

NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 2026



TILLICUM ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten Registration – September 2026/27

We are beginning preparations for the **2026–2027 school year**. If you have a child who will be entering **Kindergarten in September 2026**, please let us know as soon as possible.

While we are unable to reserve spaces for incoming students, early communication helps us plan and ensures families have the opportunity to register promptly. Space is limited, so it is important that families share their intentions early.

Please contact the school office at **250-386-1408**.

We strongly encourage families to register in person during registration week.

Kindergarten Registration and Student Transfers:
January 26–30

THANK YOU!



Rory Kulmala, **Vancouver Island Construction Association**, presents nearly \$2000 in gift card to Tillicum families in need over the holidays. (top left)

Coast Capital – for generously donating our Pancake Breakfast. (top right)



Saanich Predators – for reading with our students (bottom)

Upcoming Saanich Predators home games at Pearkes Arena:

Jan 9 vs. Lake Cowichan, 6:30 pm

Jan 23 vs. Port Alberni, 6:30 pm

Jan 27 vs. Victoria, 7:30 pm

TILLICUM ELEMENTARY

3155 ALBINA ST, PHONE: 250-386-1408



NEWSLETTER – TILLICUM

Student Transfer Application Week

Each home address in our district is associated with designated elementary, middle, and secondary schools. Families can confirm catchment schools using the **School Locator Tool** on the district website.

Students in Grades K–12 wishing to apply to attend a school outside their catchment area must complete a Student Transfer Application Form.

Transfer Application Window: February 9–12

- Forms are available at all schools and on the SD61 website.

Important Registration & Transfer Dates:

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/registration/registration-transfer-dates/>

Late French Immersion Registration Information:

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/registration/late-french-immersion/>

Home Reading & Family Literacy

As we begin the new year, we encourage families to consider setting a home reading goal. Reading at home plays a powerful role in student learning by building confidence, enjoyment, and lifelong literacy skills.

January 27 is Family Literacy Day!

Our Tillicum Home Reading Program will be gaining momentum as students work toward earning extended recesses. We encourage students to:

- Read with or to an adult, or
- Discuss what they are reading with an adult
- 10–20 minutes per day

Please connect with your child's teacher if you have questions about classroom-specific expectations.

Dressing for the Weather

Winter weather on the west coast can be wet and windy. To ensure students stay warm and comfortable, please support your child in coming to school prepared with:

- A warm, waterproof or water-resistant jacket (with a hood if possible)
- Closed shoes or rain boots

Unless weather conditions are severe, students will continue to go outside for recess and learning activities.

Head Lice Awareness

With winter comes an increase in head lice cases.

According to Island Health:

Head lice are common, especially among children ages 3–12. They do not spread disease and are not related to personal hygiene or cleanliness. Head lice spread through close, head-to-head contact. They cannot jump, fly, or live on furniture or carpets.

How families can help:

- Check your child's hair weekly using the wet-combing method
- Encourage children with longer hair to wear it tied back
- Treat promptly if live lice are found
- Share information with family and friends to support community prevention

More information:

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/head-lice>

Parking Reminder

For student safety, families are not permitted to use the staff parking lot for drop-off or pick-up, except for students with mobility challenges.

Due to limited space, the parking lot does not allow for safe student drop-off. We will be monitoring this more closely in the new year and appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Message from Admin

Hello Tillicum students, families, and staff,

We hope you enjoyed a restful and refreshing break. It has been wonderful welcoming students back to school, and we are looking forward to a positive and productive term ahead. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community.

A big thank-you to our students and staff for their wonderful participation in "Winter on the Salish Sea." What a fantastic showcase of creativity, effort, and teamwork—well done!

Sincerely,

Aaron Parker and Karen Higginbotham