

December 2023

NEWSLETTER



Message from your Admin Team

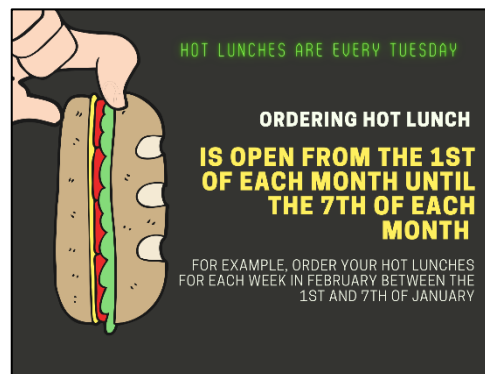
It is truly hard to believe that we are already into the month of December! On December 21st, your child will be bringing home their first written report of the year. The comments about learning should not be a surprise to students since they play a key role in the assessment process. This time also marks a new beginning to set goals as well as reflect on past work habits, achievements, and areas for growth. Most importantly, it is a time for parents to communicate with their children about their learning and collaborate in determining a path for future success and social/emotional growth.



On an ongoing basis, teachers assist students to choose samples of work that demonstrate student learning within the core competencies. Meaningful samples of student progress encourage learning as a personalized process. Examples provide ongoing, authentic, specific, and descriptive evidence of the learning journey aligned with clear learning standards. Evidence may include documentation of conversations; observations and products around key areas of learning; and student and teacher reflections. These may also be presented in digital or non-digital portfolios. And let's not forget the creative and beautiful displays of student artwork around the school and in classrooms. The artwork is not only an effective way to make student learning visible, but also a great

way to create an environment where all learners feel seen and heard and where they develop a stronger sense of belonging. Well done PGE!

When your child's report card comes home, parents are encouraged to focus on the positive aspects of the report card. This is not always an easy task. For some parents, this might mean highlighting a strong effort or social responsibility comment or congratulating a learning goal. It could mean praising a perfect attendance record or acknowledging a small improvement shown in a particular area. Starting on a positive note shows your child that you truly care about the accomplishments, not only areas that need improvement.

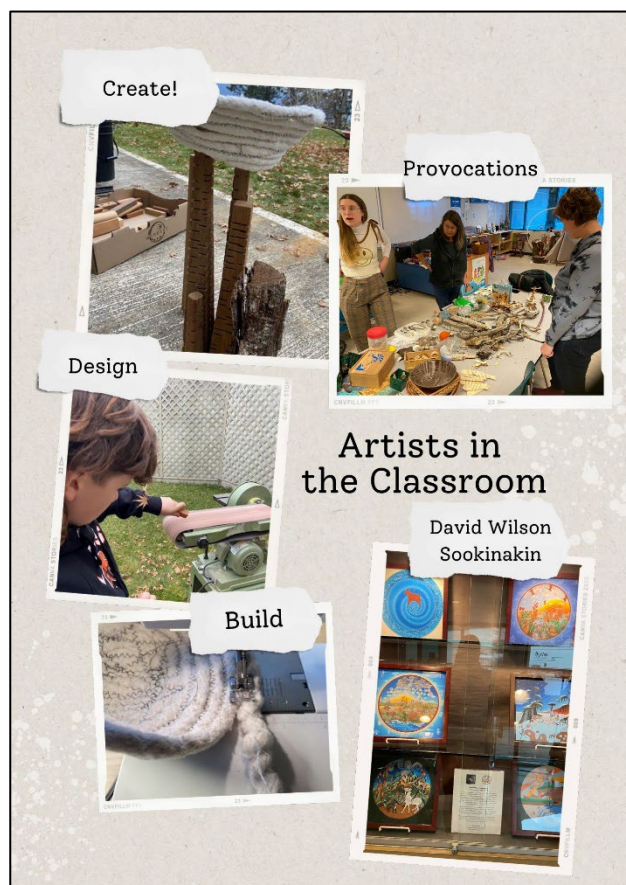


Artists in the Classroom

École Peter Greer Elementary is located in the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territory of the Syilx Okanagan People.

