

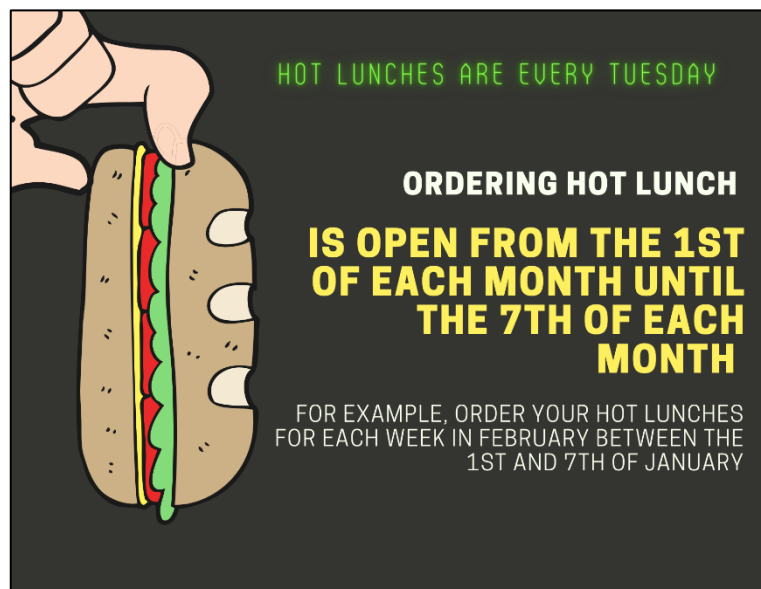
Message from your Admin Team

Here we go again... a new year is upon us! We always look so forward to the month of January as it proves to be the best month for getting so much accomplished in the classroom. The students are encouraged to get right to work on focusing on their second term academic goals, as it is amazing how quickly second term report cards come upon us. After all the fun and relaxation over the holidays, which in many households included a shift in the nighttime routine of their children, we strongly suggest that you work diligently to get your children to bed early enough at night so that they can perform to the best of their ability the next day. We know that a lack of sleep can also cause also interfere with our ability to focus. We will also be looking for your support with establishing those 'school day' routines that most children have slipped out of over the break. January and February are two solid months of hard work and lots of curriculum minded activities. We have only 1 extended break – a Professional Development Day backed with Family Day, and very few disruptions. January is a great time to build some momentum in our learning - a recipe for learning success.

New Year's Resolution - We are asking parents to please make arriving to school early a priority this New Year. The morning routines in classes are a critical part of the day, allowing students to connect with their peers as they prepare for the day as well as complete valuable activities. Arriving to school on time, ensures that your child feels part of the school community and sets the tone for learning.

Thank You - A great big THANK YOU to Primary Music Teacher Rebecca Carr for directing our Primary Winter Concert. It was a great success. Thanks also to all the teachers and staff for helping support the performance. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from students, parents, and staff! The variety of the performances really stood out! Thank you to all the families and students for participating and thank you again to our PAC for supplying the hot chocolate and goodies!

Mr. J. Minkus and Mr. R. Bischoff



IMPORTANT DATES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Dec 25-Jan 5	Winter Vacation
January 8	Schools Reopen After Winter Break
January 9	Parent Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 in the Library or on Zoom: https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423 (Meeting ID: 273 541 9423)
January 10	Krastel & Dion to Sovereign Lake
January 11	Bray & Catton to Sovereign Lake
January 15	MDI Surveys for Grade 5s
January 16	French Immersion Kindergarten Info Session for Families @ 6:00 pm on Zoom
January 22	StrongStart Closed Today
January 23	Primary Indigenous Student Winter Gathering (Grade 3)
January 25	Lehman & Starling to Rotary Centre for the Arts
January 29	Registration for 2024 Opens
February 5	Welcome UBCO Teacher Candidates (6 Week Field Experience)
February 8 & 9	Parent-Teacher Conferences: Early Dismissal 12:30
February 13	Parent Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 in the Library or on Zoom: https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423 (Meeting ID: 273 541 9423)
February 16	Pro D Day: No School
February 19	Family Day: Schools Closed
February 20	StrongStart Closed Today

Kids in the Know Personal Safety Program

Soon, the *Kids in the Know* program will be introduced into your child's class to teach personal safety strategies. This program will address the following curricular competencies of the BC Ministry of Education Physical and Health Education Curriculum:

- Identify and describe feelings and worries
- Identify and describe a variety of unsafe and/or uncomfortable situations
- Develop and demonstrate respectful behavior when participating in activities with others
- Identify caring behaviors among classmates and within families
- Identify and describe characteristics of positive relationships

Tuesday Fun Lunches for February

February Fun Lunch is now open January 1-7. Please put your orders in ASAP.

<https://munchalunch.com/schools/petergreer>

Order Deadline: January 7. Please consider volunteering! <https://signup.com/group/4561287860116>

No weekly commitment needed -- sign up for one job or all 3, one day or all the days, whatever your schedule allows!

What are we looking for?

SET UP

1 parent volunteer (8:30-9:30 am)

Print labels, put out sorting bins & organize labels to each bin.

