



Important Dates

- Dec 8: No School
- Dec 13: PAC Meeting
- Dec 21: RISE Assembly
- Dec 22: Newsletter
- Dec 23-Jan 7: Winter Break
- Jan 15, 16, & 17: Grad Photos
- Jan 25: Semester 1 Ends
- Jan 26: No School
- Jan 29: Semester 2 Begins

## Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we are already in December, and as we reflect on the past months, we are reminded of the incredible support and dedication of our school community.

We'd like to congratulate all of our student athletes, who have done us proud in their competitive seasons. This is a special year for our Senior Boys, as they are the first team to qualify for Provincials at the Sr. Boys level in Elkford since 2010, and the first time as Kootenay Champions as 2003. Way to go!

I would like to take this opportunity to announce our upcoming Spirit Days, which will bring a burst of excitement and fun to our school before the holiday break. The schedule for Spirit Week is as follows:

**PJ Day - December 11th: Students can wear their coziest pajamas to school, making it a comfortable and relaxed day for everyone.**

**Fairy Tale Character Day - December 12th: Let your imagination run wild as students dress up as their favorite fairy tale characters, bringing a touch of magic to our halls.**

**Formal Day - December 13th: Students will have the chance to showcase their best formal attire, adding a touch of elegance and sophistication to our school day.**

**Dress for Success Day - December 14th: This day is all about empowering our students to dress professionally, encouraging them to envision their future success.**

**Staff Dress Like Students Day - December 15th: Our amazing staff will step into their students' shoes, adopting their fashion choices for a day of role reversal.**

**Red/Green Day - December 20th: Let's ignite the holiday spirit by wearing red and green, fostering a sense of unity and festive cheer.**

**Ugly Sweater Day - December 21st: We'll wrap up Spirit Week with a blast, wearing our most outrageous and festive sweaters to celebrate the holiday season.**

We believe that Spirit Week is not only a time for students to have fun and express themselves creatively but also an opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate our Elkford spirit. We encourage you to support your child's participation in Spirit Week by helping them plan their outfits and join in on the fun.

As we move closer to the end of the calendar year and get closer to the midpoint of our school year, I would like to emphasize the importance of open and effective communication between parents, students, and the school. We appreciate your involvement in your child's education and encourage you to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Finally, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the incredible support and engagement of our school community. The year has truly flown by, and I am grateful to be a part of such a dedicated and caring community. Together, we can continue to foster a positive and enriching learning environment for our students.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I wish you and your family a joyful holiday season.

Warm regards,  
Thomas Skelton  
Principal, Elkford Secondary



No student should be absent from the school unless the parent has notified the school of this absence. This includes leaving at lunch. If a student is not going to return after lunch, parents should notify the school of this absence.

You can call the school at **250-865-4674**, use the **SchoolMessenger** app, or email the school at [ess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:ess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca) to report any absence.



# Staff Spotlight

Hello! My name is Rylee Rae Whitson, I was born and raised in Fernie. I graduated from Fernie Secondary School as the Valedictorian in 2018. It was after graduation when I knew I wanted to continue forward in my studies at the University of Lethbridge. I have completed my Bachelor of Education with a major in CTS: Business Focus and my Bachelor of Business Management with a major in Marketing. I am so excited to be at ESS and take on the role as the new P.E, Media Design and Computer Information Systems teacher. I cannot wait for the amazing year ahead. For me, as an educator, I want to teach students how to find their passion in life so they can become the best version they can be!



Hello E.S.S. students and families!

My name is Lianna, and I am a new EA here at E.S.S.

