



The Eagle Gazette

February 2025

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

Were you surprised by the early dismissal days this week? Sign up for text messages from SKE and you won't get surprised again!

Simply text "Yes" to 978338.

Building Community

Principal's Message

Dear SKE community,
One of the joys of spending our days with young learners is seeing them develop over time. They grow from tentative and careful to confident and ambitious, then back to tentative again as they face the next challenge. We get to walk alongside them, and share their joy and pride when they finally reach the goals they have set!



One goal some of our youngest learners have is achieving their "Golden Eagle" award. This metal feather bookmark symbolizes the achievement of reading 100 books! Students, supported by you at home, diligently record their reading all through the year. Each time a student earns a Golden Eagle, like Oliver, the rest of the class celebrates jubilantly! It is wonderful to see them applaud their peers as a classroom community. Thank you for supporting their literacy journeys at home.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, *Ms. Lemon*



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn

**ONLINE APPLICATION for STUDENT ENROLLMENT begins on
Monday, February 3, 2025, at 7:00 am for 2025 - 2026 School Year**
(for kindergarten, new students, and Programs of Choice for K – 12)

Schools will be open at 7:00 am to provide support to parents that require assistance.
Documentation Submission Deadline: Friday, March 14, 2025

If you are new to Canada, please contact the Welcome Centre for enrollment information at (250)470-3258

HOW TO APPLY

PLEASE NOTE: *The application process is online only. You are required to have a valid email account.*

In your web browser type: <https://enrollment.sd23.bc.ca>

No internet access? Please contact your school for assistance.

Online applications begin on Monday, February 3, 2025 at 7:00 am. Applications will be assigned a date-time stamp on a first-come, first-served basis, which will factor into a student's placement priority.

Complete the online application as early as possible, and provide the required documents listed below directly to the school in person or by email by Friday, March 14, 2025.

1. Student's Birth Certificate or other government issued proof of age and citizenship.
2. Proof of Parent/Guardian B.C. Residency
 - a. Combination BC Driver's License and Services Card (copy of both sides); or,
 - b. BC Services Card (copy of both sides) and one item from the list of supporting documentation below; or,
 - c. Proof of application for BC Medical Services Plan and one item from the list of supporting documentation below.
3. Proof of Parent/Guardian Living Address/Supporting Documentation
 - Ownership of a dwelling or long-term lease or rental of a dwelling;
 - Documentation indicating British Columbia residence (i.e. utility bill);
 - British Columbia registration of an automobile;
 - British Columbia Driver's License (copy of both sides); or,
 - A current income tax return filed as a British Columbia resident.

AFTER Thursday, August 28, 2025

New in-catchment area enrollments: Parents will be notified by a confirmation email when the school has accepted the student's application for enrollment. Board Policy 405R – Student Placement (Regulations), will be used to determine student placement and priority.

New out-of-catchment area enrollments: Parents may not be notified until after the summer enrollment period is over and all in-catchment area students have been placed.

Qualifying age: The School Act requires that a child must be five years of age by December 31, 2025, to qualify for school enrollment in September 2025. No exceptions.

For further information, please visit the School District website www.sd23.bc.ca or call (250) 860-8888.

Sharing Kindness Everyday!

For Your Calendar

February 3	Online Enrollment Begins
February 6	Rocks & Rings Curling
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 14	PRO-D Day - NO SCHOOL
February 17	Family Day - NO SCHOOL
February 19	PAC Meeting @ 7 pm
February 24	Cultural Performance
February 26	Pink Shirt Day
February 28	PAC Family Bingo Night

Communication Emails

Please check school emails regularly to ensure that you stay updated on all important announcements and deadlines.

All school emails can also be found in the School Messenger app.

Student Messages

Please notify the office of important student messages (e.g. your child needs to go on bus or an appointment scheduled during the day). ***It is best to have this communicated to the office via phone or email since teachers cannot check their emails during instructional time.***

All other messages can be communicated in student planners, such as after school arrangements different from the norm. **Playdates should be made from home.**

Please do not have student make last-minute playdate arrangements during the school day.

