



## Evans Elementary School

Parent Week at a Glance  
November 28<sup>th</sup> – Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022



Chilliwack  
School District

Mr. Wade Gemmell, Principal | Tel 604.858.3057 | wade\_gemmell@sd33.bc.ca | <http://evans.sd33.bc.ca>  
Mrs. Annette Morelli, Office Administrative Assistant

Hello Evans Parents,

Some of the events happening this week and in the next little while at Evans include:

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> – **Non Instructional Day (No School for Students)**

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> - Golden Gotcha Pizza Lunch

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – New Virtue for December: Service

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – PAC Raffle Tickets Sales Start

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> – **Start Salvation Army Food Drive**

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – PAC Santa Store

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm December PAC Meeting

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – PAC Santa Store

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – PAC Pizza Orders DUE

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – 1:30 PAC Purdy's Pick-up (Gym)

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – PAC Santa Store (to Recess)

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – Term #1 Report Cards Sent Home

**Non-Instructional Days** – Just a reminder that Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> is a Non-Instructional Day with no school for students

**EDI & MDI** – Families in Kindergarten (EDI) and students in families in Grade 4 will be participating in the EDI and MDI surveys in January 2023. While we will send individual letters homes to families shortly, please find some general information attached to this newsletter.

**Food Drive** – Starting December 5<sup>th</sup>, we are collecting non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank up until Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Food Bank is in need of healthy, family-friendly food items for families in our community. We will have a special guest help deliver our donations to the Salvation Army using his special sleigh! Thank you in advance for your donations and your support of families in need during this holiday season.

**Reporting Student Vaccination Status** – Please find a letter from Fraser Health on the need to report student vaccination status by schools (attached).

**Later French Immersion** – Please find information on Vedder Middle School's late French Immersion program for students entering Grade 6 (attached)..

**Winter Concert** – I wanted to let parents know the school is planning an in-person Winter Concert this year. The plan is to have this take place on the evening of Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be provided by email starting next week *including a parking plan for the event.*

**(Repeat) Volunteers** – We love having volunteers at Evans !! Just a reminder that all volunteers need to get a Criminal Record Check (once every 4 years and it's free) and check in at the office once they arrive. Volunteers need to wear a Volunteer Identification badge while at the school. A reminder that once the activity you have volunteered for is completed, we ask that you please sign out at the office (we need to keep track of who is in the building for legal reasons [fire, lockdowns, etc.]). Thank you for your help here. Should you have any questions about being a Volunteer at Evans please get in touch with our office.

**(Repeat) Evans Parking Lot and Drive Way** – A reminder that cars and trucks should not be parked in the yellow marked zone at the entrance to Evans driveway as this makes the entrance to the school difficult during pick-up and drop off and is area is reserved for emergency vehicles if needed. Thanks for your help here.

**(Repeat) Inclement Weather School Closure Guidelines** – With the weather starting to be more “winter like” we wanted to share with parents the guidelines for closure of schools in inclement weather.

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall or high wind can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions, walking/sidewalk conditions, and general condition of buildings and accessibility to sites. *For more details on how this is done, [click here](#).*

While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the **School District website** [www.sd33.bc.ca](http://www.sd33.bc.ca) or tune into radio stations **STAR FM (98.3 FM)** or **JR Country (89.5 FM)**, to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00 a.m. and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is no need to call your school, the School District Office or the radio station.

In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record.

A **Transportation Snow Plan** is in place for students who rely on travel by school bus and live in higher elevations such as Chilliwack Mountain, Little Mountain, Majuba Hill, Ryder Lake and some areas of Columbia Valley and the Eastern Hillside. An announcement will be made should travel in these areas become challenging due to slippery road conditions. *(Please note: the greater Promontory area does not have a snow plan).*

**All inclement weather announcements will be posted on the District website [www.sd33.bc.ca](http://www.sd33.bc.ca)**

**(Repeat) Possible Free \$\$ for your Child’s Future Education (Grades 1 – 4)** – Please find information on the BC Training and Education Savings Grant (BCTESG). ***This money is free for you to claim for your child and you don't have to contribute any money yourself.*** Youth who have savings for their education are 50% more likely to attend post-secondary! **Information is attached.**