I made the journey to Elkford this summer from Brockville, a small city in Ontario. I previously worked at an international boarding school for grades 6-12. During my 4 years there, I was able to help our foreign students integrate into and experience life in Canada. This opportunity combined my love of cultures, languages, travel, and knowledge exchange. I was fortunate enough to witness the graduations of most of the students that had been there when I started, the last of which graduated this past school year. Fulfilling a long-time goal, I decided to move west, trading "River Life" for "Mountain Living". Elkford has been welcoming thus far and I am looking forward to the chance to get to know you all! 😊



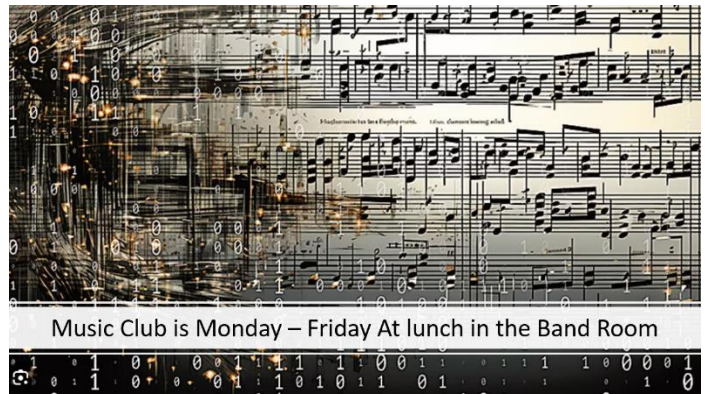


# Basketball Practice

**Monday and Wednesdays**  
 Bantam/Junior Girls 3:05-4:35  
 Senior Boys 7:00-8:20

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
 Junior Boys 3:05-4:35  
 Bantam Boys 4:35-6:05

**Thursdays at Lunch**  
 Senior Boys 11:40-12:20



Music Club is Monday – Friday At lunch in the Band Room



Magic: The Gathering Club Mondays @ lunch in rm. 116



# Chess Club

Thursdays at lunch in the Woods Shop



# Thrown for a Loop

Have the feeling that you want to learn a Yarn craft? Try Thrown for a Loop! Tuesdays at Lunch in the Library with Shannon



**RISE TO THE SUMMIT**

'Celtic Character Award' celebrates the culture of ESS, while supporting students in developing the character it takes to be successful and happy individuals at school and in the world.

**RESPECT** - ha-í-kaxuma-tí-tí

**INTEGRITY** - €makki

**STRENGTH** - €makqa

**EMPATHY** - haki-wi€ki-tin



Made with PosterMyWall.com




Check out our new Facebook page.

## Terry Fox update

Today was the day! If our school raised \$1000, Reginald Smith offered to shave his head and donate his hair for cancer research. His commitment to this cause is commendable!

Looking Good Reg!



