# This week in The Raven's Nest



# École Royal Bay Secondary School

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# October 20-31, 2025

With gratitude and respect, we acknowledge that we live, learn, and work on the traditional territories of the SĆIÁNEW Nation and the Ləkwənən peoples of Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, specifically the Teechamista village site. We also recognize that our district's schools also sit on the traditional territories of the T'Sou-ke Nation and the Nuu-chah-nulth: Paa?čiid?atḥ (Pacheedaht) Nation, and that some are located on the traditional territories of the MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation.





Stay Updated Anytime, Anywhere!

# **DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

can now be found on the School Raven's APP under "Messages"

# **Calendar of Events**

Monday, Oct 27 GRAD Winter Formal Forms Handed Out

Tuesday Wednesday

Thursday Oct 23 GRAD Carneval—Galey Farms

Friday Oct 24 Provincial Pro- D no school

# What's inside!

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# From the ADMIN

Hello Students, Families, and Guardians,

The weather is changing and fall has arrived! Thank you to everyone who has been dropping their student off in the back parking lot or in other spaces - this helps us keep the front of the building a safe and accessible location for students and staff.

Thank you, also, to everyone who is helping their student get to school on time and ensuring they are in class until the end of the block - every moment of learning is important for student success, and students being in class from bell to bell helps to minimize distractions for both students and staff.

The first report card will be coming out on Friday, November 14 and Learning Conferences will take place on November 20, more information to come. In the meantime, please don't hesitate in reaching out to staff if you have any questions.

Thank you,

**ERBSS Admin Team** 

# **Attendance**

Regular attendance is crucial for student success, and we ask that students, families, and caregivers make a plan that has their student arriving on time. The welcome bell is at 8:55 and students should be in the building at that time; this will help students be in or close to their first class of the day for a 9am start.

The attendance reports are being sent out daily. The new system will not tell you which student in your household had a absent.

For the 2025/26 school year, secondary schools are now using MyEd BC exclusively to report student absences to the parent/guardian contact on file. We are no longer using the previous software.

The former outdated software system, while providing more detailed notifications, required complex technical fixes had become cost prohibitive. Given that this service pulled attendance data from MyEd, it essentially served as a "middle layer' to the same information. As a public school district, we have a responsibility to prioritize spending on classroom instruction and student supports. This change ensures resources stay focused on learning rather than duplicating information already available through MyEd.

With the new process, you will still receive a notification if your child(ren) is marked absent for one or more blocks. However, it will no longer specify which block(s) were missed. You can view detailed absence information in real time by logging into your MyEd Parent Portal.

We understand this adds a small extra step, and MyEd is an important tool all parents and guardians should be familiar with.

Please note that daily absence notifications are a courtesy service at the secondary level. Under the School Act, schools are only required to report attendance formally through progress reports and report cards. These daily notices are intended to support families in promoting regular attendance and student success.

If you need help accessing MyEd or logging in, we're happy to assist. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to keep communication efficient and our focus on supporting classrooms.

# Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meetings!

# What is a PAC?

Under the School Act, parents can share input through Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) — the official voice of parents at each school.

# PACs help:

- · Advise school staff and boards
- · Share information with parents
- · Support school activities
- · Discuss concerns and ideas

PACs reflect their communities and work to benefit all students. All parents and guardians of students at our school are members of the PAC and are encouraged to participate in PAC meetings and PAC hosted events!

Meetings will be held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons. All parents are welcome!

| Upcoming PAC meetings for 2025-26: |       |        |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| 2025:                              |       |        |
| Oct 1                              | Nov 5 | Dec 3  |
| <u>2026:</u>                       |       |        |
| Jan 7                              | Feb 4 | Mar 4  |
| Apr 1                              | May 6 | June 3 |
|                                    |       |        |

# 2025-26 PAC Executives!

President: Sahye Guandique Cummings Vice President: Kristen Manieri Treasurer: Melissa Da Silva Secretary: Tara Campbell SPEAC Rep: Allison Hyatt





PAC's Peninsula Co-op number 134056

# **Dry GRAD Carnival**

# ÉCOLE ROYAL BAY SECONDARY SCHOOL



# Carnival Volunteers Needed!



# SAVE THE DATE: Dry Grad Carnival May 23, 2026

We're excited to be organizing this year's Dry Grad carnival and would love to have ANY parents from ANY grade come and join us in making it a fun and memorable event for all the Grade 12s. Whether you can help with planning, setting up, running a booth, or cleanup, your support makes a big difference. If you're interested in lending a hand, please come to our first meeting—we'd be thrilled to have you on board!

