

The Eagle Gazette

November 2025



South Kelowna Elementary

Phone: 250-870-5107

ske.sd23.bc.ca



Principal's Message

Now that we are deep into our first term of learning, we are seeing students engaged in longer-term projects and learning. Our school learning priorities, which circle around the development of critical thinking & comprehension (reading), growing a writer's identity, and engaging in meaningful and productive collaborative work are alive in each of our learning spaces. Please take a few moments to watch the video linked to here to see how our staff will be working towards these priorities throughout the year. We are committed to supporting the individual growth of each learner!

In the spirit of learning, Ms.

Lemon

Story of Student Growth



SHARING KINDNESS EVERYDAY!

FOR YOUR CALENDER

November 10	Remembrance Day
Assembly	
November 11	Remembrance Day
- NO SCHOOL	
November 17-28	Food Drive
November 19	PAC Meeting @ 7pm
November 20	Harmony Day Cultural
Picnic	
November 28	Axe Capoeira
	Cultural Performance



STUDENT INFORMATION

It is essential that we have accurate and up-to-date student information on file. If you have recently changed your phone number, address, or any other personal details, please notify the office as soon as possible. Keeping this information current ensures we can contact you promptly when needed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SKE Implementation Day

October 10, 2025

South Kelowna Elementary staff came together on Implementation Day for a meaningful day of professional learning and collaboration. Together we explored and honored local syilx knowledge systems, applied them to our own efforts to achieve our school learning priorities, and designed plans for working together to do so throughout this year, through the lens of student agency. We are intent on supporting student growth in reading (especially critical thinking & comprehension), writing (especially developing a writer's identity), and collaboration (making it meaningful, productive and relevant).



“Student voice is the key to transforming education. When we center the voices of learners, everything changes: our hearts, our minds, our narratives, our sense of what is possible.”

Pedagogies of Voice: Safir, Bagsik, Jaber, Watson



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

STUDENT MESSAGE? FORGOTTEN LUNCH?

Help Us Maintain a Focused Learning Environment. To support our teachers and minimize classroom disruptions, we kindly ask that parents and caregivers **do not go directly to classrooms** during the school day.

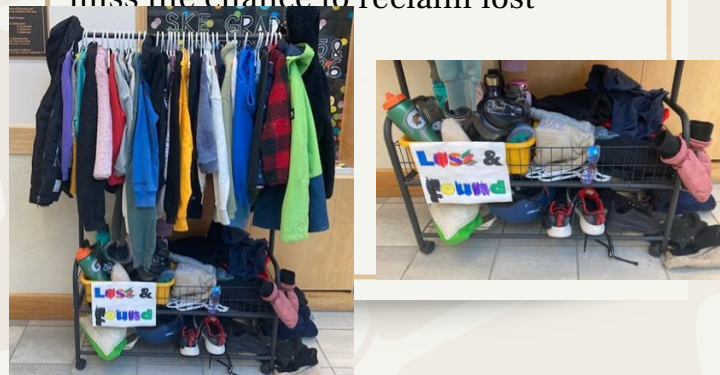
If you need to deliver items or messages to your child, please bring them to the **office**. Our staff will ensure they are delivered promptly and appropriately.

Unexpected visits to classrooms can interrupt instruction and disrupt the learning momentum for all students. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a focused and productive learning environment.

LOST AND FOUND

Please come in or encourage your children to check the Lost and Found regularly—it's growing fast! To help prevent items from going missing, families are encouraged to clearly label clothing and personal belongings.

All unclaimed items will be donated the second week of December. Don't miss the chance to reclaim lost



VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY EXPECTATIONS

Please remember to sign in and out when you are visiting the school.

In the event of an emergency, the volunteer sign-in log is used to identify all volunteers currently on the premises. It is essential that all volunteers sign in and out accurately.

During an evacuation or lockdown, volunteers must follow the emergency procedures posted in every classroom and comply with all staff instructions. Your cooperation is vital to ensuring everyone's safety.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

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.



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!

Nov 10th: REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

We invite you to join us for our Remembrance Day Assembly on Monday, November 10th at 9:00 am in the school gym. We will honour the brave members of the Canadian Armed Forces—past and present—who have served our country with courage and dedication.

Students who are members of service organizations such as Brownies, Beavers, Sparks, Cubs, Guides, Cadets, and similar groups are encouraged to wear their uniforms to school on November 10th in recognition of their commitment and to help mark this important occasion. Many students will be part of our school's recognition event.