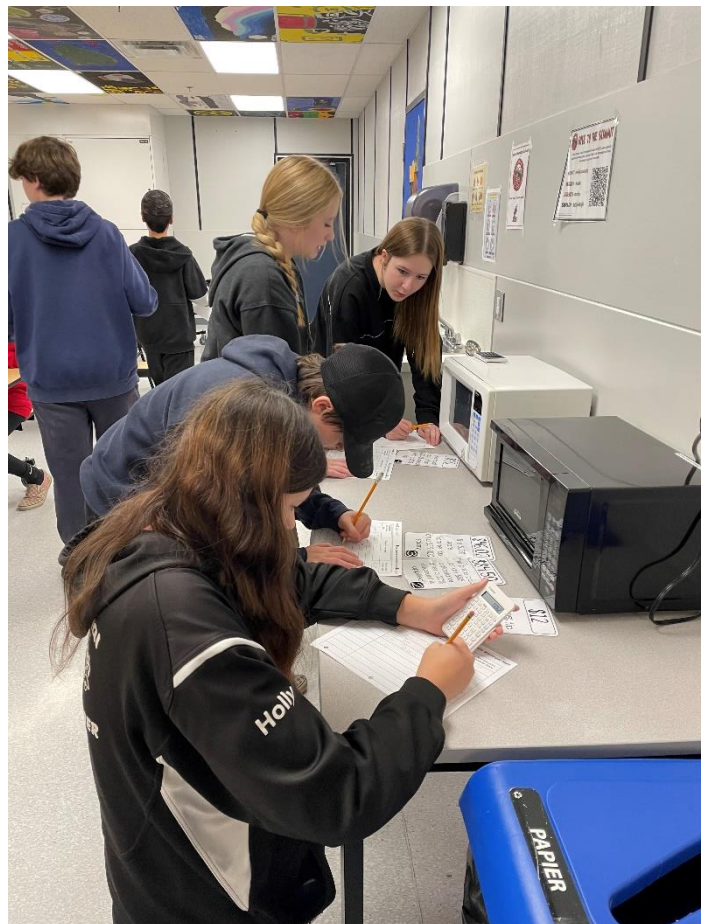
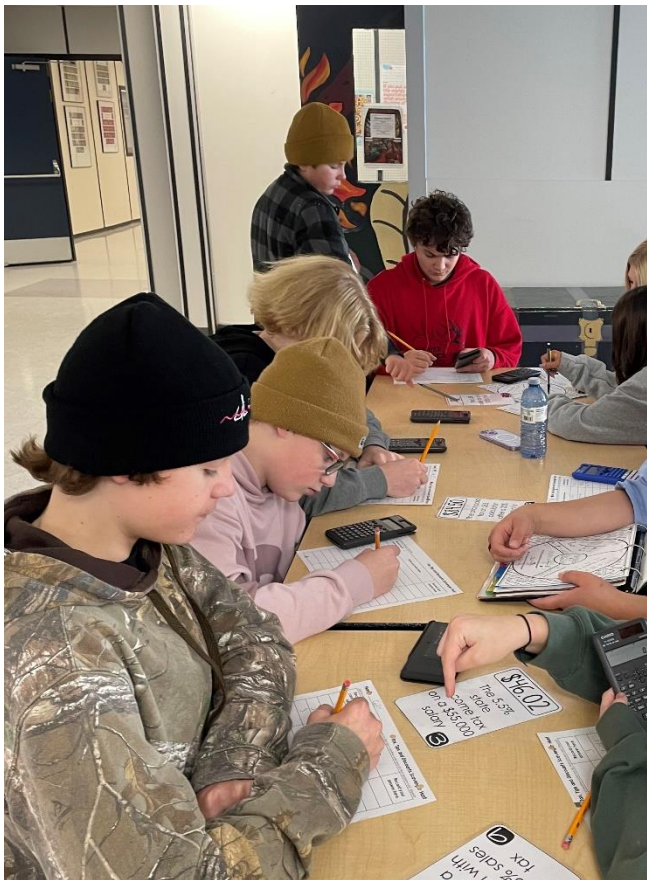
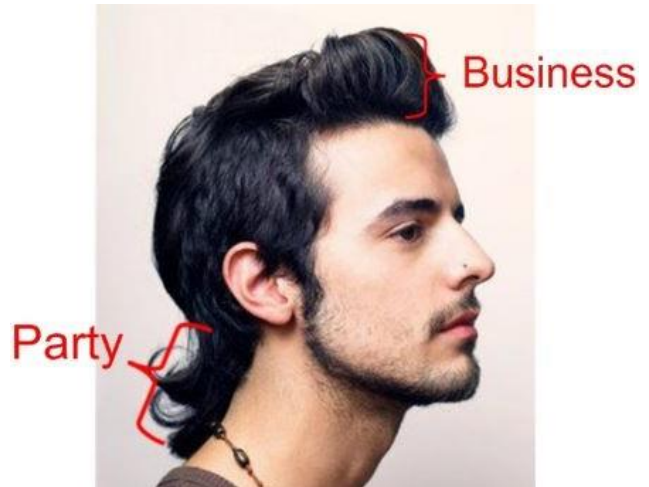
## Drama 8/9

This semester in Ms. Wurmlinger's Drama 8/9, the students have worked tirelessly to put together 2 different productions that were performed to Ms. Tsao's kindergarten class and (the other) Ms. Wurmlinger's grade 2 class! The students from RMES made the trek across the parking lot to be awesome audience members for the first play done by the high school students, and then they enjoyed it so much they came back for a second one! Huge shoutout to the students in grade 8 and 9 drama class who are breaking out of their comfort zones and putting in huge amounts of work to make these performances possible!