**(Repeat) Grade 5 Get Active Pass** - The Chilliwack Active for Life Committee is once again pleased to provide the Grade 5 "Get Active!" facility pass program. Thanks to our partners, the City of Chilliwack Recreation and Culture Department, The YMCA of Greater Vancouver and the Chilliwack School District #33, the facility passes will be made available to all Grade 5 public, private and home-schooled students in Chilliwack. The primary purpose of the program is to increase participation and fitness levels of Grade 5 students and encourage healthier lifestyle choices. **Information is attached.**

# FRENCH IMMERSION AT VEDDER MIDDLE

Registration open for Grade 6;  
February 10th at 12pm is cutoff  
for the draw

more information in the link

<https://sd33.bc.ca/french-immersion>



November 18, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

### **Regarding the need to report student vaccination status**

The B.C. government requires that all students in B.C. have their vaccination status reported. This regulation allows public health to collect all student immunization records. All records are stored in the provincial immunization registry. See [B.C.'s Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation for students](#) for more information.

Collecting immunization records helps public health control outbreaks and keep students healthy and safe. If there is a disease outbreak at a school from a disease that can be prevented by vaccines, public health can quickly find out which child is protected and which child is not. This allows us to act quickly and limit exposure. This is important to keep your child safe and to stop an outbreak from spreading.

Read below to learn more about what is happening in each grade this year for vaccination reporting and immunization clinics.

#### **A. For children in Kindergarten**

- Our Public Health staff checks the immunization records we have on file. We might contact families of children who have missing or incomplete records.

#### **B. For students in Grades 6 and Grade 9**

- Our Public Health nurses will offer immunizations at your school.
- Before the immunization clinics at your school, we send home a consent form for each student.
- Check the immunization record on the consent form. If you have more immunization records that are not listed on the consent form, please submit them to public health at [fraserhealth.ca/immunizationform](http://fraserhealth.ca/immunizationform).

#### **C. For students in all other grades (includes Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12)**

- **Please check immunization records:**

Immunization records can be viewed at [healthgateway.gov.bc.ca](http://healthgateway.gov.bc.ca).

Records for students 11 years of age and younger can be viewed on the parent/guardian account.

Students 12 years of age and older need to create their own account.

If you cannot access Health Gateway and you do not have the records on file, you might need to contact the health care provider who immunized your child to request the record. If your child was immunized by Fraser Health public health, then we have the records on file.

Review the "Immunization Forecast" in Health Gateway to see which immunizations are overdue or missing from the record.

- **If an immunization shows as “overdue”, but you know it was already given:**

Submit the record to public health. You can submit it online at [fraserhealth.ca/immunizationform](http://fraserhealth.ca/immunizationform) or drop the record off at your local public health unit.

Be sure the record you are submitting has the student’s

- full name
- date of birth
- sex at birth
- Personal health number (PHN) if available.

You can also give immunization records to a community health nurse in a First Nations community.

- **If an immunization is due or missing:**

Book an appointment with your local public health unit, family practitioner, or pharmacist. Not all family practitioners and pharmacies give vaccines, so please call ahead.

Visit [fraserhealth.ca/GetImmunized](http://fraserhealth.ca/GetImmunized) for a list of community vaccine providers.

- **To book an appointment at a public health unit, call the number for your community:**

If you live in Mission, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Agassiz, Hope	604-702-4906
If you live in Burnaby, Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, New Westminster, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Delta, Surrey, White Rock, Langley	604-476-7087

For more immunization information, visit [Fraserhealth.ca/immunizations](http://Fraserhealth.ca/immunizations).

