



# The Eagle Gazette September 2025

South Kelowna Elementary

Phone: 250-870-5107

[ske.sd23.bc.ca](http://ske.sd23.bc.ca)

# Principal's Message

As we begin the 25/26 school year, we also welcome a new Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent. Mr. Jon Rever, most recently Assistant Superintendent for the Rutland area schools, began his new position July 1st. He is carrying on the tradition of setting a district theme for the year. This year it will be "Learner Agency".

While this might make you picture classrooms full of mini James Bonds-in-training, what it really means is that "students have the ability and the will to positively influence their own lives and the world around them." As educators, we aim to build foundational skills for our students, and provide them opportunities to play an active role in their learning so that they can grow to their full potential! You can check out [this document](#) for further description and definitions.

I am thrilled to be returning to SKE for a third year! Our school is truly a hidden gem, and our community a remarkable collection of humans. I am confident that with the support and guidance of our staff, the imagination and efforts of our learners, and the partnership of our parents and caregivers, this will be a year of positive achievement and growth for all!



# Welcome

## BACK TO SCHOOL!

*In the spirit of learning,  
Ms. Lemon*

# Sharing Kindness Everyday!

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- |         |                                                     |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Sept 2  | School Begins for Grade 1-6                         |
| Sept 10 | Full Day of Kindergarten                            |
| Sept 15 | Terry Fox Run<br>"Dress Like a Champion" Spirit Day |
| Sept 17 | PAC Meeting @ 7 pm                                  |
| Sept 18 | Welcome Back BBQ                                    |
| Sept 29 | Orange Shirt Day                                    |
| Sept 30 | Truth & Reconciliation Day-NO SCHOOL                |

## SKE WEBSITE

Please make an effort to check our website often for updated information and the school calendar.

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

## SCHOOL HOURS

Our regular school hours for all grades are as follows:

- |            |                       |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 8:25 a.m.  | Warning Bell          |
| 8:30 a.m.  | Morning Classes Begin |
| 11:10 a.m. | Lunch Recess          |
| 12:07 p.m. | Classes Resume        |
| 1:30-1:45  | Recess                |
| 2:30 p.m.  | Dismissal             |

## PICTURE DAY IS COMING!

Mark your calendar for our School Picture Day on October 2nd.

Individual photos (students and staff) will be taken on this day with class photos taken in the spring. **Retakes will be available on October 27th.**

TEXT MESSAGING IS AT SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY!

OPT IN BY TEXTING  
"YES" TO 978338  
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE



# FROM THE OFFICE

## REPORTING ABSENCES/LATES

Student absences can be reported by:

1. **School Messenger APP**
2. **Website**
3. **Phone Message.**

Call 250-870-5107  
#1, Follow prompts

### EMAILS TO TEACHERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

If your child has an unexcused absence, you will receive a phone call notification.

## Safety & Security

Please review the following SKE safety expectations as a family:

1. We are a closed campus. Students are not allowed to access the nearby store after parent drop-off or before parent pick-up. All SD23 elementary schools are "closed campus".
2. Parents, caregivers and visitors must go straight to the office upon arrival to SKE. Do not go directly to any student classrooms. Office staff will assist you as needed.
3. Please make advance arrangements with your child's teacher if you need to meet with them.
4. Volunteering? Thank you! All volunteers are to wear a lanyard and badge which you will get at the office.

## HELPFUL INFORMATION

- ★ Register for SchoolCash Online at <https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com/>
- ★ Absences: please remember to notify the office in regards to any absences or lateness, even if you have let the teacher know. Please use School Messenger. See more information at [www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=](http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=)
- ★ If your child is late, they must check in at the office upon arrival before going to their classroom, otherwise they remain marked as absent. If you sign out your child early with the help of School Messenger, you must still come to the office upon your arrival to pick them up.
- ★ **Medical Alert:** If your child has a medical alert, please make sure to contact the office to obtain and fill out a Medical Alert Planning Form

## VERIFICATION FORMS

Please watch for verification forms coming home this month. These forms are very important for the office to have so your contact information is accurate when needed.

