



The Eagle Gazette *December 2025*



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

Principal's Message



As we head together into the final month of 2025, this is a time to reflect back on all the ways our learning community has come together throughout this whole year. We are very lucky to have such committed, caring and involved parents and caregivers. I also hold my hands up to the creative and dedicated educators at SKE, who provide dynamic learning opportunities for our students, so they can reach their potential.

Harmony Day last week was a wonderful example of the interconnectedness of community and learning. We saw students try new foods with curious and open minds, welcomed family members as cooks and servers, and shared a meal together, celebrating the diversity of our school.

Next up: our winter concert, learning updates, and sing-along assembly.

In the spirit of learning, *Ms. Lemon*



Sharing Kindness Everyday.



For Your Calendar

Dec 1 Holiday Hat Day

Dec 2 Santa Photos

Dec 10 & 11 Winter Concert

Dec 12 Entrepreneurship Fair

Dec 16 PAC Meeting @ 7 pm

Dec 17 Holiday Sweater Day

Dec 17 Learning Updates Go Home



Dec 19 PJ Day

Dec 19 Winter

Singalong Assembly

Dec 22 - Jan 2 Winter Break

Jan 5 School

Written Learning Updates

Our first Written Learning Updates of the year will be coming home on

December 17th. Please return your child's **report envelope** to their teacher so it can be re-used throughout the year.

Thank you for your support!

Bundle Up for Outdoor Play!

As the cold weather arrives, please send your child with warm outdoor gear — coats, boots, hats, and mitts (plus extras in case they get wet!). Don't forget to label everything so lost items can find their way home. Thank you for helping keep everyone cozy!



SPRIT DAYS

December 1
Holiday Hat Day



December 17
Holiday Sweater Day

December 19

PJ &
Silly Sock Day



Absence Reminders

Text 978338 to opt
in to text messages
from SKE.

Download the
SchoolMessenger
App [HERE](#).



*Please help us ensure all students
are safe and accounted for!*

❄ Use SchoolMessenger to notify us that your child will be late, absent, or picked up early.

❄ Emailing the teacher does NOT notify the office. If you are not comfortable with the SchoolMessenger app, you must email ske@sd23.bc.ca regarding absences.

❄ When you pick up a child early, come to the office. We will get them from class. Do not pick up directly from the classroom, or send siblings to get them. Ensure you have also spoken to office staff before leaving the building so they document the early pick-up.

Thank You

Winter Break Absences

Just a reminder to please keep entering absences in **School Messenger** whenever your child will be out — whether it's for a **single day**, **multiple days**, or even an **early departure** or **late arrival**.

If you're planning a trip around **winter break**, please go ahead and enter those dates ahead of time. This helps prevent those automated emails or phone calls while you're away and keeps everything running smoothly.

Accurate attendance information also helps teachers and the office plan for **field trips** and other activities.

Thanks so much for your help — we really appreciate it!

**ATTENDANCE
MATTERS.**
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY



Winter Concert

Our Winter Concert is coming up on
December 10th and 11th!

Tickets will be distributed this week.

If you need any additional details, please
contact the office.

We look forward to seeing you there as we
celebrate the holiday season together!



Grade 6 Entrepreneurship Fair December 12th

On December 11th, students will have a chance to preview the different products our Grade 6 students will be offering. The fair will take place on Friday, December 12th from 9:00 - 11:00 am, when students may purchase items if they wish. If you choose, you can send your child with cash on that day, and they may come home with some treasures. Participation is completely optional, and there is no obligation to buy anything.

Grade 6 Volleyball



We are incredibly proud of our Grade 6 volleyball teams for their outstanding performance at this year's District Jamboree. Both teams displayed exceptional skill, strong teamwork, and truly inspiring Eagle Spirit throughout the event.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our dedicated coach, **Mr. Larkin**, whose guidance, encouragement, and enthusiasm played a key role in the teams' success. We are grateful for the time and energy he invests in our student athletes.

**Congratulations to all of
our players on an
amazing season!**



Missing from photos: Roman S



Congratulations on Your Retirement, Mr. Larkin!