Safety Drills

We hold six fire drills per year: three each in the fall and spring. We also hold an earthquake drill and lockdown drill in the fall.

The earthquake drill provides students with a procedure to follow should they experience an earthquake anywhere anytime.

The purpose of the lockdown drill is to practice a safety procedure to be used in the event that students and staff are required to remain in a safe location until an all-clear signal is given.



Learning Stories

What does learning look like at SKE?

Literacy Skills

Our kindergarten students recently participated in story workshops using loose parts. Students create imaginative stories using varied materials and items, and then narrate these stories. They are able to describe their choices, the characters, and what is happening in the world of the story they have created.



Numeracy Skills

Our teaching staff are working in collaborative groups exploring topics of interest in relation to our school's numeracy learning priority. With a focus on developing students' growth mindsets around numeracy skills, and deepening their critical thinking and collaboration, we are seeking to enhance their achievement!



Students at the Centre

Our learning priority around supporting our student's physical and mental wellness is at work through social-emotional learning activities, as well as programs offered by our Counsellor and Inclusion teacher. Questions like "What does it mean to be healthy?" provoke rich dialogue, and the sharing of diverse ideas.



Social-Emotional Learning

We were excited to welcome local artist Janice Hennig to SKE this month. Janice spent 2 lessons with every class teaching them watercolour skills, leading to each student creating beautiful works of art. These will be available for parents to purchase as art cards, with proceeds funding future arts endeavors.



Fine Arts

Young Leaders – Eagle Guides



Learning problem-solving skills

Our Eagle Guide program is back up and running after a short hiatus. We offer big thanks to the grade 6 students who supported this fall. We have now trained a new group of grade 4s and 5s who are excited to take on the opportunity to support their younger peers on the playground at SKE. Working in teams, they will support safe play, offer friendship assistance, and be available for younger students who might need a connection at lunch.



Working together to support younger students



*What do you like about Eagle Guiding?
"It's fun helping the little kids and helping them fit in and belong." (Declan)*

*What did you learn from our Eagle Guide training?
"I learned how to wear our vest, and how to help solve problems" (Oliver)*



Eagle Guides are on duty Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch, located on the field, playground, and sandbox. They also offer a creative play station, leading games and imaginative group play. Our adult noon-hour supervisors will support when Eagle Guides need help navigating new situations. We look forward to seeing our students grow their skills, confidence and connections!

School Visit – Meaghan Hackinen



Here's Jada, cozied up in Meaghan's bivy sack. She travelled all that way without even a tent!

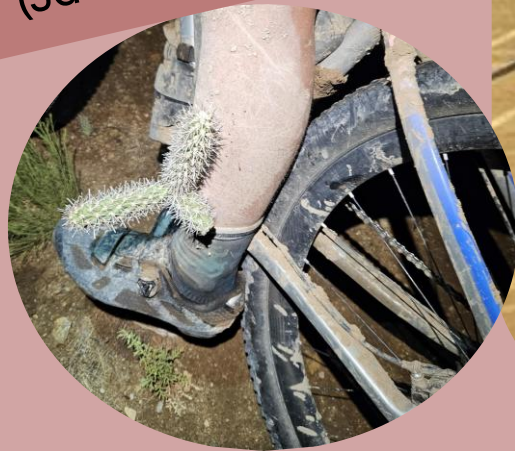
This month we had a visit from Meaghan Hackinen, a local ultra-cyclist. She recently completed the Rocky Mountain Tour Divide race, riding her bike from Banff to the border of Mexico in 15 days and 23 hours. She was 7th overall, and the first female to finish. She shared her adventures and story with all of our students, and it was totally inspiring!



Here's Bella, showing Meaghan's sleeping mat. It's tiny!



"We liked the suspense of her story, like when she was attacked by a cactus. She was very humble."
"We learned to be passionate about your sport. Even when it is hard, never give up and you'll reach your goals!"
(Jada, Georgia, Keely, Aliyah)



It takes a village...