Each student will receive a poppy to wear during the assembly. We encourage families to consider making a small donation online to [*The Poppy Campaign*](#). Your generosity supports the Royal Canadian Legion's important work in helping Veterans and their families across Canada.

Parents, caregivers, and family members are warmly invited to attend the assembly. To help us plan for seating, please let us know you will be attending - [RSVP HERE**](#).**

Thank you for supporting our school's Remembrance Day observance as we honour those who have served and continue to serve our country.



Beyond the Principal's Office: How Schools Handle Student Behavior

It's a moment many parents dread: the unexpected call or email from school. Your heart sinks as you learn your child was involved in a behavioral incident. In that instant, a rush of questions and concerns can be overwhelming. What exactly happened? What are the consequences? It's natural to feel anxious and to picture a rigid, punitive process.

However, the reality of how modern schools, including SKE, manage student conduct is more nuanced, thoughtful, and constructive than the past. It is a process built on a partnership between educators and families, designed to guide children toward better choices. The goal is not simply to assign blame or punishment but to use these challenging moments as teachable opportunities. The process is guided by principles that prioritize fairness, respect, and student growth.

1. The Goal Isn't Punishment—It's Growth

The primary objective when addressing a behavioral issue is not punitive, but educational. When a student's actions don't meet expectations, our first step is to understand what happened and why. Staff—including teachers, counselors, and the principal—often work directly with families to form a problem-solving team focused on helping the student learn from the experience, recognize the impact of their actions on others, and develop essential life skills for managing conflict in the future.

This approach focuses on repairing relationships and guiding students toward making amends, such as offering a sincere apology, engaging in school service or completing targeted learning opportunities. Traditional responses, such as detentions or suspensions, may also be considered, as needed. The entire process is built on a philosophy of fostering personal responsibility and positive change.

Our staff is committed to a respectful problem-solving process that builds students' capacity to handle conflict in life.

2. There's No One-Size-Fits-All Answer

Schools recognize that every child and every situation is unique. Guided by our Code of Conduct, the principal and teachers handle each incident on a case-by-case basis, carefully considering the student's age, developmental stage, personal history, and the specific circumstances of the incident. This individualized approach is essential for fairness and effectiveness. It also extends to students with diverse abilities, acknowledging that a disability may affect a student's ability to follow the Code of Conduct and may require different support strategies.

This nuanced method provides support that is logical and appropriate for the specific child.

While the approach is individualized, this does not mean a lack of seriousness for certain behaviors. The school takes a firm and committed stance against actions that harm the community. Behavior that discriminates against others based on race, gender, religion, disability, or other protected characteristics is addressed seriously to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

Beyond the Principal's Office: How Schools Handle Student Behavior

3. You Won't Get the Full Story—For a Good Reason

When an incident involves multiple students, it is natural for a parent to want every detail. However, you will likely find that we can only share information directly related to your own child. This is not a lack of transparency but adherence to a legal and ethical obligation: protecting the privacy and confidentiality of every student.

Personal information about other children involved in an incident cannot be shared. This commitment to privacy ensures that all students are protected and that sensitive information is handled with the utmost care.

4. A Delayed Response Doesn't Mean a Lack of Action

In the age of instant communication, it can be frustrating to wait for a call or email from the school. But a delay in communication does not mean the issue is being ignored. On the contrary, it often means a thoughtful process is already underway.

Before contacting families, school staff—including teachers, counselors, and administrators—need time to work together to gather accurate information and understand the complete picture. Immediate communication is not always possible due to the realities of elementary school life.

This pause is essential for staff to gather the necessary information to ensure the response is measured and just, not rushed and reactive. Parents are always welcome to reach out, and staff will do the same as soon as they are able.

Conclusion: A Partnership in Problem-Solving

Navigating student behavior is one of the most complex responsibilities of any school. Our approach at SKE is a compassionate, collaborative process focused on creating a safe environment where respect is paramount and mistakes become opportunities for growth. It is a system built not just on rules, but on understanding and guidance. We very much value the partnership we have with parents and caregivers in addressing challenges - together!