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Mr. Larkin**, who will be retiring at the end of December after an exceptional career dedicated to supporting and inspiring students as well as colleagues. His passion for teaching, unwavering commitment, and positive influence have made a lasting impact on our school community.

"Mr. Larkin is funny, makes us laugh, and helped us learn!"
(Declan and James)

We thank **Mr. Larkin** for his many years of service and wish him joy, relaxation, and new adventures in the years ahead!





Library News - Battle of the Books



The Battle of the Books is an optional reading motivation program. The goals of this reading program are to encourage the love of reading and to expose students to a variety of authors and genres.

A list of books for each grade level is compiled each year and is included below. Students are expected to have read **at least four of the eight books** from their grade-level list by mid January.

Before March Break we will have “school battles” (one per grade level). The top four students from each grade level will represent South Kelowna Elementary at the district Battle of the Books competition on Thursday, April 23rd.

We wish all students participating in the Battle of the Books a wonderful year of reading!

GRADE 4 BOOK LIST

Crenshaw
I Survived the Black Death
Mac Undercover (Mac B, Kid Spy #1)
Mighty Jack Book #1
The Lemonade War
The Miraculous Journey of Edward
Tulane
The Sasquatch Escape
The Wild Robot

GRADE 5 BOOK LIST

A Wolf Called Wander
Because of Mr. Terupt
Book Scavenger
Dying to Meet You: 43 Old
Cemetery Road
Front Desk
Loot
Masterpiece
The Ribbon Skirt

GRADE 6 BOOK LIST

Bloom
Good Different
Greystone Secrets: The Strangers
Invitation to the Game
New Kid
Savvy
Schooled
The Misewa Saga: The Barren Grounds

Outdoor Expectations

Unless the weather is extreme, students are expected to wait outside until the morning bell rings and they are expected to go outside for some fresh air at break time. Please ensure your children are dressed for the weather!

We have been discussing the following winter playground expectations with our students. Please review:

- Throwing or kicking snow is not acceptable as it may cause injury to another student.
- Sledding is allowed on the back hillside only, using the school-provided sliders. Thank you, PAC!
- Please do not send personal sleds to school.
- We open sledding when it is safe, and we have sufficient supervision.
- Students should wait until the sliders in front of them are out of the way before sliding.
- Students should walk up the hill away from the sliding area.
- Only one person per slider is allowed. No pairs or groups together.
- Students must slide on their knees or bottom and face forward.
- No standing or sliding on stomach.



Supervision is provided after 8:10 am in the morning and until 2:45 pm in the afternoon.

Students should not be on the playground outside those times without a parent.



Safety Reminders: Drop Off & Parking

Please take a few extra minutes in the morning and note the following safety rules, so we ensure safer access for students.

BUS LOOP: 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 use the bus loop between 8:00 am and 8:20 am.**

SPIERS ROAD: If dropping off on the school side (West), please be sure your 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:

- Parking Lot Use: We have observed parents stopping in the middle of the parking lot instead of using the bus loop or surrounding parking areas, as well as cars passing each other in the parking lot.
- Parents/Caregivers ignoring the “no parking” signs along the road, restricting vision for cars exiting from the school.
- Cars blocking the handicapped parking and sidewalk access.
- Parents using the restricted bus turn-around as a parking area, passing, blocking and congesting the exit.
- Parent blocking and parking in neighboring driveways.



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



Remembrance Day

On November 10th, our school community gathered to recognize Remembrance Day, and the sacrifices of Canadian veterans during global conflict as well as more local challenges. We are very grateful to live in a peaceful country, and proud to support the efforts of the Canadian Armed Forces around the world.



Each class created their own wreath, with a contribution from every student.



Many students volunteered to assist with the ceremony, from MCs Declan and Sophie, to anthem leaders, to artists, to crew who helped with set up and take down. Student involvement is a value at SKE!



Harmony Day



EVERY SINGLE DAY CAN BE

HARMONY DAY!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US CELEBRATE
THE DIVERSITY OF OUR COMMUNITY
TOGETHER.



