

The Eagle Gazette

October 2025

South Kelowna Elementary
Phone: 250-870-5107
ske.sd23.bc.ca



Principal's Message



The picture to the left captures one of our newest students peering through a pretty fancy creation. Sometimes, as a parent, it can feel like you only get a glimpse of your child's days at school. You ask them "how was your day?" and as they get older, the answers get shorter and shorter.

Our intention with our Eagle Gazette is to provide parents and caregivers with a broader view on our daily occurrences. We hope you enjoy the peek into our shared learning, adventures, friendships, and stories. Throughout the year, we'll feature highlights from different classrooms, schoolwide events, and share community connections that may be interesting to you.

Your feedback is welcome; please contact me if you have an idea of something that would be great to feature in our monthly newsletter!

Sincerely, Ms. Lemon

Sharing Kindness Everyday!

Upcoming Dates

October 2	Photo Day
October 2	Parent/Teacher Interviews Early Dismissal @12:30
October 3	PJ and Hot Chocolate Day
October 3	Parent/Teacher Interviews Early Dismissal @12:30
October 9	Grade 6 Leadership Night
October 10	Implementation Day -NO SCHOOL
October 13	Thanksgiving -NO SCHOOL
October 14	PAC Meeting @ 7:00 pm
October 24	PRO-D Day - NO SCHOOL
October 27	Picture Retakes
October 31	Halloween Parade

Safety Drills

Each year, we conduct **6 fire drills** (3 in fall, 3 in spring), plus an **earthquake** and **lockdown drill** in the fall. These prepare students to respond safely in emergencies. **All visitors** present during drills will be included and accounted for.

BE SCENT AWARE
WE SHARE THE AIR



Taking a Dog Walk?

For the safety and comfort of all students, **dogs are not permitted on school property**. You're welcome to walk your leashed dog on the public sidewalks surrounding the school.

If your dog needs some off-leash time, please feel free to use the **city fields**, as permitted by posted signs.

Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe and respectful for everyone!



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, October 2nd and Friday, October 3rd. **Please note that we will have early dismissal at 12:30 PM on both days.** *Buses will be running as usual.*

You should have received an email from your child's teacher to book your preferred time. Please reach out to them directly with questions.

These conferences are a valuable opportunity to:

- Meet your child's teacher
- Discuss your child's academic progress and social-emotional development
- Share any important information about your child

We look forward to partnering with you to support your child's success!

ATTENTION: Parents, Students and Schools



Central Okanagan
Public Schools

Together We Learn

Central Okanagan Public Schools

is pleased to offer the "School Bus Stop" which is located on our website at www.sd23.bc.ca



School Bus Stop

Parents, students and schools can now sign up to receive email or text alerts when the school bus route is delayed.

To register for alerts and to view a complete list of bus routes displaying the current status, select the school bus icon on our website at www.sd23.bc.ca or go to the site directly at <https://schoolbusstop.sd23.bc.ca>

Our first priority is the safety and well-being of our students. Due to the varied reasons our school bus routes may be delayed or in extreme situations, cancelled, it is not practical for drivers or staff to personally phone all those affected. Safety is everyone's responsibility and we must all be diligent when staying up to date on the status of our school bus routes.

All school bus route cancellations and delays in excess of 10 minutes will be posted on the "School Bus Stop"

If you have signed up for the alerts, upon posting the delay, you will receive an email or text with the route delay, length of delay and reason for the delay.

You could also expect to see general alerts when weather conditions or an emergent situation arises regarding the bus route.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

6:00 AM—5:00 pm

250-870-5151

transportation@sd23.bc.ca

STAY INFORMED ON BUS ROUTE DELAYS—SIGN UP TODAY!



School Fees Reminder

A reminder that **school fees for the 2025/2026 school year were due on September 30** and can be paid online through **School Cash Online:**

 www.centralokanagan.schoolcashionline.com

Fee Breakdown:

- \$40 for student supplies
- \$10 for cultural activities
- Total: \$50 per child**

If you are experiencing financial hardship and need assistance with fees, please contact **Ms. Lemon** confidentially for support.





Attendance Reminders

Lates: Students must check in with **Ms. Angus in the office** to change an absence to a late, or an **automated call** will go out for an unexcused absence.

Leaving Early: Students must sign out at the office with **prior parental permission**. They cannot leave early without it.

School Messenger App: Please use the **School Messenger app** to report absences, late arrivals, or early pickups. It's the **official method** for all SD23 schools (K-12).

Note: Emails to teachers **do not** notify the office—parents must still use School Messenger.

Picking Up a Student Early?

Parents & caregivers must **check in at the office**.

