

The Eagle Gazette

May 2026

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





Principal's Message

Grade 2 is the school year I recall as being the time when I became enthralled with reading. My teacher, Miss Birtig, gave me the opportunity to read aloud to my whole class. I remember loving being at the front of the room, reading a story about New Orleans, and confidently pronouncing “Mardi Gras” as “Mardi GRASS”. Not to worry - I kept on going, which is something I taught my Drama students many years later - when onstage, you can be strong & wrong and loud & proud. You make a mistake? Just keep trying and learn from it for next time.

Who would have imagined that this little girl on the right, with the home hair cut (thanks, Mom, for those bangs!) would become a teacher, then eventually a principal? Maybe my mom who knew exactly how much I loved to organize!

What I do know is that here at SKE, each of our educators is dedicated to imagining a future for each of our learners, in partnership and collaboration with you - their families. As we dig into our final season of learning this year, we hope that all of our students accumulate moments of challenge, achievement and pride! Enjoy the month's newsletter, and please make note of the special events and dates coming up.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lemon



Sharing Kindness Everyday!

UPCOMING DATES

May 4	Class Photo Day
May 5	Red Dress Day
May 5	Cultural Performance (Body Positive Bollywood)
May 18	Victoria Day - NO SCHOOL
May 19	PAC Meeting @ 7:00 pm
May 22	Kindergarten Orientation
May 29	Tacky Tourist Spirit Day

DEADLINE REMINDER

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

Click below to register:

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

MOVING PLANS?

If your family plans to move away from our school over the summer, please inform the school office at your earliest convenience. Notifying us by email, phone, or letter helps us organize classes more effectively for September. It also allows us to offer a spot to another family within our catchment area. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

**WE ARE A
NUT FREE**



SCHOOL

Reminder: SKE is a **Nut-Free Zone**. We have students with severe nut allergies.

Thank you for helping us keep all children safe.

Safety First @ SKE

Our students, alongside Ms. Lemon and Mrs. Lindsay, have created a video to help us all stay safe at school. Please take a few minutes to watch it. We promise it's full of cuteness and good information!



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 note the following safety rules, so we can ensure safer access for students.

BUS LOOP: The bus loop is closed to personal vehicles between 8:00 and 8:30 am and 2:15 - 2:45 pm.

K & Grades 4 - 6: Pick up & drop off by the back field fence.
Grades 1- 3: Pick up and drop off on Spiers Road, on the front side of the school.

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.

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





Warm Weather Reminders



Weather Ready = Recess Ready!

As we look ahead to warmer weather and sunnier days, we'd like to remind families to help students come to school prepared. Since students spend time outdoors each day for physical activity and recess, please apply sunscreen in the morning and send them with a hat and a water bottle on sunny days. For safety, we also recommend shoes suitable for running and outdoor play (closed-toe with secure heel straps). And, if spring showers arrive, please ensure your child has appropriate rain gear.



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>

SKE is grateful to the residents of the Wedgewood for their generous donation of \$945!

These funds will go towards supporting our food security programs, so that all students can have access to healthy & nutritious food at school.



Bake Sale Alert!

Former SKE students Jaida and Sunday will be at SKE on Tuesday, May 5th. As a KLO project, they are fundraising for the local women's shelter. SKE students will have the opportunity purchase items at lunch on this day until items run out. See the price list on the right.



Thank you to Kalla & Kinley for helping to put this together!



Check out the art project on your left. Each image is one student's self-portrait, created from their own thumbprint. This was created as an activity on Pink Shirt Day, and will be mounted in our entrance soon.

BAKE SALE!

Small treats. Big impact.

♥ All items are PEANUT-FREE!
♥ Some items are GLUTEN-FREE!

All proceeds go toward creating care kits for women in local shelters.

<p>CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES</p> <p>\$3.00</p>	<p>CUPCAKES</p> <p>\$4.00</p>	<p>BROWNIES</p> <p>\$3.50</p>	<p>RICE KRISPIE SQUARES</p> <p>\$3.00</p>
♥ GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS ♥			
<p>GLUTEN-FREE BROWNIES</p> <p>\$4.00</p>	<p>FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE COOKIES</p> <p>\$3.50</p>	<p>GLUTEN-FREE CUPCAKES</p> <p>\$4.00</p>	<p>CAKE POPS</p> <p>\$2.50</p>
<p>MARSHMALLOW POPS</p> <p>\$2.50</p>	THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY!		EVERY PURCHASE HELPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

♥ YOUR KINDNESS MAKES A DIFFERENCE. ♥

STUDENT PLACEMENT REQUESTS REMINDER for SEPTEMBER 2027

Submissions accepted: until May 4th 2026

Staff will be meeting in May 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:

- Age
- Gender
- Academic achievement
- Class size and composition
- Peer relations
- Previous placement history
- Special education needs
- 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.