**Please sign & return them even if nothing has changed.** They are **DUE** on **September 30th**.

## VOLUNTEER & CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

If you are planning to participate in activities in your child's classroom or help with field trips, a School District #23 Criminal Record Check must be completed. **This is mandatory for all volunteers, and is paid for by the district.** We strongly recommend you complete one right away, as the process can take a few weeks before it is finalized. We cannot permit volunteers in the school or on field trips until the finalized record check is received.

Note that this process must be renewed every four years. In order to drive other children to field trips or sporting events, you must complete the "Driver Declaration" form as well, and bring in your vehicle insurance and driver's license to be photocopied.

**Please see the office for the proper forms.**

## STUDENT FEES

Our online payment system for student supplies and cultural fees should be up and running soon. At that time, please go to our school website, and select the link to register & pay for fees online, or visit the following website to register:

[www.centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com](http://www.centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com)

Register by selecting "Get Started Now" and follow the steps. After you receive the confirmation email, please select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

We ask that you register as soon as possible. Along with the option to electronically pay from your bank account, there is also the option to pay by credit card. **Student fees are \$50 per child (\$40 supplies + \$10 cultural).**

If there is a financial barrier in place for your family, please reach out to Ms. Lemon (call or email).

**School Fees are due  
SEPTEMBER 30TH.**



# SKE Food Program

SKE's food access programs will be starting Monday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.

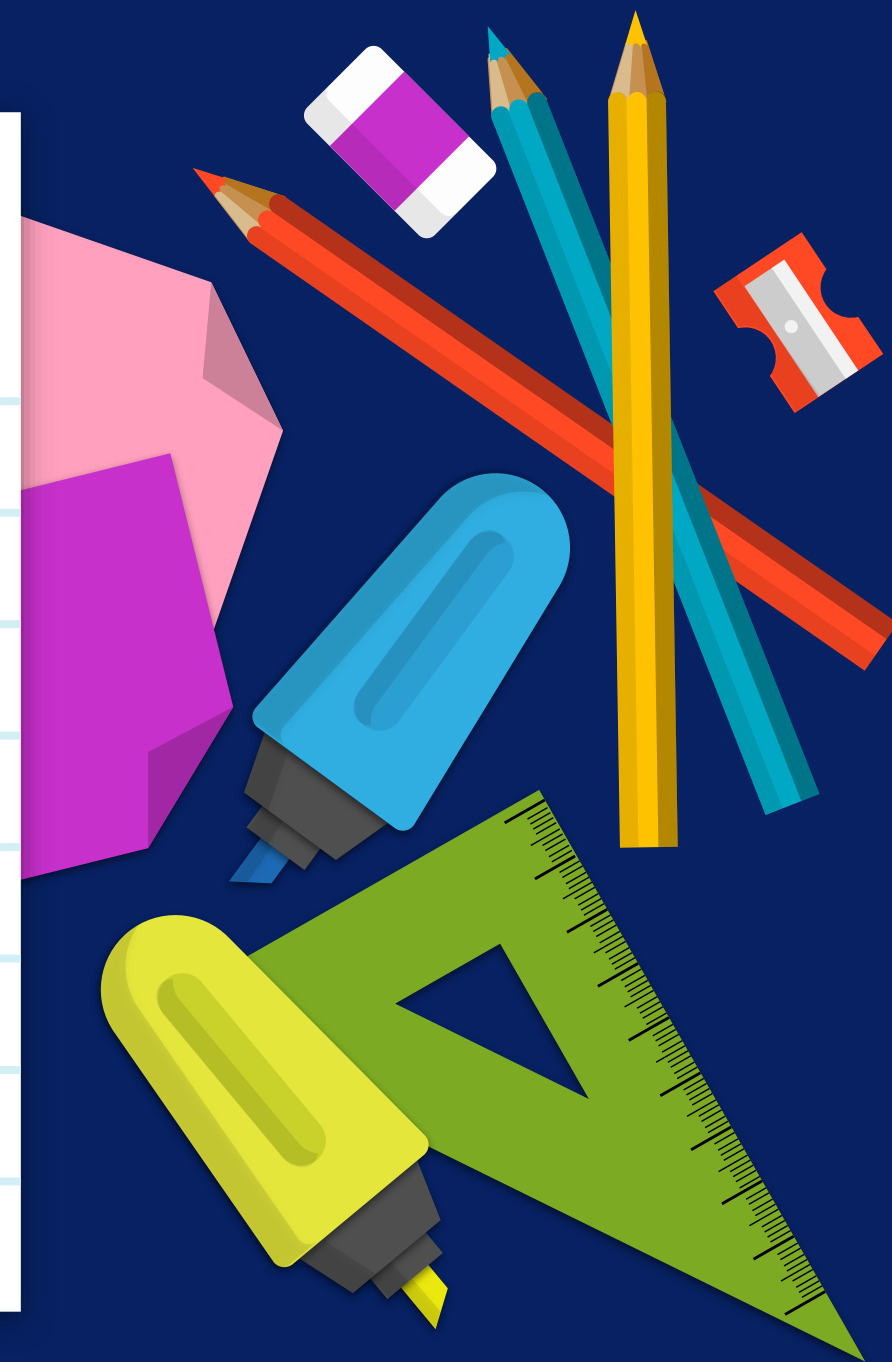
**It is a value of our school district to ensure food security for our families, and we want to ensure supports are in place if your family needs them.**