Please **do not go directly to the classroom**—a staff member will bring your child to you.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Reminders & Updates



Pick-Up/Drop-Off Zones

- ✓ Park on the street or behind the school field.
- ✓ No bus lane 8:00-8:15 am and 2:00 - 2:45 pm.
- ✓ Give a great big hug!
- ✗ Use the staff parking lot at any time.

Important

Drop Off and Pick Up
Reminders



Student Illness

SKE has a communicable disease plan to help keep our school community healthy.

As cold and flu season approaches, please keep children home if they are unwell or showing symptoms. Some students have respiratory sensitivities, so even mild illnesses can have a greater impact. Please report absences using School Messenger.

Idle Free Zone



School Zones are **NO** idling zones. This includes the parking lot and nearby streets. Please help protect young lungs by turning off your car while waiting for pick-up.

Thank you for your consideration!

Volunteering Reminder

If you're planning to volunteer, please ensure you've completed a **Criminal Record Check (CRC)** at the school office — **free of charge**. CRC forms must be renewed **every 4 years**.

Not sure if yours is up to date?

Please contact **Ms. Angus** in the office for confirmation.

Field Study Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. [Student Accident Insurance by StudyInsured](#) is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Plan or to find out more, click [here](#).



[Compare Plans - Study Insured Student Accident](#)

A plan for every need Whether your child is a star athlete, naturally rambunctious, or just accident-prone, we've got you covered. Choose the plan that works best for you, your family, www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com



NUTS AWARE!



We have several students at our school with **severe allergies** to **peanuts and tree nuts**. Tree nuts include: **cashews, almonds, pecans, pistachios, walnuts, and peanuts** (which, although technically a legume, are commonly grouped with tree nuts due to allergy concerns).

Our goal is to maintain a **safe environment for all students**, and we kindly ask all families to **avoid sending any foods that contain nuts or nut products**.

For more detailed information on peanut and tree nut allergies, including common sources of these allergens, please visit:

👉 <http://foodallergycanada.ca/about-allergies/food-allergens/>

Thank you for helping us keep **all children at SKE safe**.



Size of a Problem Strategy

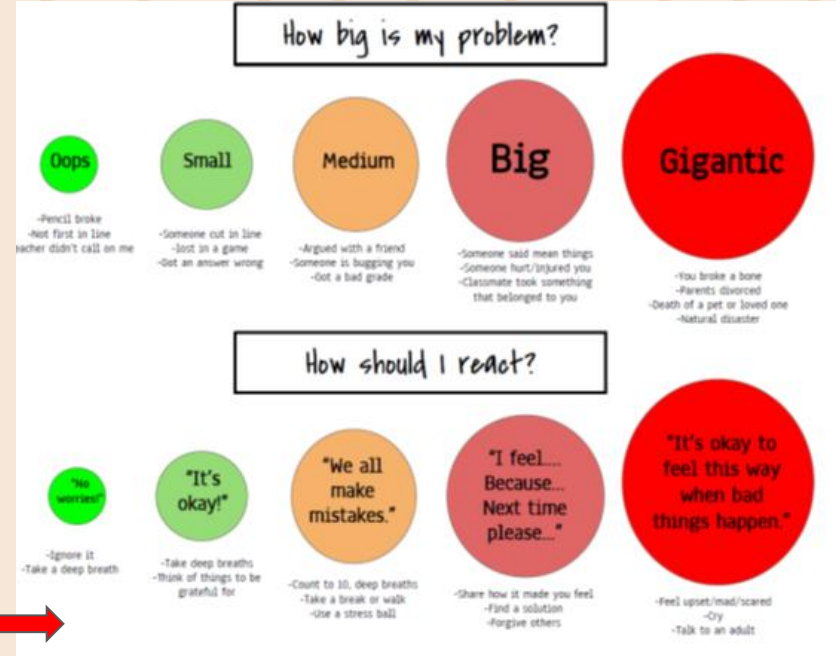
At school, we use the “Size of the Problem” strategy to help students recognize how big or small a problem really is and to match their reactions appropriately.

For example, a small problem might be dropping a pencil, while a big problem could be someone getting seriously hurt. We encourage students to pause, think about the true size of the problem, and choose a reaction that fits.

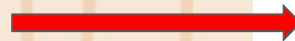
Families can support this at home by talking with your child about the size of everyday problems and helping them practice calming strategies when their reactions feel bigger than the situation. This shared language between school and home helps children build resilience, problem-solving skills, and self-control.

Quick Tips for Home:

- When a problem happens, ask: “Is this a big problem or a small problem?”
- Praise your child when their reaction matches the size of the problem.
- Model calm problem-solving by talking through how you handle small problems.
- Practice with “what if” scenarios (e.g., “What if you spill some water?”).



Click the image
to find more
resources!