Thank you for helping to keep our schools and communities healthy.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lindsay Bowthorpe, MD, CCFP, MPH, FRCPC  
Medical Health Officer, Medical Director



Early Child Development Program of Research: Early Development Instrument (EDI)  
Parent/Guardian Informed Passive Consent Letter

Principal Investigator: Dr. Mariana Brussoni, [mbrussoni@bcchr.ubc.ca](mailto:mbrussoni@bcchr.ubc.ca), Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP), University of British Columbia (UBC)  
Co-Investigator: Dr. Barry Forer, HELP, UBC  
Co-Investigator: Dr. Martin Guhn, HELP, UBC  
Project Contact: Marit Gilbert, [edi@help.ubc.ca](mailto:edi@help.ubc.ca), (604) 827-5504

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In February, Kindergarten teachers at your child's school will complete the Early Development Instrument (EDI) for children in their classroom. The EDI includes questions on children's social and emotional development, health and well-being, language and cognitive development, and communication skills. The Government of British Columbia (BC) has funded the collection and use of the EDI for over 20 years.

#### AT A GLANCE

- Your child's Kindergarten teacher will complete the EDI for each of their students in February, unless you request to withdraw your child;
- The EDI helps us understand trends in children's development at the group level, such as a neighbourhood or school district;
- The EDI questionnaire and further information are available at:  
<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/edi/parent-caregiver-info/>

#### What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of this project is to improve the understanding of influences on children's development across BC, and over time, such as COVID-19 related disruptions. Information from the EDI has proven essential to schools, health professionals, early years service providers, communities and governments in planning programs and supports for children and families.

#### What will happen?

Before completing the questionnaire, teachers are required to take training on how to complete the EDI. Teachers answer questions about five areas of development: 1) physical health and well-being; 2) social competence; 3) emotional maturity; 4) language and cognitive development, and 5) general knowledge and communications skills. There is no direct involvement of your child in completing the EDI questionnaire.

#### Participation is voluntary

Participation in the EDI project is voluntary. If you do not want your child's teacher to complete the EDI for your child, please return the attached form to your child's teacher or principal within 4 weeks upon receiving this letter. You can also email the EDI project team at HELP ([edi@help.ubc.ca](mailto:edi@help.ubc.ca)) to withdraw your child. Once data have been included in reports, they cannot be withdrawn. Participation or non-participation in the EDI will not affect your child's grades. It will not affect any services that your family receives from the school or school district.

### How are my child's data protected, stored and used?

Teacher responses to the EDI questions are private and confidential. No information is added to your child's school record from the EDI questionnaire. Your child and your child's school will not be identified in research publications or in public documents.

To facilitate accurate completion of EDI questionnaires, your school district gives HELP/UBC information about your child, including their name, Personal Education Number, date of birth, gender, postal code, and whether they are First Nations, Métis or Inuit. Additional information including whether they have a disability or diverse ability, or if they are an English Language Learner or in a French Immersion program, is shared for research and reporting purposes. Your child's name is only used so that the teacher can complete the questionnaire. The names are removed from the EDI data set once the EDI questionnaire has been completed. Personal information is stored separately from the teacher's answers to the EDI questionnaire to protect your child's privacy. EDI data are stored in a secure environment.

EDI data can only be used for approved research projects under Federal and Provincial/Territorial privacy laws. Researchers may apply for permission to use the EDI data for research or statistical purposes. Approved researchers will be provided access to data that cannot be connected to any individual student.

Your child's EDI data may be linked with other data in order to learn about the factors that influence children's well-being, health, and school success. Other data may include education and health information. The data that are linked can only be used for research or statistical purposes under an approved Research Agreement, or for program planning, evaluation, or research purposes through an Information Sharing Agreement.

As the license-holder of the EDI, the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University receives a copy of your child's EDI data, postal code, gender, and month of birth to enable approved national research.

Your child's data are also shared with BC Ministries of Government for program evaluation, planning, research, or statistical purposes. Data shared with the Ministries may be linked to other data sets and then are de-identified before access and use for analysis, in accordance with the Information Sharing Agreement in place. Reporting can only take place at the group level. More information is available at: <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/about/privacy-and-ethics/>. For questions related to the privacy of your child's data, please contact HELP's Privacy Officer at [privacy@help.ubc.ca](mailto:privacy@help.ubc.ca).

### EDI Reports

School reports are provided directly to school districts and schools, and are not shared publicly. HELP provides public community reports and neighbourhood maps of the data to support decision making towards improving policies, programs and services for children and families. These reports and maps are available at: <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/reports/edi-reports/>.

