The Eagle Gazette

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

Principal's Message



Dear SKE Community,
Please join me in expressing gratitude to Mrs. Sue Bergen, who joined our school for the latter half of October during my absence. I am very grateful to her for stepping in to support.

November is a terrific month for any elementary school…routines are well established, relationships are deepening, and students are making observable progress. Plus, each day brings us closer to the fun and excitement of December, with its seasonal spirit and joy.

As we continue to build student capacity around perseverance, I encourage you to ask your children "what was hard today and how did you handle it?" These conversations will encourage them to identify strengths and build skills!

In the spirit of learning, *Ms. Lemon*

Sharing Kindness Everyday!

UPCOMING DATES

November 10 Remembrance Day
Assembly @ 9:54 am
RSVP HERE

November 11 Remembrance Day
- NO SCHOOL

November 19 Harmony Day Potluck

November 20 Harmony Day





STUDENT INFORMATION

Keeping student information up to date is very important. Please help us ensure that we have accurate and up-to-date contact information for all students and families. If you have recently changed your phone number, address, emergency contact, or any other personal information, please notify the school office as soon as possible.

Keeping this information current helps ensure that we can reach you quickly when needed and that our records remain accurate.

Thank you for helping us keep our school community connected and informed!

Office Reminders

VOLUNTEER SAFETY & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Please remember to **sign in and out** whenever you visit the school. This helps us account for everyone in an emergency.

In the event of an evacuation or lockdown, follow the emergency procedures posted in classrooms and all staff instructions.

Thank you for helping keep everyone safe!

FORGOTTEN LUNCH OR IMPORTANT MESSAGE?

Help Us Keep Classrooms Focused on Learning!

To help minimize classroom interruptions and support our teachers, parents and caregivers **are not to go directly to classrooms**.

If you need to drop off a forgotten lunch, deliver an item, or pass along a message to your child, please bring it to the **school office**. Our staff will make sure it reaches your child as soon as possible.

Unexpected classroom visits can interrupt lessons and affect learning for all students. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a focused and positive learning environment for everyone!

Want to stay in the loop with important school dates and events?

Sign up for our text messaging system by texting **"Y"** to **978338**.

It's a quick and easy way to receive reminders and alerts straight to your phone!

To Report an Absence or Late

- School Messenger APP on cell phone
- Website
  https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home
- Phone Message
  Call 250-870-5107
  #1, Follow Prompts

Phone calls and emails to the office or to teachers will not be accepted.

If your child has an unexcused absence, you will receive a notification (phone call/email) from School Messenger to ensure your child's safety.