# Meetings will be held at the **Leaning Commons at 7pm** on:

- October 14, 2025
- November 18, 2025
- January 13, 2026
- Feb 10, 2026

- March 10, 2026
- April 7 and April 21, 2026
- May 5, 2026

Hope to see you there!

# Questions? email nkaludjer@sd62.bc.ca

Dance Victoria & Hung Dance



Tickets through

DanceVictoria.com 250-386-6121

# from TAIWAN Present BIRDY

12-29 Pay Your Age Tickets (plus fees) Other ticket prices available



14-15 Nov. 7:30pm

Royal Theatre

VOS Musical Theatre



\$25/ticket
Thurs. 27 Nov.
7:30pm

McPherson Playhouse

Tickets through School Cash online avail. until 6 Nov.

Open to all students ages 10-19 and parent chaperones.

Broadway Across Canada - VANCOUVER



Thus. 19 March 2pm (**\$52/ticket** - balcony)

Sat. 28 March 2pm (**\$62/ticket** - balcony)

Queen Elizabeth Theatre Hamilton St., Vancouver

Tickets through Cash online available until 7 Nov.

Students must attend with an adult. Adult and students are responsible for their own transportation. Please email for any additional information.

Victoria Symphony Presents:



Film in Concert

Sat. 20 Dec. 7pm Sun. 21 Dec. 2:30pm

The Royal Theatre

Tickets through Cash online.

available online until 5 Dec.

Open to students, families, friends. If tickets requested exceeds the limit on School Cash online, please send an email. We can exceed the set limit.

# Canadian College of Performing Arts



# Blue Stockings

CCPA Performance Hall

Discount Code **STUDENT10** 11-14 December 2/7:30pm



Coming Up:

December: The Gift of the Nutcracker - BalletVictoria Christmas Carol - The Wonder Head's

January: Belle Spirale Contemporary Dance
The Lightning Thief - CCPA

February: Tosca - Pacific Opera Victoria Aterballetto - Dance Victoria

March: Rite of Spring & New Works - Ballet Victoria Back to the Future - Film & Victoria Symphony Gallim - Dance Victoria

April: Orpheus & Eurydice - Pacific Opera Victoria Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat - VOS NEWSIES - CCPA

May: Alice in Wonderland - Ballet Victoria Boca Tuyo - Dance Victoria

Four women fight for education, self-determination in an era of women's suffrage movement.



# **2026 GRAD Important Dates/Deadlines**

| DATES                | ITEM   |
|----------------------|--|
| October 23, 2025     | GRAD 2026 Carnevil (Galey Farms)                               |
| October 27, 2025     | Winter Formal Form Handed Out                                  |
| November 3, 2025     | Winter Formal Registration — OPENS                             |
| November 24, 2025    | Winter Formal Fee Due no later than this Date—LIMITED SPACE    |
| December 4, 2026     | Butchart Gardens   |
| December 11, 2025    | Winter Formal  |
| Jan 21 - Feb 1, 2026 | GRAD Photos  |
| January 16, 2026     | GRAD Ski Trip to Mt. Washington                                |
| February 12-13, 2026 | GRAD Photo Retakes   |
| February 9, 2026     | GRAD Comment & Ceremony Fee Form Handed Out                    |
| TBA                  | GRAD Bottle Drive  |
| February 20, 2026    | GRAD Comment & Ceremony Fee Due no later than this date        |
| TBA                  | Dry Grad Carnival Form Handed Out                              |
| February 20, 2026    | Valedictorian Nominations Packages Due by Noon                 |
| February 24, 2026    | Short List Announced for Valedictorian                         |
| TBA                  | Dry Grad Carnival Form and Payment Due no later than this date |
| March 4, 2026        | Submit Valedictorian Videos Due by Noon                        |
| March 12, 2026       | Online Voting for Valedictorian                                |
| March 13, 2026       | Valedictorian Announced  |
| March 30, 2026       | PROM Consent Form Handed Out                                   |
| May 23, 2025         | Dry GRAD Carnival  |
| May 25, 2026         | PROM Consent Form & Payment Due no later than this date        |
| May 26, 2026         | GRAD Rehearsals @UVic  |
| June 7, 2026         | GRAD Ceremony @UVic 11 & 3 pm                                  |
| June 11, 2026        | FRIMM GRAD Celebration @ Royal Bay                             |
| June 19, 2026        | PROM @Crystal Gardens  |



