



École Peter Greer Elementary

# NEWSLETTER



May 2023

## Message from your Admin Team

April was a busy month. We recently wrapped up the **Science of Nature Outdoor Ed Program** with our Intermediate classes. A team from the Allan Brooks Nature Centre and the Okanagan Science Centre were here for two weeks providing hand-on workshops to students as part of their Science of Nature outdoor ed program on Ecosystems and Climate Change! Students learned about air, plants, water and wildlife right here in the greenspace around our school. On April 17, Mme Dewolf and Ms. Craig's Grade 3/4 classes started working with chefs from the Chefs in the Classroom. It is a volunteer run program that offers a series of 8 lessons over an 8-week period to educate children in our community how to grow, cook and eat local foods. Topics include planting a garden, nutrition, preparation of recipes, transplanting/composting and connections to food we grow today and food that was grown in the past and present by our local Indigenous peoples. Our grade 3 students recently completed a fire safety program offered by the District of Lake Country Fire Department's Fire Prevention Team. Students learned about planning a safe escape route in the event of a fire and paid a visit to the fire safety training trailer.

Now that we can count on more sunshine and warmer afternoons (maybe!!), you will be seeing the Intermediates honing their **Track and Field** skills every day after lunch. Thanks to a group of willing teachers, we are once again providing an array of track and field experiences for grades 4 and 5. Each student will be exposed to many new skills that they can apply to our fun Apple Bowl Track and Field Meet slated for Friday, May 16. If you are not aware, this is the day when we take all intermediates to participate, along with Oyama Traditional School, in a fun, light-hearted track and field experience at the Apple Bowl, where good sportsmanship, honest effort and teamwork are more important than talent. **We are still looking for parent volunteers. If you can help, please contact your child's teacher.** Students looking for a competitive experience may be chosen to attend the School District Track Meet on Thursday, June 8. We will be allowed to send two boys and two girls from each grade in each of the events. There is also an additional competitive opportunity for students offered by Okanagan Athletics Club. They are hosting "**Twilight Meets**" on May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 22 starting at 5:00 pm. It's open to all ages from 9 years old and older. This meet is perfect for those wanting to compete or for those wishing to learn more about Track and Field. There will be coaches at each event to help athletes that want some pointers and guidance. More info is available at <http://okac.ca/twilight-meet-series>

On April 26th, our school sent a team of students to compete in the **Battle of the Books**. Congratulations to the students who participated. They were great ambassadors of Ecole Peter Greer. Job well done with great effort, attitude, and commitment throughout the year:

Miles Black  
Lillianna Martyn  
Rebekkah Vader  
Daniel Rowe

David Poliakh  
Lily Robbestad  
Will Bolton



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## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The PAC exists to provide closer links between home and school, and is a great way to bring staff, parents, and families together socially in support of the school.

### **PAC Meetings** (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month) NEXT MEETING MAY 9<sup>th</sup> AT 6PM PGE LIBRARY

It is at our monthly PAC meetings, of which every parent/guardian is invited to attend, that decisions on how to spend PAC generated funds is agreed. It is also an opportunity to learn more about what is going on at the school from the principal.

### **What does the PAC do?**

- We advocate for public education, provide leadership in school and encourage communication between parents, school administrators, teachers, and students.
- We help strengthen the school community by organizing events like the Fall Social (September) and Family Fun Night (May).
- We fundraise money to support all students at Peter Greer Elementary.
- We apply for grants. Check out the new grant funded sensory path!
- We run the Tuesday Fun Lunch program!
- Distribute monthly Fruits, Veggies and Milk program.

### **PAC Events:**

We hold two PAC events per year, which are run not for profit. We run these events so that we can get to know each other better and build a stronger community.

### **PAC Fundraisers:**

Art Cards (October)  
Winter Plants (November)  
Winter 50/50 (December)  
Spring 50/50 (May)  
Mable's Labels (ongoing)  
Tru Earth (ongoing)  
Hot lunch (ongoing)

### **Why do we fundraise?**

We raise funds to provide our children with extracurricular experiences and help fund things like the fish tank, compost program, new books, and equipment.

