

Welcome to Colwood Elementary



We are the Colwood Cougars!
KRIS the Cougar says,
"Be KIND, RESPECTFUL,
INCLUSIVE and SAFE".



Meet Your Principal

My name is Sue Tonnesen and I am the proud Principal of Colwood Elementary. I have been working as a principal in the Sooke School District for the last 16 years and I have been working in education for 33 years!

I am excited to meet all of our new Kindergarten students and am looking forward to meeting all our families as well.

On a personal note, I am married to Steve Tonnesen and we have two grown sons, Oliver and Aodhan.



Meet Your Vice-Principal



I am excited to join the fabulous team at Colwood Elementary as Vice Principal this September! I started my career in the Sooke School District 19 years ago as an itinerant teacher at Colwood Elementary. I'm really looking forward to returning and connecting with students and the community.

In addition to being the Vice-Principal, I will work with our Inclusion Team as an Inclusion Support Teacher and Learning Support teacher.

My husband and I have two teenage boys and often spend our weekends at the hockey rink cheering them on! I look forward to meeting you!

Warmly,

Catrina Snook

Colwood PAC

PAC (Parent Advisory Council) is a group of dedicated parents who come together to supplement and enhance their children's education. We do this by advising the school principal and staff on parents' views and providing feedback about school programs, policies, plans and activities; by organizing PAC activities and events, and endeavouring to provide parent education; and by encouraging and supporting parent involvement in the school.

A lot of our work centres on raising money in order to pay for field trips and bringing in outside groups for educational purposes (e.g., musical and theatrical groups, art initiatives, hoop dancing demonstrations, and lessons etc.), supplement classroom budgets, and many other amazing opportunities for our students. Join the Colwood Elementary PAC Facebook Page for updates!

Ways to help:

- take on a PAC role
- prep and deliver hot lunch - approx 30 min/lunch
- come to PAC meetings and help make decisions - approx 1.5-2 hours monthly
- prep and deliver fruit to classrooms with the Fresh Fruit & Veggie program - approx. 1 hr/mo
- individual fundraisers - help is often needed for various events/fundraisers
- popcorn days -picking up popcorn once per month, after school sales approx 30 min, twice/month
- emergency Prep - time commitment varies, generally just in October
- work at a book fair- approx 30 min-1 hr, twice per year



Colwood Elementary



Kindergarten Team

Welcome to Kindergarten! We enjoyed meeting many of the new Kindergarten students and their families at our Spring events.

Returning back to Colwood are Ms. Chow (teacher), Ms. Fawcett (teacher), and Ms. Anne (Early Childhood Educator).

Our Kindergarten Team has a love of learning and teaching in the early years, and we are passionate about play-based learning. We look forward to seeing everyone in September!



Ms. Anne (ECE), Ms. Chow (teacher) and Ms. Fawcett (teacher)



Our School



We are a close-knit school community with approximately 200 elementary students (Kindergarten to Grade 5).

We have a large community focus where students explore, create, and problem-solve in multi-age groups.



Our Gym

Students have two physical education classes per week plus daily physical activity.



Our Library



We have a wonderful and welcoming library. Students visit the library once a week, and can borrow a book to keep for the week to read at home.

We love reading!



The Playgrounds at Our School



The Kindergarten Playground

Typically, Kindergarten students spend a bit of time eating their recess snack before heading outside. Kindergarten students are welcome to play on the larger playground, the swings, and the grassy area in front of the playground. We will expand the play area as the year progresses.

The rest of the school is welcome to play in the same areas as the Kindergarten students.

During the summer bring your child for a play on the playground to help your child get to know the area and playground.