### Indigenous Data and Reports

HELP recognizes and respects that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit families, communities and governments have the right to access any and all data collected for their children. HELP, through guidance of the [Aboriginal Steering Committee](#), has established a protocol to support First Nations, Métis and Inuit governments and Indigenous-led organizations with data and reports for Indigenous children. HELP only reports EDI data for Indigenous Peoples through guidance and stewardship of the Aboriginal Steering Committee.

### Where can I get more information on the project?

For more information, please visit HELP's website at [www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi](http://www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/edi). If you have any questions or concerns please contact Marit Gilbert, Project Lead, via email at [edi@help.ubc.ca](mailto:edi@help.ubc.ca) or by

phone at 604-827-5504 or toll free 1-888-908-4050. You can also contact the principal investigator at the email provided below.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your child's rights as a research participant, please contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at the University of British Columbia at 604-822-8598, or if long-distance, e-mail [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Yours sincerely,

*N Driscoll*

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School District EDI Contact  
District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care  
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**If you want to withdraw your child's data, please, sign and return this section to your child's teacher.**

Please return this form to the classroom teacher by January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, if you do NOT want your child to participate.

I do not consent for my child [NAME] \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the Early Development Instrument (EDI) questionnaire taking place in February.

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



# THE MIDDLE YEARS WHY YEARS MATTER

*A time of risk, a time of opportunity*

The **people** children spend their time with have the power to teach children the skills they need to be successful.

The **places** where children live, play and learn have a lot to do with health and happiness later in life.

The **experiences** children have in their middle years have lasting effects on brain development.

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC is using the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) to understand more about children's thoughts, feelings and experiences inside and outside of school. The MDI is a questionnaire that gives schools and communities valuable information about the strengths and needs of their children.

HUMAN  
EARLY LEARNING  
PARTNERSHIP



To find out more, read on about the MDI or visit [earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi)

## MIDDLE YEARS RESEARCH SHOWS:



- INCREASED**
- Poverty
  - Stress
  - Bullying
  - Mental Illness
- DECREASED**
- Self-confidence
  - Empathy
  - Optimism
  - Overall Health

## WHAT MATTERS MOST?

- Caring Adults
- Happiness
- Sleep
- Friendships
- Nutrition
- Out-of-School Activities

## SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING teaches children how to:

- Control their emotions
- Manage their behaviour
- Feel self-confident
- Express their needs
- Show empathy
- Adapt to change
- Set goals
- Build strong friendships
- Cope with stress



# The Middle Years Development Instrument

## Hello Parents!

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a questionnaire that asks children about their thoughts, feelings and experiences inside and outside of school. It is not a test for reading, writing or math. The MDI looks at children’s points of view on:

Social and Emotional Development



Optimism, empathy, happiness, prosocial behaviour, self-esteem

Connectedness



Presence of supportive adults, sense of belonging with peers

School Experiences



Academic self-concept, school environment, bullying

Physical Health and Well-being



Health, nutrition, sleep

Use of Out-of-School Time



Time spent playing sports, video games and watching TV

### The MDI is:

A questionnaire filled out by Grade 4 to Grade 8 students.

### The MDI is not:

A tool for comparing individual children, teachers, classrooms or schools.

## HOW DOES THE MDI WORK?



Participation is voluntary. Parents or students may withdraw at any time.



Students fill out the MDI during class time. Surveys are sent to a secure lab at the University of British Columbia.



Reports and maps are produced to help families, schools and communities understand what students have said.

## HOW THE DATA ARE USED?



- The MDI helps us understand the “whole child” not just how they are doing in school.
- Schools and communities have information about the strengths, needs and wishes of children in their neighbourhoods and school districts.
- People can see neighbourhood differences in the number of children who are healthy and happy.
- Adults can start thinking about ways to build more and stronger relationships with the children in their homes, schools and communities.
- Better plans can be made about the kinds of out-of-school activities that should be offered to children.
- Better decisions can be made about how organizations provide services, spend money and share resources.
- Schools and communities can set goals for the future and can learn about how children are doing over time.

The MDI is administered by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia. For more information please contact:

### The MDI Team

mdi@help.ubc.ca  
1-888-908-4050 | 604-822-1310  
[earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi](http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi)

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