

The Eagle Gazette
February 2024

South Kelowna Elementary

Phone: 250-870-5107

www.ske.sd23.bc.ca



Principal's Message

Dear SKE Parents, Caregivers & Community,

Every morning at 11:05 am, our student announcement leaders share the SKE news of the day. We acknowledge that we are learning on the Traditional and Unceded Territory of the Okanagan Syilx people. We celebrate birthdays. We welcome guests to our building. We share the events of the day, like clubs and field studies. And then each announcement ends a little differently, depending on the day.

On Tuesdays, we highlight a particular character trait. So far this year, we have learned a little about curiosity, loyalty, cooperation, courage, optimism, reliability, flexibility and several more. Thinking back it is clear that each of these traits was part of our January at SKE!

Early in the month, we were asked by the school district if we could support Anne McClymont as they had experienced a flood and needed alternate spaces for their learners. We said, "yes! Then, the day before they joined us, our library experienced its own significant flood event. We said, "we can do this!" Mrs. Jordan and the Fine Arts program has been moving and grooving between our Beaver Lodge (the former computer lodge), and student classrooms. The library has been running out of the foyer. We've had freezing days, piles of snow, wonderful sledding, and now a field that looks more like a lake, visited by ducks. We also welcomed an aquarium complete with salmon eggs, thanks to the SKE PAC & Mrs. Shannon's class.

These little salmon eggs hold so much possibility! In the spring, when they have grown, they will be released into Mission Creek, where they will swim into their future. And here, at SKE, our students are taking steps every day into their futures too. It's our privilege to walk alongside them on this journey.

Hope to see you at the PAC-hosted Family Bingo Night on February 8th. Order your dinner today [right here!](#)

Warm regards,
Jasmine Lemon
SKE Principal



Sharing Kindness Everyday!

For Your Calendar

February 8	PAC Family Bingo Night 100th Day!
February 16	PRO-D Day - NO SCHOOL
February 19	Family Day - NO SCHOOL
February 21	PAC Meeting
February 28	Pink Shirt Day
February 29	Lost and Found Donation Day

SAVE THE DATE - Early Learning for Families event on **April 25th** from **5:00 pm to 6:30 pm**. Stay tuned for more information to come.

Still not getting texts from the school?

Please text **"YES"** to 978338

LOST AND FOUND

Please take a look for any of your family's lost items that are displayed in the front foyer.

All items that are not accounted for will be donated on **February 29th**.

Congratulations to Ms. Oakes's Grade 1 class!

They are The Casey Clarke Show's Classroom of the Month! A parent entered their classroom, winning them a Domino's pizza party and a \$200 gift card to Blair Sportswear for Ms. Oakes!



Share your observations!

Parent/Caregiver Focus Group Opportunities

Monday, Feb 5th - 6:00 - 7:00 pm

OR

Tuesday, Feb 6th - 8:45 - 9:45 am

We are working on a school community student learning goal involving a focus on number sense fluency, stamina for learning & resiliency to challenge, and supporting our learners with their physical and mental wellness.

SKE parents and caregivers are invited to join SKE Principal, Ms. Lemon, for a focus group conversation about how this learning goal is impacting students - how do you see it at work in your child's conversations about their learning? The intention is to learn from this conversation, aiming for further growth for the rest of the school year. We will come back together for a wrap-up conversation at the end of the year.

If this interests you, please [RSVP here](#) by Friday,
February 2nd.



Click
the
link!

Thank you From the SKE Office

We recently sent home information about late arrivals, mid-day departures, and early dismissals.

Thank you families, for reading our letter. We appreciate how quickly we noticed that these important safety procedures were being followed. This helps us ensure accurate attendance, and reduces classroom and learning interruptions.

As a brief reminder:

Late Arrivals

- Teachers take classroom attendance promptly after the morning and afternoon bells.
- If your student is arriving after 8:30 am, they must stop at the office to sign in. This is an essential part of ensuring we have accounted for all of our students.

Mid-Day Departures/Item Drop Off

- When a child is being picked up early, parents/caregivers must come to the school office to let us know they are here.
- Parents/caregivers can wait in the office and school staff will ensure your student is notified or brought down.
- If an item needs to be dropped off for a student, please leave it at the office. We will be sure that it makes its way to the right person.

Having trouble with SchoolMessenger? Stop in the office and see Ms. Angus for a quick tutorial.