LOST AND FOUND

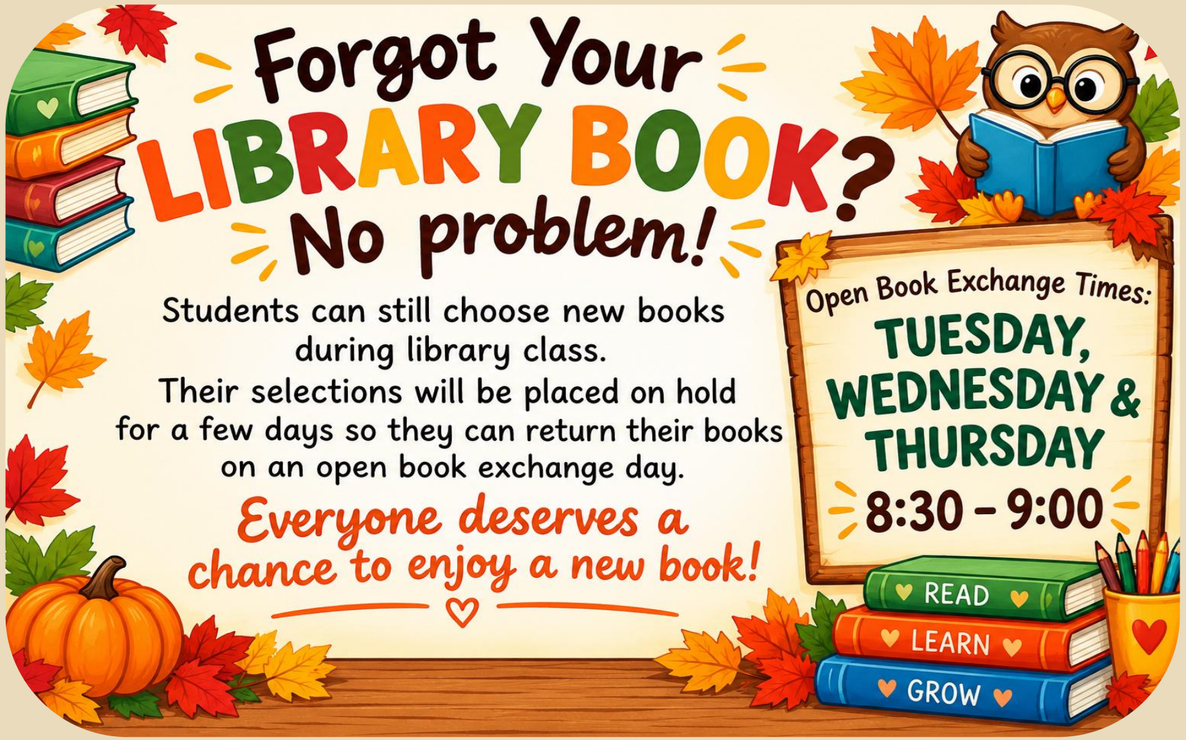
Has your child misplaced a jacket, water bottle, lunch container, or other belongings? Please take a look at our **Lost & Found**!

Everything is located in the front foyer of the school.

We encourage families and students to check regularly for missing items. **Unclaimed items will be donated before winter break.** Your lost treasures may be waiting for you.

Thank you for helping us keep our Lost & Found under control!





SKE Cold Weather Guidelines

Dress for the weather!

Students wait outside until the morning bell rings and 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.

We do not have a school or district policy for cold weather procedures. However, 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.

TEMPERATURE REACHES -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.

15 minutes

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.

Thank you for helping your child dress for the weather and stay safe and comfortable!

November 11th



REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY
November 10 @ 9:54 am

We warmly invite families to join us for our **Remembrance Day Assembly on Tuesday, November 10th, at 9:54 a.m. in the school gym.** Together, we will honour the brave members of the Canadian Armed Forces, past and present, who have served our country with courage and dedication.



Students involved in service organizations such as **Brownies, Sparks, Beavers, Cubs, Guides, Cadets**, and similar groups are encouraged to wear their uniforms to school that day as we recognize their commitment and mark this important occasion.

Each student will receive a poppy to wear during the assembly. Families are also welcome to make an online donation to The Poppy Campaign, which supports the Royal Canadian Legion's work helping Veterans and their families across Canada.

Parents, caregivers, and family members are welcome to attend!
Please RSVP HERE so we can plan for seating.

Thank you for joining our SKE community in remembering and honouring those who have served and continue to serve our country.



Harmony Day Potluck Info









01 Harmony Day Potluck: Thursday Nov 19th

Families are invited to celebrate Harmony Day @ SKE on **Thursday, November 19, 2026** with a school-wide event that recognizes and celebrates the diverse cultures, traditions, and backgrounds within the South Kelowna Elementary community.

02 Let's show some spirit!

Everyone is encouraged to wear clothing that reflects their family heritage or culture, red and white to represent Canada, or orange to honour Truth and Reconciliation efforts.

03 Let's share some food!

Families are welcome to contribute a **nut-free dish** to the cultural potluck. Dishes can represent a family's culture or simply be a favourite family recipe, giving students an opportunity to share and experience a variety of foods together.

04 Can you volunteer?

The school is seeking parent volunteers to help with setup, serving, and cleanup, and families are also invited to share photos or videos of cultural celebrations at home for a slideshow that will be shown during the event.

