



BEARS FAMILY BULLETIN

Dec. 15-Jan. 9, 2026

With gratitude and respect, we acknowledge that we live, learn, and work on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T'Sou-ke Nation, SCIANEW (Beecher Bay) Nation, and the Nuu-chah-nulth: Paaŋciid?ath (Pacheedaht) Nation. We also recognize that some of our schools are located on the traditional territories of the MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nation, and the Ləkʷəŋən peoples of Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.

Monday 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirit Week: Festive Twin Day • Sushi lunch (if you ordered) 	Monday Jan. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First day back to school
Tuesday 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festive Opposite Day • Subway lunch (if you ordered) • Grade 7's to movies • Last day for Food Bank donations • Learning Updates (Reports) live on MyEd by noon today 	Tuesday 6	
Wednesday 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festive Hat and Accessory Day • Grade 6's to movies • Belmont Band and Choir coming 	Wednesday 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gr. 7/8 Band practice 3:00-4:30
Thursday 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ugly Sweater Day • Library books due today 	Thursday 8	
Friday 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PJ Day • Pancake Breakfast for students and staff • Winter Assembly 	Friday 9	

Upcoming Dates:

January:

5 – school reopens

13-14 – Find Your Fit for Grade 8's (at Spencer)

PAC meeting – date TBD

26 – Belmont visits Grade 8's

Translate this page:

<https://translate.google.com>

DISTRICT OR COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Family Food Market:** Flourish Food Society (same organization that provides our free hot lunch) will be hosting a free Food Market at Spencer Middle School on Tuesday, Dec. 30 from 11am-1pm.



Dear Centre Mountain Lellum Families,

It's been a great couple of weeks at Centre Mountain Lellum. We had Grandma Clifton in teaching drumming songs to many classes, the Gr. 8 basketball players narrowly beat the staff at a game – the final score was 30-29! The Food Bank donations are piling up; thank you to all those who are giving so generously to support our community.

We're looking forward to a fun last week before the holidays. Leadership students have planned a Spirit Week, we have Belmont Band and Choir playing and singing for us, and of course our annual Pancake Breakfast for students and staff on Friday. Pancakes will be delivered to all classes during 1st block on Friday. We will follow this with a Winter Assembly where we'll have some students sharing aspects of celebrations and traditions from their cultures.

However you and your family will be spending the holidays, we wish you a safe, relaxing and joyful time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming the students back on January 5.

SCHOOL NEWS:

Term 1 Reports: Written Learning Updates are completed and will go live on MyEd on Tuesday, Dec. 16. If you have any questions

- **Edward Milne Task Program:** Please see attached posters for some super cool metal projects coming out of the EMCS Metal TASK program (dual credit trades program with Camosun College).
- Check out the latest news from **West Shore Parks & Recreation!**
<https://www.wspr.ca/discover-our-communities/news-notice/rec-report-newsletter-december-2025january-2026>
- **Victoria Youth Empowerment Society:** The Youth Wellness Program offers activities for youth aged 13-19 to build community and confidence. The activities usually take place in their Connections Space at 533 Yates St., but they will also offer outings in the community. *See attached for details*
- **Safer Schools Together:** Does your child use text messaging, TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Discord, WhatsApp, gaming chats, or any device that connects online—or will they be soon? If so, this session is designed for YOU.

Think about it this way: You would never hand your child the keys to a car without studying the rules of the road. Using a digital device is no different. The risks are real, and misuse can create long-lasting emotional, social, and even criminal consequences.

Join "Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying & Sextortion." These sessions are led by North American experts who have seen every type of cyberbullying and sextortion case. Sessions are free, occur online, and are open to all.

