

# The Eagle Gazette

## May 2025

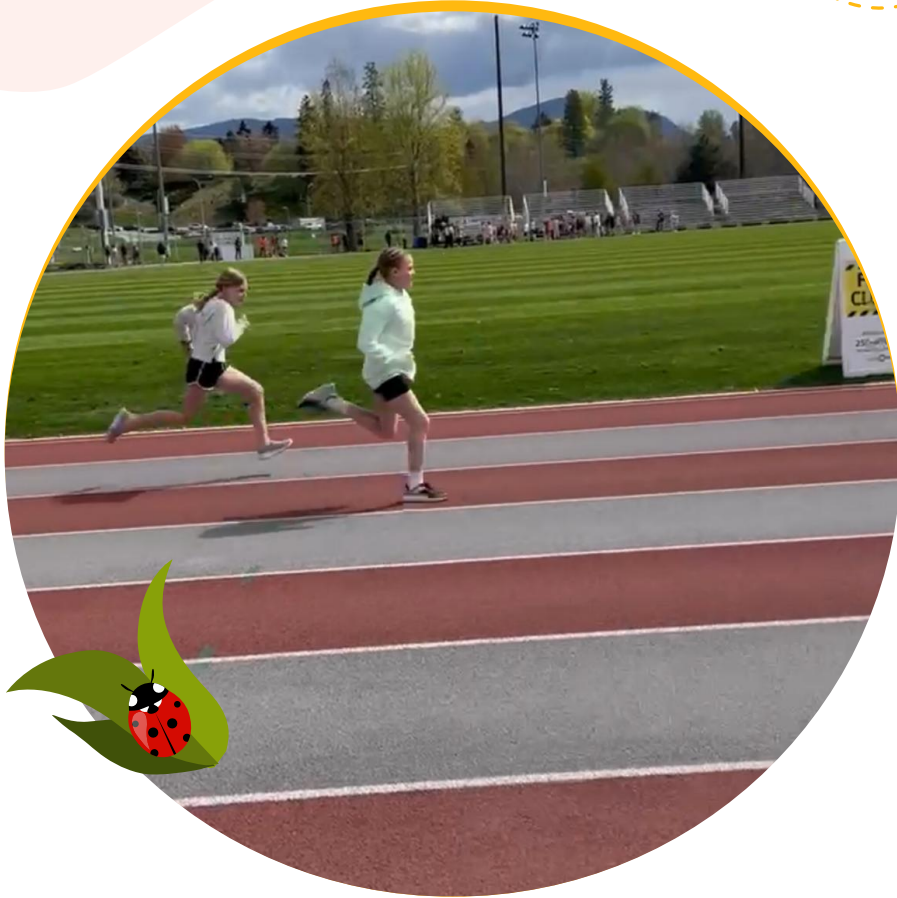


**South Kelowna Elementary School**  
**Phone: 250-870-5107 [ske.sd23.bc.ca](http://ske.sd23.bc.ca)**

# Principal's Message

Approaching the final two months of the school year can feel like a race to the finish – for students who are approaching learning goals, for families who are balancing school and community commitments, and for educators who are maintaining a focus on learning while building in celebration opportunities. All of this can lead to feelings of overwhelm. Just like in running, it's important to take deep breaths, get into a rhythm and stay focused. We will continue to be our students' cheerleaders here at SKE, and will stick with them right to the finish line!

In the spirit of learning,  
**Ms. Lemon**



# Sharing Kindness Everyday!

## UPCOMING DATES

- May 5 Class & Schoolwide Photos
- May 7 Wear Green for Mental Health
- May 12 Parent Appreciation Day
- May 19 Victoria Day - NO SCHOOL
- May 21 PAC Meeting @ 7:00 pm
- May 23 Kindie Orientation

## NUT FREE ZONE

A reminder that SKE is a **Nut Free Zone**. We have children with extreme nut allergies in our school.

*Thank you for helping us ensure the safety of all of our children.*

## DEADLINE REMINDER

Transportation applications are due by **May 31, 2025**.

You may click on the following link to register:

<https://busconnect.sd23.bc.ca/>

## MOVING PLANS?

If your family will be moving away from our school over the summer, **please advise the school office as soon as possible**. Your email, call or letter will help us plan our classes more accurately for September. It will also allow us to reassure another family in our catchment area that we will have room for their child at SKE. Thank you for your consideration.

