



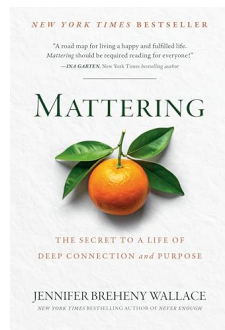
Rayleigh Elementary School

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October 2026 Newsletter

Helping Kids Know They Matter

As a new school year shifts into higher gear, now is a perfect moment for us to recalibrate and sharpen our intentionality in our approach to guiding students SEL growth. Our staff spent time on the Sept 21st Pro-D day reflecting on how each student in our school is doing and what we can do to help them to know that we see them, hear them and that they matter. One of the resources that is guiding this work is the book, "Mattering" by Jennifer Wallace. In short, Wallace outlines five elements in what she refers to as the "Mattering Core". These five essential components build an individual's internal sense of worth:



1. **Recognition:** Having your presence and effort actively noticed and acknowledged by others.
2. **Reliance:** Knowing that others legitimately depend on you for help, advice, or support.
3. **Importance:** Feeling prioritized in key relationships rather than treated as an afterthought.
4. **Ego Extension:** Having people in your life who are genuinely invested in your well-being, sharing in your joy and holding your pain.
5. **Attunement:** Being deeply understood and meaningfully responded to when you express thoughts or emotions.

As our staff have reflected on this, we are seeing the powerful impact on students and adults when it comes to helping people in our lives know that they matter. We welcome families to join us in this important work. Thanks for being a part of our school community.

School Spirit Wear

The [online Spirit Wear](#) store closes at midnight on Sept 30th. If you would like to purchase School Spirit Wear, you still have a bit of time. We are encouraging all students and staff to wear School Spirit Wear or School Colours (purple & black) on Fridays as we celebrate our school community together. We are hopeful that the new Spirit Wear will arrive by about the first week of November.

Upcoming Events & Dates

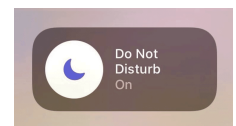
- Oct 2 Gr 1 Come Read With Me Family Training - 8:30-10:30 am in the Library
- Oct 12 Thanksgiving Day - no school
- Oct 14 PAC Meeting at 6:30 pm in the Library
- Oct 15 Student Photo Retakes in am
- Oct 23 Pro-D Day - no school for students
- Oct 30 PAC Halloween Dance at 6:00 pm
- Nov 4 Point of Contact #1 Classroom Connections
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day - no school
- Nov 30 Pro-D Day - no school for students
- Dec 11 Term 1 Learning Updates published
- Dec 18 Last Day before Winter Break
- Jan 4 First Day back from Winter Break
- [SD #73 School Calendar for 2026/2027](#)
- [SD #73 School Calendar for 2027/2028](#)

Early Literacy Screening

"Beginning this year, all public schools from Kindergarten to Grade 3 will use screening tools to help teachers identify when students may benefit from additional instruction or early intervention." Please see more of the linked letter from the [Minister of Education](#) regarding early literacy screening.

Personal Digital Devices - Do Not Disturb

With the expansion of personal digital devices including smart watches, we are working hard to help students stay focused in class. Please ensure that any smart watches are in *Do Not Disturb* mode from 8:30 am - 2:34 pm each day.



Terry Fox Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we made a donation of \$919.20 toward cancer research. Way to go, Rayleigh!

School Photos

Please watch for proof packages coming home soon that will have a Portrait ID number and an Access Code. Both numbers are needed to order online at [my.lifetouch.ca](#). Instructions are on the proof package for families to follow and order online if you would like photos.

Learning Updates Overview

- **1st Point of Contact: Classroom Connections**
Various formats - Nov 4th - watch for communication coming from your child's teacher
- **2nd Point of Contact:** Written Learning Updates Published - Dec 11th
- **3rd Point of Contact:** Written Learning Updates - March 10th
- **4th Point of Contact:** Various formats - late April - early May - exact date to be determined
- **5th Point of Contact:** Summative Written Learning Updates Published - June 29th

Athletics

Ms. Coxon & Ms. Hassall have guided our Grade 3-7 students through an exciting Cross Country Running season. There is one run left at Westsyde Centennial on Oct 14th. More information on all things sports is available on our [website](#). Thank you Ms. Coxon & Ms. Hassall for making this season happen!

Volleyball season is quickly approaching and based on student interest, we will have two Girls teams and one Boys team. The first games of the season are anticipated to happen on October 20th. Here is a link to the [overarching practice schedule](#) for volleyball. Schedules will be shared once they are created by the Elementary Sports Council.

Grade 4 students will have the opportunity to participate in volleyball and basketball within a Drop-in/Intramural format this year.

Drop-in/Intramurals allow for more game time for students without the added pressures on schools of hosting games. Grade 4 students receive skill development practice from staff & Grade 6/7 leaders and then play games of volleyball.

Come Read With Me Volunteers

If you are willing to volunteer to read with students for an hour or two a week, please consider joining our Come Read With Me group. You need to have a Criminal Record Check on file with the school and a willingness to patiently work with students. If this is something you would like to know more about, please email Kara Lemire (Come Read With Me volunteer coordinator) at kara.bottos@gmail.com

Criminal Record Checks for Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who has worked through the process of completing Criminal Record Checks. As we prepare for upcoming classroom field trips and in-class volunteer opportunities, please ensure that you have a Criminal Record Check on file at the school. More information on how to move forward with this process can be found on our [website](#).

Student Health

It is the time of year when coughs, colds and flus tend to arrive. Sometimes it is difficult to know if you should send your child to school or not.

[Is Your Child Too Sick For School?](#) is an Interior Health handout that may be helpful when you are deciding how to approach the next day at school.

PAC News

The next PAC meeting is on Wednesday, Oct. 14th at 6:30 pm in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Make sure that you regularly visit the [PAC info page](#) that provides a one stop shop for all things Rayleigh PAC related. The Rayleigh PAC Executive can also be reached at rayleighpac@gmail.com

Upcoming PAC Items:

- Hot Lunch orders are due Friday, Oct 2nd
[\[https://rayleighpac.hotlunches.net/?action=students-list\]](https://rayleighpac.hotlunches.net/?action=students-list) *help info on our live page
- Colibri fundraiser will start on Tuesday, Oct 6th [info about that will be shared on Monday]
- First Bottle Drive of the year is Saturday, October 17th [we will be parked along Cammeray Drive]
**bottles can be dropped off at the box on Mattoch-McKeague Rd if they're stacking up



The poster for the SD73 DPAC 2026 All-Candidates Trustee Forum features the SD73 logo at the top, with the tagline 'Stronger Together for SD73' and 'PARENTS • STUDENTS COMMUNITY • TOGETHER'. The main title is '2026 ALL-CANDIDATES TRUSTEE FORUM' with the subtitle 'OUR SCHOOLS • OUR COMMUNITY • OUR FUTURE'. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2026, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Henry Grube Education Centre (245 Kitchener Crescent, Kamloops, BC). It is moderated by Tim Petruk, Castanet Kamloops News Director. The forum format includes four neutral, non-partisan questions from the moderator, timed responses from each candidate (approximately 1.5 to 2 minutes each), and a 40-50 minute Q&A session. A 'RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE' section states that personal attacks, put-downs, vulgarity, or disrespectful speech will not be tolerated. The poster also includes the slogan 'Your Voice Matters!' and the themes 'PUBLIC EDUCATION • THRIVING COMMUNITIES • BRIGHTER TOMORROWS'. Contact information for Manu Sharma (Member at Large, SD73 DPAC) is provided at the bottom: 778-471-8535.