In March 2022, PGE admin presented the **Parent Advisory Council (PAC) with an idea to collaborate with** Syilx artist, David Wilson Sookinakin, to reimagine the clipart eagle image that dons the school gym, the uniforms and all the branded material—a reminder of the colonial present. Together they collaborated to apply for a grant from the Artist in the Classroom Program and were successfully awarded \$8,000 for the project. PGE was also the recipient of the Partnership Recognition and Exploration Fund from UBC in the amount of \$1,500 to bridge small resource gaps, enabling community partners to forge reciprocal relationships with the university. Funds from the Partnership Recognition and Exploration Fund will be used to support the Co-Creating a New Understanding of Eagles.

This project is a collaborative effort between teachers, our Indigenous Advocate Rose Alexis, and our **PAC**. We hope that by weaving together art and story, students will come to gain a deeper appreciation not only about this space and place but also the importance of eagle. The deliberate scaffolding of the project will help students to work towards co-created projects and an opportunity to display their work in the school—a reminder of the student's and school's commitment to reconciliation.



Working with David, and local storytellers, we would like to introduce students to captikʷł, a collection of teachings about Syilx Okanagan laws, customs, values, governance structures and principles that, together, define and inform Syilx Okanagan rights and responsibilities to the land. David will provide experiences that support students as they navigate the ideation process, providing technical instruction to realize their works. Students will also collaborate with peers, creating a cohesive body of work that intersects with the learnings from the captikʷł. The students and artist will also co-create a piece of artwork that can be displayed at the school. Students will also have opportunities to hear stories

about eagles from our Librarian, engage with provocations boxes and loose parts to explore their own understanding about eagle and their habitat. There will also be an exhibition where student artists will have the opportunity to speak about their work.

Next time you are at the school, we encourage you to visit the display cases to see some of David's amazing artwork. A big thanks to the PAC for their support with this grant!

UPCOMING DATES

December 4	Catton & Richardson Skating (AM)
December 7 - 11	Sexual Health Education for Grades 4 & 5
December 12	Parent Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 or on Zoom https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423
December 20	Primary Winter Concert @ 6:00 pm
December 21	Report Cards Home StrongStart Closed Today
December 22	Last Day of School Before Winter Vacation Holiday Caroling in the Gym StrongStart Closed Today
Dec 25-Jan 5	Winter Vacation
January 8	Schools Reopen After Winter Break
January 9	Parent Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 or on Zoom https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423
January 10	Krastel and Dion to Sovereign Lake (Snowshoeing & X-Country Skiing)
January 11	Bray & Catton to Sovereign Lake (Snowshoeing & X-Country Skiing)
January 15	MDI Surveys for Grade 5s Begin
January 22	StrongStart Closed Today



Visitors to School

Every year, we review school safety procedures in order to provide the safest possible environment for our children. All visitors **MUST** report to the office to sign in and out of the building. Due to site-safety protocols during the pandemic, we would appreciate if all visitors could call the office first to make arrangements before entering our one main open entrance at the front of the school. The main entrance is the only door that remains open during the day. Other exits will remain locked except when required during break times. Students who are late need to access the school through the front door and check in at the office. **All classrooms and hallways will be locked after school by 5:00 p.m. Students and parents will not be able to access these areas during the evening** (it is important to come back for homework or forgotten items before 5:00 p.m.). Please do not ask our custodian for exceptions as we have experienced repeated interruptions during the evening that affect our security and limit our cleaning time.

Grade 3 Swimming Program

We are excited to announce the return of YMCA Swimming Program to all Grade 3 students in the district. Our grade 3s will be going on April 3rd, 10th, and the 17th to the Kelowna Family Y pool in Rutland. This Program is designed to teach children important water safety survival skills, and to increase swimming competency as a part of our goal to drown proof the Okanagan. Each visit will consist of a 30 minute swim lesson, focused on water safety and survival skills, followed by 30 minutes of free swim time.



