



Heffley Creek Elementary

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December 2025 Newsletter

A Love of Reading

As the temperature drops and the days get shorter, I often find myself exhausted and ready to plunk down on the couch to watch TV or scroll. Maybe you can relate. The interesting thing that I have found is that as much as I feel like this is the only thing I have the energy to do, I don't find it very refreshing. What actually brings calm and refreshment is when I open a book and read. The challenge is to motivate myself to choose a book more often.

As a school, we believe fostering a **love of reading** is one of the greatest gifts we can give our students. Here are some simple, effective ways for students and families to cultivate this wonderful habit:

Read What You Love: Don't feel pressured to read "classics" or specific genres outside of assignments. Start with what genuinely interests you! Graphic novels, cookbooks, magazines, sports articles, or historical accounts—if you enjoy it, it counts!

Create a Cozy Corner: Designate a special, comfortable place just for reading. Make it inviting with soft lighting, pillows, and perhaps a warm drink. Make reading feel like a treat, not a chore.

Set Aside "Reading Time": Even **15-30 minutes a day** makes a huge difference. Try reading before bed, during an after-school quiet hour, or even instead of screen time sometimes. Make it a non-negotiable part of your routine.

Try Different Formats: If a physical book isn't grabbing you, try an e-book, an audiobook, or a library app. Sometimes changing the way you absorb the story can make it more appealing.

Be a Reading Role Model: Kids are more likely to value reading if they see their parents and caregivers doing it. Let your child see you reading for pleasure, whether it's a novel, an audio story or a hobby magazine. Model the joy!

Visit the Library (Often!): The library is a free treasure chest of endless possibilities. Make regular trips a fun family outing. Allowing your child to choose their own books gives them ownership over their reading experience.

Developing a love for reading is a journey, not a race. By making books accessible, enjoyable, and a regular part of daily life, we can help every student discover the magic hidden between the pages!

Upcoming Events & Dates

- Dec 1 Pro-D - no school for students
- Dec 12 Point of Contact #2 Written Learning Updates Published & Printed (Term 1 Report Cards)
- Dec 18 Christmas Concert at 11:00 am
- Dec 19 Last Day of school before Winter Break
- Jan 5 First Day back from Winter Break
- Jan 13 PAC Meeting at 9:00 am
- Jan 26-30 UnPlug & Play Week
- [SD #73 School Calendar for 2025/2026](#)
- [SD #73 School Calendar for 2026/2027](#)

Learning Updates Overview

- **1st** Point of Contact: Classroom Connections - Oct 29th
- **2nd Point of Contact: Written Learning Updates Printed & Published - Dec 12th**
- **3rd** Point of Contact: Written Learning Updates Printed & Published - March 11th
- **4th** Point of Contact: Various formats - April 27th - May 8th - exact date to be determined
- **5th** Point of Contact: Summative Written Learning Updates Printed & Published - June 25th

Point of Contact #2 Written Learning Updates

Term 1 Written Learning Updates (report cards) will be published to the [MyEd BC Parent Portal](#) and printed for students to take home on December 12th. Now is a good time to login to the Parent Portal and ensure that your login and password are up to date. For more information and support on how to access the Parent Portal or to reset your password, visit our [website](#).

Open Parachute Learning Moment

This month's Open Parachute Learning Moment shares ideas around how to have [Healthy Habits with Social Media](#). We hope that this 20 minute learning opportunity will give some ideas that will work for your family.

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Christmas Concert

On Thursday, December 18th at 11:00 am, our students will be presenting a Christmas Concert and all community members are welcome to join us. This is a wonderful way to get into the Christmas season and enjoy some time with our school community.



New Staff Member - Teacher Librarian

Niki Sauer (Teacher Librarian at Rayleigh) has been hired to be the new Teacher Librarian on Friday mornings at our school. She has already started connecting with classes, assessing our library resources and envisioning where our library can go for the future. This is a term certain position for the rest of this school year and we are hoping that it will be included in the district plans for our school for next school year as well.

Purdys Chocolates Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported our school-run Purdys Chocolate Fundraiser. The chocolate pickup day is December 12th at the school office. We want to say a big thank you to our secretary, Naomi Winter, who organized this fundraiser on behalf of the school.

Moose Lodge Donation

Our school received a financial donation from the Moose Lodge to support the programming of our school. After working with our teachers, we have purchased two document cameras for teachers to use with their classes. These cameras allow live images to be shown using the classroom projector for large group reading of picture book stories, drawing activities, sharing of directions and much more. We are very thankful for this generous community support.



Criminal Record Checks

Thank you to everyone who has worked through the process of getting a Criminal Record Check done this year. Having a completed Criminal Record Check on file alleviates last minute stress and opens the door to participating in a number of school-based activities such as field trips, in-class helping, PAC activities and much more. All that you need to go through this process is on the Rayleigh [website](#) (we share a portal between the two schools).

PAC News

If you are looking to connect with the Heffley Creek PAC, feel free to email: pac.heffleycreek@gmail.com Our PAC needs more helping hands to keep providing fun and exciting activities for the school community. Please consider coming out to PAC Meetings, offering to help in organizing Hot Lunch days and volunteering to support PAC-run initiatives.

The Heffley Creek PAC will have the next meeting on January 13th at 9:00 am in the staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend. Here are the [minutes](#) from the Nov 18th meeting.

PAC Fundraising

If you are looking for an easy way to support our school, please consider dropping off your refundable beverage containers at the Lorne Street Bottle Depot (near Home Hardware on the Halston). The Heffley Creek PAC has an account at this bottle depot and you can simply bring in a bag of recyclables and ask for the proceeds to be given to the Heffley Creek PAC.