## Math 8

This month in Math 8 with Mrs. Culver, students have been learning about financial math that they will use in their everyday lives. Students have done various stations and games to determine discounts, taxes, and unit rates. We also took a close look at ratios and applied that knowledge to ranking pictures of some pretty sweet mullets.



## Careers 10

Is a class designed to prepare students for life after graduation. This includes a heavy focus on career opportunities. Students got an amazing opportunity to explore job opportunities at Teck through a tour of the Fording River mine site. Students explored multiple parts of the site including the mechanic shop, welding bays, and an overall site tour. Students got the chance to test their skills in a haul truck simulator. Many competed to see who could drive the truck the fastest and cause the most spectacular crashes. Finally, students received a very informative presentation about apprenticeships and post-secondary opportunities for jobs at Teck. It was a fantastic field trip that gave many of our students a better understanding of opportunities available to them in the Elk Valley. A huge thank you to those at Fording River for hosting our students and providing them with a wonderful experience (and cool hats)!



## November PE

It has been a busy month in the PE department. Students have been trying new activities, learning how to be safe in the outdoors as well as getting stronger. The PE department has also been enthusiastically supported by local groups.

Early in the month of November, students were able to go skating and curling. Elkford Curling Club supported the students with an introduction to curling, students learned how to throw their rocks, crash the house and land on the button. The volunteer coaches were Craig Robinson, Frank Trozzo, and Colleen Trozzo. Super grateful for the help and passion these volunteers shared with our students. Students also had the chance to go skating, where they moved with speed and grace with smiles for miles.

Later in the month, Avalanche Canada sent a certified instructor (Riccardo Tassuncao), to discuss avalanche safety, "The 5 Steps to Stay Safe," differing avalanche ratings according to avalanche.ca as well as the need to take the AST 1. Students then had the chance to work hands on with the backcountry essentials (shovel, probe, and transceiver) and were run through search scenarios with the gear. With the senior PE class, Riccardo also had time to discuss his careers. He recently became a ski guide with Sorcerer Lodge after 10 years as an Operator with Elkview mine (from haul truck to shovel). He discussed the certifications and the practicums needed to get full time work in the adventure tourism industry. Students were respectful and polite with this hands-on presentation and discussions.

Students have also been developing their physical strength and tools to help with mental health. Students have been working in the weight room, learning form and technique with compound movements, plyometrics, core strength exercises as well as hitting the heavy bag and high intensity interval training (HITT). Students have additionally been introduced to a few supportive mental health tools, such as calming and strength yoga, along with variable mindfulness exercises. This month focussed on physical strength and mental well being. Great hustle everyone.

Finally, this month has been filled with local support for the PE program. A huge thankyou to Kelsey Hills and Tony Heather for their EPIC boxing/fitness donation to the Elkford Secondary School PE program. This equipment enriches and helps our fitness program and supports the interests of many students as well as introduces a new activity to the school community.

A big thank you to the United Steel Workers \$2000 donation. Bears Paw Contracting (\$500) and the Elkford Secondary PAC (\$350) donation to the upcoming rock-climbing adventure in Cranbrook. With the financial support of all the local donors, our adventures from curling and skating to rock climbing, are at no cost for PE students this year. Thank you everyone for your hustle and support, Mr. Gulyas





# MyEd Family Portal

Report cards are coming soon. Now is a good time to familiarize yourself with the MyEd Family Portal. Since last year our school has done report cards electronically. Thus, cutting our paper waste and reducing the number of students that lose them on the way home. If you need any assistance, please feel free to contact us at the office 250-865-4674.

Click here for [Family Portal Information](#). Also check out the quick notes below.

## Initial Log In



We recommend to use a **Laptop** or **Desktop Computer** to initialize your account.