### **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.

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

**PAC Executives Email us:** [pge.pacpresident@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:pge.pacpresident@sd23.bc.ca)

### **PAC Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 6pm in the Library or via zoom



# Spring Has Sprung at PGE!



Students from Mme Dewolf and Mrs. Craig's Classes working with local chefs as part of the Chefs in the Classroom Program.

## Parent Advisory Council

The Peter Greer Elementary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) needs parents/guardians to get involved with the PAC. Some of the 2022-2023 PAC Executives will be stepping down from their positions and we are looking for new people to join our team for the 2023-2024 school year. Without a full functioning PAC, the students and school will not be able to benefit from the Provincial Gaming Grant (approximately \$9,000 per year) that is issued every FALL. These funds are used towards extracurricular events, field trips, equipment etc., for the students and staff to create amazing learning environments. The School Act gives parents the right, through PACs, to assume an advisory role in every school. PAC is the officially recognized collective voice of parents of their school. Please see (What is PAC?) for further information.

What executive positions need to be filled on the PAC for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year?

- President
- Treasurer
- Member at Large (x2)
- COPAC (Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council) Representative

We are also looking for a Year Book Coordinator and a Hot Lunch Coordinator (Volunteers).

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, May 9, 2023**, and our Annual General Meeting is Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 6pm in the Library at Peter Greer Elementary or via zoom. If you are interested in joining the PGE PAC for 2023-2024 school year, please contact Danielle Lamb ([pge.pacpresident@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:pge.pacpresident@sd23.bc.ca)) as soon as possible.

## The image contains two logos. On the left is the logo for Peter Greer Elementary, featuring a blue and white eagle with its wings spread, perched on a branch. Below the eagle, the text "ECOLE" is in small blue letters, and "PETER GREER" is in large, bold, blue letters. Below "PETER GREER", the word "ELEMENTARY" is in smaller, blue, all-caps letters. On the right is the logo for Oyama Traditional School, which is a shield-shaped crest. The top section of the shield is blue with the word "OYAMA" in white. The middle section is divided into two red squares, each containing a white letter: "O" on the left and "T" on the right. The bottom section of the shield is blue with a large white letter "S". A red banner with white text wraps around the bottom of the shield, reading "TRADITIONAL SCHOOL".

A black and white line drawing of a pair of sneakers. The sneakers are shown from a side-on perspective, with the left shoe in the foreground and the right shoe slightly behind it. They have laces and a simple, casual design.

the

*PGE & OTS Intermediate Teaching Teams*

b. Riding the bus with the students (ONLY if space is available)



# Confronting the White Elephant Exploring Anti-Racism

## Anti-Racism Community Forum

Anthony McLean  
Canadian Filmmaker & Antiracism Advocate

May 12, 2023 | 8:15am - 5:00pm

To register, please visit:



[www.sois.ca/anti-racism/white-elephant](http://www.sois.ca/anti-racism/white-elephant)

"The world will not be destroyed by those  
who do evil, but by those who watch them  
without doing anything."

– Albert Einstein



SOUTH OKANAGAN  
IMMIGRANT AND  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Historically, a gift of a white elephant from the king was a sacred blessing that could not be refused - but in that blessing lay a hidden curse. The upkeep for the elephant was so costly that it would eventually bankrupt its owner.

Like a White Elephant, racism and doctrines of white supremacy are extremely costly to our society. The longer we hold on to these concepts, the longer we wait to confront the White Elephant of racism and white supremacy in our communities, the more we all stand to lose.

Confront the White Elephant. Join us for conversations about racism and actions we can take to become an anti-racism community.

## Kindergarten Transition Information for 2023-2024

Families should have received confirmation of registration letters for both English and French at École Peter Greer Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year.

