

Friday, February 20, 2026

Feb 20, 2026 – Weekly Update

This week we celebrated 100 days at school. We're proud of all the learning, effort, and perseverance that have brought us to this milestone!

Here are some of the ways our division 24 students (and their families) represented this important number.



Looking Ahead

Feb 25th – Pink Shirt Day

Feb 27th – Deadline to submit family photo for “Who Makes Macaulay?” board

Information Items

Who Makes Macaulay?

Please continue to bring in a family photo for our bulletin board we now have until Feb 27th (extension). Please write one of your children's name and division

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on the back. A printer image works well and if you are a family of two homes then 2 images are welcome.

Personal and Cultural Identity involves the awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the factors that contribute to a healthy sense of oneself; it includes knowledge of one's family background, heritage(s), language(s), beliefs, and perspectives in a pluralistic society.



LEGO-STEM Club for K & Grade 1 Students

We're excited to announce our new K/1 LEGO-STEM Club!

Details:

Who: Teachers will select 1-2 students per K or Grade 1 class every week (max 2 per division)

When & Where: Thursdays at 12:10 pm in the library

Start Date: This week!

Get ready for some hands-on STEM fun with LEGO!



Visitor Sign-In Reminder

We are reminding families that all visitors, parents, and guests must report to the office upon arrival to sign in and sign out when leaving. Visitors will also be asked to wear a **VISITOR lanyard** while in the building. This helps us know who is in the school at all times.

If you are dropping off an item, it can be left at the office and we will contact the classroom. If you wish to bring the item directly to your child, are volunteering, presenting, or participating in activities, please remember to sign in before entering the school and sign out when you leave. Thank you for your cooperation!

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More community news

FREEDOM TO READ WEEK

February 22-28, 2026

Join us during
Freedom to Read Week
when Munro's Books is
donating 10%
of our profits to
local public schools!



 Library and Archives Canada
Bibliothèque et Archives Canada

 Canadian Urban Libraries Council
Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada

 / o l a
Ontario library association

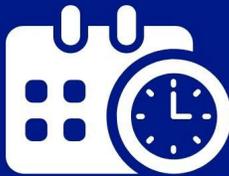
 Book and
Periodical
Council

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COMMUNITY *Kids Night*

Drop your kids off at Esquimalt Recreation Centre for a fun-filled night while you enjoy some well-deserved time off.



Fridays 6:30-9:30pm
Ages 6-11 years old



What's Included:

- Board games and crafts
- Movie and popcorn
- Supervised play in a safe, welcoming environment
- Kids are expected to have their own snacks/dinners
- Discounted rates for siblings!

Register now at reception! \$30/one kid \$10/sibling



**ESQUIMALT
PARKS + RECREATION**

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Math Mania!

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Tuesday, March 10th

École Macaulay
Elementary School
1010 Wychbury Avenue

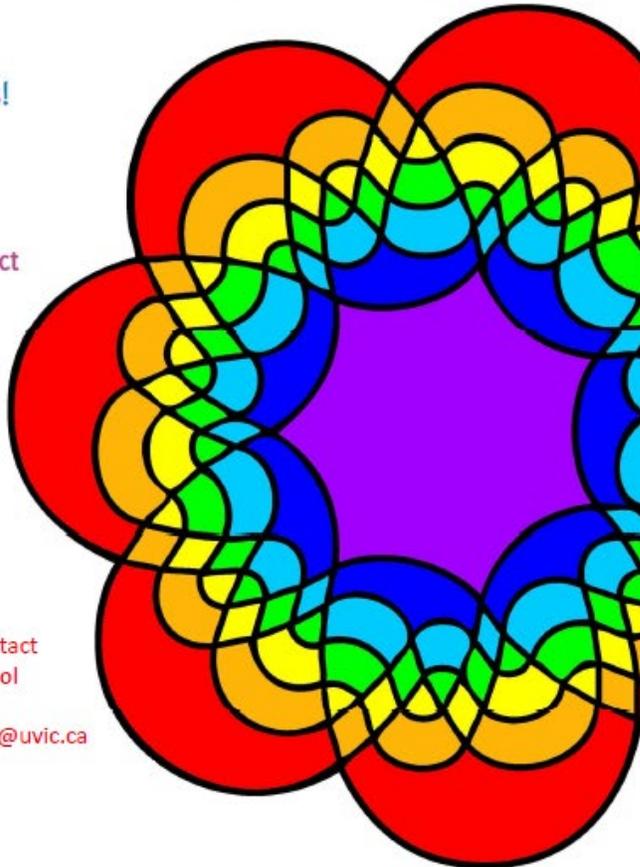
This Alternative Math Education event will present **fun** methods of teaching **math** and **computer science** concepts to children (and adults!) using **games** and **art**.

Lots of **hands-on activities!**

Including:

- A Sorting Network
- An Impossible Balancing Act
- Bubbles
- Mathematical Puzzles
- The Guessing Game
- Sudoku
- The Penny Game
- The Set Game
- And many more!

For more information please contact
École Macaulay Elementary School
at 250-385-3441 or
Kristina McKinnon at pimsadmin@uvic.ca



Presented by:



Pacific Institute *for the*
Mathematical Sciences

www.pims.math.ca

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To: Parents of students at École Macaulay Elementary School

École Macaulay Elementary School has invited the popular *Math Mania* program for an evening event on **Tuesday, March 10th** from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.

In order to hold the event, there will be about twenty volunteers consisting of students, faculty and staff from UVic also attending that evening.

We welcome all the children in the school (K thru 5) to our Math Mania event and we look forward to meeting you and your children at the school.