Please review the letter about class placement sent by the school in prior communication for details. **To ensure your requests are received, letters must be presented in hard copy and addressed to the Principal.**

Although we strive to accommodate caregivers' wishes for placement, we may not be able to fulfill your requests. The final authority rests with the school. Thank you in advance for your understanding of our placement protocol.

Deadline for submissions is May 4th, 2026

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.



Roots of Empathy



Would you be interested—or know someone who might be interested—in being our Roots of Empathy family next year? A baby born between now & August would be perfect!

Roots of Empathy is a meaningful program that helps children understand their own emotions as well as the feelings of others through meeting, interacting with, and following the growth of a newborn baby.

Through guided discussions and shared experiences, students develop empathy, respect, and compassion—skills that last a lifetime.

If this sounds like something you or someone you know would enjoy being part of, we would love to hear from you! Please contact the office for contact details.



CELEBRATION & YEAR END ASSEMBLY

Our Grade 6 students will be marking a significant milestone as they graduate from elementary school on Wednesday, June 24 at 1:00 p.m. Families are warmly invited to attend this special school-wide assembly in celebration of their achievements.

Please [RSVP HERE](#) so we can plan appropriately for seating and refreshments.

We are incredibly proud of our Grade 6 students for their dedication, progress, and perseverance. As they move forward to the next stage of their educational journey, we wish them every success and are confident they will continue to thrive.

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 3rd.

Watch for info about a school visit to KLO for our grade 6s as well.



JOIN OUR NHS TEAM!

We're incredibly thankful for our wonderful noon-hour supervisors—our regular team of **Greg Pidwerbeski, Layken Pidwerbeski, Debbie Wilks, and Chantal Robert.**

On days when they're unavailable, we also appreciate the support of our casual NHS team: **Nadine Scott, Kamal Gill, Janet Martin, and Michelle Scheibel.**

As we plan for next year, we're hoping to add a few more people to our casual list to help ensure we always have full coverage when our regular team have to be absent. Availability between 11:10 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. on weekdays is required, though it doesn't need to be every day. If you're interested in this opportunity, please call the office and leave a message for Ms. Lemon—she'll be happy to follow up with you!

Battle of the Books

We are incredibly proud of our Grade 4–6 students who took part in the Battle of the Books competition at Casorso Elementary School on April 23rd. Their teamwork, commitment, and enthusiasm for reading were on full display. Well done, readers!

Congratulations!



Grade 4

Ari Labreque
Sage Lorentz
Callie English
Ema Cuadra



Grade 5

Mayla Fehr
Finley Pratt



Grade 6

Elin Weekes
Danyka Chapple
Sophie Sergeyenko





SKE ELFF NIGHT



This month we welcomed 99 people, including 27 potential Kindergarten students, to SKE for our Early Learning for Families event. They had a great time exploring the school. Big thanks to the SKE staff who supported this important event.



APRIL AT SKE



April was full of...
Gymnastix, Tie Dye & Rainbow Spirit Day, dance party, new sand toys, needle-felting, Golden Eagles, building community & so much more!





PAC NEWS

**NEXT PAC MEETING:
May 19th @ 7:00 pm**

Pedalheads Summer Registration for Promo Code Participants

Greetings from South Kelowna Elementary!

Thank you so much for participating in our Pedalheads Promo Code Fundraiser Campaign in 2026!

We truly appreciate your support with this initiative, and we look forward to seeing plenty of promo codes being used in the coming weeks.

This is a friendly reminder that Summer Camp Registration opened on April 7th at 10 pm.

Your Promo Code: SKELOWNA26

Every time your promo code is used, this will give a \$25 discount off of registration while also giving your organization \$25. The more promo code uses = more funds for your organization!

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISERS!
SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY

PIONEER GOURMET COFFEE
Gourmet Coffee
The Pioneer Way

OKANAGAN Elderberry

the lazy batch
READY TO COOK

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>

COMMUNITY NEWS, EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have any prizes that would be great for GoByBike week?



COLOURS 4 CARING

May 24th 2026 10:00am - 1:00pm
Family Colour Run Fundraiser!

REGISTER NOW 

 Childhood Connections
at the Strong Roots Centre

Ben Lee Park Kelowna
1 - 3km Colour Run
Kids Zone, BBQ,
Food Labs & more!
0 - 5 free participation
6 - 99 \$25 fee
BBQ Bundle \$5



Signature Sponsor:
 ODILUM BROWN
Peer Champions, Youth Manager
Patrick Chambers, Youth Manager

Colour Station Sponsors:
 GLENMORE DENTAL
 KOLA
 SENTES
 UNIVERSAL
 KALTIRE
Registered Charity 099307 88.0001

NITEO SUMMER DAY CAMPS!

