

Good afternoon, Royston El community!

Here is your week ahead for Jan 12 - 16, 2026.



And for those wanting the "quick hits" for the upcoming week:

Happy New Year!

School News

- **Basketball news-** Royston will have one team each for the grade 5/6 boys and girls' leagues.
 - **Game Days - Mondays** 3:00-4:00pm (beginning Jan 26)
 - **Location – TBD**
 - **Drop-in practice sessions for all grade 5-6 students- Wednesday at 2nd recess**
 - **Drop-in practice sessions for all grade 3-4 students- Friday at 2nd recess**
- **Kindergarten Registration:** Comox Valley Schools will begin enrolling Kindergarten students starting on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**. To be eligible for enrolment in September 2026, a student **MUST** turn five (5) years of age by December 31, 2026.

To ensure you live in the Royston Elementary catchment area, check here: [School Locator](#)

- Please complete the form at this link: [School Registration](#)
- For registration to go forward, please attach the following to the registration form:
- Your child's birth certificate, any applicable immigration documents, and/or proof of Canadian citizenship. A current

Passport/Landed Immigrant documentation may be used instead of a birth certificate. A Health Care Card may not be used as proof of age.

- Proof of your residence address (a document such as your current year property tax receipt, current month rental receipt, or a purchase/rental agreement)
- Your child's Health Care Card – front and back.

Note: You must use a computer to register. It will not work on either a phone or tablet.

If you would like more information on other programs offered by the school district, you will find it here: [Kindergarten Registration](#)

To register for the school bus, the information can be found here: [Student Transportation](#)

PAC News

- **Next PAC Meeting - Wednesday Jan 14 at 6:30PM**
 - All parents are welcome! We offer free childcare.
- **Parent Workshop** - We are excited to announce our second parenting workshop in the series with Vice Principal and Social Emotional Learning expert, Char Siddon.
 - Topic: Internet Safety & Technology Tips
 - Date: Jan 28
 - Time: 6-8PM
 - Location: Royston El Library
 - RSVP here [Jan 28th -Royston Parent Workshop](#)

District News

Non-Instructional Day Scheduled for Friday, May 15

Comox Valley Schools is advising families and staff that a **Non-Instructional Day will take place on Friday, May 15, 2026**, following a decision of the Board of Education.

At the December Board meeting, the Board passed a motion confirming this Non-Instructional Day, which will be dedicated to **Indigenous learning for**

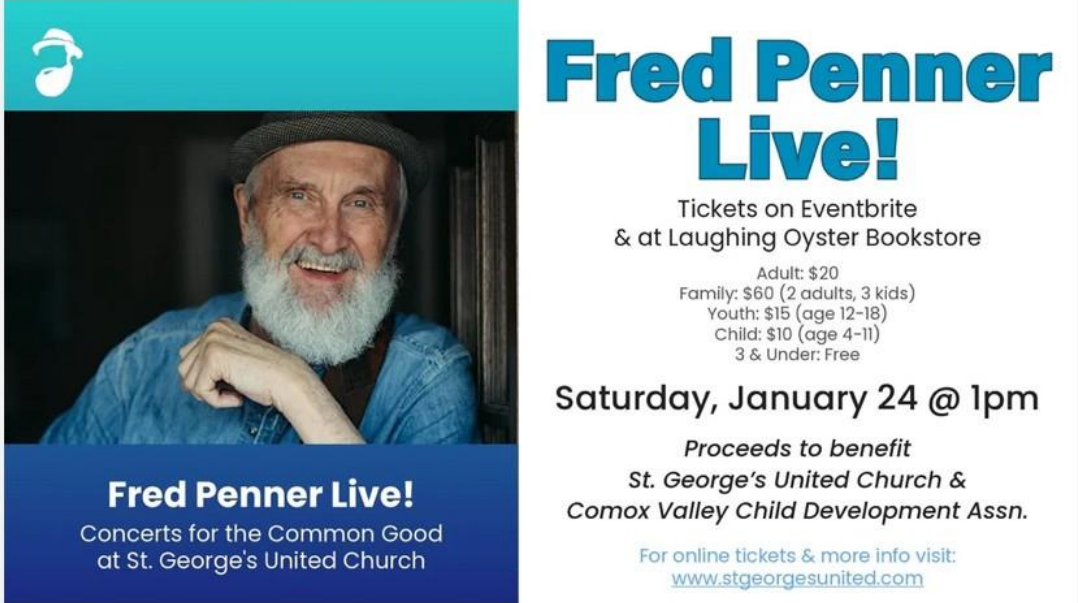
all staff. On this day, **students will not attend school**, and staff will participate in professional learning activities.