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn



The School Bus Transportation Application for September 2024 Opens 7:00 AM January 29, 2024

IMPORTANT

Although school bus transportation applications are accepted throughout the school year, priority seating for the 2024–2025 school year is given to those applicants who have applied before end of day on **May 31, 2024**

Use the link below to submit a school bus transportation application for the 2024-2025 school year.
<https://busconnect.sd23.bc.ca/application?year=2024>

Students must be registered to ride on the school bus, for detailed information regarding student eligibility for transportation please visit our website:
[http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/Pages/default.aspx#/=](http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/Pages/default.aspx#/)

470R – Transportation Services Management – Guiding Principles for Transportation in Central Okanagan Public Schools.
<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Section%204%20%20Students/470R.pdf>

Links on
this page
are live.
Just click!

!!STOP!!

**For RED FLASHING LIGHTS
IT'S THE LAW**



Safety is everyone's responsibility

Updates on Parking & Parking Safety

South Kelowna families are very fortunate to have options for dropping off and picking up their children at school. Thank you for taking care of our community by being mindful of, and following the parking lot expectations. Your modeling for our students makes a huge difference!

Thank you for:



- Using the paved pathways and crosswalks at all times rather than cutting through the parking lot and bus lane.
- Obeying ALL NO PARKING signs. Buses require clearance to enter and exit safely. This ensures the safety of all vehicles entering and exiting the school grounds.
- Keeping our neighbor's driveways open so they can access or exit their homes.

Drop Off & Pick Up:

Spiers Road: **** BEST OPTION **** 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. Please follow signage—do not park past the tall cedars as it makes it very difficult for busses to exit. If dropping off on the far side of the road (East), please park your car and **escort your child(ren) across the road.**

Bus Loop: ***DROP OFF ONLY AFTER 8:10 a.m.*** You may use the bus loop to drop off after the busses have left **after 8:10 a.m.** If dropping off in the bus loop, please be sure your child(ren) **exit the right-hand side** of the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk. This avoids children going around vehicles and being in the line of passing cars. **Do not leave your vehicle while utilizing the bus loop.**

Staff Parking Lot: **The parking lot is for STAFF only. Staff in various roles need to access the parking lot throughout the day, including those arriving for after-school activities.**

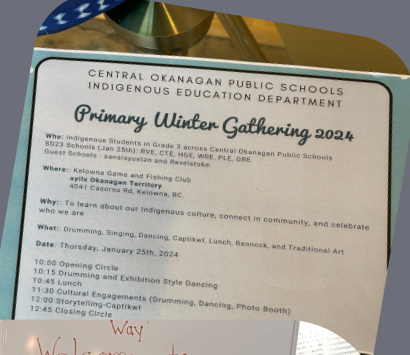


Speaking of school safety, on Tuesday, Constable Mike Della-Paolera stopped by for a visit. He's the new School Resource Officer supporting Central Zone schools, including SKE.

Constable Mike can't be missed - he's 6'10!

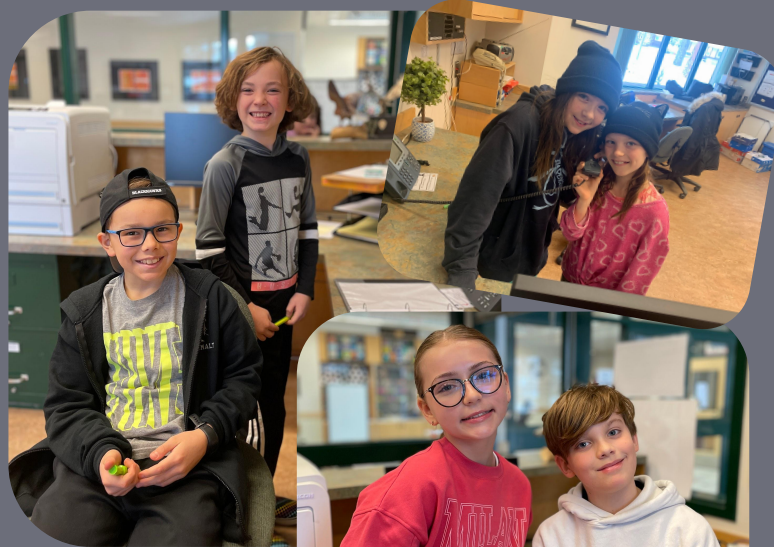
An experienced SRO, he'll work alongside Constable Fed Angula. The SRO program, a partnership between RCMP and SD23, is another way we work to support student understanding & knowledge of safety in our community.

January 2024 @ SKE



On January 26th, SKE attended the Primary Winter Gathering, organized by SD23's Indigenous Education Department. This day of cultural teachings provides a sense of community and a whole lot of fun for our learners. Bannock, drumming, dancing & more! Limlemt (thank you) to Ms. Phillips, SKE's Indigenous Advocate, for taking our students!

