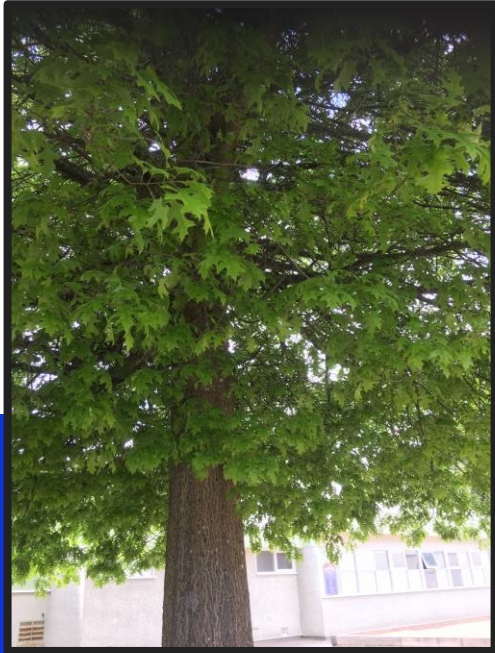


Welcome to Sangster!



We are a community of students, staff and parents who work together to create a nurturing and innovative educational setting, so that we will all be life-long learners and responsible citizens.



Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

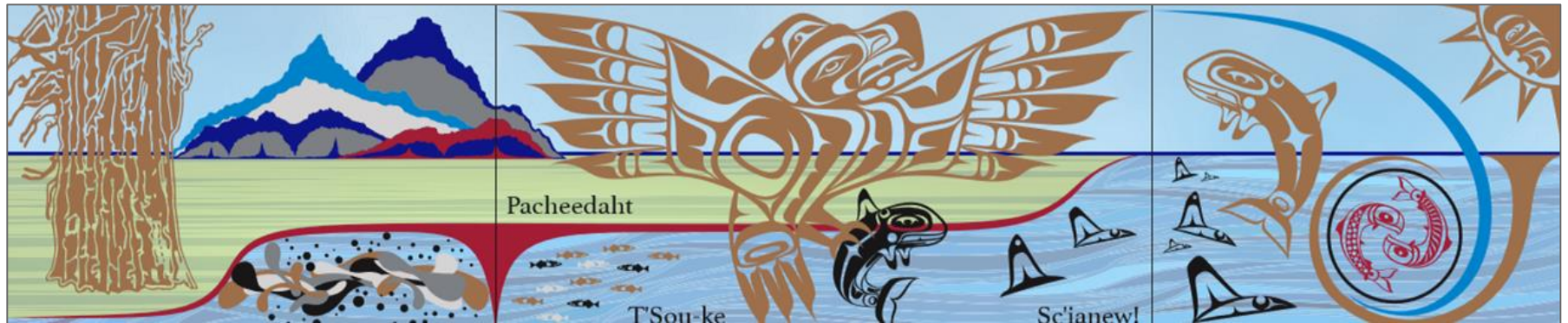


COAST SALISH MOON:
SXÁN, EL – THE BULLHEAD
MOON Credit to: Claxton,
E. Senior & Elliot, J. (1993).
The Saanich Year

Territory Acknowledgments honour and show respect to the nations who have lived, worked, and played in a location since time immemorial.

We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, specifically **Esquimalt Nation and Songhees Nation** on which the school is built; and the nations SD62 works with Beecher Bay, Scia'new Nation, T'Sou-ke Nation, and Nuu-chah-nulth Pacheedaht Nation. We thank them for sharing this beautiful land.

Hych'ka – Coast Salish “Thank You”



A message from your Administrators

Mrs. Musselwhite, Principal

Welcome to our school community at Sangster. We are excited to get to know our new students and families as you begin your school journey. Here, you will get a peek at our lovely site and some of the activities we experience in Kindergarten. We hope the following information will help you prepare for your new adventure at school.



Reading with Mrs. Musselwhite's niece and nephew, "the twins!"

A message from your Administrators

Meet our new Vice Principal, Mrs. Walker

Welcome to Kindergarten at Sangster! We are excited to meet you and your families and look forward to being a part of your learning journey.



With son, Kai, as Dogman during Literacy Week!



Kindergarten at Sangster



Since we were unable to have an orientation day in person this spring, we have created this slideshow for parents and guardians to share with their children who are starting kindergarten in September to introduce you to our school.

Sangster has a strong school community with eleven divisions from kindergarten to grade five, and two hundred fifty students located in Colwood.

Kindergarten classes will each have up to twenty students. Kindergarteners will make many new friends.