SKE HALLOWEEN GUIDELINES



On Friday, October 31st, students will participate in our annual Halloween Costume Parade at 2:00 p.m. This will occur on the back field, weather permitting. Families are welcome to attend. Please gather on the back field.

Dressing in a costume is optional. Your child may prefer to wear orange and black clothing, or their regular clothes. Students wishing to wear their costumes should get ready at home.

If your child chooses to wear a costume, please keep in mind that he/she will have to be comfortable for a day of learning at school and playing on the playground.

Please be sure that:

- your child will be able to wear their jacket over their costume for outside playtime.
- the costume is age- and school-appropriate **(not gory or scary)**.
- hand-held accessories have been left at home (no weapons, brooms, wands, etc.)
- If the costume includes a mask, students may bring it to show the class but **no face coverings** are to be worn at school during the day.



To help prevent hurt feelings and disappointment, please have a discussion with your child about taking responsibility for their own costume and about respecting other children's costumes. Children should also take extra care while playing outside at lunch and recess.

After Halloween, please do not send Halloween candy/treats to school and do continue to send healthy fruits and vegetables.

Thank you.

Library



COMING SOON!

South Kelowna Elementary Library Story Character Pumpkin Decorating Event

Why? **To celebrate reading and to have fun!**
It is intended to be an individual or family project.
This project is completely optional.



Pumpkins must represent a favorite book character. Absolutely no carved pumpkins.

To decorate you can use paper, glue, paint, markers, pipe cleaners, fabric, or other craft items on the pumpkin. **Let your creativity soar!**

Pumpkins may be placed on the cart available at the front doors of the school from **Monday, October 27th to Friday, October 31st.** All pumpkins will be displayed in and around the Library.

On the entry form please have the name of the character, the title of the book your character comes from, and the author's name. Make sure to get the book information before starting to decorate the pumpkin.

Pumpkins must be picked up in the library and taken home by the end of day on Friday, October 31st.

LIBRARY BOOK BAGS



Our amazing PAC generously provided canvas bags last year for all of our primary students. These bags were collected at the end of the school year so they could be reused again this year and as your child continues their journey here at SKE.

If your child's bag has been lost, replacement bags can be purchased in the library for \$10.00 each.





SKE PAC Updates

It was terrific to see so many SKE families out for our “Welcome Back” BBQ! Huge thanks to the volunteers who helped with purchasing, set up, barbecuing, food distribution, and clean-up. It truly takes a team.

Even if you don’t have space to be a member of the PAC executive, you can definitely sign up to help with our various events. Your 1 or 2 hour commitment for a special event means so much!

Keep an eye on your email or the SKE text messages for further opportunities to get involved!

Contact the PAC:
ske.PacPresident@sd23.bc.ca




New Family Photos!

Is it time to update your family photos? Check out this awesome SKE PAC fundraiser!




Click the poster to book your sitting!



Basil Cooper
Photography





**SOUTH KELOWNA
ELEMENTARY**



FAMILY FUNDRAISER

HOW IT WORKS

- A non-refundable sitting fee of \$25 will be charged to reserve an appointment, paid via paypal or E-transfer on the booking site.
- Families will go to www.basilcooper.com to book appointments.
- Each family will receive one complimentary 8xi0 portrait

 October 13 th November 8 th November 9 th	 10 MINUTE TIME SLOTS	 Location : Benvoulin Rd, Father Pandosy	 www.basilcooper.com
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100% OF THE SITTING FEE GOES TO SKE!

Success



On Monday, September 15th, our entire school participated in the Terry Fox Run to support cancer research. Thanks to the incredible effort of students, staff, and families, we met our goal!

A big **THANK YOU** goes to **Ms. Robertson**, who organized the event and made sure everything ran smoothly. Also a huge thank you to **Mrs. Shannon**, who so graciously spoke to our community and shared her personal story.

We are so proud of our school community for coming together in support of such an important cause. Way to go, everyone!



SKE

TERRY FOX
FUNDRAISING

\$1486!
so far...

HOT CHOCOLATE & PJ DAY
HAS BEEN EARNED!!

WEAR YOUR COMFY COZIES OCT 3RD

Apple Taste-Taste!

What kind of apples do you like best? Have you even thought about it? Ms. Robertson's Kindergarten class held a taste-comparison this week!

Honeycrisp, Golden, Macintosh, Crabapple and Spartan: students tasted each in turn, and provided descriptive words to capture their thoughts. Was it crunchy? Sweet? Dry? Juicy? Why was the crabapple so yucky?

After tasting, students voted on which apples they liked, and which ones got the "thumbs down". Bet you can figure that out. Once the numbers were up, they identified which type got the most votes.