Shamrock Pancake Breakfast

Volunteers Needed!

We will hold our second annual Shamrock Pancake Breakfast for the school on Friday, March 14th, right before spring break. If you are able to help out with this event, please click the link on the right.

We look forward to having parents on site to assist with cooking, set up, pancake distribution and clean up. It's a great time for us to come together to enjoy our SKE community and prepare to head off for spring break.

Thank you!



PAC Family Bingo & Silent Auction Volunteering – Fri, Feb 28th



[Click here to volunteer for the PAC Family Bingo!](#)
The PAC is seeking more donations for the Bingo Night Silent Auction. Sign up on the volunteer sheet above.



Shamrock Pancake Breakfast Volunteering – Fri, March 14th



[Click here to help us hold our eagerly awaited schoolwide pancake breakfast!](#)

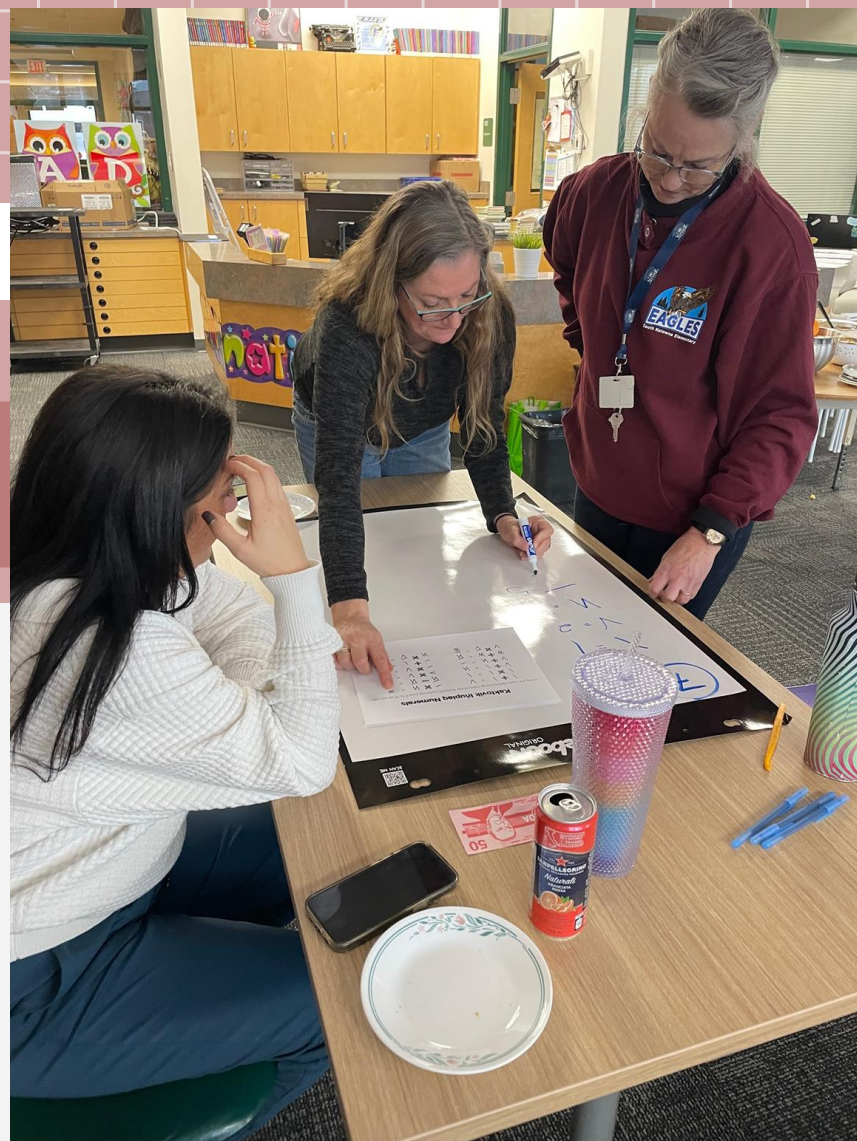


This Week's Student-Led Conferences

It was wonderful to see so many parents and caregivers at this week's conferences. We are glad you were able to celebrate the learning and growth of our students, your children, and look at creating goals and next steps.