# It takes a village...



## SKE COMMUNITY CONNECTION "Rooted in Togetherness"

ʔúllus (Okanagan Sylix word meaning - be gathered) (pronounced: ew-loose)

We want to thank our school families for your partnership in our students' learning journey and the sense of community you help to foster at South Kelowna Elementary. Our children have a nurturing support system that helps them learn and grow. Thank you for working together with us to help our students bloom with their learning!

We would like to recognize you with a flowering plant that represents our gratitude and the valuable community partnership we share. The youngest sibling in your family will bring home a plant on the week of **May 12th**.



## Join our NHS TEAM!

We are so grateful to our amazing noon-hour supervisors, including our daily team of Greg Pidwerbeski, Layken Pidwerbeski, Debbie Wilks and Chantal Robert.



Pictured (L-R): Greg, Chantal, Debbie & Nadine

And, on days when they are not available, **big thanks** to our casual NHS team of Nadine Scott, Kamal Gill, Janet Martin and Leah Grenda.

**Looking ahead to next year, we would love to add a couple of folks to our casual list between now and then**, so that we can always be sure to have a full team each day. You will need to have time available between 11:10 am - 12:10 pm on weekdays, although it doesn't have to be every day. If you would like consider this opportunity, please call the office and leave a message for Ms. Lemon. She'll be in touch!





# ELFF Night @ SKE!



SKE was thrilled to welcome 75 people to our Early Learning for Families event on April 24th! So much exploration, laughter, music, playing, discovery and fun!







# IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS



Here at SKE, we have options for dropping off students in the morning and picking up in the afternoon. However, with vehicles coming and going from so many directions, this can increase safety concerns. Please take a few extra minutes in the morning and note the following safety rules, so we can ensure safer assess for students.

**BUS LOOP:** If dropping off in the bus loop (after 8:15 only), 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 use the bus loop when busses are present.

**SPIERS ROAD:** 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. If dropping off on the far side of the road (East), please park your car and escort your child(ren) across the road.

**PARKING LOT:** The Staff Parking lot is for **STAFF ONLY**. Please do not park in the staff parking lot during the day or after school. We have staff that must be able to access the parking lot at that time.

**A few things that continue to be a concern:**

- Parents/Caregivers ignoring the “no parking” signs along the road, restricting vision for cars exiting the parking lot.
- Cars blocking the handicapped parking and sidewalk accesses.
- Parents using the restricted bus turn-around as a parking area, passing, blocking and congesting the exit.
- Parents blocking and parking in neighboring driveways. Please be aware that our neighbors need to access their properties with ease.

**THANK YOU** for taking care, and being part of ensuring that we keep all  
South Kelowna students, staff and families safe!



**TICK SEASON** is upon us and there have been ticks spotted throughout the region.

**Please check your children for ticks when they arrive home from school.**

Visit the Interior Health website for more information on ticks:

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/environmental-health-and-hazards/diseases-from-animals-and-insects>

# Class Placement Request Reminder

Submissions accepted: April 2 – May 12, 2025

Staff will be meeting before the end of this school year to discuss the placement of students in classes for next year. There are often many changes before classes are finalized in September. Placement of all students is done after careful consideration and a great deal of time and thought. Please be assured that teachers care about each individual child and there are many factors to consider for the best placement for each child. To achieve a good balance in each class, we consider many factors, including the following:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Peer relations             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Previous placement history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic achievement       | <input type="checkbox"/> Special education needs    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class size and composition | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning styles            |

With respect to combined/split classes, please remember that combined classes are a fact of school life, and are more the norm than the exception. We are very confident that the students in all classes receive a full and rich academic program at their grade level.

