

The Eagle Gazette

September 2026

South Kelowna Elementary

Phone: 250-870-5107 ske.sd23.bc.ca







Principal's Message

After a lengthy summer season, we are back together for a new year of learning, community, friendship, and growth. It has been wonderful to see all of our students and families again, and to welcome newcomers to our school. I am so pleased to continue to support and serve SKE.

We are already collecting milestones this week, with our Kindergarten gradual entry in full swing, and our grade 1 to 6 students moving into their new classes.

This year we plan to continue favourite SKE activities, including our Harmony Day potluck, winter concert, Shamrock pancake breakfast and more. We are grateful to our PAC for supporting class field studies and school-based learning activities with guest speakers and presenters.

We hope our families will take the time to thoroughly read our monthly newsletter, as well as other communication so that you are "in the know" and confident about what's happening for your children.

In the spirit of learning, *Ms. Lemon*

Sharing Kindness Everyday!

UPCOMING DATES

September 8	School Begins for Grade 1-6
Dismissal @ 11:00 am	**Early**
September 9	Kindergarten First Day of School (Gradual Entry)
September 16	Full Day for Kindergarten
September 21	Terry Fox Run
September 22	SKE PAC General Meeting @ 7 pm
[illegible] 29	Photo Day
September 30	National Day for Truth



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
11:15 a.m. Lunch Recess
12:08 p.m. Classes Resume
1:34 -1:49 Recess
2:30 p.m. Dismissal



SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please check our website often for updated information and the school calendar.

https://ske.sd23.bc.ca

TEXT MESSAGING IS AT SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY!

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

FROM THE OFFICE

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.



View our safety video featuring our students right here!
Great reminders for everyone.



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.

MORE FROM THE OFFICE

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

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.

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 volunteer in classrooms or on field trips, a School District #23 Criminal Record Check is required. This is paid for by the district and can take several weeks to process, so we recommend applying early. Volunteers cannot participate until the clearance is received.
This check must be renewed every four years. If you plan to drive students, you must also complete a Driver Declaration form and provide your driver's license and insurance for copying.

Please visit the office for forms.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

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

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#/=

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.**

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

STUDENT PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ZONES

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!

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!





Our first PAC meeting is Sept 22nd at 7:00 pm. Open to all parents and caregivers!
The welcome back BBQ has had a date change. More information to come!

SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY

SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY SPIRIT WEAR

Powered by: BC SPORTSWEAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR OWN STORE SET UP PLEASE EMAIL info@bcsportswear.ca

Order your SKE Spirit Wear!



Thanks to our SKE PAC for organizing our spirit wear online store. Click here to order your gear today!

SKE FOOD PROGRAM

SKE's food access programs will be starting Monday, Sept 14th.

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.

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.



Brown Bag Lunch Program

Participating students will receive a lunch each day. We will have students pick up their lunch in the morning (between 8:10 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 between 8:10 and 8:25 am.

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.

SOUTH KELOWNA ELEMENTARY

2026 -2027

STUDENT LEARNING PRIORITIES

At South Kelowna Elementary...

we support learners to actively take ownership of their well-being and growth, approaching learning through a holistic lens that recognizes the interconnectedness of physical and mental wellness.

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



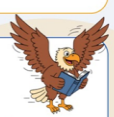
01 THE PRODUCTIVE STRUGGLE

All students will show increasing recognition that struggle is an essential part of learning, demonstrating growth in perseverance and problem-solving.



02 WRITING

All students will demonstrate growth in written expression by refining their ideas through feedback and revision and will see themselves as writers who can persist through challenge.



03 READING

All students will demonstrate growth in reading by using critical thinking strategies to understand and appreciate text and will see themselves as readers who can persist through challenge.

Our Focus on Learning

Our Collective Pathway

After a thorough process of reflection and discussion this past spring, considering our observations, student data and progress over time, we have identified the three learning priorities you see explained in the graphic on the left.

While each grade has specific curriculum, as prescribed by the Ministry of Education & Child Care, as a school we also are called upon to develop priorities directly connected to our students. You will see the phrase “productive struggle” in our foundational goal, as well as embedded regarding writing and reading.

Over the school year, our teachers will support students in developing their skills in relation to these areas, through explicit instruction, modelling and practice. Understanding that authentic and real learning can be uncomfortable and takes time is an essential skill. Over the year, we will share information with families so you can support at home as well.

OUR 2026-2027 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. Crone
INDIGENOUS ADVOCATE — Ms. Phillips
LEARNING ASSISTANCE
Mrs. Bitcon
INCLUSION TEACHER
Mrs. Lindsay
SPEECH & LANGUAGE
Mrs. Farrelly

CEA TEAM

Mrs. Anderson

CLASSROOM TEACHERS:

KINDERGARTEN/GRADE 1 — Ms. Robertson

KINDERGARTEN/GRADE — Ms. Romano

GRADE 1/2 — Mrs. Oakes

GRADE 1/2 — Mrs. Shanks

GRADE 2/3 — Mrs. Jennejohn

GRADE 3/4 — Mrs. Shannon & Ms. Slattery

GRADE 4 — Mrs. Bernard

GRADE 4/5 — Ms. Rooks

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).