**Brown Bag Lunch Program:** participating students will receive a lunch each day. We will have students pick up their lunch in the morning (between 8:15 and 8:25 am) from the school kitchen. We invite students to bring their own lunch kit so they can transfer the items into it if they choose.

**Breakfast Program:** participating students can select from a variety of healthy breakfast options, including toasted bagels, English muffins, yogourt, oatmeal, etc... They can enjoy their breakfast before school, picking it up in the school kitchen.

**Food for Thought Grocery Program:** participating families will receive a grocery bag of food items each week that can be used to prepare healthy food at home. This bag will have both perishable and non-perishable items in it.

**Please contact Ms. Lemon** to let us know if your child/children/family would benefit from any of these programs. Students can join or leave the program anytime throughout the year - simply be in touch with Ms. Lemon or Ms. Angus to keep us updated. Participation is free.







# SKE 2025-2026

## STUDENT LEARNING PRIORITIES



### AT SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY...

We approach and support our learners through a holistic lens, recognizing the interconnectedness of physical and mental wellness.

It is through this lens that we will work towards the following student learning priorities:



### COLLABORATION

All students will be able to identify and demonstrate the skills and abilities necessary for productive, meaningful and supportive collaborative learning, with increased effectiveness over time.

### WRITING

All students will demonstrate improvement in their written expression, and see themselves as writers on a continuum of individual development.



### READING

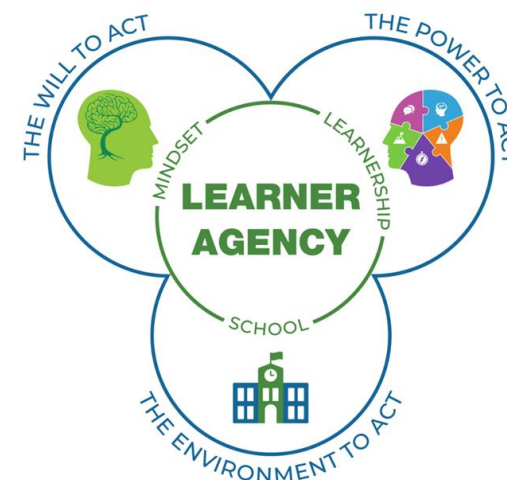
All students will demonstrate improvement in their reading, and demonstrate growth in the critical thinking tools and strategies connected to appreciating and understanding text.