# **New QUITNOW Vaping Prevention Resources**

QuitNow has launched a new youth-focused resource

designed to support vaping prevention and promote healthier alternatives. This resource helps youth explore the reasons behind vaping and offers:

- Free support services tailored to young people
- Practical coping tools

Connections to population-specific community organizations for additional support

Additionally, QuitNow offers free presentations on their smoking and vaping prevention and cessation services. This includes one-on-one phone coaching, live chat support, and a wide range of educational resources. To learn more, please contact Beth Clark, Manager of Behavioural Coaching and Outreach at QuitNow, via email at clark@bclung.ca

# **Alternatives to Vaping**

## Curious about vaping? Consider the consequences...

Vaping harms your health, putting you at risk for nicotine addiction and exposing you to toxic chemicals. This resource highlights the risks of vaping and offers safer alternatives for a healthier life.

Scan to <u>learn more about</u> the harms of vaping

## Why do people vape?

People may have different reasons for vaping. Some people vape to help them quit cigarette-smoking, but this is not recommended for youth. For many others, it is used as a coping mechanism for stress and anxiety. It may feel like an easy fix, but the stress-reducing effects are temporary. In the long run, vaping can actually lead to increased anxiety and depression symptoms.

- · Nicotine, a chemical found in · Vaping can worsen anxiety and
- Vape liquids contain harmful

# Alternatives for a Healthy Life

Instead of vaping, try some of these wellness exercises

## Journalling

Write about your goals, feelings, things you are grateful for, and list healthy things you could do wher you're feeling stressed

# Self-care

- Box breathing Take a warm bath
- · Listen to music
- · Breathing exercises

Mindfulness activities

grounding exercises help quiet your mind and

increase feelings of calm

and self-compassion.

like meditation and







## **Cultural Wellness** Meditation

Participating in activities that connect you with your culture car benefit your wellbeing. Each culture has unique traditions and celebrations. If you are unsure about yours, talk to your family or connect with a local organization to learn more. Click here to get started on



# Free services to help when you need it



If you already vape or smoke and are thinking about quitting or cutting-back QuitNow BC can help. This is a free program to help you quit or reduce your nicotine use and understand what happens when you make this change. Their services include free Quit Coaches, tips and resources for quitting, and peer support.



Foundry offers free and confidential supports for young people ages 12 to 24 with nental health care, substance use services, physical & sexual healthcare, youth and family peer supports, and social services. Available online and in-person.

# Kids Help Phone Kids Help Phone is a 24/7 service which connects you with someone to speak about any issue, big or small. Text CONNECT to 686868 for SMS service in

English or French, or call 1-800-668-6868 to speak to a trained responder available in 100+ languages. They also have specific support services for Black Newcomer, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit youth. This service is confidential and open to all ages, but mainly for youth aged 5-25.

# Counselling

HelpStartsHere: the Government of BC's resource for mental health and addictions services across the province. Use this site to find counselling services, support groups and other help in your community

School counsellors: Most BC public middle and secondary schools offer free counselling for students. Talk to your school's administration team to find out what services are available to you.

Here2Talk: provides free confidential counselling and community referrals to all post-secondary students, domestic or international, enrolled in a BC institution











# **Population-Specific Resources**





Indigenous youth in Canada vape at significantly higher rates than non-Indigenous youth. Indigenous nmunities are leading powerful, culture-based efforts that support youth in coping with stress and strengthening well-being.





2SLGBTQIA+ youth are resilient and highly capable of prioritizing their health and well-being. Finding healthy strategies for coping with stress and anxiety are important factors in preventing the use of vaping





It is normal to feel stress and anxiety when moving to a new country. Newcomer and immigrant youth in Canada may face challenges related to language barriers, adjusting to a different culture and making new connections. Vaping may seem like a good way to cope with stress but there are healthier alternatives to dealing with these feelings.







Ethnically and racially diverse people who do not identify as Indigenous or as Immigrants may also wish to receive tailored mental wellness supports to prevent vaping. These diverse communities have created relevant programs designed to reduce barriers and meet their unique needs.









# Calling All Young Changemakers

ARE YOU UNDER 19 AND WORKING ON PROJECTS TO REDUCE HARM FROM SUBSTANCE USE?