If you would like more information, please contact your school at 250-385-3441.

What is Math Mania?

Math Mania is a popular alternative math education event presented (since 1997) in the elementary schools of Greater Victoria, including the Saanich and Sooke School Districts. Math Mania events are held four or five times a year. The events are open to all students in the school but are particularly well suited to students in grades one to five.

The activities are designed to demonstrate to students - and their parents - fun ways of learning both math and computer science concepts.

Math Mania presents a variety of interactive demonstrations, puzzles, and games such as

- *Sorting Network,*
- *Get your Goat,*
- *The Penny Game,*
- *Set Game,*
- *Game of 24,*
- *Tower of Hanoi, and*
- *many other mathematical puzzles and paradoxes*

Math Mania is free and open to the public. The Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS) is pleased to sponsor the program as part of its education outreach programs.

The Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS) website has further information regarding this event. Please visit www.pims.math.ca/educational/math-mania.

Jane Butterfield, PIMS UVic Site Education Coordinator

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VCPAC SAFETY TOWNHALL

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

*ON-SITE CHILDMINDING AVAILABLE!
PIZZA & GAMES FOR THE KIDS.*

CREATING SAFE & CONNECTED SCHOOLS

- K-12 Safety Framework
- Data and Trauma-Informed Practices
- Shared Responsibility among Partners

COME SHARE YOUR STORIES & ASK QUESTIONS!

SPEAKERS

- **DEB WHITTEN**, SD61 Superintendent
- **SEAN POWELL**, SD61 Associate Superintendent
- **GEOFF JOHNSON**, consulting expert
- **CHRIS CLARKE**, GVTA Health and Safety Officer

 **Feb 26, 2026**
6:30-8:30PM

 **ESQUIMALT HIGH**
847 Colville Rd.

FREE TO REGISTER

<https://forms.gle/z3zU9VA64ZAWqz7R8>



Scan the QR code to register!

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School Safety in British Columbia

Information for Parents – 2026

Keeping students safe is a shared responsibility across schools, districts, families, and communities. British Columbia has strong policies and coordinated practices to make sure every child learns in a safe, caring, and inclusive environment.

What Schools Are Required to Do in BC

Safe, Caring & Inclusive Environments

BC's *Safe and Caring School Communities* policy requires all schools to create positive, respectful environments and have clear plans to prevent and respond to bullying, intimidation, harassment, and worrisome behaviours. [www2.gov.bc.ca]

Updated Safety Plans in Every District

All BC school districts maintain formal safety plans. These plans outline how schools work with community partners and police to respond to emergencies and safety concerns quickly and consistently. Schools also use a **3-step Behavioural & Digital Threat Assessment** model to respond early when behaviours may pose a risk. [www2.gov.bc.ca]

Emergency Preparedness Requirements

BC has strengthened emergency readiness in schools:

- **CPR & AED training for all Grade 10 students** (as part of PHE 10). Students learn basic lifesaving skills during regular class time. [alertfirstaid.com]
- **AEDs and Naloxone kits required** Secondary schools must have AEDs and naloxone by **Dec 2025**; elementary/middle schools by **Sept 2026**. [alertfirstaid.com]
- **Standard provincial Emergency Management Plans** Schools follow BC's Emergency Management Planning Guide, which covers preparedness, response, and recovery for events like earthquakes, fires, lockdowns, and severe weather.
- **Regular drills and practice** Schools use the **Incident Command System (ICS)** with first responders for coordinated responses.

How Families Can Support School Safety

You can help maintain a safe, caring school environment by:

- Reviewing your school's safety and conduct policies
- **Talking with your child** about respect, belonging, and reporting concerns
- Encouraging safe online behaviour
- Keeping contact information up to date
- Knowing your school's emergency procedures
- Creating or reviewing a family emergency plan

Together, We Help Keep Schools Safe

Every child's sense of safety and belonging is strengthened when schools and families work together. If you ever have concerns or questions about safety, reach out to your school administration—they are here to help.

Student Safety Cheat Sheet: A Guide for Parents

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Elementary School (K-5)

- **Commuting:** Practice the "Left-Right-Left" rule at crosswalks. Ensure backpacks weigh less than 10% of their body weight to prevent back strain.
- **Stranger Awareness:** Use "Check First" rules—always ask a parent or the person in charge before going anywhere or accepting anything from anyone.
- **Body Autonomy:** Teach kids they are the "boss of their body" and to identify "safe adults" at school they can turn to for help.
- **Home Prep:** Keep an updated emergency contact list at the school office. Use PHE Canada's Parent Checklist for after-school program safety.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

- **Digital Footprint:** Remind students that nothing is truly "deleted" online. Set a "device-free" bedroom rule at night to ensure rest and safety.
- **Social Media Privacy:** Regularly review privacy settings on apps like TikTok or Instagram. Turn off "Location Services" (geo-tagging) for camera and social apps.
- **Bullying:** Watch for withdrawal or sudden changes in school interest. Empower them to use the ERASE anonymous reporting tool if they witness or experience harassment.
- **Communication:** Have a secret family "code word" they can text if they need to be picked up from a situation where they feel uncomfortable.

High School (Grades 9-12)

- **Mental Health:** Check in daily using open-ended questions. Recognize that "stress" can sometimes mask deeper issues like anxiety or depression.
- **Safe Decisions:** Discuss the risks of substance use and "think before posting" to protect future college or job opportunities.
- **Independence & Planning:** Encourage them to set their own alarms and manage their schedules, but maintain an open door for when they feel overwhelmed.
- **Emergency Literacy:** Ensure they know school emergency protocols (Lockdown vs. Shelter in Place) and where to find crisis support resources.