# School District Theme 25/26: Learner Agency



**LEARNER AGENCY** is the degree to which an individual is able to take initiative to meaningfully influence their world, particularly in the face of challenges. It involves three interrelated and equally important elements: the **environment** to act, the **will** to act and the **power** to act.

*James Anderson*  
[www.jamesanderson.com](http://www.jamesanderson.com)



21st century approaches to curriculum provide more opportunities for students to be designers of their learning, in partnership with educators!

# SHARING KINDNESS EVERYDAY!

## STUDENT PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ZONES

We are fortunate to have an abundance of parking for our parents here at SKE. We thank you for following these guidelines:

**Kindergarten & Grade 4-6:** drop off/pick up in the back field.

**Grade 1-3:** drop off and pick up on Spiers Rd (west/east).

**The Staff Parking Lot is for  
STAFF ONLY.**

2025-2026 SKE

School Handbook

Click here to view on  
our website.

## SUPERVISION

Supervision is provided  
AFTER 8:10 a.m.  
and ENDS at 2:45 p.m.

Students must leave the grounds by 2:45 p.m. unless they are with a parent. Students are to report home after supervision is over at 2:45 p.m., and then the student may return to play if a parent gives permission.

***Thank you in advance for  
helping us maintain your  
children's safety!***



Please do not send your child with food products containing nuts. Thank you for keeping our children safe.

A reminder that dogs are not allowed on the school grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.





# 2025-2026 SKE TEAM

## ADMINISTRATION & CLERICAL TEAM:

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Lemon

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ms. Angus

LIBRARY CLERK/OFFICE ASSISTANT

Mrs. MacLean

## PREP & SUPPORT TEACHERS:

TEACHER LIBRARIAN

Mrs.

Obedkoff

ARTS EDUCATION

PREP

Ms.

Juda

## ITINERANT/SUPPORT STAFF:

COUNSELLOR

Ms. Brassard

INDIGENOUS ADVOCATE

Ms.

Phillips

LEARNING ASSISTANCE

Mrs.

Bitcon

INCLUSION TEACHER

Mrs.

Lindsay

SPEECH & LANGUAGE

Mrs.

Kelly Farrelly

## CEA TEAM:

## CLASSROOM TEACHERS:

KINDERGARTEN

Ms. Robertson

KINDERGARTEN/GRADE 1  
Romano

Ms.

GRADE 1/2

Mrs. Oakes

GRADE 1/2

Mrs. Shanks

GRADE 2/3

Mrs. Estey

GRADE 3

Mrs. Jennejohn

GRADE 3/4

Ms. Slattery

GRADE 4

Mrs. Bernard



# New 2025/2026 Classes

We were so excited to transition to this year's classes this week. We also know this can be an emotional experience for students. Encouraging nervous students to connect with their new teacher and peers, and to participate in opening activities can go a long way towards building confidence. Playing with old and new friends at lunch and recess is also a key way to settle into new routines.

It's also important to note that most of our classes are combined grades. This is typical for a small school. All classes, whether one or two grades, are made up of a broad range of skills and abilities, and are intentionally designed to be diverse and varied. Teachers meet students where they are at, working towards each student's individual goals.

# Important District #23 Information

## **The Central Okanagan School District's Appeals Process**

Board Policy 460 – Appeals states that, "A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in the Central Okanagan Public Schools may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student". For a complete description of the Appeals Policy, along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals, that can be accessed from the 'Board Policies' link under the Board of Education heading on the School District homepage ([www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)).

