs in the bus zone for student safety. Please plan ahead, and give yourself enough time to park and walk a block or two if needed!

Elementary School Schedule for 2024-2025

The School District has a common schedule across all elementary schools.

START	8:45 AM
Recess	10:15 AM – 10:30 AM
Lunch Recess	11:50 AM – 12:35 PM
END	2:37 PM

PACK IT IN - PACK IT OUT

Tillicum is a “pack it in - pack it out” school. This means that whatever comes to school for packaging snacks and lunches, goes home with the student to be recycled. We encourage students to bring recyclable containers for their food which saves plastic wrap and foil from going into the landfill and the garbage. The District of Saanich has a great recycling and organics program, so all banana peels, apple cores, etc. should also be taken home for home composting or for the green bin. This initiative encourages recycling and thoughtful use of what goes in garbage cans. Thank you for your assistance with this initiative.



Nutritional Snack Program

This program begins the second week of school. Forms can be given to your child’s teacher. Each month a new permission form will be available, OR you can sign up for the whole year. Additional permission forms are available at the office. Information is also available on the school website.

Music News

We are always delighted to see so many *Tillicum* students in our Sr. Choir, Jr. Choir, and music programs. Our music teacher, **Mr. Byron Lienard**, is looking forward to enthusiastic students and their commitment to music. Senior Choir will start shortly and will be held during lunch recess. All grade 3-5 students who love to sing are welcome to be part of the Sr. Choir. All grade 1-2 students who love to sing are welcome to join our Jr. Choir. We have a number of special performances planned this year. Our music program is one of the pillars of *Tillicum* Community School, and we are proud of all of our music students!



Athletics & Healthy Living

Grade 4/5 soccer players, who are interested in joining our school team, listen for announcements in the second week regarding soccer practice with Ms. Easton. Practices will be happening at lunch recess.



Fall X-COUNTRY RUNNING for grades 3, 4, and 5 students will be starting soon. Please listen to announcements about before school practices! Races are held on Mondays after school. We will need volunteer drivers - Please visit the office to get the volunteer driver package.

Individual School Photos

Similar to last year, photos have moved from a prepay system to a proof system. This means that families can order pictures after they see them. Families will have the option to order online (where there are many more background choices) or to order in the traditional method, using the form that comes home with the proofs. Proofs will arrive at school 2-3 weeks after picture day, to go home with students, and then families may order. Pictures are then sent to the school for distribution. This year, individual photos will be taken on October 10.

Before & After School Care

We have an agreement with Burnside Gorge Community Association to provide Before & After School Care. Before School Care runs 7:30-8:45 AM and After School Care runs 2:37-5:30 PM. If you are interested, please reach out to Burnside Gorge (<https://burnsidegorge.ca/out-of-school-care/>) or call **250-388-5251** to reserve your spot. Burnside Gorge has also opened a daycare for 3 to 5-year-olds. Please contact Burnside Gorge for more information. Our school continues to offer programming through our Community School and a letter from our Program Coordinator, Ms. Mandy, will come out in September.

Accessible BC Act

In accordance with the Accessible BC Act, GVSD 61 has launched an accessibility feedback tool, and is looking for members of our learning community to join the GVSD Accessibility Advisory

Group as we finalize the first multi-year GVSD Accessibility Plan. [Click here to learn more](#) and/or provide feedback.

1000 x 5

1000 Books by Age Five- Donate books to increase early literacy!

Do you know that reading books to babies and preschoolers is the most significant indicator of early school success? Cuddling and reading to your little ones shows that you value reading,



builds comfort, enjoyment and early skills that last a lifetime. As well as enjoying a new story with your child, please make an extra effort to drop off gently used picture books for babies and preschoolers in the brown drop box at the school office door. All children benefit from being read to – help make that a reality for more.

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (Message from voluntary insurance provider)

The voluntary Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is for supplementing costs not covered by your provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Regardless of the size of your family, all eligible family members can be insured under one set monthly rate. This program could help many families, providing much needed reimbursements for out-of-pocket costs.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about or apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan, visit <https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

School District Complaint Process (Policy 1155)

The purpose of the Complaint Process is to ensure that any individual's concern will be given respectful attention while upholding the integrity of the educational system. The regulations provide clear procedures for the communication and resolution of any concern held by members of our Educational Community. The Educational Community includes parents, students, all Greater Victoria School District employees and members of the public.