— Hello —

Winter

Primary Concert

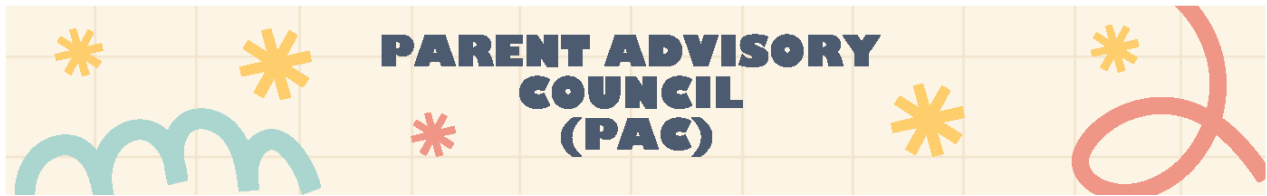
Wednesday, December 20 @ 6:00 pm

Payne & Mazey
Tait & Henderson
Swan & Martin
Starling & Albrecht

Dewolf & Lehman
Harper & Portwood
Chase & Richardson

- Doors Open @ 5:45
- Students Go Directly to Their Classroom (Only Students Allowed in Classrooms)
- Audience Requested to Stay Seated for the 30 Minute Performance
- At the End of the Show, Students Are to Be Picked Up From Their Exterior Doors
- Costumes Not Required, but Students May Choose to Dress Up





What is PAC?

All parents and guardians of Peter Greer students are part of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

What does the PAC do?

- Purchase kindergarten t-shirts
- Pay for the school Fish Tank
- Support the monthly Fruit & Veggie Program
- Host events like Harvest Social and Family Fun Night
- Provide Orange Shirts for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Organize fundraisers like 50/50 raffles, Holiday Plants, and many more!
- Run the Fun Lunch Tuesdays Program
 - **2022-2023 we donated more than 400 meals (approx. \$3,000) to kids through the Fun Lunch Tuesday**
 - Sign up for one or more shifts by going to this link: <https://signup.com/go/pgepac>
- Pay for the Compost Program for all students
- Support class field trips, and Primary Play Day
- Collect loose parts for provocations boxes
- Applied for and received a Variety Club Grant –Sensory Path! Check it out outside the gym!
- **Applied for funding/grants to work with and alongside Syilx artist David Wilson!**
- Awarded bursaries to two PGE grads (KSS graduate '23 and GESS graduate '23)
- Advocated for French Immersion at GESS
- Collected and distributed comfortable seating as requested by teachers

Where Can You Connect?

If you have any questions regarding the PAC team, please feel free to connect with us and follow us on social media on upcoming events and fundraising goals.

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ParentsPGE/>

PAC Executives Email us: pge.pacpresident@sd23.bc.ca

PAC Hot Lunch Email: Petergreerhotlunch@gmail.com

Join us for our next PAC meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Library
(online option available at <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423> Meeting ID: 273 541 9423)



SANTA'S WORKSHOP



Activities

FOR ALL AGES!

GEORGE ELLIOTT
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Saturday

2 DEC.
12PM - 3PM

10241 Bottom Wood Lake Road

Activities will include:

A special visit from Santa (arriving on a firetruck), Toy drop or monetary donation for the Salvation Army Christmas Blessing, Drop-in street hockey, Cookie decorating, Games, Hot Chocolate and popcorn, Crafts, Storytime, music, and drop-in soccer

Following the event, head on over to the Christmas Light Up

3-5pm at Memorial Park put on by the LC Lions Club

There will be hot chocolate, live music, a bonfire, and hang out with Santa

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Friday

1 DEC.
7PM-11PM

At the Winfield Memorial Hall, get ready to groove and shake the night away with Classic Rock band Rule 857 at the 19+ Ba Humbug Boogie

more info at lakecountryhealth.ca/upcomingevents

DIDN'T QUITE GET ENOUGH CHEER? COME ON DOWN
TO THE WINFIELD ARENA FOR A FREE SKATE WITH
SANTA ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD 3-4:30PM



The poster features three images at the top: a group of young athletes in blue and pink jerseys, the NextGen Training logo with a phoenix, and a player in a grey jersey bumping a volleyball. The title 'VOLLEYBALL FUN-DAMENTALS' is prominently displayed in the center.

VOLLEYBALL FUN-DAMENTALS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

If you are without a club team, or you are wanting to improve your skill during the club season, this program is for you! Featuring a mix of gameplay, skill development, and a whole lot of fun, these sessions run weekly throughout the winter for 12 weeks!

NextGen Training is a part of Genesis Athletics, a community-run, registered non-profit, whose mission is "to empower youth to pursue skill development, character growth, and life excellence through sport"

PROGRAM DETAILS

GRADES 4 - 5 (BOYS & GIRLS)
Mondays, 3 - 4PM, MCA Church Gym

GRADES 6 - 7 (BOYS & GIRLS)
Sundays & Fridays, 3-4PM, RSS



FOR MORE INFO

To find out more go to:
NEXTGENTRAINING.CA

 **REGISTER NOW**



THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI) IS COMING TO OUR SCHOOL IN JANUARY!