NUMERACY @ SKE

Diving Deep

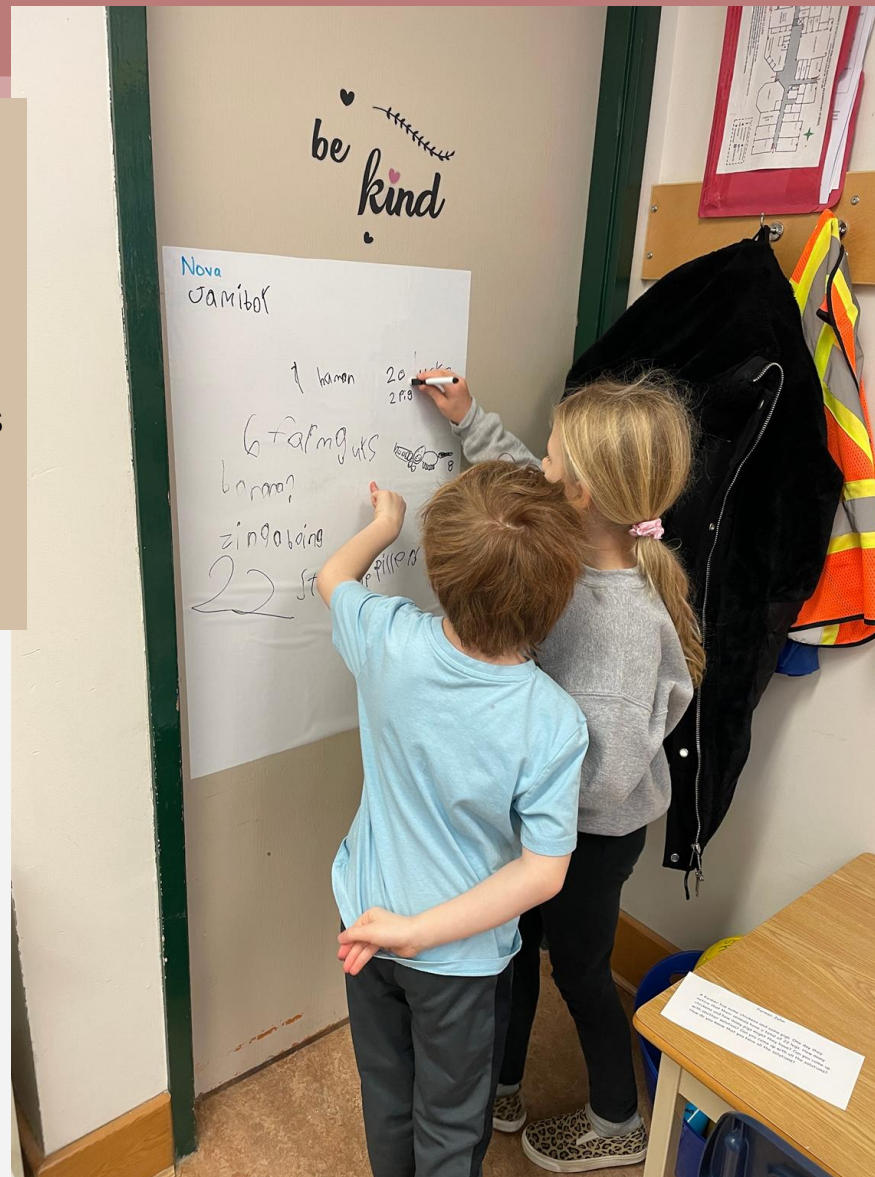


Each SKE teacher has identified a numeracy practice, curiosity, or skill that they will be exploring in their classroom, with a focus on working towards developing students in relation to our numeracy priority.