TO ALL THE PARENTS & CAREGIVERS WHO
CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME BY HELPING US SET UP,
SERVE, SUPPORT STUDENTS & CLEAN UP: WE ARE
GRATEFUL! YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE. THANK YOU FOR
SHARING IT WITH US!





Elsie Morden - Anti-Bullying Advocate and forme SKE student!



SKE IN NOVEMBER





A HUGE thank-you to our amazing parent volunteers!

Your incredible support helped make our Spirit Wear, Winter Greenery, and Purdy's Chocolate fundraisers a fantastic success!

We are so grateful for your energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to our school community.

We can't wait for all the exciting things still to come!

PAC



SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY COFFEE FUNDRAISER

PIONEER GOURMET COFFEE
Gourmet Coffee The Pioneer Way

SCAN THE QR CODE

- SELECT THE PRODUCTS YOU WISH TO PURCHASE
- ENTER STUDENTS NAME ON ADDRESS LINE 2
- ENTER CODE "EAGLES" AT CHECKOUT- IN THE DISCOUNTS PORTION
- PAY WITH PAYPAL OR CONTINUE WITH DEBIT/CREDIT INFORMATION
- FREE DELIVERY TO THE SCHOOL
- ENJOY DELICIOUS LOCAL COFFEE!

8 DIFFERENT BLENDS:
ORGANIC & CONVENTIONAL
DECAF
MEDIUM
DARK
ESPRESSO
GROUND / WHOLE BEAN
FLAVOURED

\$5.00 RAISED FOR EVERY BAG SOLD!

250-860-1920
COFFEE@PIONEERGOURMETCOFFEE.COM
WWW.PIONEERGOURMETCOFFEE.COM
@PIONEERGOURMETCOFFEE

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@PIONEERGOURMETCOFFEE

PRIEST CREEK FUNDRAISER

10% off ALL PURCHASES
and
Priest Creek will donate 10% of all SKE fundraising sales back to the school!

Sign-up in person or call 250-862-1010
Open Wed-Sun 12:00pm-5:00pm

PRIEST CREEK FAMILY ESTATE

Do you have a local business that would be interested in partnering with SKE for a fundraiser? Contact the SKE PAC for info!



PAC

Click image to head
to online order site!

Congratulations to Mrs.
Oakes' class for winning
the Purdy's challenge!

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISERS! SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY



the lazy batch



Our Goal

Support our local community
and contribute to our
school's fundraising efforts.

Available to order now on
Munchalunch.



Order on

<https://munchalunch.com>

Family Holiday Skate



Sunday, Dec. 14
1 - 3 p.m. at Rutland Arena

Join in on some free family fun!

Skating, treats, games, door prizes & more!

Admission is free, but donations to the food bank are greatly appreciated.

kelowna.ca/calendar



Community News, Events & Opportunities



UAD Inclusive Youth Soccer

Ready to help your child elevate their soccer game?

Our recurring soccer sessions welcome players of all skill levels to make friends, build a community all while enjoying the sport. This is their chance to experience dynamic, fun, and challenging training that will help them develop not only their soccer skills but their social skills as well in an inclusive environment.

Session Details:
Group I: Ages 9-13
Group II: Ages 14-17

Limited spots available;
registration is ongoing

Coaches available
to provide
training at each
session!

Where: Rutland Bubble (Dome), 705 Rutland Rd N Register for FREE!

Dates: Sundays, Nov 30th, 2025 - Mar 15th, 2026

When: 12:00pm - 2:00pm
(Please arrive 10 minutes early)

Cost: FREE



www.kelowna.ca/next2026/condoms



FEED YOUR NEED FOR SPEED



**Supportive coaching, friendly
teammates, fun racing
opportunities, team spirit,
excitement and adrenaline!**

All ages and experience levels welcome!!

Check out our Facebook page or email
kelownaspeedskate@gmail.com for registration info

* FREE Try-It Session Dec. 15th @ MNP Place *

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





Thank you for reading.

★ HAPPY ★
Holidays
★ ★