Week 1: July 6-9
Week 2: July 13-16
Week 3: July 20-23
Week 4: July 27-30

Ages 6-12
Monday - Thursdays
8:30am - 12:30pm
OR 1pm - 5pm
Cost: \$80/week (subsidies available)
Willow Park Church

www.niteo.org/summer
info@niteo.org

Contribute
Create
Discover

If so, please contact kym.jennejohn@sd23.bc.ca to donate!

We look forward to this fun event in early June!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

KELOWNA!

JULY 22-26, 2026




City of Kelowna
YOUTH EDITION!
Strong Neighbourhoods' Pulse Pop-Up

Featuring Pitch Perfect 4

Come hang out with friends for a chill night in the park — lawn games, sports, or just vibing. When the sun sets, grab a blanket and enjoy the popcorn and outdoor movie!

SUNSET GAMES & MOVIE
May 21 | 7:30 p.m. | Dehart Park
Movie starts at 8:30 p.m.
Ages 14-19.
Free popcorn and pizza (donated by Dominos Frost Rd.)



kelowna.ca/neighbourhoods



2026 Memorial Cup School Program

The History Behind the Tournament

The Memorial Cup was established in 1919 to honor Canadian hockey players who died during WWI and was later re-dedicated to all fallen Canadian Armed Forces personnel. Locally, Kelowna's Memorial Arena opened on November 11, 1948, as a perpetual tribute to those who served in WWII.

We invite your students to come experience two unique experiences that celebrate both the history of the Memorial Cup Tournament and interactive hockey-themed games!

- **Canco Family Zone** at Stuart Park: will be the ultimate destination for fans of all ages, offering a high-energy, interactive space during the 2026 Memorial Cup leading up to game time. Kids can enjoy a variety of engaging games and sponsor activations, creating a fun, inclusive environment for families and hockey fans alike.
- **Hockey Hall of Fame** presented by Pushor Mitchell LLP at the Laurel Packinghouse: This immersive space will celebrate the rich legacy of Canadian hockey with interactive exhibits, memorabilia, and storytelling that highlight the game's most iconic moments and legendary players.

Who Can Participate:

Students in Grade 4-7 from Central Okanagan Public Schools

When:

May 25, 2026 to May 27, 2026

School Program Timing: 9:30am – 1:30pm daily

How Many: Maximum of 150 students per site, at one time

Cost: FREE – sponsored by the 2026 Memorial Cup Host Committee.

Registration: schoolprogram@memorialcup2026.ca

Due Date: Please register your classroom by Friday, May 1st using the email above with the date & time you'd like to visit!

City of Kelowna Summer Camp Registration

Looking for fun and engaging activities for your child this summer? The City of Kelowna's summer camps are open on April 23rd for registration! Camps run throughout July and August for children ages 3–15 and include full-day, half-day, and partial-day options. This year's lineup features a wide variety of themes such as sports, cooking, art, drama, and more—plus new cooking and leadership camps. Learn more and explore the full [2026 Summer Camps Guide](https://kelowna.ca/recreation) at kelowna.ca/recreation.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Fun, friendship, and new experiences start here.

Our recreation programs give children and youth a safe, welcoming place to spend time after school, on weekends, and in the evenings.

Participants can build friendships, connect with positive role models, learn new skills, and explore a wide variety of activities from arts and crafts, out-trips, culinary skills, STEM activities, to sports games and more!

Black Mountain Multi-Sport Program

May 6 - June 17

Wednesdays
From
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

AGES 7-13

REGISTER TODAY www.bgco.ca

SCAN ME

OKANAGAN

PACIFIC SPORT OKANAGAN In partnership with **bgco OKANAGAN**

Xtreme Sports MULTI-SPORT & MORE
FIND YOUR GAME

April 15th
PICKLEBALL

April 22nd
ROCK CLIMBING

April 29th
VOLLEYBALL

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Boys and Girls Club Okanagan - 1434 Graham Street - Kelowna

✓ Ages 7-13
✓ Trained coaches
✓ A new and exciting sport each week
✓ Fun and excitement

REGISTER NOW!

SCAN ME

OKANAGAN

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**Enderby
Falkland
Kelowna
Lake Country
Langton
Peachland
Vernon
West Kelowna**

AGES 7-13

REGISTER TODAY www.bgco.ca

SCAN ME

OKANAGAN

PACIFIC SPORT OKANAGAN In partnership with **bgco OKANAGAN**

Thank you for reading!



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

PS: The Lost & Found is overflowing. Please come and check...you might just find your child's missing hoodies and coats!