Questions? Please email: Petergreerhotlunch@gmail.com

HAND OUT FUN LUNCHES!

2-3 parent volunteers (10:00-11:00 am)

Sort food into class bins, hand out food to classrooms, & put smiles on the kids' faces!

FRENCH IMMERSION INFO SESSION

Tuesday, January 16
6:00 pm

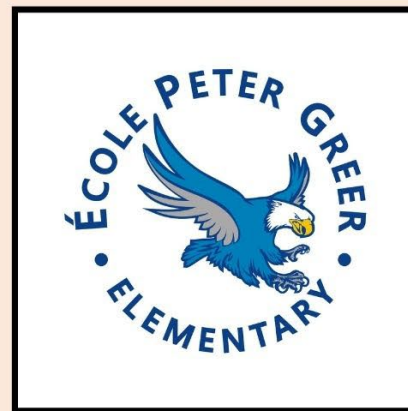
<https://sd23.zoom.us/j/61706058734>

Meeting ID: 617 0605 8734

Do you have a child starting
Kindergarten in September 2024?

Are you interested in
learning more about the
French Immersion program?

The French Immersion program accepts 5 and 6 year-olds at the beginning of their formal schooling. French Immersion is intended for non-French speaking students who wish to develop a high level of proficiency in both official languages. Students enrolled in French Immersion learn the same BC curriculum as students in the English-language program. The major distinction between the English-language program and French Immersion is that the language of instruction and communication in the immersion component is French. French Immersion is a program that can offer your child: a fun, effective and challenging way to learn French at an early age, the opportunity to learn the same curriculum as the regular English program, in French; an opportunity to participate in rich French cultural learning experiences; a bilingual future.



School Tours Available

School tours and
classroom visits are
available by request.

To set up a time, please
email the
Vice Principal at
russ.bischoff@sd23.bc.ca
or call the school at
250-870-5129.





StrongStartBC



Participate with your young child (aged birth to five) in play-based early learning activities – including stories, music, and art. At no cost to families, this early learning drop-in program helps prepare children for success in Kindergarten. If you are a returning StrongStart family, then feel free to drop-in on days that work for you. StrongStart Centres are open Monday thru Friday 8:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. If you are new to the StrongStart program please register online [here](#). Once registered for the StrongStart program, you will be asked by the school office for one of the following documents:

- Canadian Birth Certificate
- Canadian Passport
- Indigenous Status Card
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship

Once registration is complete and you have been notified, you are invited to drop-in at the StrongStart Centre you've registered for. The Centres are open on a first-come, first-serve basis.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Do you have a passion to work with children or youth, enjoy driving and excited to have the holidays and summers off with your children?

Central Okanagan Public School District is in need of professional drivers to operate our school bus routes

For more information contact Transportation Services
250-870-5151 or email us at transportation@sd23.bc.ca

To apply

Scan the QR code or use the link: <https://bit.ly/SD23BusDrivers>



\$28.23 per hour

Applicants must have:

- Completed Grade 10
- A valid Class 1 or 2 B.C. Driver's License with Air Brake Endorsement
- A clear Driver's Abstract



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
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HUMAN EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI) IS COMING TO YOUR 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 15th and March 15, 2024.

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're hiring Certified Education Assistants!

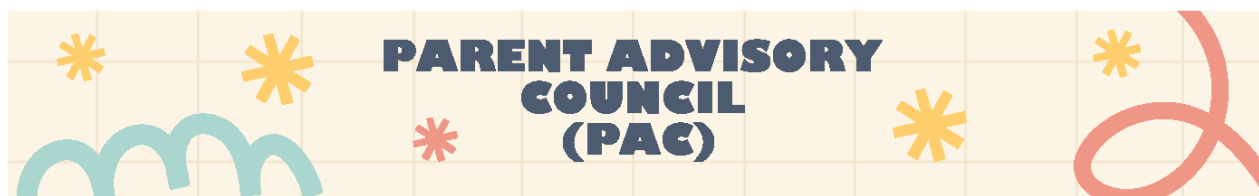
- Grow your career in education
- Make a difference in students' lives
- Competitive wages and benefits package

Apply today at bit.ly/SD23CEA



**Central Okanagan
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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

The next PAC meeting is Tuesday, January 9 @ 6:30 pm in the Library or on Zoom: <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423> (Meeting ID: 273 541 9423)

Site Safety Protocols

Getting Ready for school – Parents/caregivers can use the [Daily Health Check](#) posted on our website to assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a student shows any symptoms (that are not related to an existing condition such as seasonal allergies) they must not take the bus or go to school.

Site Safety Plan

<http://www.pge.sd23.bc.ca/Documents/PGE%20Site%20Communicable%20Disease%20Plan%20Sept%202023.pdf>

Hygiene throughout the day – Students should perform hand hygiene before and after breaks, eating and drinking, using shared spaces (e.g., gym, library, playground), using the washroom, after sneezing or coughing, and whenever hands are visibly dirty. Most classrooms have sinks and all have a good supply of hand sanitizer. We have a couple of classrooms without sinks, but they will have access to either a washroom and hand sanitizer.