This Non-Instructional Day aligns with provincial requirements under the **School Calendar Regulation**, which requires all school districts in British Columbia to include at least one non-instructional day each year focused on Indigenous student achievement and learning. The day is intended to provide dedicated time for staff to deepen understanding of Indigenous histories, cultures, and perspectives, and to support ongoing Truth and Reconciliation efforts within public education.

This learning also aligns with the **Comox Valley Schools Strategic Plan**, including commitments related to equity, relationships, and Indigenous education.

The updated school calendar with the May 15 non-instructional day now added is here on the district website: [District Calendars - Comox Valley Schools](#)

Community News



The poster features a photograph of Fred Penner, an older man with a white beard and a blue shirt, smiling. The background is dark. The text is in white and blue. The top left has a teal header with a white logo. The main title 'Fred Penner Live!' is in large blue letters. Below it, the ticket information is listed in white. The date and time are in blue. The venue information is in white. The bottom right has the website URL in blue.

Fred Penner Live!
Concerts for the Common Good
at St. George's United Church

Fred Penner Live!

Tickets on Eventbrite
& at Laughing Oyster Bookstore

Adult: \$20
Family: \$60 (2 adults, 3 kids)
Youth: \$15 (age 12-18)
Child: \$10 (age 4-11)
3 & Under: Free

Saturday, January 24 @ 1pm

Proceeds to benefit
**St. George's United Church &
Comox Valley Child Development Assn.**

For online tickets & more info visit:
www.stgeorgesunited.com

Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning at Royston

A Note to Families: The information shared in this Social Emotional Learning Newsletter is offered in the spirit of support and care and is part of our Royston commitment to student well-being. While we aim to share helpful ideas and general strategies, this content is not intended to replace professional mental health care or individualized support. Our school team remains committed to supporting students within the school setting, and we value working in partnership with families to ensure children feel safe, supported, and cared for.

This month, our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) focus is on **perseverance** and in C.O.R.E Education, we are focusing on **critical thinking**, two essential skills that help children succeed in school, relationships, and life.

Perseverance is the ability to keep trying, even when something feels difficult or doesn't work the first time. Children who practice perseverance learn that mistakes are part of learning and that effort helps them grow.

How families can support perseverance at home:

- Praise effort, not just results (e.g., "You worked really hard on that!").
- Share stories about times you didn't succeed right away and what helped you keep going.
- Encourage your child to take short breaks when frustrated, then try again.

Critical thinking helps children ask questions, solve problems, and make thoughtful decisions. It involves analyzing information, considering different solutions, and reflecting on outcomes.

Ways to build critical thinking skills:

- Ask open-ended questions like, "What do you think would happen if...?"
- Encourage your child to explain their thinking, even if the answer isn't perfect.
- Let children make age-appropriate choices and talk through the results.

How Perseverance & Critical Thinking Work Together

When children face challenges, critical thinking helps them figure out *how* to solve a problem, while perseverance helps them keep going *until* they find a solution. Together, these skills build confidence, resilience, and independence.

Family Activity Ideas

- **Problem-Solving Night:** Work together on a puzzle, game, or building project. Talk about what strategies worked and what didn't.
- **“What Would You Do?” Conversations:** Discuss everyday situations and brainstorm multiple solutions.

Encouraging Words to Practice

- “Mistakes help our brains grow.”
- “What’s another way we could try?”

Thank you for partnering with us to support your child’s social and emotional growth.

Resources for Families

- Family Smart Peer mentors. They also have lots of workshops online and in person
[Family Peer Support - FamilySmart](#)
- This list through Pathways:
[Pathways | Parent Support Groups](#)
- Healthy Families Program through Comox Valley Services
[Healthy Families Program - Comox Valley Family Services Association](#)
- Child and Youth Mental Health clinicians can work with parents as well
[Child and Youth Mental Health Intake Clinics - Province of British Columbia](#)
- Supports through the Foundry for parents of children aged 12 and up
[Foundry Comox Valley | Courtenay BC | Facebook](#)



Lee McKillican and Char Siddon 😊