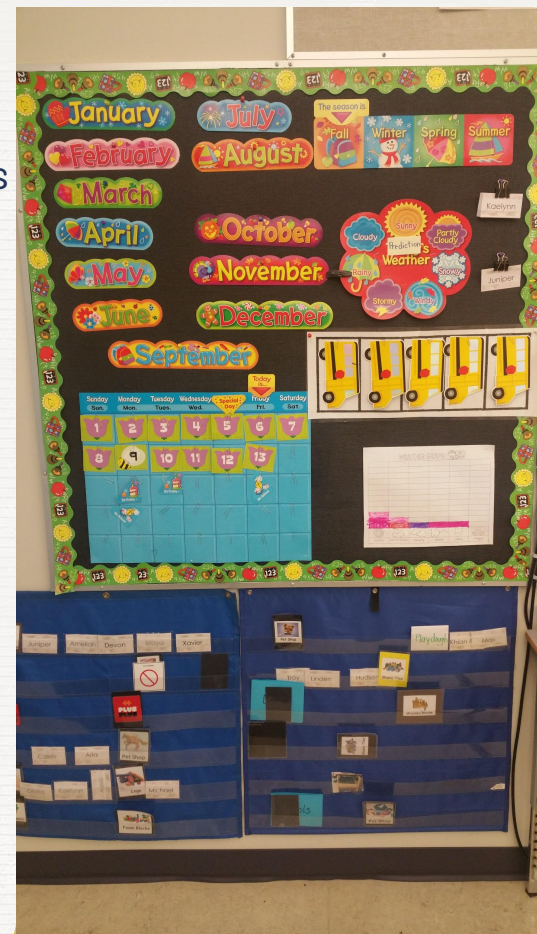


A Day in Kindergarten

We use visual schedules to help the children know what activities and lessons are coming up in the day.

- School bell rings at 8:27 am - Second bell at 8:30 am
- In class activities
- Snack
- Outside recess
- In class activities
- Lunch (Eating and Outside Play)
- In class activities
- Dismissal at 2:38 pm

Students have Arts Education lessons three or four times a week, physical education classes twice a week, and library once a week.



Playing Outside



At Colwood, we play outside in all kinds of weather. It is good for our physical and mental health. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. Rubber boots, and waterproof pants and jackets are very useful. Also a change of clothes to be left at school (labeled: top, bottoms, underwear, and socks and in a bag).



Learning is Fun. Learning is Playful!



The BC Ministry of Education prescribes the kindergarten curriculum under the Early Learning and Play Today Frameworks.



More Playful Learning



Kindergarten curriculum is play-based learning, free play, inquiry play, collaborative play, playful learning, learning games, and inclusive learning practices.



A Kindergarten Classroom

Each of the Kindergarten classrooms has a cubby area for students to keep their personal belongings. Children are asked to have a clean pair of indoor running shoes to keep at school.

Children change their shoes at least six times a day in Kindergarten and this takes time. We prefer runners with velcro, as it promotes independence.



Washrooms

There are two multi-stall washrooms in the main hallway.

It is important that parents teach their children to use the washroom independently well before school starts. This includes wiping, flushing, and washing hands.



Kindergarten Independence

One way to help prepare your child for Kindergarten is to allow them to be independent. When you do things for your child, you are telling them that they can't do it or that you can do it better than they can.

Be patient with your child. Learning takes time! Yes, it would be quicker to put their shoes on for them, but starting today, your child needs to do this for themselves.

We like to use growth-mindset language, such as: "You can try", "You're learning how", "You must have worked really hard".



Independence

Practice allowing your child to be independent with:

- Shoes, jackets, zippers
- Lunch kit - opening and closing the lunch kit and containers, putting their containers back into their lunch kit, and then their lunch kit into their backpack. You could practice this by going on a fun picnic. Practice more than once!
- Scissors and glue - this is great fine motor practice
- The washroom - close the door, use the toilet, wipe, flush, wash hands
- Identify their own shoes, jackets, and backpack. Often when children start school they have a lot of new items and they don't recognize their own belongings! Please label your child's shoes, jackets, hoodies, backpack, water bottle and lunch kit.



Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten



It is important to prepare your child for Kindergarten. You will want to have conversations with your child about leaving them for the school day at our safe building. Reassure your child that you believe our school is a safe place to be and that you would never leave your child somewhere unsafe. Reassure them that school is their “job” and you will always pick them up at the end of the school day.



Preparing for Kindergarten

Several weeks before school starts you will want to start getting into a school routine. Adjust your child's bedtime and get into this new habit after a summer full of sunny days and longer evenings. Encourage your child to develop healthy eating habits and drink water.

The start of school means very long days - even if your child has been used to all day daycare. Try not to overload with after school activities for the first few months.



Kindergarten/Grade 1 Blended Classes

Blended K/1 class refers to a class that is made up of students from both Kindergarten and Grade. 1. The total number of students will not exceed 20 children. All students follow an integrated curriculum.