04 MORE INFO TO COME SOON!

The sign-up sheet will be coming home with students shortly. Watch those planners!

- *FYI: While Harmony Day is recognized on Nov 20th, we are holding our potluck one day early due to other school scheduling circumstances.*

Grade 6 SKE Leadership Students Ready to Shine!

The **2026/2027 SKE Grade 6 Leadership Team** is already embracing the year with enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and a desire to make a difference! These dedicated students are eager to use their strengths, talents, and interests to create positive change in our school community and beyond.

Team members have already started building connections by visiting classrooms and spending time with younger students, sharing their enthusiasm and leading by example.

We are excited to see this group grow as leaders and look forward to all the wonderful contributions they will make throughout the school year!

On the evening of **Thursday, October 8th**, the team gathered for a special evening of collaboration and fun. Through team-building activities, brainstorming, and planning, students had the opportunity to get to know one another, exchange ideas, and begin setting goals for the year ahead.









Thank you to Mrs. Morgan, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Brazeau for organizing our grade 6 leadership activities this year.

SKE Implementation Day - October 9th













DIGGING IN TO OUR PRIORITIES

Each year, educators throughout British Columbia have a collective day of learning, where the focus is on each school and its priorities and goals for students. For the last number of years, this day of learning has also included a focus on Truth & Reconciliation.

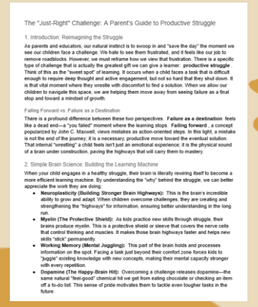
At SKE, we began our day together exploring the SD23 District Strategic Plan, in place from 2026 - 2031. We viewed a keynote address from Dr. Dustin Louie, director of the National Indigenous Teacher Education Program located at UBC. Finally, we worked in team to explore this year's SKE Student Learning Priorities, with an eye to ensuring we are collectively creating the conditions to achieve these priorities.

Each educator identified personal commitments and actions for their role that will help us support our students in their learning. You can view these in our hallway, across from the office, next time you are in the building.

SKE's Student Learning Priorities



Check out the Productive Struggle Learning Guide for Families right here:


The "Just-Right" Challenge: A Parent's Guide to Productive Struggle

1. Introduction: Reimagining the Struggle

As parents and educators, our natural instinct is to swoop in and "save the day" the moment we see our children face a challenge. We hate to see them frustrated, and it feels like our job to remove roadblocks. However, we must reframe how we view that frustration. There is a specific type of challenge that is actually the greatest gift we can give a learner: **productive struggle**. This is the "just-right" challenge—a task that is tough enough to make a child think, but not so tough that it causes them to give up. It is through focused and active engagement, but not so hard that they shut down. It is that vital moment where they wrestle with discomfort to find a solution. When we allow our children to navigate this space, we are helping them move away from seeing failure as a final stop and toward a mindset of growth.

Failing Forward vs. Failure as a Destination

There is a profound difference between these two perspectives. **Failure as a destination** feels like a dead end—a "you failed" moment where the learning stops. **Failing forward**, a concept popularized by John C. Maxwell, views mistakes as action-oriented steps. In this light, a mistake is not the end of the journey; it is a necessary, productive move toward the eventual solution. That internal "wrestling" a child feels isn't just an emotional experience; it is the physical sound of a brain under construction, paving the highways that will carry them to mastery.