What are South Kelowna's Student Learning Priorities?

To ensure learner confidence and success for each of our learners by:

- **Focusing on number sense fluency, mathematical problem-solving and critical-thinking skills**
- Promoting, nurturing and developing a growth mindset, stamina for learning and resiliency to challenge
- Approaching and supporting our learners through a holistic lens, recognizing the interconnectedness of physical and mental wellness



Using a visual prompt, teachers work together to solve a numeracy puzzle. Teamwork, communication, and collaboration are all needed, just like what we facilitate with our students. →

"We are figuring out how many pigs and chickens are on a farm that has a total of 22 legs. We know that pigs have 4 legs and chickens have 2 legs. So how many animals in total?"

(Mrs. Kirschner's class)



Still not getting
texts from the
school?

Please text **"YES"**
to
978338



Please take a moment to follow
[@sd23news](#) on Instagram.
The same can be found on
Facebook and X.



LOST AND FOUND

Please check our front foyer for any misplaced and
valuable items that your family
may have lost.

All items that are not accounted for will be donated
on March 7th.

THANK YOU to our amazing PAC for volunteering
their time to organize and take care of our lost and
found items.



Updates on Parking & Parking Safety

Thank you for taking care of our community by being mindful of, and following the parking
lot expectations. Your modeling for our students makes a huge difference!

Thank you for:

- Using the paved pathways and crosswalks at all times rather than cutting through the parking lot and bus lane.
- Obeying ALL NO PARKING signs. Busses require clearance to enter and exit safely. This ensures the safety of all vehicles entering and exiting the school grounds.
- Keeping our neighbor's driveways open so they can access or exit their homes.

Drop Off & Pick Up:

Spiers Road: **** BEST OPTION **** If dropping off on the school side (West), please be sure child(ren) **exit the right-hand side** of the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk. Please follow signage—do not park past the tall cedars as it makes it very difficult for busses to exit. If dropping off on the far side of the road (East), please park your car and **escort your child(ren) across the road.**

Bus Loop: *** DROP OFF ONLY AFTER 8:10 a.m.*** You may use the bus loop to drop off after the busses have left **after 8:10 a.m.** If dropping off in the bus loop, please be sure your child(ren) **exit the right-hand side** of the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk. This avoids children going around vehicles and being in the line of passing cars. **Do not leave your vehicle while utilizing the bus loop.**

Staff Parking Lot: The parking lot is for **STAFF only. Staff in various roles need to access the parking lot throughout the day, including those arriving for after-school activities.**

GRADE 6 BASKETBALL

The grade 6 boys and girls basketball season has begun at SKE. The students are learning important teamwork, skillbuilding and sportsmanship skills.

A special **THANK YOU** to Jeff McCaig for coaching the Grade 6 boys, and Leah Grenda & Lana Habib for coaching the Grade 6 girls.

Thank you to parents offering to carpool students to the away games. Make sure to see the office to fill out a Driver Declaration and provide proper documents. ***Please double-check in the office to confirm you are set to go.***



PINK SHIRT DAY - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th

Pink Shirt Day is a powerful reminder to stand together against bullying and promote kindness and inclusion. Wearing pink as a symbol of solidarity and support for those affected by bullying. The day inspires conversations about respect, empathy and creating safe spaces for everyone, while fostering a culture of acceptance and understanding.

Join us in taking a stand against bullying and be an advocate for kindness and inclusivity by wearing



PINK on February 26th!



<https://www.pinkshirtday.ca>



We will gather for a special school-wide assembly on this day to celebrate our SKE community, and build each other up with kindness!

FEBRUARY IS A MONTH OF INCLUSION!

HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

Human Rights month is a time to honor and promote the universal rights and freedoms that belong to everyone. It reminds us of the struggles for justice and equality. It also encourages us to stand against discrimination. This month inspires awareness, education, and action to protect the dignity and rights of all individuals for a more fair and inclusive world.