We are so excited to meet all of you and your children! To start the welcoming process, we ask that you:

- **Attend the Parent Information Session on Zoom @ 4:30 pm Wednesday, May 24.** This will be a short presentation of what to expect and an opportunity to ask questions. You can join the Zoom meeting: <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/6512159894> (Meeting ID: 651 215 9894)
- Show your child our **introductory video**. A link will be emailed to you and placed on our website in early June. The video will help students familiarize themselves with some PGE faces and spaces.
- If there is anything you would like us to know about your child that you feel may ease their transition, please fill out this optional [digital form](#). We will be gathering additional information during the first week of school in September.
- **Play Based Sessions** – You and your child are invited to attend school for a learning session so that they are introduced to a school-based learning through play experience. Spaces are limited to 10 students for each group so please RSVP by signing up for a session [here](#).

The other half of the **Kindergarten Transition** process will take place in the first week back to school starting on Tuesday, September 5.

In late August, you will receive a letter/email detailing additional plans for helping your child make a successful transition to Kindergarten. Some key dates for these plans are:

Tuesday, Sept. 5	First Day of School for Grades 1-5. Orientation Mini Session for K Students <u>and</u> Parents. The day will be divided into two sessions and a parent or guardian <u>must attend</u> . More detailed information will be shared in a separate letter to parents in late August.
Wednesday, Sept. 6	Mini Sessions for Students Only
Thursday, Sept. 7	Mini Sessions for Students Only
Friday, Sept. 8	<b>No school</b> for your child as this day will be used for forming/deciding classroom placements for the year. Please expect a call on this day to learn who your child's Kindergarten teacher will be.
Monday, Sept. 11	First Full day of Kindergarten for all students

The purpose of these mini-sessions is to share information about basic daily routines and expectations for kindergarten students and to provide an opportunity for your child to see the school/class and meet some of the other students. **Please note that classroom placements are not determined until Friday, September 8, after teachers have had an opportunity to assess each class grouping.**

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## Classroom Placement in September

We are currently holding student placement meetings to arrange classes for September. Your child's current teacher plays a significant role in making these decisions as does next year's teachers, Administration, and in some cases, staff from support services (i.e., Learning Assistance Teacher, Counselor, Resource Teacher etc.). The development of class lists is given a great deal of time, careful thought and understanding with the knowledge teachers have of each student and what will be in the child's best interest. Since teachers see how students function in a classroom every day, they are confident that they can make a suitable placement for your child. Every year, we have a small number of parents wishing to make placement requests for their children and we ask that those requests come before we start the process of creating classes. We do parents have a conversation with your child's current classroom teacher prior to making a request. **Parents requesting a specific class configuration/division, should place their request in writing to their current classroom teacher and copy to the office.** Requests for placements are considered during the class building process, but not all can be accommodated for a variety of factors, and we are not able to accommodate parent requests for students to be 'switched' from one class to another once classes have been set.

There are many factors that are considered in the process:

- academic achievement
- class size, composition and balance between boys and girls
- complex needs of students
- learning and teaching styles
- peer dynamics and social groupings
- teacher and School Based Team recommendations
- previous placement history

It should be noted that there are a number of additional factors, including changing enrolments, Provincial class size and composition legislation, and budget restrictions, that sometimes make the placement of students a very complex issue. Therefore, parent requests will be accepted as input, but should not be considered as the driving force behind placement decisions. Our goal in creating each classroom composition is to provide the best possible educational placement for the students within the various constraints of the system within which we function. We appreciate your understanding of this very important issue.

We will re-assess the class and school organization after the August registration period as we become aware of any enrolment changes that have taken place over the summer. As is the case every year in all schools, teaching assignments and class organizations are subject to change in the fall. Class lists will be posted (by student PEN number) on our website on the Friday before the first day of school in September and again by name at the front of the school on the morning of the first day of school. In this process, the Principal has the ultimate responsibility under the *School Act* for the final decision regarding placements of students.

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## School Organization

As of May 2022, our projected enrolment is 386 students. The **tentative** teaching staff and class configuration is as follows. We are just starting the staffing process.