Upcoming dates:

- Dec 10, 2025
- Feb 18, 2026
- Apr 8, 2026
- June 10, 2026

Register:

https://urldefense.com/v3/https://pages.safer-schoolstogether.com/erase-establishing-family-practices-for-safeguarding-against-cyberbullying-and-sex-tortion?fbclid=IwY2xjawOSuZJleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETF5SkpPdXFNNmJJQzRnOERDc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHpSn0DtqDvz31NkPfl8YldbPY-rvV-vLf9arZe03RYi-JEeLhhtClw5iYwBK_aem_REYrVQ4DVLsBxkc3g1_i-zA_!!AqQTiOZIHw!49GNoJa6OqpDCxhSLOJIW-WLCmo-

about the content of the reports, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Thank you for Board Game Donations!: We received many donations of gently used board games and had our first ping pong and board game lunch time open on a rainy day last week. We will continue this through the winter months.

Holiday Food Hampers: We still have some food hampers available if you would like one. The hampers are ready for pick up. Please reach out to Vice-Principal, Michaela Mistal, at mmistal@sd62.bc.ca if you would like a hamper for your family. If pick up is a barrier, please let us know and we'll be sure to get it to you.

PAC Fundraisers: Thank you for supporting the fundraising efforts of our hard-working PAC. All the money raised comes back to support our school and students. You can follow them on Facebook for more up to date information at: Centre Mountain Lellum PAC.

School Goals: Each year our school sets and reviews our school goals based on what we are seeing and hearing from our students. This year, our 3 goals are:

- 1) *Foster a safe, welcoming, and engaging learning environment where all students feel valued, connected, and experience a strong sense of belonging.*
- 2) *Strengthen students' number sense (starting with a focus on mastering multiplication/division facts).*
- 3) *Strengthen students' reading comprehension.*

Please don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your family's digital safety practices, and feel empowered, not overwhelmed by the online world children and youth navigate every day.

- **Homestay Family Needed:** For 1 female student from Mexico (age 14), grade 8, **arriving Sunday, January 25, 2026 (departing June 30, 2026)**
The student's interests include swimming and outdoor activities. The ideal Homestay family will have children close in age (middle school age preferred), and have time to do activities with the student, and include them in family life in general.

Homestay settings must provide students with:

- a clean, safe, and well-organized living environment.
- a private bedroom (with a window large enough for escape), and which includes a comfortable bed, study table/desk, chest of drawers, closet/armoire, and desk lamp.
- Wi-Fi access for students to use.
- Access to in-home laundry facilities.

Homestay families must provide students with:

- an English-speaking home environment
- three substantial meals each day plus nutritious snacks.
- help arranging reasonable transportation such as car-pooling for extracurricular activities students might participate in and including transportation to/from ISP Activities/Trips (local drop off/pick up = Belmont for Westshore families).
- airport (YYJ) or ferry (Swartz Bay) pick up upon arrival and drop off at departure.
- opportunities to participate in family activities and events/holiday celebrations.
- support for students' interests in cultural, athletic, and community activities.
- guidance and support reasonable to expect of adults who are assuming responsibility for the care of a young person who is far from their own family.

Families receive a monthly stipend for hosting, to offset the costs associated with hosting a student.

[Click here to apply for SD62 Homestay Program](#)

******Please be sure to complete your CRC**

application(s) (instructions and code are at the end of the Homestay application). The Homestay Coordinator cannot proceed with your application until we receive a valid CRC for all adults over the age of 19 living in the Homestay. ***

When an application is accepted, it does not a guarantee a student placement. Any questions can be directed to homestay@sd62.bc.ca

- **Westshore English Corner:** Join to practice English speaking in a safe and friendly environment. Over 70 topics such as communication, laughter, community, and service. Three locations and times in the Westshore, including our school on Monday evenings.



- **Westshore Wolves Hockey:** inviting all Elementary and Middle school students of the Sooke School District to attend a game for FREE, as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult (note 1 paying adult per 3 kids). They will be offering these events: **January 7, 2026**
- **Family Smart Resources** – see link to register for events: <https://familysmart.ca/monthly-events/>
- **Ministry of Education & Child Care:** Substance Use Prevention Series (online) for parents, guardians, caregivers. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/erase/documents/mental-health-wellness/substance-use-prevention-series.pdf>