

Evergreen Independent School THE GREEN PAGES

February 24, 2022

The Green Pages

This monthly newsletter, generally released on the final Friday of the month, provides valuable information about upcoming events and activities, school-related reminders, and updates from the Board.

Evergreen Hours of Operation

Evergreen is in session from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. Teachers accept responsibility for students as of 8:15 am. If you arrive early, kindly remain with your student outside of the classroom unless you have made arrangements in advance. The early-morning preparation and planning time is critical to the success of both the staff and students!

Messages from the Board

Can I have your input please!

There are still some decisions to be made with regard to our 4-day school week. Your input is requested to help guide those decisions. You can share your thoughts via this Google Survey: Friday Options for 2022-23. We ask for your response by Friday, March 4th.

Grounds Cleanup

This is a reminder to check the schedule in the Parent Room. Each family signs up for one week of Grounds Maintenance, which includes tasks such as sweeping/blowing off walkways, collecting garbage from the schoolyard, raking pea gravel beneath play equipment to ensure student safety, and keeping Evergreen grounds looking fresh and inviting. Any questions can be directed to the board (board@evergreenindependentschool.net).

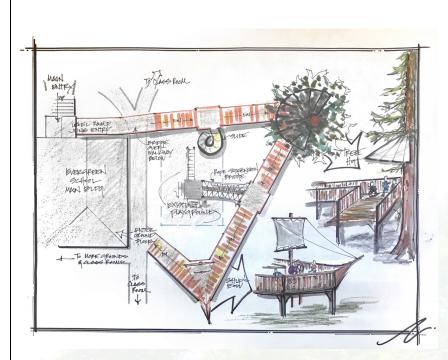
Evergreen Forest Fun Fair

We are excited to announce we will be hosting a community fun fair this spring!

This fair will be an opportunity for our community to come together working toward a common goal of raising funds for our inclusive play space project. Evergreen is the successful recipient of an inclusivity grant funding the construction of a ramp to the second floor of the main building. Our ramp is designed to double as an inclusive playspace that celebrates our diverse learning community (see the rendering on the next page).

It will be necessary for us to raise funds to cover the cost of the playground elements such as slides, swings and musical features.

There will be a variety of options for families to contribute to this event and we will be providing more information soon.



At this time we are looking for volunteers willing to help organize elements of the fair such as the bake table, plant table, games and concession.

If you are willing to take on one of these convenor roles please contact - by email or in person - Angie Erskine (theerskines4@gmail.com), or Colleen O'Dell (boardchair@evergreenindependentschool.net).

n The vision

Upcoming Events

All School Skating

Our first *All School Skate* on February 15th was such a success, that we are inspired to do it again. On Tuesday, March 1, staff and K-7 students will travel by bus to Kerry Park to skate from 12:30-1:20 pm. Parents are invited to join us there. Junior Kindergarten families are welcome to attend with their child(ren), but Bianca and Lianne will remain at Evergreen with the other students.

Waivers, distributed by email, are due back Monday, February 28.

Power Up

Kerri Isham, a highly-regarded certified Sexual Health Educator specializing in age-appropriate health and wellness education, has created lesson packages that align with the *BC Physical and Health Education curriculum*. These packages are delivered by teachers, who have the opportunity to review the materials and adjust for the needs and developmental levels of students in their class.

Over the next several weeks, teachers will be sharing the following lessons:

Cedar/Pine/Fir:

- Names for parts of the body, including male and female private body parts
- Appropriate and inappropriate ways of being touched

Arbutus/Spruce:

- Physical, emotional, social changes occurring during puberty, including those relating to sexuality and sexual identity
- Hygiene

Students will be encouraged to make note of any questions that arise during the lessons. These (anonymous) questions will be provided to Kerri Isham in advance of an in-person visit to Evergreen for a question and answer period. All age-appropriate questions will be answered.

As outlined in the BC Curriculum, the purpose of this health program is to:

- 1. Provide students the **knowledge**, **understanding**, **skills** and **attitudes** they require to make and act upon **decisions** that promote sexual health throughout their lives.
- 2. Provide age-appropriate information to promote healthy behavior.

- 3. Reduce the negative impact media has on young people (explicit, unrealistic and often undignified sexual images and messages).
- 4. Allow students to talk openly and honestly about sexuality.
- 5. Positively **impact the health and well-being** of the community.

If you would like more information about the Physical and Health Education Curriculum, contact Elissa.

Report Cards and Student Conferences

It is the season for the mid-year reviews, in advance of Spring Break. Please note the following dates on your calendar:

- Wednesday, March 9th
 - Report cards go home
- Thursday, March 10th
 - Regular school day for all students
 - Student-led conferences from 3:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 11th
 - School is closed for all students, including Explorers
 - Student-led conferences from 8:30 a.m. until noon

Conference sign-up will be done electronically, so check your inbox for an email from Leslie.

Spring Break and Beyond

School closes at noon on Friday, March 11th and opens again on Monday, March 28th.

Upon our return to school, students will see the return of some of Evergreen's traditional all-school activities, including Buddy Reading, All-School Share, and a more traditional Theme Activity Day plan. We will also start a new theme, *Indigenous Beginnings*. As Evergreen seeks to deepen our knowledge of the traditional unceded territory of the Hul'q'umi'num speaking people, more specifically the Quw'utsun, our new theme provides a beautiful opportunity. We would be grateful to welcome members of the Evergreen or wider community, who are willing to share their knowledge of these traditional lands where we live, learn and work. If you are able to offer a suggestion, or extend an invitation on our behalf, please contact Elissa (principal@evergreenindependentschool.net).

Reminders

Dressing for the Weather

With the return of the sun, we are more inclined than ever to head outside. Please send your student(s) with durable outdoor gear and spare clothes, suitable for a range of weather, and please be sure that all items are labelled.

Lost and Found

When personal belongings are not labelled, they may end up in our Lost and Found. Evidence? Our bin is full!

Over the next 2 weeks, we will display our collection at the front of the school, and post photos on the Parents of Evergreen Facebook Page. As of March 11, 2022, all unclaimed items will be donated.

Masks

We are very happy to see restrictions lifted for group gatherings, and are excited to get back to the whole-school activities and multi-age groupings that are so much a part of Evergreen's approach to education. Masks continue to be a requirement; kindly send your child with one!