### **English Program**

Kindergarten	Cheryl Maze	Grade 2/3	Kendra Harper
Kindergarten	Kim Payne	Grade 3/4	Shenay Craig
Grade 1/2	Marijke Albrecht	Grade 4/5	Kristen Dion
Grade 1/2	Carys Swan	Grade 4/5	Jacquie Portwood
Grade 1/2	Whitney Martin	Grade 4/5	Nicky Krastel
Grade 2/3	Louise Caillaud		

### **French Program**

Kindergarten	Kelly Tait	Grade 2/3	Danielle Lehman
Kindergarten/1	Jenna Henderson	Grade 4	Renee Turik
Grade 1/2	Kristina Starling	Grade 4/5	Christy Catton
Grade 2/3	Jennifer Dewolf		

James Minkus	Principal	Russ Bischoff	Vice Principal
Sherri Savage	Teacher-Librarian / ELL	Cheryl Elsworth	Speech & Language Pathologist
Dana Guthrie	PE/Prep/Support	Emma Sarbit	Social-Emotional Learning Teacher
Rose Alexis	Indigenous Advocate	Kelli Cook	Counsellor
Danielle Petryshyn	Learning Assistance English	September Smith	Administration Assistant
Lenora Manuel	Resource Teacher	Emma Sarbit	Social-Emotional Teacher
TBA	Prep/Support	Susan Elliott	Learning Assistance French
Brittany Nickel	ARC Student Support Clinician	Nicole Kierstead	Strong Start Facilitator
Heather Siemens	Literacy Intervention Teacher	Caley Nuyens	Library Assistant

### **Support Staff**

Connie Radis	Certified Education Assistant
Wendy Parfitt	Certified Education Assistant
Sheri Jensen	Certified Education Assistant
Ashley Cornelius	Certified Education Assistant
Kathryn Gevers	Certified Education Assistant



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## Blended Classes

As the school year draws to a close, some parents may find that in the coming school year, their child will be placed in a "mixed-age, split or blended" classroom. There is a great deal of research showing both pros and cons, but the reality is, blended classes are in every school and at every grade level across North America.

Here are some considerations of blended classes:

- Achievement is the same as, or better than, the academic achievement of children in same-grade classrooms. Mixed-age classrooms do not negatively affect student achievement, and students in these classrooms have significantly more positive attitudes toward school, themselves, and others (Stone,1998; Veenman,1996).
- There is a wide range of academic, social and emotional abilities within any grade grouping.
- Students are assigned to a grade based on their age and not based on academic achievement, ability or social/emotional factors. In every classroom, there are students who may be reading at one, two, even three grade levels higher or lower than the grade they are assigned. Blended classes can often have less of a range of abilities because students are sometimes grouped homogenously. It's a fact that in any classroom, there will be at least 3-4 different reading levels amongst the students. This is why all Primary classrooms have leveled reading resources from levels 4 – 17. This allows teachers to match each student's needs to an appropriate level.
- The curriculum focuses on each student's needs and skills as opposed to grade level content. With the focus on skills and core competencies, grade configuration is not a significant factor in student achievement. Engaging students in personalized, deep learning is our goal and blended classes lend themselves to this approach.

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### Other Considerations of Blended Classrooms

Instead of looking at a classroom of students 'assigned' to a specific grade due to their birthdate, think of the classroom as simply a group of students, all at different levels of ability, needs and strengths.

Children develop a sense of family with their classmates. They become a "family of learners" who support and care for each other. Older children have the opportunity to serve as mentors and to take leadership roles.

Children are more likely to cooperate than compete. The spirit of cooperation and caring makes it possible for children to help each other as individuals, not see each other as competitors. This is consistent with our school's Play is the Way program designed to help student develop strong decision-making skills and be well-adjusted individuals.

Older children model more sophisticated approaches to problem solving, and younger children are able to accomplish tasks they could not do without the assistance of older children. This dynamic increases the older child's level of independence and competence.

Blended classrooms promote a positive school culture because the older students have learned the routines of the school and they are in a position, through daily classroom experiences, to model, mentor and help support the younger students. They "show them the ropes" so to speak (a very powerful influence, more so than adults).



