

# Evelyn Dickson Elementary School

## Newsletter

### V-Kids Ventures



October 1, 2025

#### Principal's Message

Hadih, Bonjour and Hello!

Happy October, everyone!

I hope you had a meaningful day yesterday, whether it was spent in quiet reflection, participating in a community event, or having heartfelt conversations at home. As a school community, we honoured the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Monday with a variety of learning opportunities and activities. Students engaged in powerful lessons to remember the children who never returned home, and to honour the Survivors of residential schools, along with their families and communities. Publicly acknowledging this painful part of our history is an important part of the reconciliation journey we are all on.

In this week's newsletter, you'll find a few thoughtful examples of what our students have been learning — gentle reminders that Every Child Matters.

As we welcome fall, we have a few important dates coming up:

Talk About Learning Time is scheduled for October 21st.

On this day, we will have early dismissal, and families will be invited to book times for Student-Led Conferences. More information about this will be included in our October 9th newsletter, so please keep an eye out.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) for our Grade 4 students also begins this month.

This assessment focuses on literacy and numeracy and gives us a helpful snapshot of how students are doing. It's important to note that the FSA is not used to grade or rank students, it will not appear on report cards, and it does not affect student marks. It's simply a tool to help us understand how best to support your child's learning.

If you are a parent or guardian of a Grade 4 student, an information letter and sheet were sent home in your child's agenda on October 1st. If you didn't receive it or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out — I'm happy to help.

Included in today's newsletter is our Emergency Preparedness guide for Parents and Guardians. Please have a read through and contact me should you have any questions or concerns. There is also a letter from Northern Health.

A big thank you to our amazing teachers who continue to create fun, engaging, and meaningful learning opportunities for our students!

This Friday, Miss Quintal's and Miss Oldham's classes are heading out to Peterson's Beach Rec Site for a special Forestry/Careers learning day.

And next Thursday, Miss Quintal and Mrs. Egan will be taking our Cross-Country Running Team to the District Cross Country Event. Our student athletes have been working hard and practicing regularly — we're so proud of their dedication and effort!

As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Wishing you all a wonderful start to the month!

With Appreciation

Barb Ziler, Principal

***At EDS we C.A.R.E - Community, Acceptance; Achievement, Respect; Responsibility, Excellence***

# October MENU

If your child regularly receives a Hot Lunch, please check the menu for meals that they cannot or will not eat. Please provide a lunch for your child on those days. Thank you! **All orders are done through Meal Manage. Please see our website for the information - [evd.sd91.bc.ca](http://evd.sd91.bc.ca)** Please note that all orders close at 6:00 PM on September 30, 2025.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<b>1</b> Butter Chicken Lasagna 	<b>2</b> Pulled Pork Sandwich 	<b>3</b> Bakery Sandwich  <b>WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO</b>
<b>6</b> Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup 	<b>7</b> Hot Dog Day - PAC 	<b>8</b> Pancakes and Eggs  <b>6:30 - PAC</b>	<b>9</b> Burgers and Salad Bar  <b>DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY MEET</b>	<b>10</b> Bakery Sandwich 
<b>13</b> <b>THANKSGIVING DAY (NO SCHOOL)</b>	<b>14</b> Pizza Day - PAC 	<b>15</b> Turkey Sandwich  <b>SCHOOL ASSEMBLY</b>	<b>16</b> Bacon Ranch Wrap  <b>GREAT BC SHAKEOUT EARTHQUAKE DRILL</b>	<b>17</b> Bakery Sandwich  <b>CRAZY HAIR DAY</b>
<b>20</b> Spaghetti  <b>FIRE DRILL HALLOWEEN COLOR CONTEST BEGINS</b>	<b>21</b> <b>12:00 – EARLY DISMISSAL</b> <b>2:00-6:00 – TALK ABOUT LEARNING TIME</b>	<b>22</b> Taco Salad  <b>MISSED PHOTO DAY/ CLASSROOM PHOTOS</b>	<b>23</b> Pizza Sub 	<b>24</b> <b>PRO-D Day (NO SCHOOL)</b>
<b>27</b> Baked Potato with toppings  <b>DROP EVERYTHING AND READ DAY</b>	<b>28</b> Hot Dog Day - PAC 	<b>29</b> Perogy Casserole 	<b>30</b> Fish Sticks 	<b>31</b> Bakery Sandwich  <b>HALLOWEEN DRESS UP DAY / SOCK HOP (K-3 &amp; 4-6)</b>

**UPCOMING DATES:**

- October 8 - PAC Meeting @6:30
- October - 9 District Cross Country Meet
- October 13 - Thanksgiving Day—No School
- October 15 - School Assembly
- October 16 - Great BC Shakeout Earthquake Drill
- October 17 - Crazy Hair Day
- October 21 - 12PM Dismissal - Talk about Learning Time
- October 22 - Missed Photo Day/Class Photos/  
Whole School Photo

**Visting our Building**

Just a reminder to parents and guests that when you are visiting our building you must come directly to the office after entering the front door.