Cops for Cancer & Terry Fox Run

Starting on Tuesday, September 24th please send in coins for the Terry Fox Foundation (to raise money for Cancer Research) and Cops for Cancer-Tour de Rock. The monies raised will be split evenly between these two charities. We will be collecting:

Tuesday, Sept. 24th	Nickels & Dimes
Wednesday, Sept. 25th	Quarters
Thursday, Sept. 26th	Loonies
Friday, Sept. 27th	Toonies



Our school-wide **Terry Fox Run** will be Tuesday, October 1st - 1:35 PM.

Strings – Optional Program for Students in Grade 5

This NEW optional program is offered to students in Grade 5. **Tillicum** is now part of the View Royal, Craigflower, **Tillicum** HUB. Our HUB will offer strings out of View Royal Elementary, after school, twice a week from 3:15 PM – 4:00 PM. Participating students and families are responsible for their own transportation. More information will be emailed home shortly.

Cops for Cancer – Tour de Rock



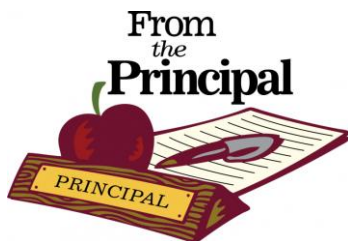
As many of you are aware, I had the honour of riding in the Tour de Rock in 2022. This year, the Tour will be in Victoria on October 3rd (the final 3 days are spent touring Greater Victoria). The Tour will be stopping at **Tillicum** on Thursday, October 3rd (Time TBD). The atmosphere will be absolutely electric! Everyone is welcome!

Crossing Guards

Crossing Guards are once again returning to the intersections of Burnside@Seaton AND Tillicum@Maddock. Our District has provided additional funds allowing the school to schedule our supervision staff to assist students and families crossing before and after school. These two intersections will be staffed for 45 minutes before school and 45 minutes after school beginning next week!

Meet the Teacher Night

Tuesday, September 17th, is our annual Meet the Teacher Night beginning at 4 PM. Staff will have their classrooms open from 4-5 PM and food will be available on the Orillia Street blacktop from 4-6 PM. This is a great opportunity to welcome new families to our school, see your child's classroom and talk with their teacher in an informal setting. Payment is cash only. More information regarding food and prices will be sent home prior to the event.



It is definitely our privilege to work with such a tremendous team of educators, students and parents again this year at **Tillicum**, and we are all looking forward to a terrific year of learning. Please remember that our very dedicated staff are always open to discussing your child's learning.

Our office door is also 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 & Karen Higginbotham
Principal Vice-Principal



Tillicum Community School Calendar

September 2024



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Labour Day</i> <i>School is not in session</i>	3 <i>First day of school</i> 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	4 <i>First Day of Regular Hours (Gr 1-5)</i> 8:45 AM - 2:37 PM	5 <i>Kindergarten Welcoming Conversations</i>	6 <i>Kindergarten Start</i> <i>Group A: 9 - 11 AM</i> <i>Group B: 11:45 - 1:45 PM</i>	7
8	9 <i>Kindergarten</i> <i>Group A: 9 - 11 AM</i> <i>Group B: 11:45 - 1:45 PM</i>	10 <i>Kindergarten</i> <i>Group B: 9 - 11 AM</i> <i>Group A: 11:45 - 1:45 PM</i>	11 <i>PAC Info Tent - 8:30^{AM}</i> <i>Kindergarten full day</i> 8:45 AM - 2:37 PM <i>PAC Meeting</i> <i>6:30 PM - Teams</i>	12	13 <i>Welcome Assembly</i>	14
15	16	17 <i>Meet the Teacher/Pizza</i> 4-6	18 <i>Fire Drill</i>	19	20	21
22	23 <i>Pro-D Day</i> <i>School is not in session</i>	24 <i>Cops for Cancer/Terry Fox Coin Drive:</i> <i>Nickels & Dimes</i>	25 <i>Cops for Cancer/Terry Fox Coin Drive:</i> <i>Quarters</i>	26 <i>Cops for Cancer/Terry Fox Coin Drive:</i> <i>Loonies</i>	27 <i>Orange Shirt Day</i> <i>Cops for Cancer/Terry Fox Coin Drive: Toonies</i>	28
29	30 <i>National Truth & Reconciliation Day</i> <i>School is not in session</i>	<i>Early October:</i> <i>October 1 - Terry Fox Run</i> <i>October 3 - Tour de Rock at Tillicum</i> <i>October 10 - Individual Picture Day</i>				