The Central Okanagan School District's Financial Hardship Clause

Within Board Regulation 425R – Student Fees (Regulations) (see 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) 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



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Every Child Matters

Orange Shirt Day is a meaningful opportunity to recognize the impact of the residential school system on Indigenous children, families, and communities. It is a day to honour survivors, remember those who were affected, and reaffirm our commitment to truth, reconciliation, and ensuring that every child matters.

The movement began in 2013 and was inspired by the story of **Phyllis Webstad**, whose new orange shirt was taken away on her first day at a residential school. Her experience has become a powerful symbol of the loss of identity, culture, and belonging that many Indigenous children endured.

Why September 30th?

September 30 was chosen because it reflects the time of year when Indigenous children were taken from their families to attend residential schools. It also serves as an important opportunity for learning, reflection, and promoting respect, inclusion, and understanding within our school communities.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY ENCOURAGES US TO:

- Learn about the history and legacy of residential schools
- Listen to and honour the experiences of survivors
- Reflect on the importance of reconciliation
- Build a future grounded in respect, understanding, and hope



We encourage everyone to **WEAR ORANGE** on **Tuesday, September 29th** as a visible show of support, remembrance, and solidarity.









Welcome Back

Community News, Events, & Opportunities







EcoCooks

Games Fair at VegFest Kelowna



SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 10AM - 4PM

CITY PARK
1600 ABBOTT STREET, KELOWNA

PLAY FOR THE PLANET!

HOW IT WORKS

1 **REGISTER & FUNDRAISE IN ADVANCE**
Register & fundraise $15+ = Free Games Passport

OR

2 **DROP IN ON EVENT DAY**
Drop-in = $20 Games Passport

THEN

3 **JOIN US AT GAMES FAIR ON SEP 20TH!**
Enter VegFest by donation, explore the festival, and head over to the Games Fair. Take your Games Passport and complete challenges and receive a swag bag & enter to win prizes!

AT THE EVENT

- Fun games & challenge stations
- EcoWarrior obstacle course
- Swag bags (while supplies last)
- Win fundraising & event prizes!

Help us raise $10,000 for youth climate action!
www.ecocooks.org/games-fair

JUNIOR COYOTES BASKETBALL

5x5 League
September 11 - November 21
Grade 1-2 Boys & Girls
Grade 3-4 Boys & Girls
Grade 5-6 Boys & Girls
Grade 7-9 Boys
Grade 10-12 Boys
Grade 7-8 Girls
Grade 9-12 Girls
Practice & Game per Week
See Website for Scheduled Practice & Game Times

Fall Programs

3x3 League
September 12 - November 22
Grade 1-2 Boys & Girls
Grade 3-4 Boys
Grade 5-6 Boys
Grade 7-9 Boys & Girls
Grade 3-4/5-6 Girls

Microballers
September 12 - November 21
Boys & Girls Ages 3-5

OC Home Schedule
Sat, Oct 24 vs VIU
Sat, Oct 31 vs Capilano
Sat, Dec 5 vs CBC

Register: WWW.GOCOYOTES.CA

Contact: 250-575-7731 andrew@juniorcoyotes.com

FALL Registration Open!



EcoCooks club

Kelowna

604 Cawston Avenue, Kelowna

3:30 - 5:45PM

on Wednesdays

September16 - November 18

www.ecocooks.org/registrationkelowna

WEST K HOOPS

BASKETBALL YOUTH PROGRAMS

WESTKHOOPS.CA

GRADES K to 12

COST $110 - $320

PRACTICES Mondays Tuesdays

GAMES Saturday Mornings

LOCATION Schools Near You

PROGRAMS 3x3 Leagues 5v5 Selects Camps/Clinics

PLAY DEVELOP COMPETE

PROGRAMS NOW OPEN

TAKE THE DIVING PLUNGE

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE DIVING COMMUNITY & LEARN FROM OUR INCREDIBLE COACHES

1 METER & 3 METER SPRINGBOARD DIVING LESSONS

FOR
- BEGINNERS
- COMPETITIVE ATHLETES
- ADULTS

H2O ADVENTURE + FITNESS CENTER & RUTLAND FAMILY YMCA

ANYONE 5+ WELCOME

KELOWNA Springboard Diving Club

HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE

READY TO DIVE IN? EMAIL US!
KSDC.GENERAL@GMAIL.COM
WITH ANY QUESTIONS

KELOWNA MINOR LACROSSE

CANADA'S NATIONAL SUMMER SPORT

KELOWNA KODIAKS

THE FASTEST GAME ON TWO FEET

Ages 5-16 | No Experience Required
Boys & Girls Welcome

Learn More & Register: kelownalacrosse.ca

EAGLES
South Kelowna Elementary

Thank you for Reading!

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