## **The Central Okanagan School District's Financial Hardship Clause**

Within Board Regulation 425R – Student Fees (Regulations) (see [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)), the Board of Education has indicated "that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship". Clause 8.5 in the Regulations states: "Principals are directed to establish a procedure in each school which will allow for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families. Such procedures will preserve the dignity of families who may be unable to pay". Please contact the school Principal if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

## **The Central Okanagan School District's Sanctuary Schools Policy**

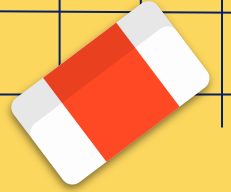
Board Policy 421 – Sanctuary Schools (see [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)) upholds the Board's commitment to providing educational opportunities for all students who are ordinarily resident in the Central Okanagan, including those with precarious immigration status or no immigration status.

Student registrations that pertain to Policy 421 – Sanctuary Schools will be processed through the Welcome Centre.

Policy 421 – Sanctuary Schools

Welcome Centre

# SKE's Terry Fox Run - September 15



## Our goal!

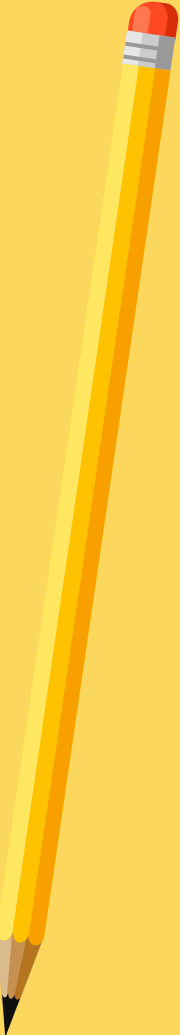
Last year we raised \$1342. Let's beat that. Our goal this year is \$1400!

## CAN WE DO IT?

If we can reach our goal, students will win a pyjama day & morning hot chocolate!

To donate to this year's campaign on behalf of SKE, head to the Terry Fox Run website by clicking the image on the right.

[Click here](#)





# "EVERY CHILD MATTERS"

ORANGE SHIRT DAY  
SEPTEMBER 29TH



Orange Shirt Day is observed every year on September 30th to acknowledge the lasting harm caused by the residential school system to Indigenous children's sense of self-worth and well-being. It is also a time to reaffirm our shared commitment to making sure that every child matters.

The day grew from a 2013 commemoration event at the former St. Joseph Mission Residential School in Williams Lake, B.C., and is inspired by the story of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, who had her new orange shirt taken away on her first day at residential school. Her story has become a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom, and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

Why September 30th?

This date was chosen because it marks the time of year when children were historically taken from their homes to attend residential schools. It also aligns with the beginning of the school year, offering a timely opportunity to promote anti-racism and anti-bullying efforts within schools and communities.

Orange Shirt Day is a time for:

- Reflection on the history and legacy of residential schools
- Listening to and honouring the voices of survivors
- Fostering conversations about reconciliation
- Coming together in hope for future generation



We encourage everyone to wear orange on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th to show your support and solidarity



# SKE PARENT COUNCIL ADVISORY

SKE Family BBQ  
Thursday, September  
18th  
5 - 7pm  
Everyone is welcome!

Next PAC Meeting:  
Wednesday, Sept. 17th @ 7pm



The Kelowna Fire Department will be on site  
to provide yummy food!





Welcome Back!



Finding friends,  
sharing laughs,  
mastering 4-  
Square...this is  
SKE!