Parents may submit a written request regarding placement (not for a specific teacher), which focuses on the kind of learning environment in which you believe your child learns best, to the school principal for when we begin to tentatively place students in their next year's classes. **To ensure your requests are received, letters must be presented in hard copy and addressed to the Principal before May 12.** Letters that focus on learning are welcome and can at times be very helpful. In the past, there have been parent requests based solely on friends. This is not the purpose of these requests. Your child's teacher and our extended team know your child well and will have good ideas about who they learn well with. The requests support us as there can be special circumstances such as special needs or history that we may not be aware of or that you feel we may need to be reminded of. Please give writing a letter serious consideration based on the above. Although we strive to accommodate parents' wishes for placement, we may not place your child in the classroom you have requested. The final authority rests with the school. Thank you in advance for your understanding of our placement protocol.

**Deadline for submissions is May 12, 2024.**

*NOTE: These are for "Exceptional Requests" only, if your child has a specific need that you do not think we are aware of. We will not be accepting specific teacher requests as some teachers may be changing grades, taking leaves and/or moving schools.*



## PREPARED FOR WARMER WEATHER?

As we look forward to warmer weather and sunny days, we want to remind all families to ensure students are coming to school prepared.

Knowing that our students are outside for daily physical activity and recess, on those sunny days, please have them wear sunscreen in the morning, and bring a hat and water bottle. Shoes that are good for running and outside play (closed toe, heel straps) can also increase safety. If we are lucky to receive spring rains, please send children with rain gear.







### What's the story behind this photo?

Mrs. Anderson, one of our CEAs, discovered that the cover to this drain had been removed and dropped inside the cavity overnight, creating a hazard. She immediately notified the office, and then stood guard until our head custodian, Mr. Ritchie, was able to fish the drain cover back out and set it firmly back into place. Thank you, Mrs. Anderson, for watching out for safety in the mornings!

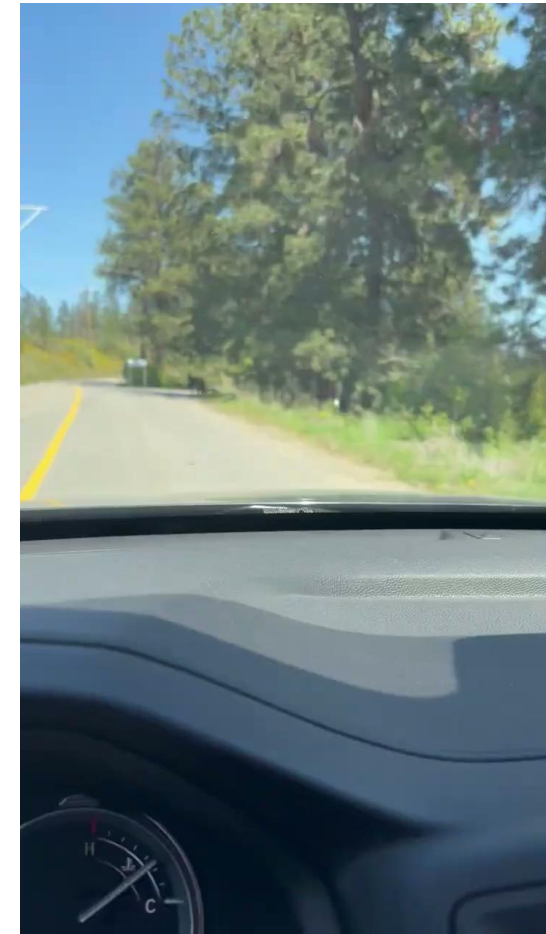
### KLO Middle School Band

We recently welcomed the KLO grade 8 and 9 band for a concert and presentation. Our students had many questions about the band program. It was wonderful to see their curiosity about the opportunities ahead of them!



## Local Wildlife Spotted!

We are lucky to be located so close to nature at SKE. However, sometimes the wilder parts of nature get a little too close! Here's a short video of the bear who also wanted to attend our school!







**You're Invited!**

## **"Grade 6 Family Information Night"**

**Wednesday, June 4, 2025 from 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

**in the KLO Gymnasium**

This evening will focus on:

- The transition from elementary to middle school
- What to expect in Grade 7
- Connecting with administration, student support and lead teachers

• • •

Please contact KLO Administration with any questions:

Principal: Nathen Elliott - [nathen.elliott@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:nathen.elliott@sd23.bc.ca)

Vice-Principal Last Name A-K: Blake Smith - [blake.smith@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:blake.smith@sd23.bc.ca)

Vice-Principal Last Name L-Z: Laura Wiemken - [laura.wiemken@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:laura.wiemken@sd23.bc.ca)



# **GRADE 6 NEWS**

## **CELEBRATION & YEAR END ASSEMBLY**

Our grade 6 students will celebrate an important milestone - their graduation from elementary school on **Tuesday, June 24th at 1:00 pm.** Parents and family members are welcome to join us for this upcoming school wide assembly.