2. Simple Brain Science: Building the Learning Machine

When your child engages in a healthy struggle, their brain is literally rewiring itself to become a more efficient learning machine. By understanding the "why" behind the struggle, we can better appreciate the work they are doing:

- **Neuroplasticity (Building Stronger Brain Highways):** This is the brain's incredible ability to grow and adapt. When children overcome challenges, they are creating and strengthening the "highways" for information, ensuring better understanding in the long run.
- **Myelin (The Protective Shield):** …to kids practice new skills through struggle, their brains produce myelin. This is a protective shield or sleeve that covers the nerve cells that control thinking and muscles. It makes those brain highways faster and helps new skills "stick" permanently.
- **Working Memory (Mental Juggling):** This part of the brain holds and processes information on the spot. Facing a task just beyond their comfort zone forces kids to "juggle" existing knowledge with new concepts, making their mental capacity stronger with every repetition.
- **Dopamine (The Happy-Brain Hit):** Overcoming a challenge releases dopamine—the same natural "feel-good" chemical hit we get from eating chocolate or checking an item off a to-do list. This sense of pride motivates them to tackle even tougher tasks in the future.

Zooming in on Productive Struggle

You might ask: Struggle? Why would we want our children to struggle?

It turns out that **productive struggle is the "just-right" challenge**—that sweet spot where a task is tough enough to make your child think, but not so hard that they want to give up. It is not about letting children fail; it is about helping them **"fail forward"**—which simply means treating mistakes as clues that help them move closer to a solution.

How Just-Right Challenges Build Your Child's Brain:

Building Brain Highways: Working through a challenge actually grows and strengthens the connection pathways in the brain, making future learning easier.

Growing a Protective Shield: When children work through a challenge, the brain produces a natural protective layer around its cells called **myelin**, which helps new reading and math skills stick for the long run.

Mental Juggling: Healthy challenges exercise your child's **working memory**—the brain's ability to hold and process information—like a fun mental juggling act.

The "I Did It!" Spark: When your child pushes through a tough problem and solves it, their brain releases a natural "feel-good" chemical called **dopamine**. This gives them a wonderful sense of pride and motivates them to tackle hard things in the future.

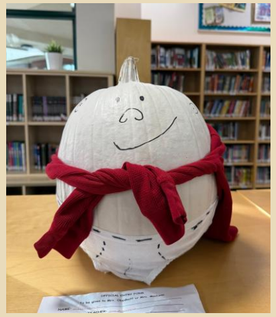
SKE Story Character Pumpkin Decorating Event

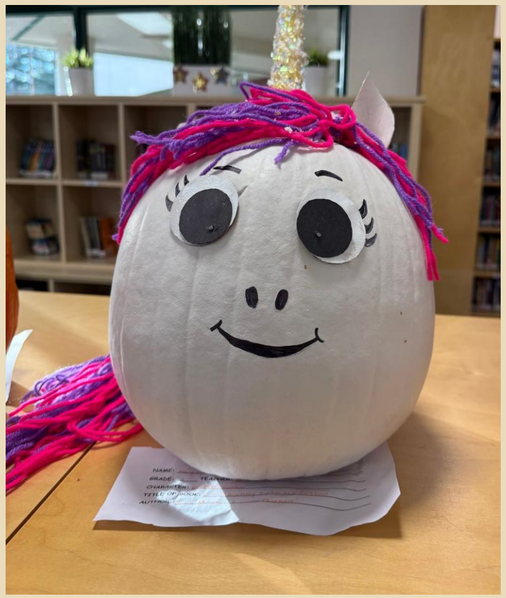
A huge **THANK YOU** to all the students who took part in our **Story Character Pumpkin Decorating Event** in October! Your pumpkins were wonderfully creative, imaginative, and full of character. We loved seeing the amazing effort and artistic talent that went into each and every creation.

Fantastic work, everyone! Thank you for helping make our library display so special!