Feeling sick – If a student feels sick or shows any symptoms during the school day, they must report to the office and staff will follow protocols for having the student picked up from school. Parents will need to arrange pick up as soon as possible.

Physical distance – Although there currently is no official expectation for physical distancing, we do continue to encourage all staff and students to avoid close contact with others and to not share personal items such as food, and clothing.

Visitors to School - We are limiting visitors to the school but are welcome to visit by appointment only. Visitors must call the office at 250-870-5129 to indicate the purpose and details of their visit and they must use the front main entrance to enter. Upon entering, please sanitize hands and proceed to office to sign in.

How Are the Childcare Services in Your Community?

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, we are sharing the survey information below to help inform the Province's ChildCareBC initiatives. Thank you to the parents who have already completed this survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated. While we know school-aged child care is a vital service families rely on to ensure their children have a quality, affordable, and inclusive place to be during a parent's full work day, we do not yet have regional or provincial data to understand the demand. By completing this survey, you can help the Province to better understand your community's needs for school-aged child care. The survey will take 10-15 minutes and the results will help inform future ChildCareBC initiatives. To complete the survey, please follow this link:

<https://www.awinfosys.com/surveyfull3/minofed/main/SchoolAgeParents.asp?SchoolNumber=438>

Please do not share the link with anyone else.

If you have any questions, please contact ChildCareBC.Engagement@gov.bc.ca. We greatly appreciate your input and thank you in advance for your participation.

Cold Weather Guidelines

With the cold 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
- Lunchtime playtime
- Recess
- Fire Drills (conducted at all temperatures)
- 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 - one of the biggest challenges in winter is navigating in icy conditions. Please take extra care outside especially around steps and corners. Also, students should be respectful of other students who are building snow sculptures. Please do not do anything to damage something that another student has taken the time to build.





**Central Okanagan
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**French Immersion Kindergarten
Informational Session:**
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
@ 6:00-7:00 pm
sd23.org/french-immersion-session

**ONLINE APPLICATION for STUDENT ENROLLMENT begins on
Monday, January 29, 2024, at 7:00 am for 2024 - 2025 School Year**
(for kindergarten, new students, and Programs of Choice for K – 12)

Schools will be open at 7:00 am to provide telephone support to parents that require assistance.
Documentation Submission Deadline: Friday, March 15, 2024

If you are new to Canada, please contact the Welcome Centre for enrollment information at (250)470-3258

HOW TO APPLY

PLEASE NOTE: *The application process is online only. You are required to have a valid email account.*

In your web browser type: <https://enrollment.sd23.bc.ca>

No internet access? Please contact your school for assistance.

Online applications begin on Monday, January 29, 2024 at 7:00 am. Applications will be assigned a date-time stamp on a first-come, first-served basis, which will factor into a student's placement priority.

Complete the online application as early as possible, and provide the required documents listed below directly to the school in person or by email by **Friday, March 15, 2024**.

1. Student's **Birth Certificate** or other government issued proof of age and citizenship.
2. **Proof of Parent/Guardian B.C. Residency**
 - a. Combination BC Driver's License and Services Card (copy of both sides); or,
 - b. BC Services Card (copy of both sides) **and** one item from the list of supporting documentation below; or,
 - c. Proof of application for BC Medical Services Plan and one item from the list of supporting documentation below.
3. **Proof of Parent/Guardian Living Address/Supporting Documentation**
 - Ownership of a dwelling or long-term lease or rental of a dwelling;
 - Documentation indicating British Columbia residence (i.e. utility bill);
 - British Columbia registration of an automobile;
 - British Columbia Driver's License (copy of both sides); or,
 - A current income tax return filed as a British Columbia resident.

AFTER Thursday, August 29, 2024

New in-catchment area enrollments: Parents will be notified by a confirmation email when the school has accepted the student's application for enrollment. Board Policy 405R – Student Placement (Regulations), will be used to determine student placement and priority.

New out-of-catchment area enrollments: Parents may not be notified until after the summer enrollment period is over and all in-catchment area students have been placed.

Qualifying age: The School Act requires that a child must be five years of age by December 31, 2024, to qualify for school enrollment in September 2024. No exceptions.

For further information, please visit the School District website www.sd23.bc.ca or call (250) 860-8888.

School Based Team

As a parent, you may be invited to a School Based Team (SBT) meeting. The SBT is a group of school-based personnel who work collaboratively with parents to best support their children in developing their academic and social/emotional skill set and by suggesting, providing, and implementing variety supports and strategies.

Who is on the team?

The SBT includes the following members:

- Principal and/or Vice Principal
- Learning Assistance Teacher (SBT chair)
- Classroom Teacher

Often the SBT can also include:

- School Counselor
- Speech Language Pathologist

On a case by case basis the SBT can include:

- Resource Teacher
- Aboriginal Advocate
- Outside community support (pediatrician/therapist etc.)
- District Student Support Services staff



At the SBT meeting, we will discuss what is working well for your child, highlight areas of continued growth, review any background history and brainstorm ideas of possible supports to be put into action. Please connect with Danielle Petryshyn (LAT and SBT Chair), if you have any questions. EMAIL: danielle.petryshyn@sd23.bc.ca)