Black History Month, celebrated each February in Canada, honors the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history. It serves as a time to reflect and celebrate the highlights of Black culture, resilience, and the ongoing efforts toward racial equity.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION MONTH

This month, we are shining the spotlight on the power of *inclusive education*. At SKE, we believe every student belongs and deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in an environment that celebrates diversity and fosters belonging. Inclusive education means creating classrooms where all students, regardless of their abilities, identities or backgrounds, feel valued and supported. Together, let's continue to build a school community where differences are celebrated, and every learner can reach their full potential!



SKE COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES

Snow Safety

Snow must stay on the ground (no throwing or kicking snow). This includes school property, at the bus stops & between home and school.

Sledding Rules

- Single riders only
- Riders must wear snow pants, boots & mitts
- Sleds are now provided by SKE. Thank you, PAC!
- Bottom down; knees ok as well.
- Facing forward (no tummy or back rides)
- Supervised at lunch only.



Students must be dressed properly for the weather. Students wait outside until the morning bell rings and they are expected to go outside for some fresh air at lunch and recess. **Students must be dressed appropriately for the weather so that they remain safe and comfortable during these outside playtimes.**

The following guidelines are in place at South Kelowna Elementary School.

BELOW FREEZING (-1 Celsius to -15)

Students will go outside. Parents should ensure that their child brings the following items needed to stay warm and comfortable when outside:

- ❖ Warm Coat
- ❖ Gloves Mittens
- ❖ Head/Ear covering
- ❖ Boots
- ❖ Waterproof snow pants



-15 to -20 Celsius: Students will go outside providing the wind is calm and the students will be able to stay dry. The Environment Canada website (<http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca>) will be used to check weather conditions. The same clothing items as noted above should be worn. If the wind starts to pick up, we will ring the bell early and allow students to come inside to their classroom for the remainder of the outside play time.

-20 Celsius: If the temperature reaches minus 20 Celsius, and the grounds are dry and the wind is calm, students will go outside for 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, the bell will ring to allow students to come inside to their classroom for the remainder of the outside play time.

TEMPERATURE REACHES -20 Celsius (with windy conditions)

If the temperature reaches -20 Celsius, and it is windy, students will stay inside their classrooms during lunch and recess.

SKE PAC FEBRUARY FUNDRAISERS



3rd Annual Sonic Car Wash: Jan. 20 – Feb. 10

Pack of 6 washes for the price of 5!

Order through www.munchalunch.com and click on "Fundraising Open"
then "Sonic Wash 2025"

Lazy Batch Cookies: Feb. 3 – 10

Delivery Feb. 12-13

2nd Annual Bingo Night: Feb. 28

Doors open at 4:30 and Bingo is 5:30 – 7pm



SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY



The next PAC Meeting is scheduled for February 19th @ 7:00 pm



Big thanks to our amazing PAC who have funded a number of items that enhance learning and student experiences at SKE this year. These include outdoor sit-spot mats so students can stay dry when sitting in nature, sports equipment to be used during lunches for play, and a full set of crazy carpets that can be used when we finally get enough snow to open up sledding! You will not need to bring sleds to school anymore, as all students will be able to access the carpets when the hill is open.



Bonnie enjoys the Primary Winter Gathering, Tyler shows off a new creation, Ms. Lemon and Holly read together, and Quinn and Sophie demonstrate leadership skills by being amazing announcement readers.

Lincoln celebrates his Golden Eagle award, Cash learns to crochet, Mrs. Bernard demonstrates crochet technique, our grade 3s enjoy the Indigenous Primary Winter Gathering, and below, students learn to drum at a school cultural performance.