Each week, a pair of grade 5 students arrive promptly at 11:00 in the morning to practice and then deliver our morning announcements. This is a wonderful way for our grade 5s to step into leadership roles at SKE, and their voices are so wonderful to hear each morning!



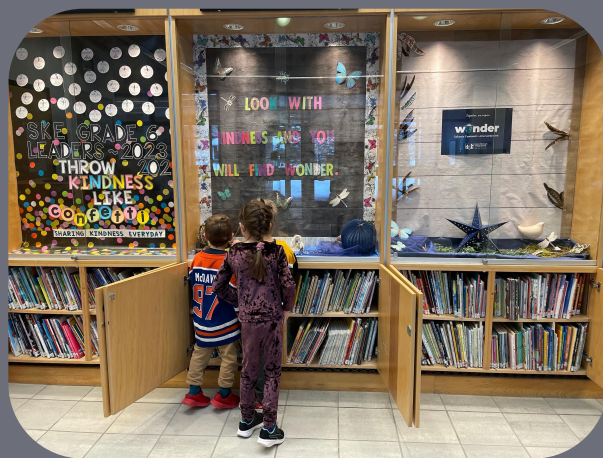
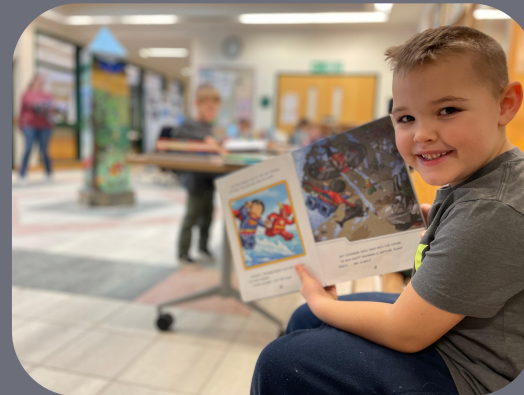
Also on January 26th, our grade 6 Leadership students joined their partner classes and supported teachers in sharing reminders about how following shared rules and guidelines can make a community stronger. They also worked directly with younger students on activities, and provided service around the school. We are so grateful for the leadership of our students, and the collaboration of Mrs. Morgan, Ms. Wilson and Ms. Estey on this program!



More January @ SKE

What's happening in the library?

School District Operations staff worked diligently as soon as a problem was detected. They have continued to work hard to first clear out any damaged items and materials, and are now rebuilding our library. Mrs. Obedkoff and Mrs. MacLean have been running our library program in the foyer and in the Beaver Lodge (the former computer lab). The grand re-opening of our refreshed library will not be for a while yet, but when it happens, we'll let you know. Until then, we still have books available and library programming being offered!



This month we enjoyed a cultural performance from "Kutapira", a percussion ensemble from Vancouver, inspired by traditional and modern Zimbabwean rhythms. They were awesome, and the whole school was grooving!



PINK SHIRT DAY

On **Wednesday, February 28th**, we will recognize **Pink Shirt Day** as a time to advocate for kindness and acceptance towards one another. Originally started by two teenagers in Nova Scotia, its purpose was to end the bullying a male classmate endured for wearing a pink shirt. Pink Shirt Day now actively supports thousands of youth across the country who have experienced bullying.

In a world of people tearing each other down, it is more important than ever to focus on being kind to one another.

Our students will gather together on February 14th for an assembly where we will learn more about the importance of kindness in our community, and ways we can ensure all people feel accepted and valued.



Join us in taking a stand against bullying and be an advocate for kindness and inclusivity by wearing

PINK on February 28th!

<https://www.pinkshirtday.ca>

GRADE 5/6 BASKETBALL

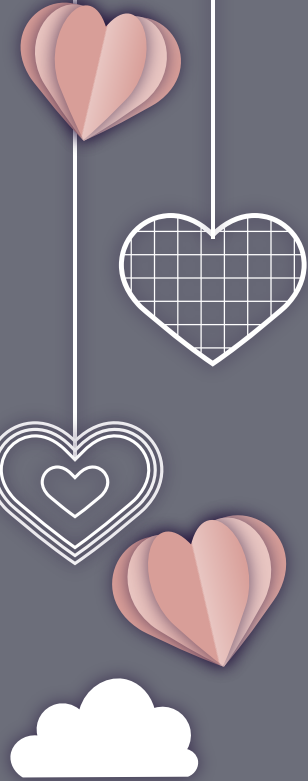
Grade 5/6 Basketball is underway at SKE and the students are practicing new skills, making new friends and sharing new team-building experiences! This is a fun SD23 league program where all teams will be playing one game per week against other local schools.

