

Alert Bay Elementary  
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Roberta Harris, Principal

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### Important Dates

Nov 6	Cross Country Track Meet at AJ Elliot Elem
Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:30, everyone welcome
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day, no school
Nov 15	Salmon Feast at 12:00, everyone welcome
Nov. 23	Last Day to order Purdys chocolates
Nov. 29	Pro-D Day, no school
Dec. 5	Purdys chocolate orders ready for pick up.
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Winter Break, no school
Jan. 6	In Service Day, no school
Tuesday, Jan. 7	Schools re-open
Feb 14	Pro-D, no school



# Alert Bay School Newsletter

October 2024



### 'magwabo'yi - Moon Round Beneath

Inside this issue:

Halloween Costume Parade	2
IPSARC workshops	2
Kindergarten Creativity	2
Quatse Hatchery Field Trip	3
CoCoRaHS	3
Student Votes	3
Emergency Procedures	4
Fair Notice Letter	5
Salmon Feast Invite	7
Important Dates	8

### Principal's Message

As October wraps up, we're reflecting on a month full of learning, connection, and preparation. Our students have been hard at work on assessments like the School Wide Write and the Foundation Skills Assessment, both of which help us understand each student's progress and provide targeted support for their growth.

This month, we also participated in The Great Shake Out earthquake drill as part of our commitment to emergency preparedness. In this newsletter, you'll find information on our emergency protocols and Threat Assessment Protocol, to help reassure families that we are ready to respond effectively to any situation.

Keeping our students energized has been a priority, with nutritious hot lunches, fruit salads, and fresh fruit and vegetable snacks each day.

Students have also enjoyed a range of enriching activities, from Student Votes BC to a visit to the Quatse Hatchery and Salmon Stewardship Centre. We're now preparing for our annual Salmon Feast on November 15, and we invite all families to join us for this special celebration of culture and community.

We would also like to invite you to join us for our Remembrance Day assembly on November 8 at 10:30 a.m., as we gather to honor those who have served and reflect on their sacrifices.

Finally, thank you to everyone who came to watch our costume parade. It was a joyful day filled with creativity and laughter. We look forward to more opportunities to welcome you into the school and share these memorable moments together.

Gilakas'la from Mrs. Harris



### Halloween Costume Parade

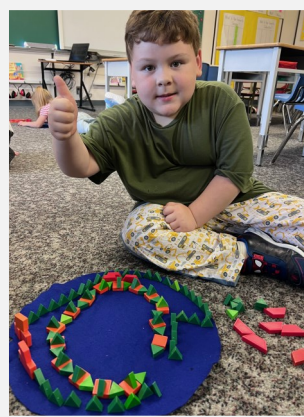


### ISPARC Workshops



Oct. 28 - Nov. 1 our school hosted engaging ISPARC workshops for both the intermediate and primary class. Students participated in hands-on activities that focused on physical literacy, teamwork, and creative movement. With enthusiastic guidance from skilled instructors, children explored various sports and fitness challenges, enhancing their skills and confidence. On Halloween the facilitators led an Amazing Race-style game that had all students participating in their costumes, adding an extra layer of fun to the workshops.

### Kindergarten Creativity



Our kindergarten students dove into the world of patterns by using colorful shapes. Equipped with trapezoids, squares, and triangles, they created stunning designs. The children experimented with alternating colors and shapes, discovering the beauty of patterns in art and laying the foundation for math concepts.



# Salmon Feast

Friday, November 15  
at 12:00 at ABES

Everyone Welcome!  
250-974-5569



*Fair Notice to Parents – Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA)*

School District 85, Vancouver Island North is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

*What is a threat?*

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture.

*Duty to report*

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, students, and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal.

*What is the purpose of a student threat assessment?*

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- To ensure and promote the emotional and physical safety of students, staff, parents, the student making the threat, and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand the factors contributing to the person of concern's (threat-maker's) behavior.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the person of concern.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

*What behaviours warrant a Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment to be initiated?*

A student threat assessment will be initiated for behaviours including, but not limited to:

- Verbal/written threats to harm/kill others ("clear, direct, and plausible")
- Threats made via social media to harm, kill, or cause serious property damage
- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm and kill
- Indicators of suicidal ideation as it relates to fluidity (homicidal/suicidal)
- Weapon possession (including replicas)
- Bomb threats (or possession/detonation of devices)
- Hate incidents motivated by factors including, but not limited to race, culture, religion, and/or sexual orientation
- Sexual intimidation, sextortion, extortion or assault
- Domestic, interpersonal, relational violence
- Gang-related intimidation and violence
- Fire setting (contextual)

*Collection Notice*

The school district is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including by limiting collection to information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from publicly available open source social media sites. The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

*What Do Parents and Students Need to Know?*

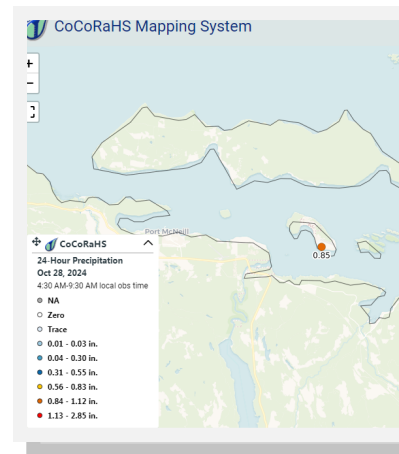
- Any threat must be reported to the school principal.
- Investigation may involve the student services counsellor, the police, or other community agencies.
- Investigation may involve locker or property searches.
- Interviews will be held with the person of concern and other students or adults who may have information about the threat.
- Parents of students who are directly involved will be notified.
- Threatening behavior may result in disciplinary action.
- An intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats.