Community News, Events & Opportunities

65

OSO

2024-2025

CANDIDATE CONDUCTOR

GRANT HARVILLE

GUEST ARTIST

ALLEN HARRINGTON

SAXOPHONE

MAINSTAGE SERIES

SEASON SPONSOR

PEAK CELLARS

MAINSTAGE SERIES PARTNERS

JUDY & GRAHAM BURNS

RACHMANINOFF & GLAZUNOV

Romantic grandeur meets Impressionist elegance

DEBUSSY: Petite Suite

GLAZUNOV: Saxophone Concerto in E-flat

RACHMANINOFF: Symphonic Dances

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Canada Council Conseil des arts du Canada

City of Kelowna

REGIONAL DISTRICT NORTH OKANAGAN

SEE IT... HEAR IT... LOVE IT... okanagansymphony.com

KELOWNA COMMUNITY THEATRE Friday, Feb 7 7:30pm

PENTICTON'S CLELAND COMMUNITY THEATRE Saturday, Feb 8 2:00pm

VERNON & DISTRICT PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE Sunday, Feb 9 2:00pm

QR CODE

KELOWNA NORDIC

FAMILY DAY EVENT

17 FEBRUARY, 2025

SKI AND SNOWSHOE

DRINKS - COOKIES - ACTIVITIES

MORE INFO AT KELOWNANORDIC.COM

QR CODE

NFL FLAG CANADA

KELOWNA MINOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

SPRING NFL FLAG

IS RETURNING TO KELOWNA

ARE YOU READY

Exciting News!

NFL FLAG is returning to Kelowna Minor Football Association for Spring 2025!

KMFA has been a cornerstone for the Okanagan's football future, providing top-tier development for young athletes.

From Little Tykes (5-7) to U10-U16, our NFL Flag programs are designed to give every player an unforgettable experience!

This is the opportunity your young athlete has been waiting for! Whether they're new to football or ready to take their skills to the next level, KMFA is the place to be.

Registration is now open!

Stay tuned and sign up by visiting our Instagram, Facebook, or head over to kmfa.ca for all the details!

Let's make this Spring unforgettable!

#KMFA #NFLFlag #OkanaganFootball #FutureChampions #FootballFamily #KelownaSports

QR CODE

@KMFA_FOOTBALL

KELOWNA BALL HOCKEY LEAGUE

MENS [18+ YRS]

16 Game Season

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP REGISTRATIONS

DIVISIONS FOR ALL SKILL SETS

MINIMAL EQUIPMENT

MON - THURS 7-10 PM, TWO DAYS/WEEK

\$260/individual or \$3,800/team (\$224/player with a 17 player roster)

GST and Jersey Fee (\$30) are added to cost during online registration process.

WOMENS [18+ YRS]

10 Game Season

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP REGISTRATIONS

DIVISIONS FOR ALL SKILL SETS

MINIMAL EQUIPMENT

ONE GAME PER WEEK, DAY TBD

\$160/individual + \$30 (Jersey fee) + GST

GST and Jersey Fee (\$30) are added to cost during online registration process.

YOUTH [3-YRS]

16 Game Season

IMPROVE HOCKEY SKILLS (PASSING, SHOOTING, VISION, GAME PLAN)

MEET NEW FRIENDS

REGISTER WITH FRIENDS

GREAT INTRODUCTORY SPORT FOR ASPIRING ICE HOCKEY PLAYERS

NON-COMMIT AND MINIMAL EQUIPMENT

AGE CATEGORIES DAYS OF WEEK* COSTS GAMES

U5 2020/2021/2022 Sundays \$260 16

U7 2018/2019 Sundays \$260 16

U9 2016/2017 Sundays \$260 16

U11 2014/2015 Sundays \$260 16

U13 2012/2013 Sundays \$260 16

U15 2010/2011 Sundays \$260 16

U18 2007/2008/2009 Sundays \$260 16

Times are projected game times based on having 4 teams per age category GST added to all above registrations

\$260/individual + \$30 (Jersey fee) + GST

SEASON RUNS MID APRIL - END OF JUNE, 2025

Registration Deadline is March 20, 2025

For more information or to register please visit: kelownaballhockey.com

Kelowna Ball Hockey is a registered member of the BC Ball Hockey Association, players have access to Provincial, Regional, National and World Championships.

slidesmania.com

Thank you for reading!

**We hope that you enjoyed this month's
edition of The Eagle Gazette.**