A special THANK YOU to Coach McLaughlin and Coach Larkin for volunteering to coach the basketball teams this year.

The boys practices are on Mondays and their games are on Tuesdays. The girls practices and games are on Wednesdays. Please see our school calendar for the upcoming game schedule.

Participants must have a gym strip and a water bottle.

Thank you to parents willing to carpool students to the games. Make sure you see the office to fill out a Driver Declaration and provide proper documents.



Inclusive Education Month

What is National Inclusive Education Month?

The Board of Education declared that February is Inclusive Education Month in Central Okanagan Public Schools. Throughout our district, staff work to ensure that each student has opportunities to succeed.

The purposes of National Inclusive Education Month are:

- To highlight inclusive education – to define what it is and how the development of inclusive schools and inclusive school practices helps provide quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students with an intellectual disability.
- To provide educators, students and parents an opportunity to share ideas on strategies to enhance inclusion and successful school experiences for every child.
- To acknowledge and recognize the commitment and effort of teachers, administrators, students, and families who contribute to successful inclusion of students in schools and classrooms throughout Canada.



FEBRUARY IS HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

What are Human Rights?

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, from birth until death. They apply regardless of where you are from, what you believe or how you choose to live your life. These basic rights are based on shared values like dignity, fairness, equality, respect and independence.

What is the Declaration of Human Rights?

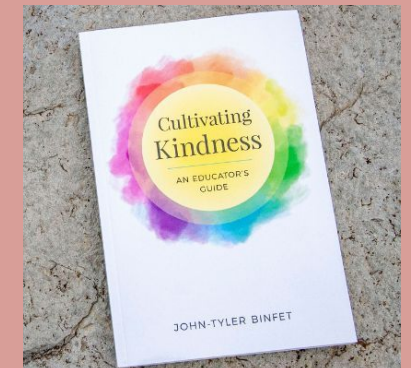
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a historic document which outlined the rights and freedoms everyone is entitled to.

Black History Month

In December of 1995, the Parliament of Canada recognized February as Black History Month following a motion introduced by the first African Canadian woman elected to Parliament, Jean Augustine. The presence of peoples of African descent in Canada dates back farther than Samuel de Champlain's (a French explorer and navigator in early 1600's) first voyage down the St. Lawrence River.

A group of staff have joined together for a book club. We are exploring research-based kindness initiatives and the impact on students in schools. Written by UBCO professor John-Tyler Binfet, we are finding it fascinating!

Curious? You can check out what we are reading by clicking on the book!





Kindie Learning





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Accessibility Survey

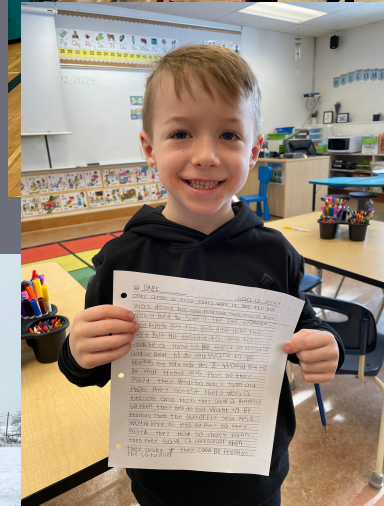
Help us better understand how Central Okanagan Public Schools can improve accessibility for persons with diverse abilities and disabilities.

Your feedback is important and will help guide the development of our district plan.

Follow the link to complete this short survey:



WE ARE SKE!





PAC Corner

Hello SKE Families,

We're excited to announce that our 2nd Annual Sonic Wash fundraiser is here. Stock up on wash cards now, and be ready for Spring! 40% of all sales will go to the SKE PAC!

Sonic Wash Fundraiser

- For every 5 wash cards purchased, the 6th is free! (This has already been factored into the price.)
- Touchless car wash
- Free vacuums & mat washes
- Cards have an expiry date of: Dec 31, 2024
- Note: Any old cards that were not used before their Dec 31, 2023 deadline will also still be honoured.

To participate, log in to your Munchalunch account and click on the 'Fundraising' tab:

<https://munchalunch.com/login>

Ordering is open now through Fri, Feb 2.

Cards will be ready for pick-up at the office as of Wed, Feb 7.

Thank you so much for your support of this shiny and spiffy fundraiser!

