



# Rayleigh Elementary School

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## December 2025 Newsletter

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### 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 11 Primary Winter Concerts (1:15 pm & 6:00 pm)
- Dec 12 Intermediate Arts Sharing (1:15 pm)
- Dec 12 Point of Contact #2 Written Learning Updates Published (Term 1 Report Cards)
- Dec 19 Last Day of school before Winter Break
- Jan 5 First Day back from Winter Break
- Jan 7 PAC Meeting in the Library at 6:30 pm
- Jan 21 Greg Stewart Presentation
- 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 - Nov 6th
- **2nd Point of Contact: Written Learning Updates Published - Dec 12th**
- **3rd Point of Contact:** Written Learning Updates - 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 Published - June 25th

### Written Learning Updates

Term 1 Written Learning Updates (report cards) will be published to the [MyEd BC Parent Portal](#) on December 12th. If you haven't done so already, 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](#). If you would like a paper copy of your child's Written Learning Update, please request this through your child's teacher.

### 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.

openparachute®

## Primary Winter Concerts

On Thursday, December 11th, Primary students will perform in two Winter Concerts. There will be an afternoon (1:15 pm) performance and evening (6:00 pm) performance. For the 6:00 pm performance, the main office doors will open at 5:45 pm and adults and students will all enter through those doors. This will allow our staff time to make it home and eat supper before returning to work for the evening.

## Christmas Hampers

More than ever, we are seeing that families are feeling a financial pinch right now. As a school community, we are collecting items for food hampers with the goal of giving completed hampers to Rayleigh Elementary families. We will be collecting hamper items in boxes in front of the office from Dec 2nd to 15th. There will be coloured tags on the Christmas tree by the office that will list specific items that can be donated to complete a food hamper. Students and family members are encouraged to take a tag (or two) and bring in that item for the hamper collection. We would like to have the hampers ready to go to families by Dec 16th. If you would like to nominate a Rayleigh family to receive a hamper, please email Mrs. Maskell ([smaskell@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:smaskell@sd73.bc.ca)).



### Suggested Christmas Hamper Items

\$25 GC for a grocery store	Coffee & Tea
Packaged gravy	Stuffing
Cans & Packages of soup	Cans of vegetables
Bag of potatoes	Macaroni & Cheese
Crackers	Breakfast cereal
Hot Chocolate	Butter
Chips/Pretzels, etc.	Cans of fruit
Peanut Butter	Yams/Sweet Potatoes
Pasta sauce	Chocolate or Pudding
Canned baked beans	Cookies
Pasta & Noodles	Jam
Popcorn	Juice
Cash or GC donation	Misc./Other items

## Book Fair Update

Mrs. Sauer would like to thank everyone for supporting the Rayleigh Scholastic Book Fair fundraiser in our library! We had a very successful Book Fair and we were able to earn over \$1300 which will go towards purchasing new books for our library. Thank you!

## Volleyball Season

Volleyball season has just concluded and it was wonderful to watch the tremendous growth of our players. We want to say a huge thank you to the volunteer coaches who made this season possible: Charmaine Fleishhauer, Julie Lewis, Chris Town, Mikaili Tweed & Kim Tweed. Thank you to our Grade 4 Drop In Coaches: Sue Devick & Theresa Devick.

## Basketball Coaches Needed

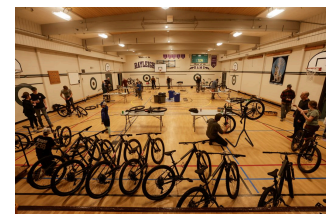
We are looking for basketball coaches for the upcoming season that will run from January to March. A basketball coaching commitment typically involves two practices and one game per week. Coaches need to have a Criminal Record Check on file with the school, have completed the Concussion Training Program, patience to work with beginner basketball players and some understanding of the sport. At this point, we have head coaches for the boys teams and no head coaches for the girls teams. We would like to have two boys and two girls teams but this will depend on volunteer coaches (head and assistant coaches) to step forward to help. If you are interested in helping out with basketball coaching this year, please email Dave Conroy at [dconroy@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:dconroy@sd73.bc.ca)

## Lunch Hour Supervisors

We are still in need of a second Lunch Hour Supervisor on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. If you are interested, please connect with Mrs. Sandra Maskell by contacting the office or by email ([smaskell@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:smaskell@sd73.bc.ca)) and she will walk you through the process of joining our supervision team.

## Outside Bikes

A class set of Specialized Mountain Bikes arrived on Friday, Nov 21st and a group of community volunteers came together last night to assemble the bikes. We want to thank these volunteers and our lead teachers Kim Tweed & Paige Coxon who completed the grant process and are excited to get Intermediate students on bikes in the Spring.



## PAC News

The Rayleigh PAC is now selling 50/50 tickets. If you would like to sign out a book to sell, please reach out to [rayleighpac@gmail.com](mailto:rayleighpac@gmail.com). The draw date is December 19th. The next PAC meeting is Wednesday, January 7th at 6:30 pm in the Library.