

Successes

March 11, 2026 Board Meeting

KELSET

- Our KÉLSET Grade 3–5 Choir proudly performed *O Canada* at the Victoria Royals hockey game on Wednesday evening. Under the leadership of Ms. Paige Thompson, students have been rehearsing weekly, and their commitment and hard work truly shone as they represented our school with confidence and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of these talented students for demonstrating our ORCA values and showcasing their abilities in front of the wider community.



- Introducing the MEMEXÁŁ Basketball Team! We are excited to launch a new opportunity for Indigenous girls in Grades 3–5 to join the MEMEXÁŁ Basketball Team! MEMEXÁŁ means caterpillar in SENĆOŦEN and is a new sister program to the QELAXEN Basketball Team (QELAXEN means butterfly). This program provides a barrier-free, culturally grounded, and safe space for elementary-aged Indigenous girls to explore basketball. Players will build foundational skills, learn about gameplay, and focus on teamwork. Practices will be led by Olivia Mjaaland (Grade 3 Teacher at KÉLSET) and Melissa Rickson (Indigenous Literacy Support Teacher at KÉLSET). We're also excited to welcome guest coaches from the UVic Vikes and Coastal Wave Basketball teams throughout the season!



Saanich Secondary Schools

- This is the fourth year Police Camp has returned thanks to the Greater Victoria Police Foundation. The leadership skills, opportunities, and friendships students gain are invaluable. This year, 280 students applied and were interviewed; we're proud that Saanich has 14 students attending the 8-day camp at St. Margaret's School—including, for the first time, two ILC students. Students are placed in teams of 10 with two police-officer leaders from departments across the South Island. Officers run sessions covering everything from K9 work to interview and investigation techniques, with a highlight being the night-time simulation. The camp ends with a graduation ceremony — always an emotional moment for both officers and students.

Prospect Lake

- We hosted a ŚWI, I ŽENS (Caring) Careers Speaker Panel during our PAW CLAW assembly, featuring ten individuals who work behind the scenes to make our school a great place to be. Careers represented included: school custodian, volunteer Roots of Empathy facilitator, IT manager, facilities director, HR assistant, payroll and benefits specialist, school police liaison officer, assistant superintendent, bus driver, and district teacher leader (photo attached).
- Three basketball teams (Grades 4–5) are ready to participate in the jamboree this Friday, and our large Grade 3–5 swim club is wrapping up its season this week.
- School Spirit Day, supported by our PAWS SQUAD spirit club, is happening on Friday, March 5.
- Teachers continue to use collaboration time to support alignment with our school writing goal, and many have also taken part in the district literacy series.
- Teachers and administrators are participating in a staff book club on *“Strive for Five Conversations: A Framework That Gets Kids Talking to Accelerate Their Language Comprehension & Literacy”* by Tricia A. Zucker and Sonia Q. Cabell. Our second meeting takes place this week.

Bayside

- Bayside Middle School had eleven successful finishes at the recent Skills Canada regional competition held at Camosun College. Students will be proceeding to Abbotsford on April 15th to compete in Provincials for Gravity car racing; spaghetti bridge design and Sumobot competitions.

Brentwood

- Throughout February, students at Brentwood have been showing kindness and gratitude. The Grade 5 Leadership students presented the Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island with a donation of \$427 - money that students raised from a schoolwide Pajama Toonie day. Students from all grades participated in a CRD-sponsored campaign to write thoughtful thank you notes for our much-appreciated crossing guards and bus drivers. And on Pink Shirt Day, everyone took part in a Kindness Walk around the school, focusing on community, connectedness and kindness.



Royal Oak

- Royal Oak Middle School hosted its first-ever Clothes Swap Fundraiser in February, and it was a resounding success, with more than 1,500 donated items—including clothes, shoes, accessories, and books all finding new homes. Unsold items were shared with families in need and local charities, and the event raised over \$1,000 to support student extracurricular activities. Beyond fundraising, the initiative delivered meaningful environmental benefits by encouraging reuse over new purchases, helping reduce water and energy consumption as well as carbon emissions linked to clothing production. In total, reusing 1,500 items avoided 9 tonnes of carbon pollution (equivalent to removing two cars from the road for a year), saved the amount of water found in an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and reduced textile waste from entering landfills. This event stands as a powerful example of what a community can achieve when it takes action together.

Lochside

- It has been a busy winter at Lochside with engaging learning opportunities related to Lunar New Year, Ramadan, and Black History month. Lochside ELL families were invited into the school this month to participate in the blanket exercise as part of our once per term ELL tea event. Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) from the Intercultural Association (ICA) joined as interpreters in three different languages to make this important learning accessible to all. Archaeologist and author of "Deep Dig" Nicole Smith visited our Learning Commons as guest speaker and students enjoyed a hands-on learning experience from an expert in her field interweaving concepts in literacy, science and global citizenship.



Cordova Bay

- This grade 5 student read the Territorial Acknowledgement his class wrote during a monthly student led assembly. Each month we have volunteers from different classes read a student created Acknowledgement and share learning about the WSANEC Moons.