**Pop Ups** should be **enabled** for some features of the site to work properly.

Login to MYEDBC: <https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/asp/en/logon.do>

Family Portal Login ID: **sd5-firstinitiallastname** (all lower case)

1. Enter your **Login ID**
2. Enter your **Password** (Case Sensitive)
3. Click **Log On**

**1. Current Password** – enter the temporary password

**2. New Password** – enter the new user created password

**3. Confirm New Password** – enter the new user created password a second time

**Passwords are good for 90 days** to protect your child's data and you will be prompted to change your password.

*Passwords must meet the following criteria:*

- ✓ Minimum length is **8**
- ✓ At least one **number**
- ✓ At least one **capital letter**
- ✓ At least one **lowercase letter**
- ✓ At least one **symbol** that isn't a letter or number
- ✓ Cannot contain login name, first name, middle name, last name, date of birth, personal id, or only sequential letters or numbers.

**Security Preferences Update**

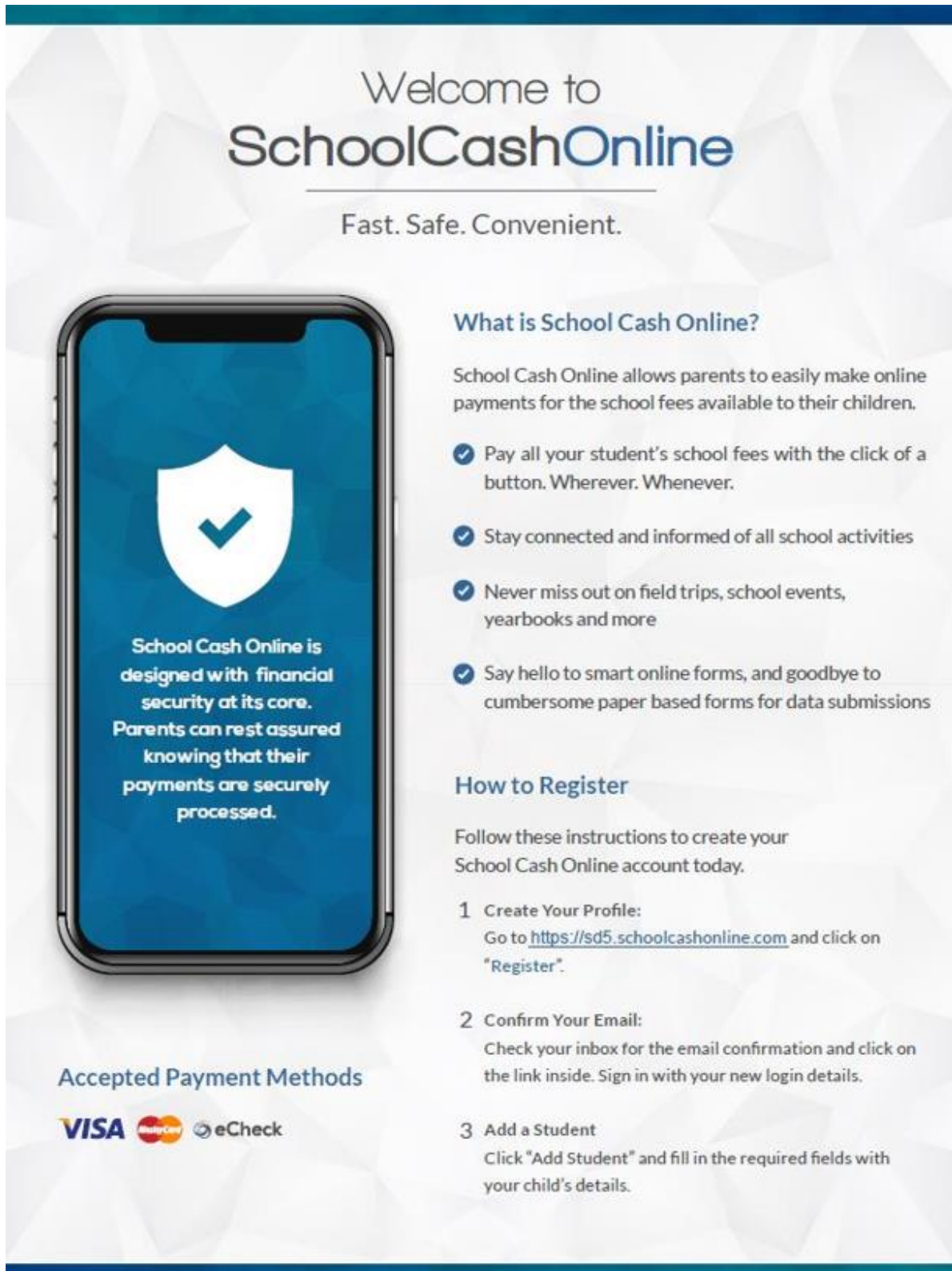
To enable self serve password recovery, please provide the following information