Your work could be recognized with Island Health's Youth Harm Reduction Award and \$1,000 in prize money! This award celebrates youth who educate others, reduce stigma, share knowledge and help save lives.

APPLICATIONS OPEN MARCH 1, 2026







# Newsletter

# SD62 Career Education



Youth Work in Trades students Sam C, Josh H. and Ethan H. with teacher G. Treloar

# Upcoming Events

myBlueprint training session on October 21st.

Click here to register. myBlueprint

October is Marine Month! Register your class for careers and STEM education through the Canadian Marine Careers Foundation.

# Health X and ELC Day at Camosun College October 15th

Register students to learn more about dual credit opportunities through the South Island Partnership in these in demand career pathways.

# Camosun/SIP Counsellors Conference October 8th

Counsellors and Career Educators across the partnership are invited to attend and learn more about opportunities for students.

# October 2025

# HIGHLIGHT

# **Summer WEX Enhancement**

A huge THANK YOU to our summer WEX enahancment partners:

- · Charter Telecom
- · Summer Breeze Child Care
- Goldstream Volunteer Salmonid Enhancement Association
- CRE
- · People's Pharmacy Colwood
- Western Canada Fire Protection
- · City of View Royal
- · Sooke Fine Arts Society

# HIGHLIGHT

# Youth Work in Trades

Over 150 students in the <u>Youth Work</u> <u>in Trades</u> program

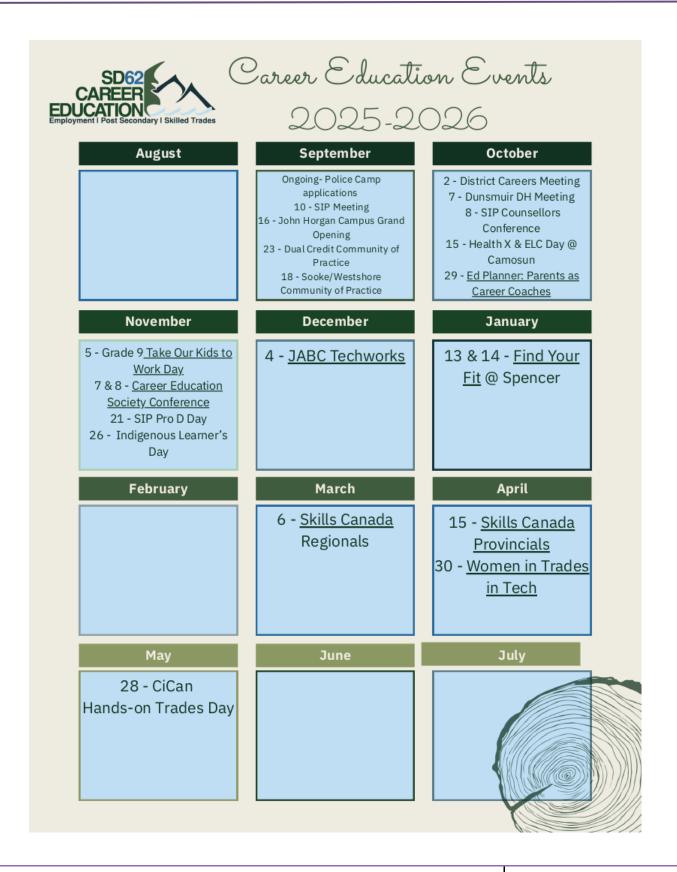
Do you know a student who has or is working in or around a trade? They can be eligible for:

- 16 credits
- \$1000 scholarship
- Registration with SkilledTradesBC
- Learn more

# HIGHLIGHT

# **Dual Credit in September**

- 3 students started F/T non-trades programs
- 127 students started a postsecondary course
- 12 students started F/T trades training
- Construction and Metal TASK programs resume at RBSS and EMCS



# **Careers Department**









- November 17th, 2025
- 1:30pm-3pm
- RBSS Aviary

Students in grade 10/11/12 will have the opportunity to visit with their classroom teachers.



postsecondarybc.ca





# **Careers Department**









# Raven's Athletics

# Coaching Opportunity: JR Boys Basketball At Royal Bay!

The Royal Bay Ravens Nest is looking for a Jr. Boys Basketball Coach for this season — and potentially beyond!

This is a great opportunity to join our growing basketball program and work with a committed group of student-athletes. The team practices twice a week and competes in one league game per week, with additional tournaments on select Fridays and Saturdays throughout the season.