# KIDS SEWING CLASS

AGES 8+ BEGINNERS WELCOME - MUST HAVE A STRAIGHT STITCH MACHINE TO BRING TO CLASS - 2 HOURS OF CLASS TIME PER MONTH - WILL COMPLETE 3 TO 4 PROJECTS

## WHAT YOU'LL LEARN:

BASIC STITCHES

MACHINE OPERATION

CREATE A SAMPLE BOOK

SEW FUN PROJECTS

COST \$225

ONE SATURDAY PER MONTH

SEPT. 20, OCT. 18, NOV. 22, DEC. 13

1 PM - 3 PM | @ COTTAGE QUILTING  
INSTRUCTOR - PAMELA LOVERING



VISIT - [WWW.COTTAGEQUILTINGONLINE.COM](http://WWW.COTTAGEQUILTINGONLINE.COM) FOR MORE DETAILS

LIMITED SPACE!  
RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!  
2000 SPALL ROAD, KELOWNA, BC

250-860-1120

[COTTAGEQUILTINGONLINE.COM](http://COTTAGEQUILTINGONLINE.COM)

Community  
News,  
Events, &  
opportunities

## CANADA SAFETY COUNCIL HOME ALONE & BABYSITTING COURSES



ONLINE & IN-PERSON SESSIONS

Home Alone: Ages 9+ yrs | \$53  
Babysitter Training: 10.5+ yrs | \$70

Register at:

[www.babysittingkelowna.com](http://www.babysittingkelowna.com)

[kidz4safety@gmail.com](mailto:kidz4safety@gmail.com)

or

call/text 250-317-2868

## OKANAGAN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# FALL PROGRAMS

## FALL 3V3

BOYS & GIRLS; GRADES 1-9  
SEPTEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 22/23

## FALL MICROBALLERS

BOYS & GIRLS; AGES 3-5 YEARS  
SEPTEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER 22

## FALL 5V5

GR 6-8 BOYS, GR 9-12 BOYS & GR 9-12 GIRLS  
SEPTEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 10



SEE TIMES, LOCATIONS AND INFO HERE

[WWW.GOCOYOTES.CA](http://WWW.GOCOYOTES.CA)

## 2025/26 HOME SCHEDULE



OCT 17 5:00pm 7:00pm	NOV 14 6:00pm 8:00pm	NOV 21 6:00pm 8:00pm	JAN 09 6:00pm 8:00pm	JAN 23 6:00pm 8:00pm	FEB 13 6:00pm 8:00pm
OCT 18 11:00am 1:00pm	NOV 15 1:00pm 3:00pm	NOV 22 1:00pm 3:00pm	JAN 10 1:00pm 3:00pm	JAN 24 1:00pm 3:00pm	FEB 14 1:00pm 3:00pm



# SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY COFFEE FUNDRAISER



-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 or pick  
up at their office.

-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



# SMASHBALL GIRLS & BOYS GR K-5!

LEARN MORE & REGISTER →



## IGNITE A LOVE FOR VOLLEYBALL!

Volley Spark is a fun, energetic introduction to volleyball. For those just learning the game, or with no previous experience, Volley Spark is the perfect place to start!

- \$75 for 7-Week Program!
- Focused on Basic Skills!
- Locations in Mission, Rutland & Glenmore!
- Fun, Engaging & Encouraging Atmosphere!

# FREE TRY-IT SESSION



# STARTING SOON!

Exciting news for families in Kelowna!

Parkinson Rec is launching a brand-new Licensed Group Childcare Program this fall!

- ▶ **Play-based learning**
- ▶ **Led by qualified Early Childhood Educators**
- ▶ **Licensed Childcare for ages 3 - 5**
- ▶ **Runs September to June**  
No care on Stat Holidays
- ▶ **Available 2 or 3 days a week!**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday / Tuesday & Thursday
- ▶ **9:00am - 1:30pm**
- ▶ **Subsidy available**

For more information or to register,  
please contact [playandlearnparkinson@gmail.com](mailto:playandlearnparkinson@gmail.com).



## 3x3 Youth Basketball Registration now open



SCAN ME



[westkhoops.ca](http://westkhoops.ca)

**Registration deadline: Sept 15, 2025**

Little dunkers  
K-Gr. 2

House league  
Gr. 3-10





# THANK YOU FOR READING!

We hope that you enjoyed this  
month's edition of The Eagle Gazette.  
See you in October!