Please **RSVP HERE** to ensure there are enough refreshments and seating.

We are so proud of our grade 6 students for their hard work, growth, and resilience. As they prepare to take on new challenges in the next chapter of their education, we wish them the best and know they will continue to shine.

## **TRANSITION TO KLO**

The transition process has begun for our Grade 6 leaders to head onto their grade 7 year at KLO Middle School. Recently, KLO Staff spoke with our students and sent home the information families need to start preparing for next year.

Our grade 6 students are invited to KLO for a family information night on **June 4th at 6:00 pm.**

On **June 25th**, students will be attending a morning on site at KLO.



# BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



We are so proud of our grade 4–6 students who participated in the Battle of Books competition at Casorso Elementary School on April 24th. Their teamwork, dedication and love for reading truly shone. Great job, readers!



## Grade 4

Gwen Graham  
Chase Sirett  
Mayla Fehr  
Rocket Taylor



## Grade 5

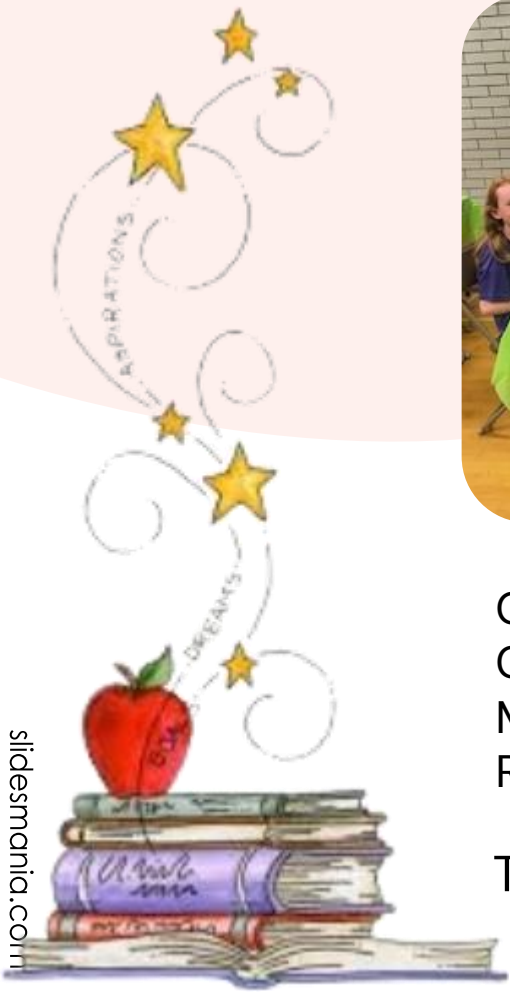
Sophia Tessmann  
Sophie Sergeyenko  
Elin Weekes



## Grade 6

Dominga Cuadra  
Lily Fehr  
Liz Wizinsky  
Eve Barkman

Thank you to everyone who supported our readers – what an amazing celebration of books and teamwork!








# SKE Parent Advisory Council

SKE's dynamic and fun-loving PAC is preparing for the 2025/2026 school year. They are looking for parents to become involved with the Executive Committee, and as members-at-large. Join in on the fun, support amazing initiatives at SKE, and make a difference in our community. For more information, please reach out to [ske.PacPresident@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:ske.PacPresident@sd23.bc.ca)



Our PAC sponsors great events like our dances, Bingo Nights, Family Fun Night, our SKE play day, and so much more. There are many ways to support as a PAC member – we hope you'll consider joining as a member of the executive committee.





Central Okanagan  
Public Schools  
Together We Learn

April 28, 2025

Dear Volunteers,

In celebration of Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 27-May 3, 2025), the Board of Education extends our heartfelt gratitude to each of you who generously give back to our community, by investing in our society's most precious resource, our youth. Across our school district, your dedication and generosity ensure students receive the extra help, opportunities, and joy they need to grow and thrive.