We are excited to meet you!

Our School

Three buildings make up our school. The main building includes the office, library, gym, music room and some classrooms.

The annex includes our kindergarten classes. Our nature kindergarten class is found in the modular.



Our Gym



This is our gym where students play games and do sports together. Sometimes, we have assemblies in the gym with the whole school.



Our Library



We have a large library, home to a large assortment of books. Our collection is organized by themes, series or authors. The students visit the library every week and can borrow a book to read at home. We love reading!
Ms. Molholm is our teacher- librarian.



Our Undercover Area and Garden



We have an undercover area connecting the main building and the annex. This is another great outdoor learning and playing space.

At the front, left side of our property, you will find our school garden.



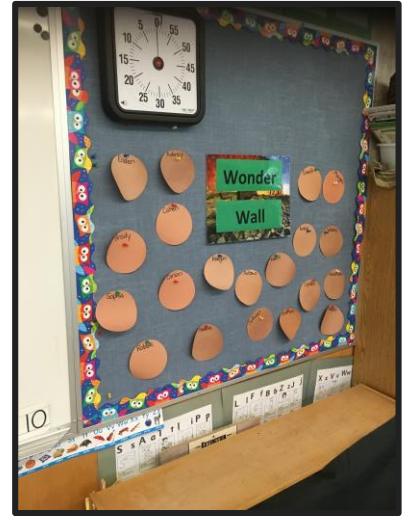
Our 'Backyard'

We have a very large outside space nestled beside the neighbouring forest. Our backyard includes two play structures and swing sets; one each for primary and intermediate.



A Kindergarten Classroom

A few samples from a typical Kindergarten classroom.



A Day in Kindergarten

We use visual schedules to help our students know what activities and lessons are coming up in the day. A typical school day starts in the classroom, there is a morning snack at about 10:00, then outside recess, more activities, lunch at about 11:55, a longer outside recess, quiet time after lunch and then more activities. Our Nature K class spends the morning in the forest. The first bell to start the day rings at 8:40. Students are dismissed at 2:53.

Students have music lessons twice a week, physical education classes twice a week, and library once a week.



Our Kindergarten Teachers

Say hello to:



Learning is Fun. Learning is Playful!



Here are some examples of the hands on learning that occurs in a kindergarten class. The BC Ministry of Education prescribes the kindergarten curriculum under the Early Learning and Play Today Frameworks.



More Playful Learning



Kindergarten curriculum is play-based learning - free play, inquiry play, collaborative play, playful learning, learning games and inclusive learning practices.

Outdoor Learning

We are fortunate to have a wonderful forest space at our school. Kindergarten students will spend some time learning outdoors. It would be advisable to keep extra rain boots or rain gear at school.



It is important your child comes to school each day prepared for the weather.

Preparing for Kindergarten

One way to help prepare your child for kindergarten is to allow them to be independent. Independence looks different for every child. If you have any concerns about your child being independent in the school please reach out to the school so we can ensure they get the support that they need.

Be patient with your child. Learning takes time! Yes, it would be quicker to put their shoes on for them, but starting today, encourage your child to try to do this for themselves. We like to use the phrase “You’ve got this!”



Talking to Your Child About Kindergarten



It is important to prepare your child for kindergarten. You will want to have conversations with your child about leaving them for the school day at our safe building. Reassure your child that our school is a safe place to be and that everyone is welcome. Let them know that they will go to school each weekday, and that you will pick them up at the end of the school day.



Before starting Kindergarten, have your child practice these skills:

- Putting on shoes, jackets, using zippers, buttons and velcro
- Lunch kit - opening and closing containers, putting their lunch kit into their backpack. You could practice this by going on a fun picnic or using their lunch kit at home.
- Scissors and glue - this is great fine motor practice
- The bathroom - close the door, use the toilet, flush, wash hands
- Identify their own shoes, jackets, backpack. Often when children start school they have a lot of new items and they don't recognize their own belongings! Please label your child's shoes, jackets, hoodies, backpack, water bottle and lunch kit.

Personal Belongings

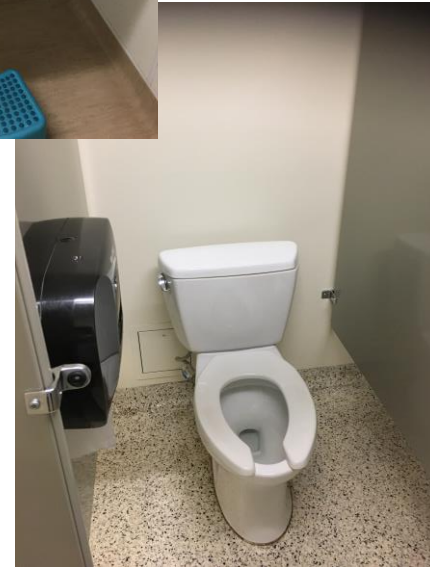
Each of the kindergarten classes at Sangster has a space where students can hang up their things and keep their shoes. The nature kindergarten class has 2 spots for indoor and outdoor gear. It is important that each child knows how to hang up their own jacket and backpack.



