



Rayleigh Elementary School

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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?" or "What do you think they're talking about?"

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 1 Gr 1 Families Come Read With Me at 8:30 am
- Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day - no school
- Oct 14 Assembly Performance (Green Thumb Theatre)
- Oct 22 School Photos Retakes
- Oct 23 Assembly Performance (Earth Rangers)
- Oct 24 Pro-D - no school for students
- Nov 6 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 - 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**

Point of Contact #1 Classroom Connections

On Thursday, Nov 6th, 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.

Mrs. Hendry Retiring

After 35 years as a teacher (7+ in SD73), Mrs. Hendry is retiring. Congratulations! Her last day is Friday, October 31st and we want to wish her all the best as she shifts into retirement. The District has posted this teaching role and Jayden Murray will be taking over this position at the beginning of November for the remainder of the school year.

School Spirit Wear

The [online Spirit Wear store](#) closes at midnight on Sept 30th. If you would like to purchase School Spirit Wear, you still have a bit of time. We are encouraging all students and staff to wear School Spirit Wear or School Colours (purple & black) on Fridays as we celebrate our school community together. We are hopeful that the new Spirit Wear will arrive by about the first week of November.

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](#).

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. More information on how to move forward with this process can be found on our [website](#).

Athletics

Ms. Coxon & Ms. Hassall have guided our Grade 3-7 students through an exciting Cross Country Running season. There is one run left at Westsyde Centennial on Oct 8th. More information on all things sports is available on our [website](#). Thank you Ms. Coxon & Ms. Hassall for making this season happen!

Volleyball season is quickly approaching and based on student interest, we will have two Girls teams and one Boys team. The first games of the season are anticipated to happen on October 21st. Here is a link to the [overarching practice schedule](#) for volleyball.

The Elementary Sports Council continues to strongly encourage schools to have Grade 4 students participate in sports within a Drop-in/Intramural format instead of a Tier 3 Level of play. Drop-in/Intramurals play allows for more game time for students without the added pressures on schools of hosting games. At Rayleigh, we are planning to hold two lunch hours per week for Grade 4 students to receive skill development practice from staff & Grade 6/7 leaders and then play games of volleyball.

Lunch Hour Supervisors

We have almost filled our Lunch Hour Supervision team roster, but we have a couple of spots that remain open. We are still in need of a second Lunch Hour Supervisor on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. If you are interested, please connect with Mrs. Sandra Maskell by contacting the office or by email (smaskell@sd73.bc.ca) and she will walk you through the process of joining our supervision team.

Terry Fox Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we made a donation of \$722.30. Your support is appreciated!

Roots of Empathy

We are excited to have two classes participating in the Roots of Empathy program this year. This evidence-based classroom program involves an infant, parent and volunteer facilitator visiting a classroom nine times over the school year while students observe the baby's development and learn about the baby's feelings and intentions. This approach to developing Emotional Literacy lays the foundation for empathy to develop. We are extremely thankful to the infants, parents and volunteer facilitators (Sarah Ryan & Kara Lemire).

PAC News

Join the PAC for Fall fun at the Halloween Dance and Treat Walk on Thursday, October 23rd. Entrance is by cash donation. Doors open at 5:30 pm and the Dance starts at 6:00 pm. Bring cash for the Concession and Treat Walk: \$2 for 3 turns.

Treat Walk Donation drop of times: Oct 23rd 8:00-8:30 am and 2:30-3:00 pm

Come join us for the next PAC Meeting Wednesday October 1st at 6:30pm in the Library Childminding in the Gym by Donation. The Rayleigh PAC Executive can be reached at rayleighpac@gmail.com



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Community News & Opportunities

SD73 Indigenous Family BBQ – SD73 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)



Storytelling, Indigenous Games, community resources and more!

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