Every day, we see the incredible impact of your contributions on the development of lifelong learners. Whether you are able to share your time and talents in big or small ways, you enrich the lives of our students immeasurably. Each effort makes a significant difference, and we cannot thank you enough.

As parents and school trustees, we know you change lives for the better. From early reading sessions to graduation experiences, the results of your help are inspiration, skills, and memories learners will carry for their entire lives.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" We are eternally grateful you found the answer in our schools.

As we could never repay you, we humbly say: Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julia Fraser  
Chair, Board of Education  
Central Okanagan Public Schools

# SKE Volunteers, we appreciate you!





# APRIL AT SKE





# Community News, Events & Opportunities

**Celebrating 5 years of the Largest Children's Festival in the BC Interior**

HA Kidzfest  
HA Penticton, BC  
HA

Presented by  
**COMPLETE**  
STORAGE CENTRES  
SELF • SOAK • RV



**JUNE 5-7, 2025**  
**OK LAKE PARK, PENTICTON**

**\$11 in advance -- \$12 at the gate**  
**Tickets available at [www.hahahakidzfest.com](http://www.hahahakidzfest.com)**

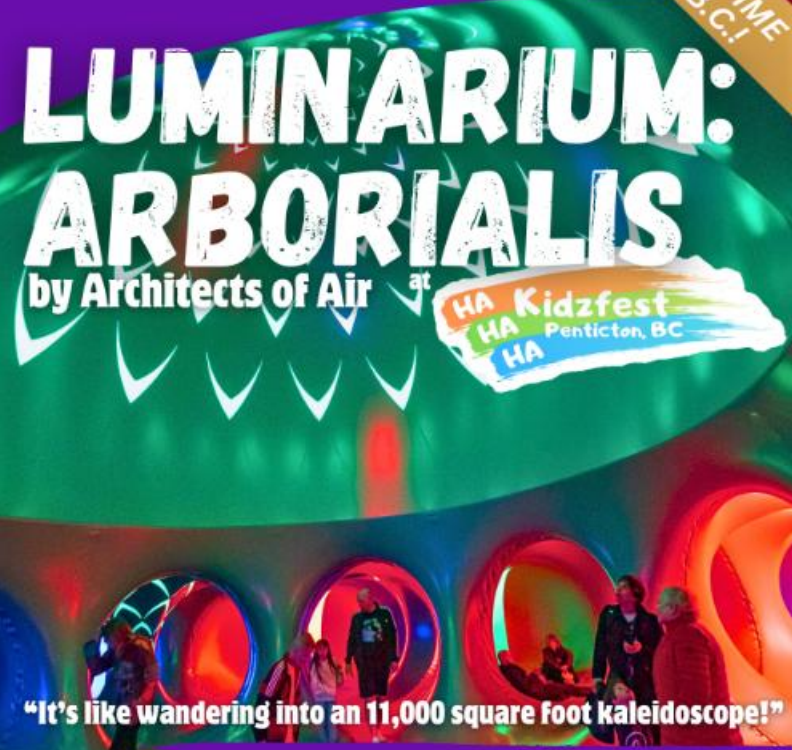




**Enter a World of Colour and Light**

**LUMINARIUM:  
ARBORIALIS**  
by Architects of Air at HA Kidzfest Penticton, BC

**FIRST TIME IN B.C.!**



**"It's like wandering into an 11,000 square foot kaleidoscope!"**

**JUNE 5-8, 2025**  
**OK LAKE PARK, PENTICTON**

**\$8 in advance -- \$10 at the gate**  
**Tickets available at [www.hahahakidzfest.com](http://www.hahahakidzfest.com)**







Participate  
in our  
Kokanee salmon  
fry release!

**Wonders of Water:  
A Hands-On Adventure**

**Mission Creek Regional Park**  
**Saturday, May 3**  
**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Join us for a fun-filled family event to celebrate water!  
Explore the park to find activity stations. Engage in  
exciting learning experiences led by our incredible  
STEAM community partners.  
A free, all-ages drop in event.





