



Tillicum Community School

April 2025

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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 very much appreciated.

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.

Student-led Conferences

More detailed information was sent home before Spring Break but we wanted to let you know that this year, Student-led conferences will look and feel similar to last year. Every Division teacher will be communicating their plans for Student-led Conferences to their families individually. Student-led conferences are on April 16th & 17th – with **EARLY DISMISSAL on**

Wednesday, April 16 – 11:50 AM and regular dismissal on Thursday, April 17 (2:37 PM).



Class Placements for 2025-26

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** Community School next year, please advise the office staff. As we work together to place students, we consider the following factors:

- **Specific learning strengths, needs, and styles**
- **The child's need for attention in social, emotional and behavioural areas.**
- **The child's need for learning support or access to inclusive 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/or social/emotional reasons, please send an e-mail to Mr. Duyndam (jeduyndam@sd61.bc.ca) no later than Friday, May 2nd, 2025.

Greek Lunch is back!

The Greek Community is an important sponsor of the **Tillicum** Community School meal programs. Their generosity is so greatly appreciated! In addition, each year, the Greek Community provides a wonderful traditional lunch for our entire school. This event is followed by a short, school-wide assembly. On this day we encourage all of our students to **WEAR BLUE** to show our appreciation. We are looking forward to this annual event which will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd.



Music News



A huge congratulations to our Senior Choir for their participation at Victoria Sings on March 3rd! They were part of a 4-day evening event that featured 28 choirs from schools around school district 61 and over 1200 students. This a reminder to Senior Choir that we will be continuing after Spring Break, with a performance scheduled at the April Assembly, as well as preparing a song for the Grade 5 Graduation events.

Track

We are just beginning our track season. We are hoping to have both fields lined by the middle of April. Track practices will be held before school, at lunch, and during PE classes. More information will be coming out shortly with regard to our Zone Meet – our date is Wednesday, May 28 (9-1:30) and City Finals are set for Thursday, May 29 (6-8pm @ UVic).



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 & Karen Higginbotham
Principal Vice-Principal



Tillicum Community School Calendar

April 2025



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Hilltop Plant Order Deadline</i>	7	8	9 <i>PAC meeting 6:30 PM - Teams</i>	10 <i>Extra Recess for 5000 Nights of Home Reading!</i>	11	12
13	14 <i>Fire Drill</i>	15 <i>Food For Fun Order Deadline 11am</i>	16 EARLY CLOSURE 11:50 AM <i>Student-Led Conferences Scholastic Book Fair</i>	17 <i>Student-Led Conferences Scholastic Book Fair</i> <i>Regular Dismissal 2:37 PM</i>	18 <i>Good Friday</i> <i>School is not in session</i>	19
20	21 <i>Easter Monday</i> <i>School is not in session</i>	22 	23 * WEAR BLUE * <i>Greek Lunch</i>	24 <i>Earth Day Assembly 1:45</i> <i>PAC Spring Dance 6 - 7:30 PM GYM</i>	25 <i>PAC: Food For Fun</i>	26
27	28	29	30 <i>Poem in your Pocket Day</i> <i>PAC Plant Sale Pick-up</i>	Early May: <i>May 7 - PAC Meeting</i>		