

Newsletter
January 25th ,
2019



January 2019

Tuesday January 29th
PAC Meeting 2:30

February 2019

Friday February 1st
Hot Lunch Day

Monday February 4th

Keery Park Walking Field Trip

Div. 2 & 3 - 12:30-2:25

Friday February 15th

Wetland Planting PM

Monday February 18th

Family Day

Schools Not In Session

Friday February 22nd

Professional Development Day

Schools Not in Session

Monday February 25th

Keery Park Walking Field Trip

Div. 2 & 3 - 12:30-2:25

March 2019

Friday March 1st

Hot Lunch Day

Thursday March 7th

PAC Fundraising Pub Night

6:00 pm until late

Monday March 18th to 29th

SPRING BREAK



EKOLogy

EAST KENSINGTON
ELEMENTARY

2795 – 184th Street, Surrey, BC V3Z 9V2
Phone: (604) 541-1257 Fax: (604) 531-4180
Courier #018

www.surreyschools.ca/schools/eastkensington

Principal: Mr. Chris Baldry
Vice Principal: Ms. Keri Stanger

Registration for 2019/2020

We had incredible interest in registering for our EKOLogy program on Monday, January 14. There were many people lined up at 7:00 am ready to register their kindergarten children, some of them had even camped overnight! Unfortunately, due to limited classroom space, we are only able to register 19 kindergarten students and have had to put the remaining children on a waitlist. There are obviously some disappointed parents. Some of these parents have written to **Jordan Tinney, the Superintendent** of Schools in Surrey.

What follows is his emailed response to concerned parents:

“Thank you for your email and we are very happy to see such enthusiasm and success for the program.

“We simply cannot add another kindergarten class without significant implications for the school. For example, the school only has capacity for 100 students. If we currently accept 2 kindergarten classes, it means that we will in effect have to kick the higher grades out in a year when those 2 kindergarten (K) classes roll up to 2 grade 1 classes.

“2 K’s and 2 Grade 1’s will fill the school and all other grades would have to leave. It might be possible to retain 1 more class, but still that means that rather than currently going to grade 5, the school would only go to grade 2.

“We are pleased again with the uptake and we are talking internally about how we can respond in some way. There are new schools coming near the corner of 168 and 24th and down near Dufferin Park on 2nd Avenue in Douglas. It may be that we attempt to weave something in but those schools will not be open for another 2 years at least.

“I completely agree that there is a need and we are both thankful and considering future options given the limited capacity of both East Kensington and Halls Prairie. I have copied Assistant Superintendent Lynda Reeve who was key to the start of the program and is a champion as well. We will continue to work with her and the entire South Surrey area to see what is possible. It’s just that there are no easy short-term

Schools not in session

EKOLogy
East
Kensington
Outdoor
Learning Program
O
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fixes to what is a great problem to have, parents loving a program and simply wanting more.

Regards,

Jordan”

The staff at EK are very proud of our little school and its outdoor program and we wish we could take everyone who wanted to be a part of it. Hopefully, this show of interest will spark other schools in Surrey to provide outdoor learning opportunities at their sites. Ms. Leclerc, Ms. Leslie and I have met with educators from other schools on numerous occasions to share how we engage children in outdoor learning. There is a growing movement of like-minded outdoor educators around the lower mainland who are networking to spread the word. It is such a privilege to be on the crest of this growing movement.

Wetland

We are working with **Jesse** from **A Rocha** who is providing **trees and plants** to enhance our wetland. The children and staff worked together to choose the kinds of plants and trees we wanted to add to our wetland and learn from. We will host a **planting day** for the students and interested parents in the coming weeks. This will be happening in the **afternoon of February 15th**. Parents are welcome so you can get involved in greening our outdoor space!

Circle of Security® Parenting™

Program for Parents/Guardians of **Kindergarten/Grade One Students**

The Circle of Security® Parenting™ program is based on decades of research about how **secure parent-child relationships** can be supported and strengthened. Surrey Schools will be offering the Circle of Security® Parenting™ Program for parents/guardians of Kindergarten - Grade 1 aged children.

Learning Objective of the Training:

- Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read the emotional needs.
- Support your child's ability to successfully manage emotions.
- Enhance the development of your child's self-esteem.
- Honour your innate wisdom and desire for your child to be secure.

For information, please contact Shirley Hofmann at 604-595-5373.

CBC "Power of Play"



I encourage you to check out the **documentary**, “**The Power of Play**” on **CBC’s Nature of Things**. It highlights some fascinating research into the role of play in both animals’ and humans’ social and emotional development. The teachers at EKOLogy have been following Mariana Brussoni’s and fellow researcher, Ellen Sandseter’s work on the benefits of **risky play** as we take our students to learn outdoors. This documentary just reaffirms our resolve to let children learn from play!

“Riskier play for safer kids”

“With all we learn about the importance of play, it’s no wonder that there’s a growing number of experts, like Vancouver researcher Mariana Brussoni, who are pushing for more play for children — specifically, more “risky play.” Brussoni argues that letting our kids engage in freer, outdoor play is one of the best things we can do to keep them safe.

“Safeguarding children by encouraging them to take risks may seem counterintuitive, but you may be more convinced after you meet the children at an outdoor daycare centre in Trondheim, Norway. These preschoolers wander into caves, climb onto rocky outcroppings and tumble down hills. Psychologist Ellen Sandseter offers these children as evidence of the emotional benefits of risky play. Her mission is to turn Norwegian playgrounds back into the adventurous spaces they once were.” (Taken from the following link:

<https://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/the-power-of-play>)

FOOD BANK

Our Food Bank Collection has ended with a **total of \$95.10** collected!

Any and all donations are welcome and appreciated and go towards helping people right in our community.

If you would still like to donate you can do it online at:

<https://www.surreyfoodbank.org/donate/>

Thank you!!



SURREY
FOOD BANK



FROM THE PAC

Hot Lunch Orders and payments are due today
Friday January 25th.

Late forms will result in your child not receiving the first hot lunch. If you did not receive a hot lunch form there are extras available at the office.

Next PAC Meeting:

Tuesday January 29th at 2:30 in the library
Everyone is welcome!!!

PUB NIGHT

The PAC is holding a Pub Night Fundraiser on
Thursday March 7th. More information to follow!

	Mar 7th
PUB NIGHT	EKOlogy Program Fundraiser The Henry 5708 176 St Cloverdale
	\$25 6pm- Late
Silent Auction Entry includes: Burger, a beer & door prize entry	 

Spring Break Camp at

CANADA
A ROCHA
Environmental Stewardship



Join us for our **Spring Break Day Camp** (Ages: 6-12). We will spend every day (9am-3pm) outdoors exploring the signs of Spring in the wetland, forest and farmland at Brooksdale Environmental Centre. Children will have fun singing songs, making crafts and playing games.

Bring your own snack (morning and afternoon) and lunch; bring a water bottle. Come dressed warmly for rain or shine. Boots required!

Cost: \$190 + \$11.21 fee (*financial assistance available)

For more information and to register go to:

<https://arocho.ca/event/spring-break-day-camp-surrey-bc/>