



Heffley Creek Elementary

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October 2025 Newsletter

Building Inferencing Skills

Learning to read can be challenging and finding out that authors intentionally hide a deeper level of ideas requiring inference skills to uncover them can make it even harder. Readers can use these skills at all grade levels and we want to equip students to tackle these hidden ideas and find enjoyment in the journey.

Helping your child with **inference skills** is all about teaching them to be detectives when they read! 🕵️ Inference is the skill of using clues from the story along with what they already know to figure out something the author doesn't directly say. It's like solving a mystery.

1. Ask "Why" and "How" Questions

After reading a short story or even just a paragraph, ask questions that require them to think beyond the text.

- **About a character:** "Why do you think he's feeling sad?" (Instead of, "What did the story say about his feelings?")
- **About a future event:** "What do you think will happen next, and why?"

2. Connect to Their World

Help your child see that they already make inferences every day.

- **Everyday scenarios:** "When we see a person holding an umbrella, what do we infer?" (They'll say it's raining or about to rain.)
- **Pictures:** Show them a picture and ask them to tell you a story about it. "What happened before this picture was taken?"

3. Use the "Clue + Knowledge = Inference" Formula

Explain this simple formula to them. You can even write it down.

- **Clue:** Information from the text (e.g., "The boy's stomach was rumbling.")
- **Knowledge:** Something they already know (e.g., "When my stomach rumbles, it means I'm hungry.")
- **Inference:** The conclusion they can draw (e.g., "The boy is hungry.")

4. Re-read and Look for Clues

Encourage your child to go back into the text to find the evidence that supports their thinking. This teaches them to ground their inferences in the story's details. For example, if they say a character is happy, ask, "What words or sentences helped you figure that out?"

5. Make it Fun!

Inference skills aren't just for books. You can practice them while watching a movie 🎬, listening to music, or even during a car ride. For instance, "Why do you think that car is honking?" This turns learning into a game and makes it a natural part of their day.

Upcoming Events & Dates

- Sept 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - no school
- **Oct 9 Come Read With Me for Grade 1 Families at 8:30 am in the Library - postponed to next year**
- Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day - no school
- Oct 14 Live Theatre Performance at Rayleigh
- Oct 22 Student Photo Retakes at Rayleigh
- Oct 24 Pro-D - no school for students
- Oct 29 Point of Contact #1 Classroom Connections
- Nov 10 Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day - no school
- Dec 1 Pro-D - no school for students
- Dec 19 Last Day before Winter Break
- [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 #1 Classroom Connections

On Wednesday, Oct 29th, our teachers will be holding Classroom Connections. This is an opportunity to connect with your child's teacher and be updated on your child's progress this year. Please watch for more information coming directly from your child's teacher.

School Fees

This is a reminder that school fees are due by October 3rd. If your family needs financial support with paying school fees, please contact the school office.

Open Parachute Learning Moment

Is it ever a challenge getting your child out the door for school in the morning? Would you like your child to help out more at home? This month's Open Parachute Learning Moment addresses these areas and more. We hope that this 5 minute read will give some ideas that will work for your family. [How to Support Your Elementary Child at School](#) article.



Emergency Preparedness Drills

During the month of September, we held a fire drill and a lockdown practice. We have two fire drills and an Earthquake drill planned for October. Each year, we need to hold six fire drills, two lockdown practices and an Earthquake drill. If your child talks to you about these drills, please reassure them that the practices are to ensure their safety in an emergency.

Student Health

It is the time of year when coughs, colds and flus tend to arrive. Sometimes it is difficult to know if you should send your child to school or not. [Is Your Child Too Sick For School?](#) is an Interior Health handout that may be helpful when you are deciding how to approach the next day at school.

Criminal Record Checks for Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who has worked through the process of completing Criminal Record Checks. All volunteers who wish to be involved in field trips and other school based activities are required to submit a criminal record check. Once completed, criminal record checks are valid for three years within SD 73 schools. Criminal Record Checks must be completed through the [online Criminal Record Check](#) Review program as the RCMP no longer offers an in-person option. For the sake of streamlining information, the Criminal Record Checks for Heffley Creek and Rayleigh Elementary are all handled through the Rayleigh Elementary School website and can be used for both schools (if your child has older siblings and/or moves there in Grade 4). We encourage anyone interested in volunteering to proactively complete this process as soon as possible.

Early Literacy Screening

Beginning this fall, all BC school districts will implement early literacy screening in Kindergarten, expanding to Grades 1–3 in future years. These brief classroom checks help teachers understand where students are in their reading journey and provide extra support when needed. While not diagnostic, they help guide instruction and track progress. For a complete communication from the Minister of Education, see the linked [letter](#).

PAC News

If you are looking to connect with the Heffley Creek PAC, feel free to email: pac.heffleycreek@gmail.com

The Heffley Creek PAC will have the next meeting on October 16th at 9:00 am in the staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend. Here are the [minutes](#) from the Sept 25th meeting.

The next PAC Hot Lunch day will be October 10th and will be spaghetti with veggies and garlic bread.

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.



Community News & Opportunities

SD73 Indigenous Family BBQ – We will be hosting an SD73 Indigenous Family BBQ at the Henry Grube on October 7 from 4pm to 7pm. There will be cultural activities, BBQ and prizes.

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We Welcome You All to the
SD73 Indigenous Family BBQ
DATE: Tuesday, October 7
TIME: 4:00PM - 7:00PM
LOCATION: 245 Kitchener Crescent (Henry Grube Education Centre Outdoor Field)

DOOR PRIZES

Enjoy a free Hot dog, bag of chips, a treat & a drink

Storytelling, Indigenous Games, community resources and more!

Encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair due to limited chairs available