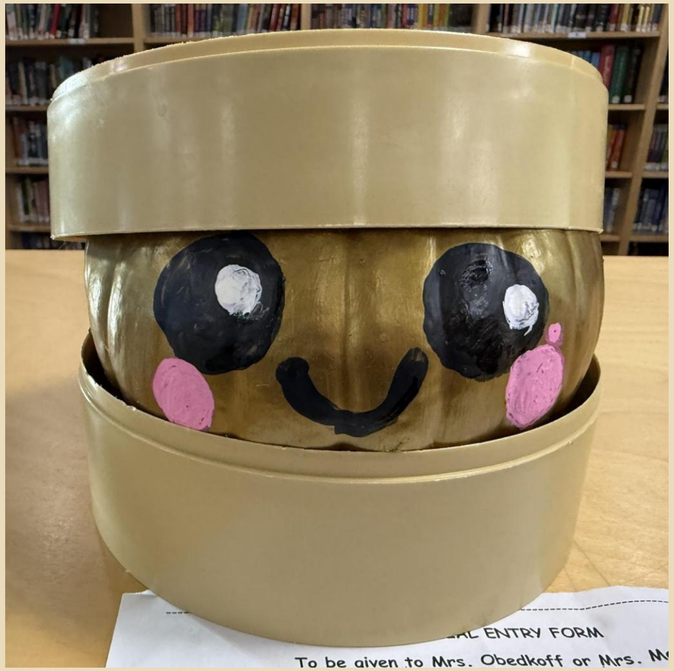


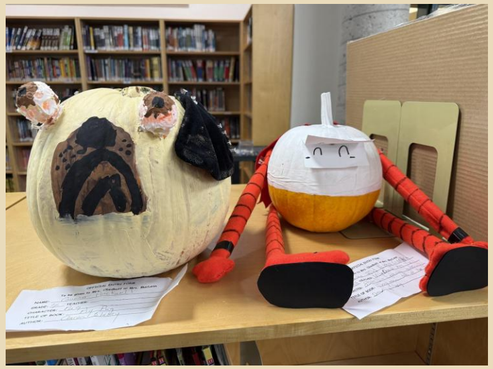
















SKE in October









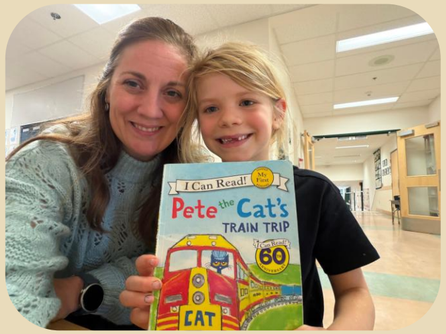














Hot Chocolate & Pajama Day!

What a cozy and fun day at SKE! Our students enjoyed wearing their favourite pajamas and sipping on delicious hot chocolate. It was a wonderful way to bring some extra warmth, smiles, and school spirit to our day!

A special **THANK YOU to our amazing parent volunteers** who generously gave their time to help make this event possible. We truly appreciate your support in creating these special memories for our students and making our school community such a wonderful place to be!









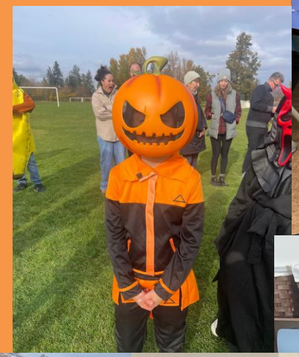


Halloween At SKE!























Check out our costumed cuties!

One request: *Do not send Halloween candy to school. This helps reduce peer issues at snack & lunch time. Enjoy the candy at home. Thank you!*





EAGLES
South Kelowna Elementary

SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY PARENTS

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP!

Stay connected with everything happening at South Kelowna Elementary!

- Get the latest updates and school announcements
- Stay up to date on PAC events, fundraisers and activities
- Receive important school communications
- Discover local community events, resources and items of interest

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

South Kelowna Elementary Parents

Help us build a connected and supportive school community!

SCAN TO JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP

PAC NEWS

EAGLES
South Kelowna Elementary

It doesn't have to be a BIG COMMITMENT!

HOT LUNCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parent volunteers are needed for hot lunch in order to keep the program running smoothly 3X per week.

A Short Time Commitment

Each shift is about 1 – 1.5 hours, beginning at 10:45 am.

Two Parents Per Shift

Two parents are required for each shift. We'll make sure to pair someone new with someone experienced.