Principals and staff carefully consider a variety of factors when grouping children into classes, including, and not limited to:

- ⌘ Learning styles
- ⌘ Social skills and groupings
- ⌘ Academic needs
- ⌘ Range of ability
- ⌘ Unique learning needs

Each day, in single grade and blended classes, teachers work with large and small groups, and with individual students.

Students in a blended class benefit not only from their teachers' attention, but also from a broad network of peer support. Older students take a leadership role in helping their younger peers, and all of the students develop a greater sense of independence and responsibility for their own learning.



Morning Routine When Arriving at School

All students wait outside in a class line up for their teacher to greet them in the morning. The teacher will lead the students into the classroom from the front of the school.



Front of the school



End of Day Dismissal

Students are dismissed from the same door that they arrive at. Children are dismissed one by one to their parent, or caregiver. The school will ask you to provide a list of people who are allowed to pick up your child at the end of the day.



Na'tsa'maht Indigenous Education

Self-Identification of Indigenous Ancestry

- determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification
- First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit
- documentation not required
- ancestry can go back several generations

If you have identified your child as having Indigenous ancestry, they are entitled to receive enhanced programming and support through the Na'tsa'maht Indigenous Education Department. Information regarding programming will be available on the MyED BC Family Portal and emailed directly to you. If you missed identifying your child's Indigenous ancestry, please contact your school secretary.

If you have questions regarding Na'tsa'maht Indigenous Programming, please contact your school principal.



Programming and services are inclusive of all students and offered in-class with no pull outs.

Highlights include:

- Role Model Program
- Elders in Residence
- Na'tsa'maht Program Assistants
- Na'tsa'maht Literacy Teachers
- Indigenous Language Awareness
- Cultural Projects

Hych'ka - Coast Salish Kleco Kleco - Nuu-chah-nulth Marsee – Michif

English Language Learning (ELL)

ELL Program Goals:

- To develop social and academic English language skills
- To value students' diverse cultural backgrounds, many languages, and wealth of knowledge and experience
- To welcome all students and ease their transition into Canadian life and culture
- To provide a safe, nurturing learning environment to experiment with the English language

Benefits of ELL:

- SD62 schools value diversity
- Schools welcome and honour families that speak multiple languages
- We encourage our students to continue to develop their home language(s) as this is an important part of their cultural and linguistic identity

ELL Service May Look Like:

- Individual or small group instruction
- In-class support (through consultation with the classroom teacher)



English Language Learning (ELL)

How Can I Get ELL Support For My Child?

The BC Ministry of Education recognizes the important contributions of multilingual and newcomer families and provides funding and support to school districts.

If your child's primary or home language is not English, and you think they may benefit from receiving ELL, please speak with your child's teacher or the English Language specialist teacher at the school.

English language specialist teachers will assess your child's language proficiency levels for speaking, listening, reading and writing. This will help to determine the type and frequency of support that best suits them.

Language learning can take many years to develop. Every child progresses at different rates. Some students may require less time and others more. There are many factors that impact language acquisition like exposure to English outside of school and first language proficiency.



Keeping in Contact

Our school phone number is 250-478-2332

Please refer to our website at <http://colwood.web.sd62.bc.ca>

To report your child's absence please email the school at:

colwoodattendance@sd62.bc.ca

Please make sure to always have your contact information up to date, including your home address, your email, and emergency contact information. In addition, please complete the online consent forms, listed on our school website, prior to September.



Legal Matters

If there are legal matters pertaining to your child's custody, please ensure you provide a copy to the school office in advance of school start. Mrs. Israel, our school secretary, will help you in the Colwood Elementary Office.



Medical and Health +

Your child's health and safety is very important to us. If your child has a medical condition or allergy please contact our Secretary, Debbie Israel, at dIsrael@sd62.bc.ca.

If your child is ever required to take medication during school hours, you will need to complete a form and have your doctor sign and complete a portion of it as well.

Again, please give us this information prior to your child starting school, so plans can be made and school staff alerted. If your child has had speech and language support and you have a report, can you provide a copy to the office.



Gradual Entry

Typically students start Kindergarten in September with a gradual entry starting the first Friday after the Labour Day holiday (this year it's Friday, September 5th), where they are invited to come in for shorter amounts of time over a few days. This will help transition the students to a full Kindergarten day. **Classroom assignments will be made after the first few days of school.**



Have a great summer.
See you in September!