Visitors and parents are not permitted to go into classrooms or other areas of the school. Should there be a need to access the building, a visitor badge will be provided at the office.

Please contact Barb Ziler, Principal, should you have any questions.



**Y** YMCA BC  
*Shine On*

Sign up for School Age Care at Evelyn Dickson Elementary!

Care options include **before and after school care!**

**YMCA School Age Care includes:**

- quiet and active play
- exciting physical activities
- valuable time outside
- time with staff who truly care about your child

Register at [nbc.ymca.ca/child-care](http://nbc.ymca.ca/child-care)

IS SOMEONE BOTHERING YOU?

**W**alk away  
**I**gnore  
**T**alk it out  
**S**eek help

**SCHOOL DISTRICT 91**  
**NECHAKO LAKES**

**VIRTUAL CLEARING HOUSE**

Online auction site of SD91 assets  
Updated often - check it often!

[auction.sd91.bc.ca](http://auction.sd91.bc.ca)

Scan the QR Code to go to the website!

**Proposed Policy Update**

The following draft policy is currently open for public feedback **until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2025.**

[Policy 302.7.2 – Unexpected Health Emergencies](#)

Members of the public are welcome to review all the information, including how to provide feedback, on the SD91 Policies and Regulations webpage at [www.sd91.bc.ca/policies-and-regulations](http://www.sd91.bc.ca/policies-and-regulations).

**EBUS Hockey Academy**

EBUS Academy will be offering Hockey Academy for grade 5-6 students on Mondays and Tuesday from 1:15 - 2:30. An information sheet went home with all grade 5 & 6 students last week. Sign up starts on October 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Hockey Academy will start on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please reach out to Marty Floris at [mfloris@sd91.bc.ca](mailto:mfloris@sd91.bc.ca) or Brian Cross at [bcross@sd91.bc.ca](mailto:bcross@sd91.bc.ca)

**MORNING DROP OFF**

Just a reminder that we do not have supervision in place until 8:15 a.m. If you need to drop your child off before this, please contact the office to discuss arrangements.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS**

All schools participate in Emergency Preparedness Drills each year. We will have six fire drills, two lockdown practices and an Earthquake drill. If your child talks to you about these drills, please reassure them that the practices are to ensure their safety in an emergency.

## Inside vs Outside Days

We try to be outside as much as possible before and after school and during recess and lunch play time. Appropriate outdoor clothing is important. Inside days are determined by the weather and air quality.

On rainy days please ensure your child is dressed to be warm, dry and comfortable when playing outside. Rain jacket, rainboots, and waterproof pants. It is also a good idea to send a change of clothing.

On sunny days, especially fieldtrips, sunscreen, a hat, proper footwear and bug spray are strongly recommended. Students should be able to apply this themselves.



### Nechako Figure Skating Club

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Do you want to learn to skate or have a child that wants to learn to skate?

Registration is open for Nechako Figure Skating Club  
Ages 3 and up

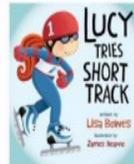
Please visit our website for schedules and information

#### REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://nechakofsc.uplifterinc.com/registration>

Contact : [nechakofsc@gmail.com](mailto:nechakofsc@gmail.com) [www.nechakofsc.com](http://www.nechakofsc.com)

### Vanderhoof Clippers Speed Skating Club 2025 - 2026 Season



Registration is Open!!

#### ACTIVE STARTS

Low cost, fun and fast winter sport!

**Ages 4-5**

Must be 4 years old on or before June 30th

Monday and Friday at 6:00pm

All you need is a helmet and hockey skates to start

Cost: **\$200.00**

Questions? Contact:

[vanderhoofspeedskating@gmail.com](mailto:vanderhoofspeedskating@gmail.com)



### Communication with your Child's Teacher

Should you have any questions or concerns, you can always reach out to your child's teacher. If you are unsure how to contact them, you can always call our office and leave a message. If you prefer an email, please contact our office and we will ensure you get the information you need.



