



# Lochside Elementary

1145 Royal Oak Drive  
Victoria, BC V8X 3T7  
T 250-658-5238 F: 250-658-4982  
Website: <https://lochside.sd63.bc.ca/>

Tom Vickers - Principal  
Joan O'Leary - Acting Principal/Vice-Principal  
Sherisse Norris - Interim Vice Principal

**“At Lochside Elementary we promote creativity, curiosity, critical thinking and compassion to foster socially responsible and resilient life-long learners.”**

## CALENDAR

### November

27/28 Tech Talks with Shannon Husk  
29 Fun Lunch

### December

6 Fun Lunch  
10-12 Holiday Book Shop  
12 Early Dismissal @ 1:48  
13 Sencoten Lesson for K and K/1  
16-20 First term progress reports  
17 Crossing Guards Lunch  
20 Happy Holiday Assembly & Sing-Along 9:00  
20 Intermediate Swim @ Commonwealth Pool  
Dec. 23-Jan 3 Winter Vacation

### January

Jan 6 School Re-Opens for 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

### TO REPORT AN ABSENCE

Please Email:

[lochside\\_attendance@saanichschools.ca](mailto:lochside_attendance@saanichschools.ca)

You can choose to copy the email to your child's teacher as a courtesy.

If you do not have access to email, then call the school office @ 250-658-5238. Reporting absences in this way helps us better track arrivals and ensure student safety.

### SIGN IN:

When helping out at the school with classroom projects, for example reading or going on a nature walk – please first sign in at the front office. When finished, remember to sign out. This helps us ensure safety and accountability for who is in the building

### AVOID PARKING LOT CONGESTION:

► Drop off your child between 8:20 and 8:30

► Create a meeting spot after school and pick up by 3:10

## November & December 2019

## NEWSLETTER

### Principal's Message

#### Welcome November & December

October brought all the childhood excitement of playing in the crisp air, starting new activities and of course Halloween:) Huge thanks to our dedicated PAC, who creatively designed and worked hard to organize our Halloween Family Dance.



We want you to know there are a number of valuable extra-curricular activities going on at Lochside: Choir, Swim Club and We Club have engaged many students. Please encourage your child to join in when new clubs and opportunities arise; it's a great way to make new friends and be supported to try new activities.

During the week of Dec. 16th, you will receive your child's first term report card. Prior to that your child's teacher will be in touch about arrangements for parent-teacher conversations around student learning and growth. **Note we have scheduled an Early Dismissal day on December 12 at 1:48 to support this process.** Parents of students using Fresh Grade can log in for up-to-date assessment information. Please take the time to read through the reports and celebrate your child's strengths and achievements. Also, take the time at home to discuss some possible goal areas and make a plan for working on those goals in the coming term. Remember that the report card is only one reflection of your child's progress, but that it is a good tool to use for dialogue and discussion and be proactive in supporting success.

Thank you for continuing to support both your own child and the Lochside Elementary School community.

#### Reminders:

- All students will need indoor shoes to keep at school, especially now that the rainy season is approaching. It's a good idea to include some extra socks in your child's backpack.
- Students **must** be picked up after school by 3:10. We do not have supervision past this time and safety is an issue if children are not supervised by their parent(s)/caregiver(s).
- Please remember that mornings are now going to be darker and rainier – use extreme caution in our parking lots.
- Please see below for expectations with regard to cell phones at school.

Looking forward,

Joan O'Leary  
Acting Principal

Sherisse Norris  
Interim Vice Principal

## BEYOND THE FENCE



Our nature path has taken shape and is now being planted with native plants. We are working with Wendy from HAT (Habitat Acquisition Trust) to plant the borders and garden beds in our new nature space, hopefully before the frost.

We are learning about invasive species and native species, and how native species encourage bugs, then birds to be happy and healthy in our neighbourhood. This project is led by our teachers, with special thanks to Mrs. Erickson and Ms. Miller. Huge thanks to parent Seth Rudolph for his incredible contributions of time, effort and materials. He transformed the space into a welcoming and well-designed space for learning.