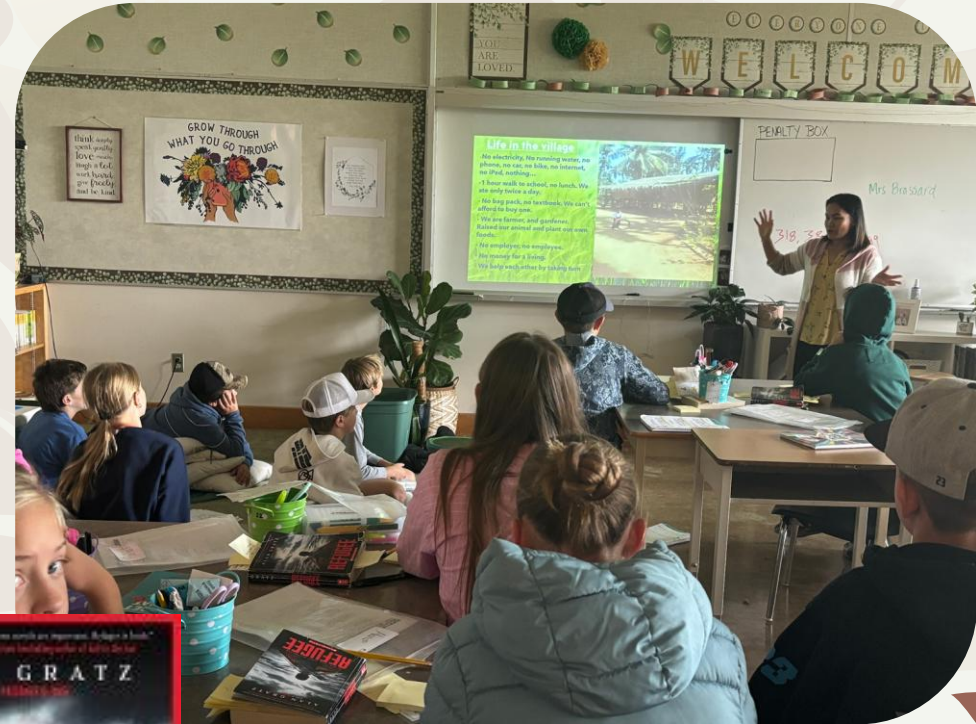
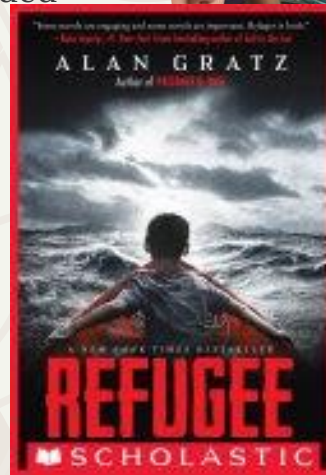
Learning Made Real

Our grade 6s are currently studying the book “Refugee” by Alan Gratz, taught by Mrs. Morgan. This book explores issues of displacement and disconnection, through the perspectives of three young people fleeing unsafe situations. Here at SKE, our students had the privilege to be joined by SKE parent Rosarina Saw, who shared her personal experience of being a refugee earlier in her life.

Thinking critically and deeply about what we are reading, and drawing connections to our own lives is a key part of our learning priorities this year. See this at work in the included student quotes.

“I learned that children at a very young age had to be running and sleeping in caves and I find this shocking because nobody in our class had to do that. It’s horrible because no kid should have to grow up like that.”

- *Sophie*



“I was shocked at how crowded refugee camps can be and how the government from Myanmar would set fire to refugee camps. These people are just trying to escape and find safety.”

- *James*

GRADE 6 LEADERSHIP

Ready to Make a Difference!

Our enthusiastic **2025/2026 SKE Grade 6 Leadership Team** is off to a fantastic start! This inspiring group of students is committed to making a positive impact both locally and globally by sharing their unique talents, skills, and passions.

They've already begun making their presence known, including visiting classrooms to connect with younger students and share their leadership energy.

To kick off the year, the team came together on the evening of **Thursday, October 9th** for a special celebration filled with team-building activities, brainstorming sessions, planning, and idea sharing. It was a great night of connection and collaboration, setting the tone for an exciting year ahead.

We can't wait to see all the amazing things they will accomplish!



Leadership in action!



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





SKE Cold Weather Guidelines



Students must be dressed properly for the weather. Students wait outside until the morning bell rings and they 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.

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



HARMONY DAY – NOVEMBER 20th

We are excited to host a school-wide Harmony Day Cultural Picnic on Thursday, November 20th, 2025, celebrating diversity, inclusion, and community spirit.

