

Alert Bay Elementary
School
381 Larch St.
PO Box 29
Alert Bay, BC
V0N 1A0
Roberta Harris, Principal

Phone: 250-974-5569
Fax: 250-974-5925
rharris@sd85.bc.ca



Back to School Spaghetti Lunch

Wednesday, September 20 from 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

in the ABES gym

Families Are Invited!

We're looking forward to seeing you at this mouth watering event that's sure to bring our school community together.

Important Dates

Sept. 20	Back to School Spaghetti Lunch 11:30 - 12:30, Families Welcome!
Sept. 22	Terry Fox Run
Sept. 24 - 30	Truth and Reconciliation Week
Sept. 28	Truth and Reconciliation Event. Students dismissed from the Bighouse
Oct. 2	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation No school
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving - No School
Oct 19	Student Picture Day
Oct 20	Pro-D Day - No School



Alert Bay School Newsletter

September 2023

Principal's Message

Welcome back to a new school year. We are excited to welcome both new and returning students to our school! We are also very happy to welcome our new teacher Jen Rowell to the grade 4-7 class. Jen has made a smooth transition and is enjoying her new role.

We have many upcoming annual events to look forward this month which include the Terry Fox Run on Friday September 22nd and a Truth and Reconciliation event at the 'Namgis Bighouse on September 28th.

We will also be having a "Welcome Back to School" spaghetti lunch on September 20th which we are all looking forward to. Thank you to Karen, Anne and Susan for coordinating this day.

Our province has transitioned to a new "Student Reporting Policy" for K-12 and is using a "proficiency scale" in place of grades. "Classroom assessment and reporting that is focused on student proficiency in relation to the established learning standards, rather than on marks, leads to increased student engagement and deeper learning that transfers into life outside the classroom." (Retrieved from: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/student-reporting>)

It is of the utmost importance that our students feel safe and supported. If for any reason there is cause for concern, please don't hesitate to call and let us know. Your child's wellbeing is imperative to learning.

Also important is punctuality and attendance which is something we are focusing on that is tied to student achievement. We are striving to ensure success for all students and regular attendance is key.

Our school motto is based on "Maya'xala" and as a staff we are all working together to create a school community that respects ourselves, our community and our surroundings with integrity and veracity.

Our school has an open door policy and parents are welcome to drop in anytime. At 12:30 each day we have quiet reading time which would be a perfect time to come in and read with your child. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to call the school at 974-5569 or my work cell 250 230-4033 or email me at rharris@sd85.bc.ca

Yours Sincerely,
Roberta Harris, Principal

Li'xam - Wide
Faced Moon
Time

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A Message from our District Counsellor, Char Purdy

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school! I hope that you have had a restful summer and are looking forward to the routines and activities of the regular school year. I know that all of the Alert Bay Team is very excited for the year ahead working with you and your children.

At Alert Bay Elementary School, the district Elementary School Counsellor is typically available on Thursdays. Before counselling services can begin, written consent is required for new and returning school counselling clients. Please contact the school if you would like to make a referral with an updated 2023-2024 form.

The purpose of School Counselling is to support children to have a successful, safe, and happy school year. Examples of support include:

- helping develop healthy skills to manage emotions, self-regulation, and social interactions
- helping cope with feelings of loss or grief
- helping build strategies to manage stress and deal with anxiety in daily lives

Alert Bay's elementary counsellor works with a child-centred approach and collaborates with home and school support teams to help children have success and build resilience. Each counselling situation is unique but the goal is for referred students to have 4-8 weekly scheduled visits. In some circumstances, it may be helpful for children to build skills in a small group or access extra services outside of the school. This is something that the counsellor would discuss with you on an individual basis.

At times, the school counsellor also works with classroom teachers to teach or co-teach different aspects of their classroom content. As this is an educational part of the regular curriculum, a counselling permission form is not required for class visits.

Counselling is based on trust and safety. The school counsellor will keep the child's conversations confidential, with some possible exceptions. Counsellors may share info with parents, teachers, or others who work with the child, with the child's knowledge and permission, so that we may better help the child as a team. The counsellor always encourages the child to share personal concerns with a safe and trusted adult in their life.

School counsellors are required by law to share information with others when:

- The child presents information about hurting themselves or others
- There is evidence or disclosure of abuse (physical, emotional, or sexual) or neglect
- If counselling records are court-ordered

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding school counselling.
Char Purdey, District Elementary School Counsellor (South Zone)
cpurdey@sd85.bc.ca (250) 230-6780

Welcome to Ms. Rowell

I am honoured to be the newest addition to the Alert Bay Elementary School Community. My name is Jennifer Rowell and I come to you with a strong background in science and math education. My teaching philosophy is centered around fostering creativity, promoting inclusivity, and providing a hands-on personalized learning experience. I believe that successful learning involves building strong relationships with students, fostering a growth mindset, and creating a safe and welcoming classroom community. I am excited to get to know each of your children and to kindle within them a lifelong love for learning. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, thoughts, or ideas. Let's make this school year a fantastic one!



Medication in School

If your child has any allergies please let us know about them. In order to maintain a uniform, safe and efficient way of dispensing medication at school, if your child requires medication and you have not filled out the required form, Medication and/or Treatment Data, please contact your principal and request a form. Please have the form completed by your doctor, sign it yourself and return it to the school as soon as possible. This procedure complies with school board policy regarding medications to be taken at school. This form refers to medication that must be taken on a regular or emergency basis. If you have any questions, please call the school principal. Where applicable, the child should be encouraged to wear a Medic Alert bracelet.

First PAC Meeting Sept. 26 at 6:30

As parents/guardians of a ABES student you are automatically members of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). Typically, our meetings are held once a month in the evenings, but we are flexible and can also arrange Zoom or lunchtime meetings to accommodate parents' preferences. It's a great opportunity to hear from our Principal about what's been happening during the last month. Our first PAC meeting will be on September 26 at 6:30 here at the school. We hope to see many new faces at our first meeting. The PAC's purpose is advise the school principal and staff on parents' views and provide feedback about school programs, policies, plans and activities. For more information about PAC's role click this link to go to the BC Federation of [Parent Advisory Council's webpage](#).