## City of Kelowna Summer Camps registration opens April 24

Get ready for an unforgettable summer with the City of Kelowna's summer camps! Whether your child is a budding artist, a sports enthusiast, or loves to explore, we have a variety of full and partial day camps available at Parkinson Recreation Centre, as well as Canyon Falls Middle School, Bankhead Elementary, Watson Road Elementary, and more. See the [2025 Summer Camps at-a-glance](#) to help plan your summer of fun. Registration opens on April 24.

Learn more about spring programs and summer camps online now at [kelowna.ca/recreation](https://kelowna.ca/recreation).



## WEST KELOWNA 2025 CHESS SUMMER CAMPS

📍 Okanagan Regional Library,  
3731 Old Okanagan Highway, West Kelowna, BC

ENGAGING PUZZLE-  
SOLVING CONTESTS

TOURNAMENT-STYLE  
PRACTICE SESSIONS

ANALYSIS OF  
GRANDMASTER GAMES

PERSONALIZED  
FEEDBACK

**\$250-\$395**  
Registration Fee

Aug 11th to Aug 15th, 2025

Timings: 10am-4:30pm  
Full & Half day Camps

Join for fun & creative indoor activities for KG and up



## LIL' DUNKERS WESTKHOOPS

Practice  
Tuesdays 5-6pm

Games  
Saturday 9am-10am

5-8yrs

Season Starts  
April 28-June 21

Have fun

Make new  
Friends

learn  
fundamentals

REGISTER NOW

SCAN ME



The Strong Roots Centre  
Childhood Connections

## COLOURS FOR CARING 2025: FIRST ANNUAL FAMILY COLOUR RUN FUNDRAISER

DATE :MAY 25TH, 2025  
TIME:11:00AM - 12:00PM  
LOCATION: MISSION RECREATION PARK  
4105 GORDON DRIVE, KELOWNA

REGISTER  
NOW!



THANKS TO AN  
ANONYMOUS SPONSOR,  
EVERY DOLLAR YOU GIVE  
WILL BE MATCHED-UP TO  
\$20,000.



## 2025 Licensed Summer Camps

City of Kelowna day camps offer an exciting week of gym games, crafts, outdoor play and an out-trip to the downtown splash park or Parkinson Rec Center for an afternoon of swimming!

Join our fantastic staff  
for action-packed  
weeks for kids K-12Y!

### Weekly Camp Themes

June 30 - July 4\* Oh Canada  
July 7 - 11 Space Exploration  
July 14 - 18 The Enchanted Forest  
July 21 - 25 Gamer Week  
July 28 - August 1 Art Attack  
August 4 - 8\* Water Splashdown  
August 11 - 15 All About Sports  
August 18 - 22 Best of the Best

📍 Watson Road Elementary  
475 Yates Road  
\*no care on Stat holidays

July 7 - 11 Space Exploration  
July 14 - 18 World Olympics  
July 21 - 25 Myths and Legends  
July 28 - August 1 Medieval Times  
August 4 - 8\* Cowboy Jamboree  
August 11 - 15 Water Week  
August 18 - 22 Bankhead's Got Talent  
August 25 - 29 Camp Rewind

📍 Bankhead Elementary  
1280 Wilson Avenue  
\*no care on Stat holidays

Registration opens Monday, May 5  
Registration must be completed  
through the Program Manager.  
Please contact for more information.  
Subsidy available!

📧 Bankhead: bankheadkelowna@gmail.com  
📧 Watson Road: wraskelowna@gmail.com

PEDALHEADS

## SPRING + SUMMER BIKE, SOCCER, SWIM & TRAIL



PAC FUNDRAISER  
PEDALHEADS WILL DONATE \$25 TO YOUR  
SCHOOL PAC WITH EVERY CODE USED.

VALID FOR ANY PEDALHEADS PROGRAM  
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA UNTIL JUNE 30, 2025.

FOR FAMILIES OF SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY

Use code **SKELOWNA25** for \$25 off

[pedalheads.com/british-columbia](https://pedalheads.com/british-columbia)

A decorative illustration on the left side of the page. It features three ladybugs: one in the upper left, one on a green leaf in the lower left, and one on a green leaf in the bottom center. There are several flowers, including two large yellow tulips and two smaller orange flowers. The background has soft pink and white wavy shapes, with a dashed orange line and small white bubbles.

# Thank you for reading!

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