Families are invited to participate by dressing in cultural attire, wearing red, white, or orange, contributing a nut-free dish to the potluck, and attending the Harmony Day Picnic Assembly from 10:10 to 11:10 AM. Students should bring a towel or blanket to sit on and reusable containers and cutlery for the picnic.

Volunteers are needed for set-up, serving, and clean-up, and families are encouraged to share photos or videos of cultural events to be included in a slideshow. Let's come together to honour our unique backgrounds and enjoy a joyful day of sharing and connection! **Watch for a notice being sent home shortly with further details.**



LIBRARY OPEN BOOK EXCHANGE DAYS

Forgot your library book on your class day? No problem! Students who forget their books can still choose new ones during their library class time. We will place them on hold for a couple days so students can return them on our open book exchange days. That way, no one misses out on the chance to enjoy reading.

TUESDAY

8:30-9:00

WEDNESDAY

8:30-9:00

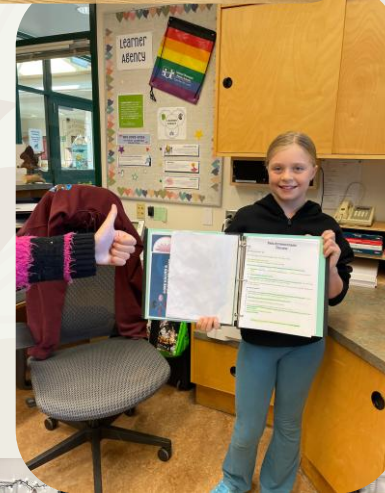
THURSDAY

8:30-9:00





FALL AT SKE!



SKE STORY CHARACTER PUMPKIN DECORATING EVENT

A big **THANK YOU** to all the students who participated in our **Character Pumpkin Decorating** event in October! Your pumpkins were incredibly **creative, fun, and full of personality** — what a fantastic display of imagination and effort.

Great job, everyone! We loved seeing your artistic talents shine.





HALLOWEEN FUN!





PAC FUNDRAISING



mabel's labels

Keep Track of Your Kids' Belongings & Support Our School!

Our school is fundraising with Mabel's Labels – a company that makes personalized, durable, and waterproof labels perfect for water bottles, lunch boxes, clothing, and more!

These labels are a great way to keep your child's items out of the lost and found while supporting our school at the same time.

Take a look [here](#) to place your order!



**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!**

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COFFEE@PIONEERGOURMETCOFFEE.COM
WWW.PIONEERGOURMETCOFFEE.COM
@PIONEERGOURMETCOFFEE







PAC FUNDRAISING

Cozy winter fundraiser

Order Deadline: Nov. 13th at midnight
Pick up: Nov. 27th at SKE
southkelownaelempac.growingsmilesfundraising.com

NEW!!!
\$35 for 2

Get your Bloom Bud
2 adorable plushies!
Buy the Perfect Gift

\$15 6.5" Poinsettia Our signature holiday floral! Treat yourself to a velvet red or ivory white poinsettia (15" tall).	\$35 Indoor Planter Toasty fireside nook! 4 lush plant mixes snugly tucked into a charming holiday tin.	\$35 Holiday Wreath Cozy woodsy greeting! Crafted from fresh noble, cedar & juniper, wrapped in elegance.
\$45 Greenery Arrangement Regal flora elegance! Mixed in woodland berries, frosty pinecones & grand crimson bow.	\$35 Hanging Bough Enchanted woodland grove! Heritage burlap bag stuffed with greenery & flex berry sprigs.	\$25 Table Top Trio Delightful gift bundle! A charming trio of gaultheria, mini cypress, & frosty fern.

Stay tuned for information about a possible “Santa Photo” event!



Our winter fundraisers are now open. Click either image to be taken directly to the corresponding information. For Purdy's, view the second page of info, and select the ordering site for your preferred class.



Join the SKE Fundraiser & Support South Kelowna Elementary!

We're partnering with Priest Creek Family Estate Winery, just down the road, to raise funds for our school's PAC!

When you sign up and join the "SKE Fundraiser", you'll receive:

♦ 10% OFF all purchases

And it gets even better... 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-5:00 PM

So whether you've been meaning to check out Priest Creek or it's one of your local favourites, now's the perfect time to support!