1. Enter your **Primary Email address**. This email address will be used to receive a new password if you forget your password.
2. Choose a **Security Question**
3. Enter your **Security Answer** then confirm your security answer. (Case Sensitive)
4. Click **Submit**

This will allow you to use the '**I forgot my password**' function on the logon page, should you need to reset your password.

# Payments


Making payments to the school has never been easier with SchoolCashOnline. Of course, you can still pay the old fashion way at the office with Check or Cash. Please see the directions below, to pay any outstanding school fees.



The banner features a blue and white geometric pattern background. At the top, it says "Welcome to SchoolCashOnline" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, it says "Fast. Safe. Convenient." in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. On the left side, there is a graphic of a smartphone displaying a blue screen with a white shield icon containing a blue checkmark. Below the shield, the text reads: "School Cash Online is designed with financial security at its core. Parents can rest assured knowing that their payments are securely processed." On the right side, there are three sections: "What is School Cash Online?" with a paragraph and a bulleted list of four benefits; "How to Register" with a paragraph and a three-step numbered list; and "Accepted Payment Methods" with logos for VISA, MasterCard, and eCheck.

## Welcome to SchoolCashOnline

Fast. Safe. Convenient.



School Cash Online is designed with financial security at its core. Parents can rest assured knowing that their payments are securely processed.

### What is School Cash Online?

School Cash Online allows parents to easily make online payments for the school fees available to their children.

- ✓ Pay all your student's school fees with the click of a button. Wherever. Whenever.
- ✓ Stay connected and informed of all school activities
- ✓ Never miss out on field trips, school events, yearbooks and more
- ✓ Say hello to smart online forms, and goodbye to cumbersome paper based forms for data submissions

### How to Register

Follow these instructions to create your School Cash Online account today.

- 1 Create Your Profile:**  
Go to <https://sd5.schoolcashionline.com> and click on "Register".
- 2 Confirm Your Email:**  
Check your inbox for the email confirmation and click on the link inside. Sign in with your new login details.
- 3 Add a Student**  
Click "Add Student" and fill in the required fields with your child's details.

### Accepted Payment Methods

VISA MasterCard eCheck

## SchoolMessenger / SafeArrival

### How to Report an Absence

#### SchoolMessenger SafeArrival

To report an absence to the school you may choose any of the following methods:

- call 1-833 566-1225
- Access the website  
<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>
- download App from Apple or Google Play

Please choose the reason for your child's absence from school: sick, appointment, family vacation, etc. **Don't forget to wait for confirmation # to ensure your child's absence has been recorded.**

### How to sign up for SMS

#### School Messenger SMS

Our district utilizes the School Messenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can join by sending a text message of "Yes" or "Y" to **978338**.

Please make sure you are utilizing the cellular number that the school has on record. The cellular phone number for SMS must match the contact information on file.

For more information and detailed instructions visit our support page on the School District Website

<http://www.sd5.bc.ca/studentparent/SchoolMessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