Flexible Sign-Ups

When you join, your name will be added to the Hot Lunch Volunteer e-mail list. An email goes out to the group at the beginning of each new session with a link to a Sign-Up Genius – you can sign up for as many or as few dates as you like that fit your schedule.

Help When You Can

The e-mail list is also used to fill last minute gaps if a parent has to cancel, etc. Some parents only hop in to fill the last minute gaps and that works too!

Interested?

Please contact Amanda at

skehotlunchsd23@gmail.com

to join our wonderful team of volunteers.

Thank you!

Winter Fundraising Now Open!



Direct Links

[Family Photos]

[Plant Fundraiser]

Hot Lunch Volunteering: email skehotlunchsd23@gmail.com

[Holiday Market, Bake Sale & Santa Photos]

[Online Safety Session]

[SKE PAC Facebook]



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

A big shout-out to

Violet

from Miss Jennejohn's class!

Violet showed incredible kindness and community spirit by setting up a lemonade stand at a local event and raising an amazing

$170

for Central Okanagan Search and Rescue!

We're so proud of Violet for turning a fun idea into a wonderful way to give back to our community.





Way to go, Violet

Community Partner Resources

SUPPORTING HEALTHY, SAFE AND THRIVING FAMILIES

ParentTV™

LEARN • SUPPORT • THRIVE

Healthy Essentials Clinic is a regional resource for individuals and families for mental health and health care. **ParentTV** was developed as a **free resource for everyone in our community**, accessed through the Okanagan Regional Library website.

CONFIDENTIAL
You do not need to register or provide any personal information.

EASY ACCESS
Log in simply via your Okanagan postal code.

A WEALTH OF RESOURCES
Access over 2,200 videos and courses that provide parenting support and guidance.

ACCESS PARENTTV
library.parenttv.com/library/okanagan

Practical support for real life.

Online and In-Person Child Safety

PRESENTATION FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES

Join us for an important presentation on **online and in-person child safety** as it relates to **sexual health and well-being**.

This session will be led by an Interior Health Registered Nurse and an RCMP officer specializing in child safety.

DATE & TIME
November 4, 2026
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION
Hollywood Road Educational Services Building
1040 Hollywood Rd. S.

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Please see the attached poster for additional information and registration details.

Community News, Events, & Opportunities







Arts Blast

WHERE KIDS CREATE TOGETHER AND TAKE THE STAGE



2027 SPRING/SUMMER CAMPS

Award-winning arts camps for kids ages 5–12 to play, create, and explore music, theatre, and visual art together, ending the week with a performance on the Mary Irwin Theatre stage. Guided by expert artist-instructors, kids build confidence, self-esteem, and creative skills.

5 DAY CAMP –
Time: 9 AM – 4 PM

- MARCH 15-19
- JULY 5–9
- JULY 12–16
- JULY 19–23
- JULY 26–30
- AUGUST 9–13
- AUGUST 16–20
- AUGUST 23–27
- AUGUST 30–SEPTEMBER 3

4 DAY CAMP –
Time: 9 AM – 4 PM

- MARCH 22-25
- AUGUST 3-6



JAZZ CAMP
$485
Time: 9 AM – 4 PM
AUGUST 16-20

"The teachers, programming, and energy was so positive and enriching, and I highly recommend them for parents looking for a safe, positive, culturally rich camp activity for your kids!"
-Danielle

250.717.5304
421 Cawston Ave, Kelowna BC
RotaryCentreforTheArts.com
@RotaryCentreforTheArts

ROTARY centre for the arts

ARTS DISCOVERY

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS



LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS CURRICULUM

The Arts Discovery Program combines creativity and education, offering an immersive learning experience that integrates BC Curriculum outcomes with practical arts instruction. Spanning disciplines such as music, dance, theatre, and circus arts, the program blends historical context, key terminology, and hands-on practice to foster artistic skills and appreciation. It emphasizes creativity, artistic development, and interactive learning while equipping teachers to achieve meaningful educational outcomes.