Registration is Now open for the Fall Maintenance Season Sept 23 - Nov 29

Registration link

<https://www.active.com/vanderhoof-bc/water-sports/swimming-registrations/nechako-valley-swim-club-fall-maintenance-2025>

If your swimmer did NOT participate with us during the summer session, please remember to include the \$35 BCSSA fee (per swimmer) when registering.

If you are registering multiple swimmers, register them all at once to receive a multi-swimmer discount.

Any problems registering please contact Kathryn Egli

[nvsc.registrar.otters@gmail.com](mailto:nvsc.registrar.otters@gmail.com)

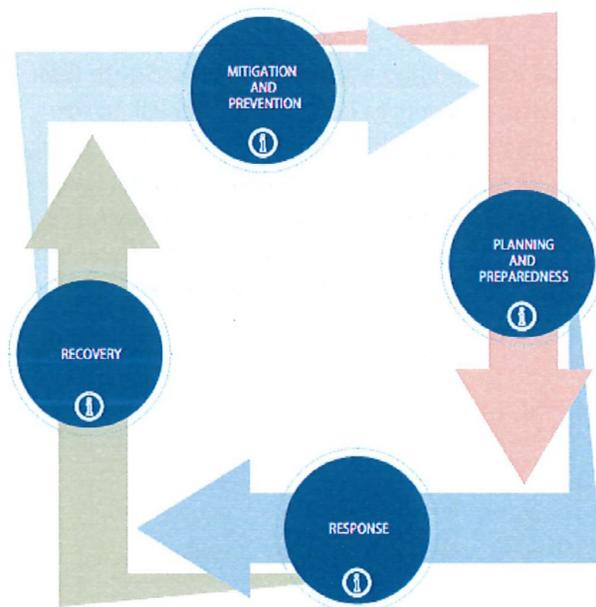
## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS



Our schools are considered one of the safest places in our communities, but emergencies can happen without warning. School District 91 has emergency preparation plans in place in the event of a crisis.

During an emergency, the priority is the safety of our learners and staff. To provide an effective response to emergencies, School District 91 has developed emergency preparedness plans in accordance with provincial guidelines. The district plan serves as a template for individual schools to guide their own emergency preparedness manuals. All district and school plans are reviewed annually and always after an emergency occurs.

Emergencies are unpredictable. We usually have little warning that an event or series of events may cause a massive disruption in our lives and our communities. As one of the major areas in which people gather, schools are places where emergency preparedness is critically important to the well-being of learners and employees and to the confidence that parents feel in entrusting their children to the care of educators in BC schools. With planning, training and practice, our employees will be better equipped to handle potential emergency situations.



### ALL HAZARDS APPROACH

Rather than focus on and try to provide details relating to many different events, our planning takes an all-hazards approach.

*All-Hazard: Any incident or event, natural or human caused, that requires an organized response by a public, private, and/or governmental entity in order to protect life, public health and safety, values to be protected, and to minimize any disruption of governmental, social, and economic services.*

An all-hazards approach focuses on planning that involves a small number of responses that can be used in different types of emergencies.

School emergencies can be on a small scale, confined to one site, or on a larger scale, potentially impacting an entire school district or even many districts. A small, localized fire within a school, for example, will require a different response than a chemical leak from a train derailment that will affect a whole community.

Being prepared to address various scenarios, in collaboration with first responders and relevant community agencies, requires considerable preparation on the part of staff. While district personnel are not necessarily trained as emergency services workers, they may be called upon to fulfill roles related to first aid, damage assessment, locating learners and staff, and providing care and comfort to learners for a period of time.

### **WHEN AN EMERGENCY OCCURS**

Although your natural instincts in an emergency may be to come down to the school to safeguard your child, please understand that doing so could impede the response to the emergency. Going to the school may interfere with the emergency crews and school staff efforts to deal with the situation. Extra vehicles and people on the site may make the task more difficult and possibly put more people at risk. If you arrive at the school during an emergency, please follow the protocol in effect. **When it is safe to do so, parents/guardians will be informed of the procedures to pick up their children from school.**

During emergencies, please do not call the school or your child's cell phone. We must ensure that our phone systems are not overloaded during times of crisis. Calling your child cell phone during an emergency can be putting them at higher risk by disclosing their location or drawing attention to them during a lockdown.