We ask that all students come with a pair of **velcro or slip on** inside shoes to keep at school, they will be changing their shoes at least 3 times a day.

School Bathrooms

Please ensure your child can use the bathroom by themselves well before school starts. This includes wiping, flushing and washing hands. Children should know to go in, choose a stall, close the door, use the toilet, wash their hands and then go back to join their class. In addition, nature kindergarten students should be able to take 'nature pees'.



Preparing for Kindergarten

Please consider the following information when you are developing habits to promote healthy sleeping, eating, physical activity and screen time habits.

<i>Canadian Pediatric Society and Canadian Sleep Foundation 2017</i>				
Age	Average Screen Use	Doctor Recommendations for Screens	Dr. Recs for Sleep	Dr. Recs for Physical Activity
0-2 years	2.5 hours/day	No screens, especially no TV, tablets, phones.	14 hours/day & night.	No restraints > 1 hour; 3 hours of movement.
3-5 years	4.5 hours/day	No more than 1-hour total screens/day.	12 hours/night.	No restraints > 1 hour; 3 hours of movement.
6-12 years	7.5 hours/day	No more than 2-hours total screens/day.	11 hours/night.	3 hours of movement with 1 hour vigorous.
13-18 years	9.5 hours/day	No more than 2-hours total screens/day.	10 hours/night.	2 hours of movement with 1 hour vigorous.



What Your Child Will Need At School

*Information on school supplies will come later



Backpack:

It only needs to carry a few things (lunch kit, reading books, occasional notice) and has to fit in a narrow cubby.



Change of clothes:

Pants, shirt, socks, underwear in a labelled Ziploc bag. This will stay at school for those little accidents.



Inside Shoes:

Your child needs a pair of runners to have as inside shoes. These will stay at school. Please make sure these are velcro. Slippers are not acceptable.



Snack and Lunch:

Looking for healthy options for your child to eat? Sandwiches, wraps, vegetables, fruit, yogurt, cheese and crackers are a few ideas. Send all necessary ice packs and cutlery, as well as, a labelled water bottle. Also keep in mind, the school will not heat up your child's food.

Morning Routine When Arriving At School

All elementary students wait outside in a class line-up for their teacher to greet them. When the teacher comes to lead the students to the classroom, the Kindergarten children look to their families for a happy goodbye. Students then walk to class and hang up their coats and change shoes. They are very proud of being able to complete this routine with less and less support.



End of Day Dismissal



Your child's teacher will let you know where dismissal is for their class. Children are dismissed one by one as their parent, caregiver, or older sibling arrives. Your child must wait in line for their turn to get dismissed to make sure that their teacher sees that they have been picked up. Please wait until your child is at the front of the line to call them over.

Your child's kindergarten teacher will ask you to provide a list of people who are allowed to pick up your child at the end of the day. It is also important to let your child's teacher know if they will be taking the bus home. Please be on time to prevent worried children.

Medical and Health



Your child's health and safety is very important to us. If your child has a medical condition or allergy please make sure the office is aware and has information on file.

If your child is ever required to take medication during school hours, a form must be completed and signed by your child's doctor. Contact the school office for more information on this process before the end of June.



Keeping in Contact & Legal Matters

Our website is <http://sangster.web.sd62.bc.ca/>

Our school phone number is 250-478-4441.

To report your child's absence please email sangster@sd62.bc.ca

Please make sure to always have your contact information up to date, including your home address, your email and emergency contact information.

If there are legal matters pertaining to your child's custody, please ensure you provide a copy to the school office in advance of school start.

Gradual Entry

Children will start kindergarten in September with a gradual entry, where they are invited to come in for shorter amounts of time over a few days then build up to a full kindergarten day.

Children will spend time engaged in a variety of activities during this time with our kindergarten teachers and other support personnel.

Class placement will occur after this time.

We will keep you posted on this year's Kindergarten gradual entry.



Questions?

Please contact our administration with your questions:

250-478-4441

Principal Margo Musselwhite

We are looking forward to meeting you and your child this Fall.