- THE ART OF CLOWNING AND IMPROV *
- THEATRE ARTS
- WORLD BEAT DANCE
- CIRCUS ARTS: HOOP DANCE
- MARTIAL ARTS: KUNG FU
- WORLD RHYTHM, SONGS AND STORIES *

*Available in French

BOOK AN ARTS DISCOVERY SCHOOL PROGRAM, CONTACT: PROGRAMS@ROTARYCENTREFORTHEARTS.COM

ROTARY centre for the arts

250.717.5304
RotaryCentreforTheArts.com
@RotaryCentreforTheArts
421 Cawston Ave, Kelowna BC, V1Y6Z1

SMASHBALL

INTRO VOLLEYBALL
girls and boys grades 2-6

DATES:
MONDAYS – OCTOBER 19, 26, NOVEMBER 2, 16 & 23

LOCATION:
ANNE MCCLYMONT ELEMENTARY

TIMES:
- ***GRADES 2-3 | 5:00-5:45 PM***
- ***GRADES 4-6 | 6:00-7:00 PM***

COST: **$105**

This program is designed to teach kids the fundamentals of volleyball by modifying the game to be more enticing and focusing on the most exciting aspects- game play and SMASHing the ball!

head coach: **Britt Page**
former professional & national team player



Registration and more info: www.bit.ly/3VBiggi

NEW VINTAGE THEATRE

Winter Theatre Classes





November-December 2026

Professional Instruction/Last Class Show

Studio 100, Rotary Centre for the Arts

Youth

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS
SATURDAYS 10-11AM
OR
MONDAYS
4:15-5:15PM

CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
SATURDAYS 12:00-1PM

Teens

ELF
SATURDAYS
11-12:00PM

ROMEO & JULIET MUSICAL
SATURDAYS
2-3:30PM

Adults

IMPROV
MONDAYS
5:30-7









Register/Info
www.newvintage.ca

FREE

Youth Nights

City of Kelowna

OUR NEXT YOUTH NIGHTS

Nov 7th & Dec 5th

6 - 9 PM | GR 6 - 9

Come to Parkinson Rec Center for a free, fun-filled night.
Pizza and snacks included!

FREE

More info at
kelowna.calendar



THE SALVATION ARMY
OKANAGAN CENTRAL
COMMUNITY CHURCH
& MINISTRIES

Gifts of Hope

The Salvation Army is working to help families in need this Christmas, through **The Gifts of Hope Toy Program.**

Scan here to Sign Up online

okanagancentral.giftsofhope@salvationarmy.ca
West Kelowna/Westbank/Peachland:(250) 258 - 2990
Kelowna/Lake Country:(778) 484 - 9775





How it Works:
1. Sign Up Online
2. Register in Person
3. Shop for Toys!

For food support this holiday season, **please contact your local food bank.**
OkanaganCentralSalvationArmy.ca

KELOWNA CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

ACTIVE KIDS CLUB

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

A fun, active and supportive environment where kids move, make friends, and grow in confidence every day.



STAY ACTIVE
Lots of movement, sports & games every day.

MAKE FRIENDS
Build connections and create lasting friendships.

BUILD CONFIDENCE
Try new things, achieve goals, and celebrate small wins.

EVERY DAY DIFFERENT
New activities, creative challenges and team games.

A PLACE TO BELONG
More than after-school care. A place they look forward to.

GRADE 1–6
Ages 6–12

WEEKDAYS
2:45 – 5:30 PM

BUS PICK-UP AVAILABLE
From select schools

THE FOOTBALL FACTORY
Kelowna, BC

REGISTER TODAY!

Give your child an after-school experience they'll look forward to.

kelownacityfc.com/activekidsclub

★ *Kelowna City Annual Members receive a 25% discount for 2026/2027 Season* ★

EAGLES
South Kelowna Elementary

Thank you for Reading!

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