Central Okanagan Public Schools has partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia to measure and promote children's social and emotional development, health, well-being, and assets through the Middle Year Development Instrument (MDI). The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. The MDI is the first survey of its kind to gather information about the lives of children both in school, in the home and in the community, from their own perspective. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum, which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies. Grade 5 students are invited to complete the MDI during class time between January 30th and February 10, 2023.

For more information and to view the questionnaires:

<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/mdi-overview/>

Parent FAQs:

<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/parent-caregiver-info/>

If you don't want your child to participate, please contact your child's teacher, fill out the withdrawal form at the end of the parent/guardian informed passive consent letter, or contact the MDI project staff at mdi@help.ubc.ca.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

LOST & FOUND



IS FULL!

**Our Lost and Found is overflowing with some really nice items of clothing. They will be on display on the rack and in the bins in the hallway by the office until 3:00 pm, Wednesday December 6. Items left unclaimed after this time will be donated to a local charity.
Thank you for help with this!**



ADHD Education Day

Hosted By The Provincial ADHD Clinic

Monday, December 11, 2023 – 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Chan Auditorium

ENTRANCE 18 - BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHRI) at B.C. Children's Hospital

To attend In-Person, register via Learning Hub: <http://learninghub.phsa.ca/>
Registration is free. Each participant must have their own email and password to register

To attend Virtually, register via Zoom: https://phsa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UZVahN-dR7G6Uyjb60_N-w

You must register to attend in-person or virtually.

Please give yourself lots of time to find parking onsite. See learning hub for location details.

9:00-9:15	Registration
9:15-9:30	Welcome - Joerg
9:30-10:00	ADHD Basics – Dr Kaveh Darabian
10:00-10:45	Parenting a Child with ADHD – Dr Joanna McDermid
10:45-11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00-12:00	ADHD and School – Dr Candice Murray
12:00-1:00	LUNCH BREAK – on own
1:00-1:45	Medication Treatment and Management - Dr Susan Baer
1:45-2:30	ADHD and Sensory Motor Regulation – Miranda Doherty
2:30-3:00	Panel Discussion – all

Please Contact Joerg Taylor-Philippin at adhdc@cw.bc.ca
or 604-875-2345 (ext. 2081) if you have any questions.

Cold Weather Reminders

With the colder weather arriving, we wanted to remind parents of the following:

Clothing – The Okanagan Valley has temperatures that frequently go below -15 degrees Celsius. Students need to be dressed for cold weather. Because staying inside is not an option, it is critical that students arrive at school each day prepared for cold weather. Students dressed for cold weather have a warm coat with a hood or a toque, gloves or mittens and warm boots. For those students who like to play a lot in the snow, snow pants are recommended as they will help keep students dry. Students and parents should check the local forecast for up to date weather information. Students must be dressed appropriately so that they remain safe and comfortable during the following times:

- Outside playtime before and after school (when cold, please do not drop students off prior to 8:10 and ensure pick up is no later than 2:45)
- Lunchtime playtime (11:14 -12:12)
- Recess (1:34-1:49)
- Fire Drills (held during all temperatures)
- School Bus breakdowns
- Unscheduled and scheduled outside breaks and learning experiences



Snowballs/Snow – a reminder to all students that throwing snow or snowballs is not allowed. So that everyone can have fun and stay safe while playing outside, please reinforce with your children the importance of not throwing or kicking snow. Students will be encouraged to build something with snow but not to throw or kick it.

Icy Conditions – Sometimes ice can make things tricky. Staff, students, and visitors to the school are asked to take extra care outside especially around steps and corners. Also, students should be respectful of other students who are building snow sculptures. Students are reminded frequently to not do anything to damage something that another student has taken the time to build.

DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITION THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

It is very important that parents/guardians provide information about serious medical conditions at the beginning of each school year.

Parents also need to make sure that the appropriate forms are completed by your family physician and Prescribed medicine is on hand at the school. Medical conditions may include: diabetes, epilepsy, seizures, life-threatening allergies, severe asthma, blood clotting disorders, and serious heart conditions.

Please pick up a medical form from Mrs. Smith in the office. If your child requires daily prescription medication, you will also need to complete this form.