This seemingly simple task required critical and comparative thinking, involved vocabulary development, and stretched numeracy skills. And, bonus...delicious apples were enjoyed along the way (or not...looking at you, crabapple!)





Ms. Robertson & Mrs. Romano's Farm Field Study



"We went to There
and Back Again
Farms and it was
awesome!"



Truth and Reconciliation Day

On September 29th, we wear ORANGE in honor of Truth and Reconciliation Day, sharing the important message that Every Child Matters.

Each class is recognizing this important day in their own way. While ensuring we recognize this important day together is essential, we also know that embedding learning opportunities around this topic is not a one-day activity. In order to deepen student understanding, teachers facilitate lessons throughout the school year, in relation to curriculum, interweaving literacy, numeracy, and inter-cultural competencies.

We are grateful for the opportunity to come together in the spirit of reconciliation, reflecting on the past and carrying hope forward for generations of children to come.



Above: Ms. Romano's class; Right: Mrs. Wilson's class

What we are doing at SKE:

- Read a related story and decorate an orange shirt with messages of inclusion and kindness
- Read "Shi Shi Etko" and create memory bags
- View "The Orange Shirt Story" by Phyllis Webstad and create art pieces incorporating the eagle.
- Explore age-appropriate resources and create an orange shirt that illustrates the finished sentence, "At school, everyone should feel..."
- Create an art piece based on a feather image and explore personal feelings and emotions
- Read "Spider Woman" and learn the teachings related to dream-catchers, including how they are significant across various Indigenous communities
- Create a display that illustrates how we can ensure all people feel included and respected at school



September at SKE



Community News, Events & Opportunities



The Strong Roots Centre
Childhood Connections

Join Us **NOURISH**

**FOR PARENTS WITH
SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN,
FRIDAYS AT 12:30PM**

A Weekly Parent Connection Group.
Raising school-aged kids can be amazing
—and sometimes overwhelming. Nourish
is here to support you.

Join us for a weekly gathering where
parents of school-aged children come
together to share, connect, and grow. This
is a warm, welcoming space for
conversation, support, and practical ideas
for parenting in today's world.
Starting September 12th

To register, please send us
an email

katier@childhoodconnections.ca

● **Meet other
parents**

● **Have
meaningful
conversation**

● **Receive support
and give support**



Take the Plunge

Learn to Dive with KSDC



1 meter and 3 meter springboard diving
lessons for:

- Beginners
- Competitive Athletes
- Adults



Ages 5 and Up
Lessons held at the H2O Adventure +
Fitness Centre and the Rutland Family
YMCA

Email ksdc.general@gmail.com
with any questions

erase | EXPECT RESPECT &
A SAFE EDUCATION

Information for Parents and Caregivers

Resources to support you and your child



Register for free training

Tips to protect children
and youth online



Have a conversation

Talk with children and
youth about things they
may be experiencing

What kind of information can I find on
erase.gov.bc.ca?

- **Practical guidance** to help you support your
child's safety and well-being
- **Resources and information about:**
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Mental health and substance use
 - School and online safety
- **Free training sessions** to help you keep your
child safe online
- **Videos** explaining erase, the Report It Tool, and
safe, caring and inclusive schools
- **Tips** for bringing concerns to your child's school

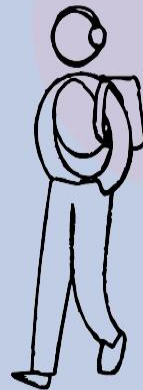
What is the Report It Tool?

Report It is an anonymous online tool for
students to report anything concerning to their
school safety team—whether it happens at school,
online, or somewhere else. Find it at
erase.gov.bc.ca.

Questions? Reach out to your school to learn more.



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care



Book Sale!

35th GREAT OKANAGAN BOOK SALE

SUPPORTING ALL BRANCHES OF OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY

Wednesday	October 15	2:00pm to 8pm
Thursday	October 16	9:30am to 8pm
Friday	October 17	9:30am to 8pm
Saturday	October 18	9:30am to 2pm

Location: Immaculate Conception Parish Hall
839 Sutherland Avenue, Kelowna

Church Parking: New One-Way System
Enter: West Alley (by Church) Exit: East Alley (by Hall)

Kelowna Friends of the Library acknowledge the support of
DR MOSHE OZ and TWO SMALL MEN WITH BIG HEARTS MOVING
fol4k@hotmail.com | www.kelownafol.ca | Facebook

Register Today!

Big White Ski Club BLAZERS:

- 10 week program
- Starting early January, choose Saturdays or Sundays
- An introduction to ski racing
- For skiers aged 6-11 (*not a learn to ski program*)



*payment plans available



www.bigwhiteskiclub.com/registernow

Thank you for reading!