Sincerely,
Your SKE PAC

Our next meeting
will be on

February 21st @ 7 pm

All are welcome!

TO GET THE LATEST UPDATES:

Follow us on FACEBOOK:

South Kelowna Elementary Parents

Watch for School Messenger updates.

Check the SKE website for our meeting minutes.

Waste Free Lunches

Save \$\$\$!

Reusable [pouches like these](#) (or similar) will save you money on yogurt/applesauce when you buy the larger containers while saving the planet every lunch hour! Ditch the single use plastic!

Skip the ziploc with [these \(or similar\) snack pouches](#).

Send reusable cutlery, especially on hot lunch days. Here is one option for a [cutlery set with a neat container](#) for lunch kits

When no waste isn't an option, consider low waste, plastic free options. Our time is precious, so it can be challenging to resist pre-packaged, single serve snacks but if we all keep the idea of reducing plastic consumption in mind, we can make a difference in the waste we produce as a school while saving money on groceries at home!



Is your child too sick for school?



Deciding when your child is too sick for school is not always an easy decision.

Children should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. If you have questions and concerns about your child's health, talk with a qualified healthcare professional.

Keep children at home if they have:

- a fever, and keep them home for **24** hours after the fever is gone away without the help of medication (see reverse page on how to take a temperature).
- vomiting or diarrhea, and keep them home for **48** hours after the last episode.
- a severe sore throat.
- a rash with no known cause.
- a severe cough especially with other symptoms like a runny nose and headache.
- redness, swelling or discharge of the eyes, ears or skin, unless treated.
- been acting unwell and have little energy to join in school activities.

For questions about your child's health you can:

1. Dial 811 or go to [HealthLinkBC.ca](https://www.healthlinkbc.ca) to speak with a:
 - Registered Nurse **24 hours a day**, every day of the year.
 - Registered Dietitian every **weekday** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST.
 - Pharmacist every **night** from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. PST every day of the year.
2. Contact an Urgent Care, Walk-in Clinic or Doctor's Office.
 - See the reverse page on when to go to the emergency department.



Seasonal Respiratory Illness

In the fall and winter, we can expect to see more respiratory illness. This is an annual occurrence, but there are measures we can all take to prevent illness and manage symptoms while at home. Here is some information that may be helpful: [It's respiratory illness season](#).

For more information on specific illnesses see: [A Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases](#)



Is it an Emergency?

Having a sick child can be stressful, but not all illnesses require a visit to the emergency department. Find the right place to go for care.

Emergency Department

- Difficulty breathing
- Fever in infants younger than 3 months
- Broken bone
- Serious or severe burn
- Vomiting or diarrhea with dehydration
- Sudden change in mental state
- Complicated or deep cut



Urgent Care, Walk-in Clinic or Doctor's Office

- Fever or flu
- Cough, cold, sore throat
- Earache
- Rash
- Pink eye
- Sprain or strain
- Referral to specialist



[Information on when to bring your child to the Emergency Department](#)

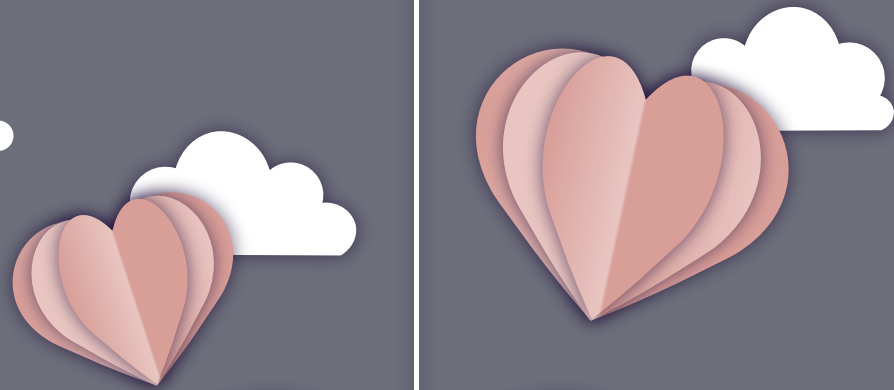
Information on Taking a temperature:

HealthLinkBC [Fever or chills age 11 or younger](#) (has a symptom checker link)

HealthLinkBC [How to take a temperature: Children and Adults](#)

Canadian Paediatric Society [Fever and temperature taking](#)

Canadian Pharmacist Association [Information for families on children's fever and pain medication](#)



Thank you for reading!

We hope you enjoyed this month's edition of the SKE Gazette. We are so proud of our school community, and glad that you are part of it!