### **KEEPING INFORMED DURING AN EMERGENCY**

During an emergency, it is unlikely you'll be able to reach the school by phone. We will, however, make every effort to contact parents directly or through the methods described below when appropriate. The school district will also keep parents informed by posting information on its website, as well as through social media and other messaging systems.

### **REUNITING WITH YOUR CHILD**

We recognize that when an emergency occurs, parents will be worried and want to be reunited with their child as quickly as possible. To ensure everyone's safety, specific procedures have been established for releasing learners after an emergency. The parent-child reunion area will be established after the emergency. Depending on the type of emergency, this reunion area may or may not be at your regular school. Learners will only be released to an individual designated as legal guardian or emergency contact. You may be required to present a valid form of identification when picking up your child and to sign a release form. If you are unable to pick up your child, he/she will be kept safe until alternate arrangements can be made.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What is emergency preparedness?

SD 91 has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans including the steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, including a parent communication plan and evacuation plan. These plans are reviewed on a regular basis.

### 2. How can I stay informed?

SD 91 will send messages to parents who are on our School Messenger notification system as well as the District website and Facebook page. Parents are encouraged to use these media sources for updates. During an emergency, parents should refrain from calling the school as it overloads phone lines and interferes with the work staff must undertake during a threat to school safety.

### 3. How will my child's school handle an emergency situation?

All SD 91 schools have an emergency preparedness plan. While emergency plans are based on School Board procedures and Provincial guidelines, the specifics of each plan differ according to the unique characteristics of each location. A response to an emergency will differ based on the specifics of that situation. The flexibility of the plan is key to the success of the response. All school plans are reviewed on a regular basis and input is encouraged from all education partners.

### 4. How can I see the Emergency Preparedness Plan from my child's school?

Please contact your child's school for a copy of their manual.

### 5. What is a "Lockdown?"

This response is used when there is an immediate and imminent threat to the school building population. School staff and learners are secured in the rooms they are currently in, and no one is allowed to leave until the situation has been safely resolved or evacuated safely. Most implemented when the potential for violence against members of the school population.

### 6. What is "Hold and Secure?"

Hold and Secure is a response to a threat in the general vicinity of a school, but not on or very near to school property. This could be a police pursuit, a crime in progress or when information is received that might put the school at risk. Staff, learners and visitors are considered to be safe inside the school. A Hold and Secure can move to a Lockdown if the situation becomes more serious.

### 7. What is "Shelter in Place?"

This is response allows the school to continue with the normal school day but does not allow outside activity. A shelter-in-place order is used when personal safety is considered to be in danger if anyone leaves the school. It is usually associated with an environmental issue where hazardous materials are released into the atmosphere. For example, a chemical spill or gas leak in the immediate vicinity of the school. Shelter in place might also be used in the case of a wild animal in the vicinity of the school (e.g. cougar or bear).

### 8. What will SD 91 do if an emergency occurs while learners are in school?

Update August 2025

The specific actions taken by school personnel in any emergency, both district-wide and at individual schools, will depend on the specifics of the situation. Any action taken would depend on several factors, including the level of threat and the advice or directive of local, provincial, and federal agencies. The safety of learners and staff members will be the primary concern in any decision.

**9. Can I pick up my child?**

Parents will be allowed to pick up their children unless public safety officials have declared that there is some reason why access to the facility is restricted. During any emergency, school personnel will endeavour to maintain a safe and calm environment for children within the school. School will not automatically be canceled in emergency situations because the school may be the safest place for children to be. Although some parents may feel compelled to pick up their children from school at that time, we want to assure them that their children are being looked after. Parents will be informed about when and where they can pick up their children when safe to do so.

**10. Who can pick up my children?**

Children will not be released to individuals who are not authorized to do so on the learner's emergency card or who do not have written parent authorization. At the start of each school year, parents and guardians will complete the emergency contact information. Parents and guardians are encouraged to update the emergency contacts as needed throughout the school year.

**11. Should I contact my child directly during an emergency on his cell phone or call the school?**

In emergency situations, we ask parents not to call the school, as school staff will be assisting learners and emergency responders. If school phone lines are busy with parent calls, we risk missing important information from emergency staff. We also ask parents not to contact their children on cell phones as this can interfere with safety protocols. Updates will be given through SD 91 social media and news media when available. During emergency situations we understand the concern of parents and community members and our primary focus will be on keeping our learners as safe as possible.

