



## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

There are many things that make Evergreen unique among schools, and our old building is one. With its quaint façade, Evergreen is an eclectic and charming blend of additions, alterations, retrofits and imaginative solutions. It is hot in summer, drafty in winter, and somehow manages to feel cozy and inviting, despite these quirks.

I love the windows best of all. Not only are they architecturally beautiful, the single-paned monoliths provide only the barest filter for the sounds inside or out. In answer to the unasked question of why anyone would appreciate this quality, to me, that barely-filtered-transmission of sound represents the Evergreen view on educational spaces. Learning is not an action that happens solely inside the classroom.

Lessons do not stop at the door, and the learning that happens on the playground or at home accompanies students into the classroom.

Working, as I do, beneath the 2nd Story windows, I am treated to a flood of natural light, a view of the sky and the big grandmother tree, and the steady hum of life in motion. I am witness to lessons that unfold as staff gently guide students through steps to resolve conflicts, or hold space when something in a student's life feels like too much to handle. I hear the sounds of wonder as discoveries are made, when lessons planned or spontaneous unfold outside of our doors. I witness the high stakes thrill of PE games, when students are unknowingly practicing specific physical literacy tasks while they capture potatoes. These windows provide unique opportunity to witness students engaging in critical practices communication, negotiation, compromise, selfadvocacy and forgiveness. These are lifelong gifts, these lessons.

To be fair, I hear the tone of conversation rather than the content, but I hear enough to witness learning unfold in each moment of the school day. I appreciate that this is another of Evergreen's unique attributes as a school; we recognize and nurture these opportunities. In that way, our approach to education is much like our beautiful school house; an eclectic and charming blend of additions, alterations, retrofits and imaginative solutions that ultimately strives to create a safe and welcoming space for each student who enters the gates of Evergreen.



### UPDATE FROM OUR BOARD

Hi, my name is Rachel Miles-Pickup and this is my first year as the board chair. I have 3 incredible daughters in Grade 7, 5 and 3. My family moved to Cobble Hill from the mainland in August 2021 to join the Evergreen Independent School Community. We are so happy to be a part of this amazing community and our girls are doing very well at this school, growing in confidence everyday.

It has been a pleasure to be the chair this past term getting to know the staff and families of the community.

We have a cleaning bee on **Saturday Jan 14th** from 10-4. Please come out and help make our school ready to showcase in the Open House at the end of the month. Remember many hands make light work:)

There is also a General Meeting for the whole society on **Thursday Jan 19th** at 6:30. We will have some of the older students available to watch any younger students that need to attend. Your vote counts so please attend and have your say.

I look forward to the future and what this school represents, helping students grow and flourish to their true potential. Thank you!



### SCHOOL EVENTS

We have spaces available in our pre-school program, and a few spaces in other classrooms. We would like to grow our Evergreen community, and are hosting an Open House Mon & Tue, January 23 & 24.

Check out & share our facebook post for the <u>open</u> <u>house</u>, and for the <u>availability</u> in the pre-school to support this mission.



# SHOWCASING OUR SCHOOL

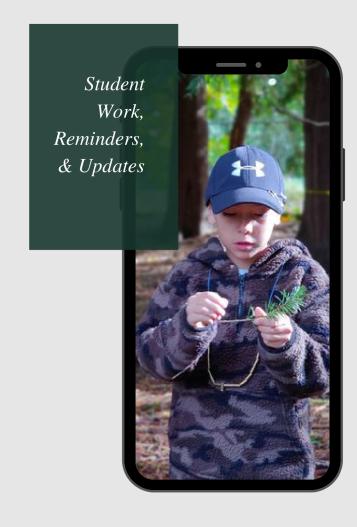
Are you on Facebook and/or Instagram? We regularly use these platforms to showcase our students' work, events, reminders, and updates. Please follow us on Facebook & Instagram. For those that have children at the school, we have a parent facebook group where we post updates, reminders and other school related info. Come join our *Parent Facebook group*!

For our alumni, including alumni parents, we have have an *Alumni Facebook group*, too!



## A LOOK INSIDE THE CLASSROM

Theme and virtus: Each year in June, Evergreen students join together to put forward theme suggestions; ideas, topics, places, historical events etc. that motivate, intrigue and inspire them. these are then reviewed and teachers create the list of themes for the new school year. These themes ground and guide the learning journey in each classroom, and are celebrated with food literacy days, and with theme activity days that fall at the end of the theme. Teachers pair each theme with virtues, chosen from the *Virtues Project*, that likewise guide our student's learning, and foster these virtues in every aspect of their school life.





### CALENDAR & REMINDERS

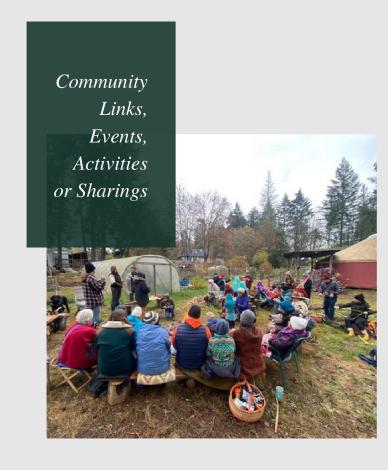
The school calendar can be found on our website under the *Parent Resources*:

- Jan 3 Term starts
- Friday Jan 6 All school skate
- Saturday Jan 14 Cleaning Bee
- Wednesday Jan 18 Food lit theme day
- Mon & Tue Jan 23 & 24 Open House
- Wed Jan 25 Science activity day
- Mon Feb 6 Re-enrollment deadline
- Thur Feb 9 All school swim TBC

#### **COMMUNITY CORNER**

Several of our Evergreen families have been enjoying Backyard Sessions: Monthly Deep Nature Connection Sundays, co-hosted by one of our staff - Ingrid Mertens. For more details visit the *facebook event* or see our *Parents Facebook group* 

If you have an event, activity, or other community oriented idea you wish to share, please email Lucien to include in the next issue.





#### **GET TO KNOW US**

I have had the pleasure to be EIS's finance and accounting manager for the past 12 years. It has been a delight to work with an amazing team of colleagues. Meeting new families over the years, as well as creating warm friendships with long-term families whose children attended Evergreen along with my own daughter, has nurtured appreciation and confirmed my decision that Evergreen is a most special community, and the place I wanted my daughter to attend. It was such a privilege to have my daughter grow up through Evergreen. She is now a confident and successful grade 11 student in a rigorous high school IB program. I have a love and passion for our little school. Over all of these years, I have witnessed and taken part in some pretty wonderful things.

#### **UPDATES**

Sick child? Call the school at 250-743-2433 or *email* Lesie at the school before 9am.

Please come and check *lost and found* - it is located by the parent cubbies in the Library. We also regularly put it out front of the school, too!

Do you know of someone looking for a rental space? Check out out Pavillion booking page on our *website* 