Student Art Cards



- Order forms are coming home shortly.
- You will be able to order high-quality cards that include your child's original art.
- All proceeds go towards future enhancements to SKE's arts curriculum.

**WATCH FOR
ORDER
FORMS!**



**Big thanks to local artist
Janice Hennig for partnering
with Ms. Juda and SKE to
support students in this
project. We are certain you
will enjoy their creations!**



**ORDER IN TIME
FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Community News, Events & Opportunities

LUCKHURST Christmas at the Farm



DECEMBER 13, 2025 • 11 AM - 3 PM



➡ PARK AT SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ⬅



LUCKHURST FARM & DISTILLERY



FALL 2025 4 ON 4 VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

REGISTER NOW @ [GOHEAT.CA](https://goheat.ca)

Community - Volleyball

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This program focuses on skill building and game play using smaller sized courts and a 4 on 4 format. Fewer players means more contacts and a faster game to accelerate your development. Each of the 3 sessions will feature a warm-up, skill acquisition activities, and game play so athletes can apply what they have learned. Whether you are new to the game, playing on a school team or preparing for club tryouts, this program will help you develop your skills, prepare for 6 on 6, and have fun.



*Select **UBCO Heat | Men's Volleyball** to register.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Grades 4-5 @ 1:15pm-2:15pm (\$60.00)
- Grades 6-7 @ 2:30pm-4:00pm (\$90.00)

All genders welcome!



UBC Okanagan Gymnasium
(3211 Athletics Court, Kelowna)



- Sunday, October 19
- Sunday, October 26
- Sunday, November 2

***Registration includes all three dates.

Questions: please contact
scott.koskie@ubc.ca



! YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SUMMIT



Kelowna Ramada Hotel &
Conference Centre

2170 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna BC Canada V1Y-6G8

Thursday November 20th, 2025 | 1 pm - 7pm

A FREE Inclusive Employment Event for youth with disabilities

Register and read more at: inclusionBC.org/YES



The Youth Employment Summit (YES!) is coming to your community — and we want you to be part of it!

These inclusive, free events are designed to spark inspiration and open doors — whether you're just starting to think about your future or ready to step into the workforce. Join us to meet new people, learn from professionals, and take the next step on your employment journey!

FREE Snacks & Drinks!
Fuel up while you connect and learn.

This event is brought to you in collaboration with Pathways Abilities Society, Central Okanagan Public Schools, WHEELS Transition to Employment Program & Okanagan College

inclusionBC

Substance Use Prevention Series

Online Learning for Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians



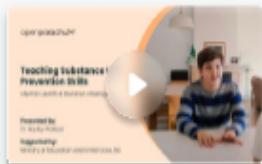
This series is designed to support parents, caregivers, and guardians across BC with tools and strategies to help with substance use prevention in the home. In this document, you will find three webinars recorded live between February 2024 and May 2025, each containing a one-hour presentation and a 30-minute live Q&A. You will also find an additional set of questions with recorded answers to assist in applying these concepts to real-life circumstances. The purpose of these sessions is to equip adults with skills that will help youth and adolescents make healthy decisions to support their well-being both now and in the future.

Note: These sessions do not address intervention strategies for substance use challenges. If your child is struggling, please refer to [erase](#) for more support.



Conversations that Promote Substance Use Prevention

This webinar explores six practical conversation strategies for adults that help children and youth learn to make healthy decisions that support their long-term well-being.



Teaching Substance Use Prevention Skills

This webinar explores the four essential skills that every child and youth needs to know to encourage substance use prevention, and provides strategies for teaching these skills in the home.



Creating a Substance Use Prevention Plan

This webinar explores the common challenges that arise when encouraging substance use prevention skills in children and youth, along with tools and strategies for overcoming these barriers.

Mental health resources for families

NEW • NEW • NEW



Information and resources to help parents and caregivers support the mental health and well-being of their families is important.

Content Available



New! Mental health resources for families

New videos and information are available by mental health experts at BC Children's Hospital who share your culture and language.

- Resources are available in many languages to support diverse families, including Arabic, Cantonese, English, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Ukrainian, and for Black communities.
- Topics include anxiety, substance use, family transitions, and more.

When it comes to your child's mental health, you are not alone. Check out these multi-language mental health resources [here](#). New content will roll out until late Fall 2025.

This campaign is a partnership between BC Children's Health Bridge, BC Children's Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre, and Our Kids' Health.

Thank you for Reading!

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