**12. What if my child is riding a school bus at the time of a crisis?**

The transportation department will be in contact with the District Office for instructions in the event of a crisis while learners are in transit. Bus drivers will be informed to avoid driving toward the crisis location. Parents will be informed of the parent-learner reunification center location via the school board's emergency messaging system and local media.

**13. What about my child's medication?**

If your child takes medication regularly, ensure that the school has an adequate supply of additional medication on hand. Talk to your child's principal for more information. In the event of a threat to school safety, emergency personnel will be notified of any specific medical needs.

**14. How can I learn more?**

Please contact your school principal to review the specific emergency plans for your school site. Each school is required to have an emergency manual that is updated at least annually.



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness



Population & Public Health  
500 – 299 Victoria Street  
Prince George, BC, V2L 5B8

First Nations Health Authority  
270 – 177 Victoria St.  
Prince George, BC, V2L 5R8

September 15, 2025

**To Families and School Staff: What you need to know about measles**

Measles is spreading in BC right now. This letter has important information to help keep your child, your family, and our schools safe. Measles is a sickness that spreads easily, but we can help stop it with vaccines and knowing what to do if we're exposed to it.

**Vaccines help protect us**

Getting the measles vaccine is the best way to stay safe!

People are protected if they:

- got **two measles vaccines (shots)** after turning 1 year old,
- were born **before 1970**, or
- were diagnosed with measles before.

Check if you or your child got both vaccines:	If you or your child need vaccination:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• check online at <a href="https://www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca">BC Health Gateway</a> (<a href="https://www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca">https://www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca</a>)</li> <li>• call your local Community Health Centre or Health Unit.</li> </ul>	Book an appointment at your local: Community Health Centre, <a href="#">Health Unit</a> ( <a href="https://www.northernhealth.ca/find-a-facility/health-units">https://www.northernhealth.ca/find-a-facility/health-units</a> ), or pharmacy

**What measles looks like**

Symptoms of measles show up **7 to 21 days** after being near someone who has measles (if you catch the virus). These symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red or watery eyes
- A rash that starts on the face and neck, then spreads

Measles spreads through the air when someone with measles breathes, coughs or sneezes. Measles can make people very sick by causing problems with breathing or in the brain, and sometimes it can be deadly.

**If you think your child has measles symptoms**

- Do not send your child to school.
- Call **your doctor** or the **Northern Health Virtual Clinic at 1-844-645-7811**.
- Try to keep your child away from other people during this time.
- If you need to go to the doctor or hospital, call ahead so they can get ready.

## If someone has measles

They should stay home and away from other people until at least 4 days after the rash starts. This helps stop the sickness from spreading. If you need to go to the doctor or hospital, please call first so the staff can get ready.

If measles exposure happens at school	If your child gets sick at school
<p>If there is exposure to measles at your school, public health will send a letter to the school to send home. It will tell you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where to get vaccines</li><li>• Information about testing, preventive treatment, and care</li><li>• That anyone not immune to measles should stay home for <b>21 days</b> to keep others safe</li></ul>	<p>If your child feels sick at school, staff will call you – just like normal.</p> <p>If there is concern about measles, school staff will call public health for advice. Based on this advice, school staff may help that person go home quickly.</p> <p>While waiting, your child may wear a mask and stay in a separate room.</p> <p>You can call <b>your doctor</b> or the <b>Northern Health Virtual Clinic</b> at <b>1-844-645-7811</b> to assess you and see if you should be tested for measles.</p>

## Extra care for some people

Measles can be very dangerous for people who are not protected, and who are pregnant or have weak immune systems. If you are worried about the health of your child or family member related to measles, call **your doctor** or the **Northern Health Virtual Clinic** right away. They can help you get care and medicine to stay safe.

## More information

- <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/measles>
- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/measles>
- <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/measles>
- Northern Health Virtual Clinic: 1-844-645-7811

Let's work together to stop the spread of measles and keep our schools and families safe.

**With thanks and in partnership,**

*Northern Director of Nursing, on behalf of  
First Nations Health Authority Public Health Doctors (Medical Health Officers)*

*Regional Nursing Lead – Healthy Schools, on behalf of  
Northern Health Public Health Doctors (Medical Health Officers)*



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