## École Peter Greer Elementary

Parents are encouraged to read this to their kids to teach them about getting to school

### **KIDS, BE STREET S.M.A.R.T.!**

#### **SIDEWALKS:**

Use sidewalks! Stay on the inside edge, and stand away from the edge when you want to cross the street. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic so that you can see oncoming vehicles.

#### **MUSIC:**

If you are listening to music, remove one earpiece while crossing the street or walking in your neighbourhood, so you can hear the traffic around you.

#### **ATTENTION:**

Watch out for moving vehicles backing out of driveways, back alleys, and in parking lots.

#### **ROAD CROSSING:**

Always cross at an intersection or crosswalk. To cross safely, make eye contact with the drivers in all lanes to make sure they are stopped.

#### **TEAM UP:**

It's safer and more fun to walk to school with family or friends and good exercise too.

### **Neighborhood Safety Tips**

#### **SAFETY IN NUMBERS**

Team up with another parent or neighbor to share the responsibilities of walking to and from school. If students are older, encourage them to walk with friends or older siblings.

#### **AWARENESS AND INDEPENDENCE**

Teach your children how to stay safe by identifying friendly neighbours or safe public places. Warn them about high traffic areas or corners that might hide hazards. Exploring and teaching kids about your community and city at a young age are lessons that will help them travel safer.



### **Park & Walk**

Families who are unable to walk all the way to school can still contribute to improved traffic safety and healthy schools. Park at your school's designated area or, park legally on a street away from the school. Walk the last few blocks with your children, allowing them to enjoy a little extra active time outdoors.

*Parents are welcome to start a Walking School Bus program, check with Peter Greer Elementary for more details.*

### **S.U.P.E.R. Bike Safety**

Practice these bike safety tips at all times when riding your bike!

**Signs:** Use your hand signals when riding your bike and obey traffic signs.

**Use caution:** Leave space when riding next to parked cars and watch out for doors swinging open. Wear light or bright coloured clothing, bike lights and reflectors, so you can be easily seen.

**Protection:** Wear your helmet when riding your bike - it's the law.

**Eye contact:** Make eye contact with other road users (drivers and pedestrians) to improve safety for everyone.

**Right hand side:** Ride your bike single file and as far to the right hand side of the road as possible. Use bike lanes if they are available.





## YOGAPL3Y

YOGAPL3Y is a physical literacy and mental health program that introduces students to mindful movement through yoga and play. Students get energized through a variety of **fun** and **interACTIVE** activities that develop coordination, strength and fundamental movement skills.

Students discover and practice self-regulation skills through **focus, acceptance and calming breaths** as they connect to themselves, each other and the world.

**DESIGNED FOR K  
TO GRADE 12**



**#BUBBLEOFAWESOME**

### **BOOK A YOGAPL3Y SCHOOL PROGRAM TO:**

- Boost Mental Health Skills
- Support Social Emotional Learning and Self-Regulation
- Develop Physical Literacy and Fundamental Movement Skills
- Meet Physical Education Standards and Outcomes
- Receive Training and Tools for Teachers

**Coming to PGE on May 10-12**



## Student Learning Surveys Raffle Winner

Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. Black** (parents of Miles Black in Mrs. Dion's class) for winning a \$50.00 gift certificate from Indigo. Their name was drawn in the raffle of names of parents who completed the 2023 Ministry of Education's **Student Learning Survey** and returned confirmation to the school. Parent feedback is important to schools. Feedback forms part of the annual school improvement cycle and provides a common basis for discussing satisfaction at the provincial, district and school levels.



## UBCO Summer Camps

**Get in the game this summer with UBCO Heat Sport Camps!**

Led by nationally recognized coaches and student athletes, UBCO Heat Sport Camps offer a fun-filled week of skill development. These camps are a great way to introduce youth ages 5 to 17 to a sport or help them improve their techniques. Camp programming includes basketball, volleyball, biking and more. Camps are set to run in July and August at UBC Okanagan. Follow this [link](#) or check out [goheat.ca/camps](https://goheat.ca/camps) to learn more and register today! Contact [ubcoheat.summercamp@ubc.ca](mailto:ubcoheat.summercamp@ubc.ca) for additional information.



### 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](mailto: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