**Quatse Hatchery Field Trip**

Our Intermediate class had an exciting and educational field trip to the Quatse Hatchery and Salmon Stewardship Centre on October 16. Students learned about salmon life cycles and the important conservation work happening at the hatchery. They explored how the hatchery supports local ecosystems by protecting salmon populations and gained a deeper appreciation for environmental stewardship.



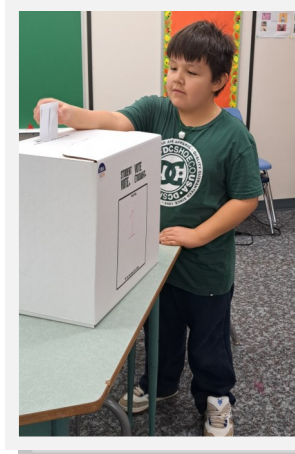
**CoCoRaHS**



The Intermediate class is excited to engage with the [Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network](#). Students have been measuring precipitation daily using a rain gauge and diligently recording their findings. This project enhances their understanding of weather patterns and contributes valuable data to the online network. Thank you to Emily Buck and Darryl Stauffer for installing our rain gauge.



**Student Votes**



The Intermediate class recently took part in Student Votes BC, an initiative designed to engage young citizens in the democratic process. Students learned about the importance of voting, explored different political platforms, and cast their own ballots in a simulated election. This hands-on experience sparked discussions about civic responsibility and empowered students to voice their opinions.





## Emergency Procedures

Our school participates in regular fire, earthquake and lockdown drills. In each situation students follow a specific set of guidelines for safe behavior. Should we have a real emergency students will be familiar with the routines.

### Power Outage

In the event of an overnight or early morning power outage, children should attend school unless it has been communicated that the school is closed. If the power goes off during school hours, students will continue to receive instruction until parents have been notified of an early dismissal. School closure information will be broadcast, if possible, on CBC radio (95.5 FM) and local radio (1240 AM). Information will also be posted on the district website if possible.

### Fire Drill

1. Leave the school in single file via outside classroom doors or the closest exit.
2. Staff close doors and windows.
3. Proceed quietly outside and line up classes on the large grass playing field.
4. There should be “no talking” during the drill. This will allow students to hear any additional instructions.
5. Students in hallways, washrooms or visiting other classrooms will leave the building by the nearest out-side exit and rejoin their teacher and classmates on the grass playing field.
6. Teachers will count students and compare with the day’s attendance.
7. Teachers will send a runner to the principal or TIC with the attendance count and the name(s) of any missing students.
8. Students and staff return to classroom when the clear signal has been sounded.

### Lockdown Drills

There are two types of lockdown drills. In a Inside Lockdown drill, all students are in classrooms, doors are closed and locked, and instruction continues as usual. In an Outside Lockdown drill, the school exit doors are locked, students take cover within their locked classrooms, blinds are closed, lights turned off, and the classroom is silent until safety has been re-established.

### Earthquake Drill

1. Assume the “CRASH” position: drop on knees, tuck head down, cover your head with your hands or with a book.
2. Take cover under a desk or table (if possible).
3. Face away from windows.
4. Count aloud to 60 when the shaking has stopped. This is to allow for aftershocks to happen.
5. Evacuate the building in single file (only when instructed by teacher or other staff).
6. Keep calm and move to the designated area (field - same as fire drill).
7. Teachers will count students and compare with the day’s attendance.
8. Teachers will send a runner to the principal or TIC with the attendance count and the name(s) of any missing students.
9. Do not go home without permission.
10. Return to the classroom when given the all-clear.

INCIDENT PROTOCOLS CRITICAL  
Appendix 5 –THREAT ASSESSMENT Protocol



Bringing Learning to Life!

Vancouver Island North  
School District No. 85

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September 2024

Dear Parent:

**Re: Fair Notice Letter**

The Board of Education has a responsibility to establish expectations of student conduct in schools as part of its governance role for the District. The Board believes that the responsibility for creating a safe, caring and orderly learning environment must be shared among students, staff and parents. To support these aims, the Board has established both a District Code of Conduct for Students, and procedures for Child Protection, Suicide/Sudden Death Protocol, Lockdown Protocol, Threat Assessment Protocol and Social Media Protocol for all schools.

School staff are responsible for consistently supporting and applying the District and School Code of Conduct. This involves actively teaching and encouraging the positive expectations we hold for all students. Schools are to be free from discrimination due to race, religion, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation as set out in the BC Human Rights Code.

The Vancouver Island North School District is dedicated to the creation and maintenance of school environments where all students, parents, staff, and visitors feel safe. In keeping with this commitment, we have also established a District protocol for dealing with threats to members of the school community, and/or school facilities. When knowledge of a significant threat is made, each school's Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) will complete an appropriate assessment for the specific incident. The purpose of the threat assessment is to:

1. Determine if the threat is widespread and/or needs specialized intervention (including confiscation of personal electronic devices)
2. Ensure the safety of the individual(s) who has been threatened
3. Determine the best way to support the high risk student who has made the threat so his/her behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive
4. Act in a timely and fair manner as set out in the District Policy for Codes of Conduct.

There are situations when a child or youth shares with her/his parents information concerning a student in their school who is behaving in a threatening manner. As important members of our school community, you are encouraged to share such information with a staff member at your child's school. Should you, as a parent, be invited to attend a meeting to discuss safety concerns regarding your child, please be assured that the goal of this meeting is to primarily ensure safety.

A Parent Information Bulletin regarding the *Threat Assessment Protocol: Fair Notice* is provided with this letter, for further information.

With your assistance, we will ensure that each student in our schools is safe, so we can create the most enabling learning environments for all students.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

*C. MacDonald*

Ms. Christina MacDonald, Superintendent of Schools