If you're passionate about basketball, enjoy mentoring young athletes, and want to be part of the Royal Bay Ravens athletics community, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested applicants can contact the Athletics Department at Royal Bay Secondary for more details.

**GO RAVENS** 









Name:

# MYA WILLING

Sport:

# BASKETBALL

Grad Year:

2024

School:

UNBC

# Recruitement

I reached out to my coach first and sent him my highlight tape because since we never went to provincials, I knew I would probably never get recruited.

<u>Balancing Academics + Sport</u>

You just get it done because you have to. It's a lot of late nights and early mornings. I set aside time for the gym and go crazy on studying the rest of the day.

Moving Away From Home

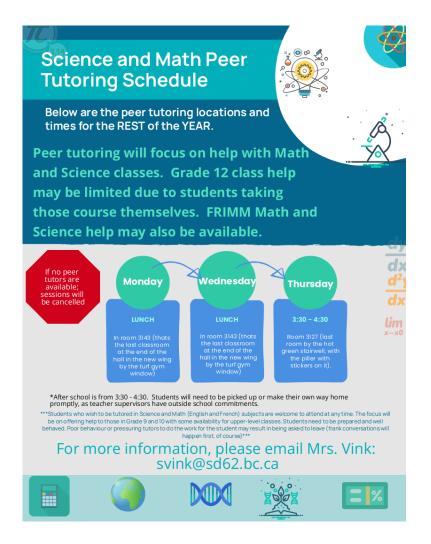
Moving away from home was exciting. The freedom is nice but I always make sure to keep in touch with my family.

# A Lesson From Royal Bay That Still Sticks With You

Royal Bay taught me how to balance school and sports, particularly in grade 12. I'm grateful that my teachers pushed me and forced me to figure it out while classes were free.

# Advice For High School Athletes

If you want to play post secondary you have to get in the gym/on the court/on the field consistently, even when you don't feel like it. Also, eat enough to heal your muscles and prevent injuries. Have fun with your teammates and enjoy the experience





# **Wellness Centre Schedule**

# **Royal Bay Wellness Centre**

Appointments call: 250-519-3580

Sept to Dec 2025

| Monday                                    | Discovery Counselling       |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Tuesday<br>(start Sept 23)                | Physician<br>9:30 to 2:00pm |
|   |                             |
| Wednesday                                 | Discovery Counselling       |
| Thursdays                                 | Public Health Nurse         |
| (2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> weeks) | 9:00-12:00pm                |
| Friday                                    | CLOSED                      |

Clients provided through 25 years of age

# **Physician Service:**

- ✓ Mental health & wellness
- ✓ Illness
- ✓ Sports Injury

# Public Health Nurse Service:

- ✓ Birth Control
- ✓ STI testing & treatment (all ages)
- ✓ Sexual decision making & relationships
- ✓ Pregnancy testing & options
- ✓ Healthy lifestyle

'Excellent care-for everyone, everywhere, every time'

Sept 12 2025





October 24

# mportant ð Remember

November 5 Take your Kids to Work Day—Grade 9 November 5 PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm November 7 University of Calgary Visit November 11 Remembrance Day—no school November 18 PAC Dry GRAD Meeting @7 PM November 20 Early Dismissal 3 Hrs—Learning Conferences November 21 NID—Pro-D—no school November 24-28 Career Education Week (BC Wide) December 3 PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm December 18 Winter Formal December 19 Santa Breakfast December 19 Last Day before Winter Break Dec 22- Jan 2 Winter Break January 5, 2026 School Reopens January 13, 2026 PAC Dry GRAD Meeting @7 PM January 23, 2026 PAC Bake Sale (10-1 PM) PAC Dry GRAD Meeting @7 PM February 10, 2026 NID - Provincial Pro- D no school February 13, 2026 Family Day—No School February 16, 2026 PAC Bake Sale (10-1 PM) March 6, 2026 March 10, 2026 PAC Dry GRAD Meeting @7 PM March 13, 2026 Last Day before Spring Break March 16-27, 2026 Spring Break—No School March 30, 2026 School Reopens April 3, 2026 Good Friday April 6, 2026 **Easter Monday** April 7, 2026 PAC Dry GRAD Meeting @7 PM April 21, 2026 PAC Dry GRAD Meeting @7 PM

NID - Provincial Pro- D no school

PAC Dry GRAD Meeting @7 PM

PAC Bake Sale (10-1 PM)

May 5, 2026

May 29, 2026