

NEWS LETTER

SEPT 2026



TILLICUM ELEMENTARY

Greetings from the Admin Team

It has been a busy but joyful week as we welcomed students back to Tillicum and into their new classes. There has been lots of excitement throughout the school as students reconnect with friends, meet new classmates and teachers, and settle into new routines.

We are looking forward to another great year at Tillicum—a year where every student feels that they belong, are supported to be themselves, and have the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, caring and respectful community. We value the partnership between home and school and look forward to working together throughout the year.

Aaron and Karen

2026–2027 Schedule

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

Parent Connect & Student Information

At the beginning of each school year, families are asked to review important student information and provide consent for items such as digital/online tools, media release and field trips. These forms are now completed online through Parent Connect.

Please log in to Parent Connect to review and update your child's information and complete any required consent forms. Keeping your contact and emergency information current is especially important.

The **Student Emergency Release Form** is the one exception and will be sent home with students. Please complete and return this form to your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Families who have not yet created a Parent Connect account can do so through the SD61 Parent Connect site. If you have difficulty accessing your account or your information is incorrect, please contact the school office.

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3155 ALBINA ST, PHONE: 250-386-1408



NEWSLETTER – TILLICUM

School Drop-Off & Parking

With approximately 465 students and more than 65 staff, our streets are very busy at arrival and dismissal. Whenever possible, we encourage families to walk, bike or use other alternatives to driving.

For safety, please do not drop students off in the staff parking lot. The Albina Street parking lot entrance is for staff and adult visitors only. Students should enter and leave through the Orillia Street entrance or other gates around the school.

Please also respect our neighbours by not parking in or blocking driveways, and keep the designated bus zone on Orillia Street clear at all times.

If driving, please plan to park a block or two away and walk the final distance to school. Thank you for helping keep arrival and dismissal safe for everyone!

PACK IT IN – PACK IT OUT

Tillicum is a “pack it in – pack it out” school. This means that whatever comes to school as packaging for snacks and lunches goes home with the student to be recycled.

We encourage students to bring reusable or recyclable containers for their food, reducing the amount of plastic wrap, foil and other waste going to the landfill. The District of Saanich has a great recycling and organics program, so banana peels, apple cores and other food waste should also be taken home for composting or the green bin.

This initiative encourages recycling and thoughtful use of what goes into our garbage cans. Thank you for your assistance!

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 families can sign up for the whole year.

Additional permission forms are available at the office. Information is also available on the school website.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Canada’s annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day on September 30 is a time of recognition, remembrance and respect for survivors of residential schools and an opportunity to learn about the lasting impacts these schools have had, and continue to have, on Indigenous communities.

This year, **Orange Shirt Day at Tillicum will be Tuesday, September 29.**

Individual School Photos

Photo Day is October 18. Artona provides families with a link to review and order photos. All details for ordering photos can be found through Artona. <https://artona.com/schools/TLCM>

ATTENDANCE – Please report absences at attendance20@sd61.bc.ca or phone 250-386-1408 ext. 2.



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Music News

We are always delighted to see so many Tillicum students participating in our Senior Choir, Junior Choir and music programs. Our music teacher, Mr. Byron Lienard, is looking forward to another year filled with enthusiastic students and great music!

Senior Choir will begin shortly and will be held during lunch recess. All Grade 3–5 students who love to sing are welcome to join. Junior Choir is open to all Grade 1–2 students who love to sing. We have a number of special performances planned throughout the year and look forward to sharing our students' talents with the school community.

We are delighted to continue offering Strings as part of our music programming. This is a special opportunity for Grade 5 students and takes place Tuesdays from 2:45–3:30 PM in the music portable.

Last year's Grade 4 students received information about registering for Strings. If you are new to Tillicum in Grade 5 or missed the information, please feel free to contact Ms. Fisher at jefisher@sd61.bc.ca to learn more about this wonderful opportunity.

Our music program is one of the pillars of Tillicum Community School, and we are incredibly proud of all of our music students!

Athletics & Healthy Living

Grade 4/5 soccer players interested in joining our school team should listen for announcements in the second week regarding soccer practices with Ms. Easton. Practices will take place at lunch recess.

Fall cross-country running for Grades 3–5 students will also 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 a volunteer driver package.

Before & After School Care

We have an agreement with Burnside Gorge Community Association to provide Before & After School Care.

Before School Care runs from 7:30–8:45 AM and After School Care runs from 2:37–5:30 PM. If you are interested, please reach out to Burnside Gorge 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.

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.



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Cops for Cancer & Terry Fox Run

Starting on Tuesday, September 22, please send in coins for the Terry Fox Foundation, supporting cancer research, and Cops for Cancer – Tour de Rock. The money raised will be split evenly between these two charities.

Tuesday, Sept. 22 – Nickels & Dimes

Wednesday, Sept. 23 – Quarters

Thursday, Sept. 24 – Loonies

Friday, Sept. 25 – Toonies

Our school-wide Terry Fox Run will be Thursday, October 1 at 1:35 PM.

Crossing Guards

Crossing guards are typically provided at 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 at least 30 minutes before school and 30 minutes after school beginning next week.

The Walking School Bus at Tillicum Still Has Space!

Please fill out the Walking School Bus Tillicum Elementary Application Form (2026–27) to apply for your child to participate.

The walking route and schedule are also available online.

We are hoping to launch the Walking School Bus on Monday, September 21. This is dependent on the onboarding process of our walk leader; if this changes, an update will be sent to enrolled families.

Once the bus is full, we will begin a waitlist. If families leave the program, or if additional volunteers allow us to increase capacity, more spots will become available.

Volunteer Recruitment: We are actively looking for volunteers to increase the bus capacity. As a community-based program, we rely on volunteers to ensure the program is successful.

For more information or questions, please contact the Island Walking School Bus Coordinator at ashleyparsons@scyofbc.org.

Meet the Teacher Night

Wednesday, September 23 is our annual Meet the Teacher Night beginning at 4:00 PM.

Staff will have their classrooms open from 4:00–5:00 PM, and food will be available on the Orillia Street blacktop from 4:00–6:00 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 for food is cash only. More information regarding food and prices will be sent home prior to the event.