## TECH TALKS

Shannon Husk, who is a local expert on digital devices, screen time and internet safety, will be talking with students about:

- healthy use of technology;
- some of the health and life concerns around too much technology; and
- how and where to use technology safely

Students in grades 4 and 5 will learn more specifically about social media platforms, concerns with online spending, cyberbullying behaviors, and digital citizenship.

There are some great tools for parents, including:

- [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org)
- [Raising Digitally Responsible Youth: A Parent's Guide](#) (BC Ministry of Education & BCCPAC)

## Cell Phones at School

We prefer that cell phones stay home, however...when/if you provide your child with a cell phone we request that you **clearly explain the expectations** to your child. They are:



- cell phones are for emergency use, students wanting to contact home during the school day should report to the office and/or talk to their classroom teacher first;
- cell phones are turned off and kept in backpacks for the day; **including while on the school bus and/or when walking to school**
- no pictures or videos are permitted – our students are not old enough to give permission to take and share photos and/or videos.



## LOCHSIDE MERCH! Store Closes on Monday Nov. 25.

Lochside hoodies, t-shirts, etc. are now ready for online purchase!!! Go to <https://store.passionsports.ca/Lochside/shop/home>

These make good gifts at Christmas and are a great way to help with LEPAC's fundraising efforts.

## FINE ARTS – SAVE THE DATE(S)

Rather than preparing a Winter Concert, which occurs at such a busy time for families, this year we are planning a fine arts presentation in March. Please stay tuned for dates when our students will sing and perform for you!



## THANK YOU TO COACHES

We are grateful to Mr. O'Connor, Ms. Howells, Mr. Koopmans and Ms. Seabrooke for creating this exciting opportunity. Stay tuned for our upcoming Basketball season.



## PENINSULA "1000 X 5" CHILDREN'S BOOK RECYCLING PROJECT



Peninsula "1000 X 5" Project needs your help in collecting children's picture books for redistribution to babies, toddlers, and other young children whose families live on the Peninsula. The vast majority of these books are donated through schools in Saanich District.

Research indicates that home libraries have a significant positive effect on the literacy development of young children and their early success in school. Please continue to donate books your children have outgrown and encourage them to share the gift of literacy with others. Books may be left in the bin located in the main entrance foyer.

## LOST AND FOUND



We have many items in our Lost and Found box (located in the hallway by the staff room). If your child is missing an item or two, please drop by the school and claim it. We will display it in the hallways prior to the Winter Break, after which unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity.

### SCHOOL CLOSURE REMINDER

Occasionally, schools are temporarily closed on short notice for emergency reasons. A heavy snowfall is the most frequent reason for emergency school closure; however, individual schools can also be closed because of power or heating failures.



The Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with the Transportation Supervisor, makes the decision to close schools.

- Announcements will be on local radio stations: CBC Radio, 1070 CFAX by 6:45 a.m.
- You can go to the school district website - <https://www.sd63.bc.ca/>
- When schools are closed during the day, radio stations will have announcements and electronic notices will be sent out.

### COLDER WEATHER

Here it comes. Rain, drizzle, frost! A reminder that our lunch break (big recess) is 40 minutes long. Please ensure your child comes dressed appropriately for the day's weather. We promote fresh air and physical activity and the lunchtime recess is usually spent outdoors. Mittens, toques, warm dry footwear and coats are necessary to keep your child happy and healthy while playing outside.



### FLU SEASON



You can help stop the spread of the flu by teaching your child about:

- washing your hands regularly
- promptly disposing of used tissues in the waste basket
- coughing and sneezing into your shirt sleeve (not your hands)
- staying home when you are ill
- keeping your hands away from your face
- keeping common surface areas like doorknobs, light switches and keyboards, clean and disinfected
- eating healthy food and staying physically active to keep your immune system strong

### HEAD LICE – How to watch for and treat head lice.

Head lice are common. Anyone with hair can get head lice.

What to do:

- Learn how to check for live lice using [wet combing](#) and be aware of the recommended treatment options.
- Conduct weekly wet combing checks to identify head lice re-infestations as it is possible to have head lice more than once.



Click [here](#) for a useful guide about head lice and [here](#) for a video on how to comb hair for a lice check.