



June 2025

NEWSLETTER



Message from your Admin Team

A good way to describe this time of year in schools? Well, it's like climbing to the top of a long, steep, and gnarly waterslide. You push off and the next thing you know, you are barreling down the slide, out of control, and before you know it, you are at the end. May was a busy month, and June is going to be just as busy. On May 1, we hosted our annual **Early Learning for Families (ELFF)** event. We had close to 50 adults and children come for dinner, play-based learning, and each family went home with a great loot bag (actually, they were beach pails filled with learning resources). Thank you to our ELFF Team (**Kelly Tait, Kim Payne, Jenna Henderson, Kelli Cook, Emma Sarbit, Tracy Kuzik, Rose Alexis, and Andrea Strang**)

On Monday, May 5, we celebrated **Music Monday** with a whole school sing-along on the field backed up by Mrs. Carr on vocals and keyboards, Mr. Minkus on bass, and featuring a solo by student Addison Palmer. The students sang 'Hold On' by Triumph, a song that captures Canada's cultural mosaic, while celebrating and inspiring Canadians of all ages to unite in recognition and celebration of the vital role music plays in our culture, our communities and in our schools.

From May 5 – 9 we recognized **Mental Health Week** and **Teacher Appreciation Week**. Thanks to our amazing Parent Advisory Council and PAC President Taylor Conlin for the amazing weeks' worth of treats in appreciation of this important act of kindness.



On May 7, our Indigenous students, Mme Gagnon's grade 4/5 class, Indigenous Advocate Rose Alexis, and some parents represented our school at the **Okanagan Nation Alliance's Ceremonial Salmon Release** at Rotary Beach park on Okanagan Lake. The fry will spend up to a year in the lake then head down the Okanagan and Columbia Rivers and into the Pacific Ocean near Portland, Oregon. After 2-3 years, they will make their adult journey back to Okanagan Lake via the Columbia and Okanagan Rivers. The ceremonial sockeye salmon fry release is not just about the fish. It also symbolizes the revitalization of Indigenous cultural practices, reinforces food sovereignty, and restores balance to ecosystems impacted by colonization and development.

On May 8, our students enjoyed a performance by the **George Elliott Senior Band**, led by teacher Sergei Ryga. We wish Mr. Ryga all the best in his retirement!

Throughout late April and the month of May, there were many opportunities outside the classrooms for students to learn new things and challenge themselves. Both our **Intermediate Track and Field** and **Cross-Country Running** programs were underway, as well as several field studies trips to the Kelowna Art Gallery, Rotary Centre for

the Arts, Lake Country Municipal Hall, Okanagan Science Centre, and Okanagan Regional Library. Thanks to our talented staff for arranging these learning opportunities and to those staff and parents who put in many hours of volunteer time! On May 28, our Intermediate classes headed to the Apple Bowl for our annual track and field mini meet with Oyama Traditional. It is always a great event and this year we had great weather. Again, thank you to the student-athletes for your sportsmanship and to all the volunteers!

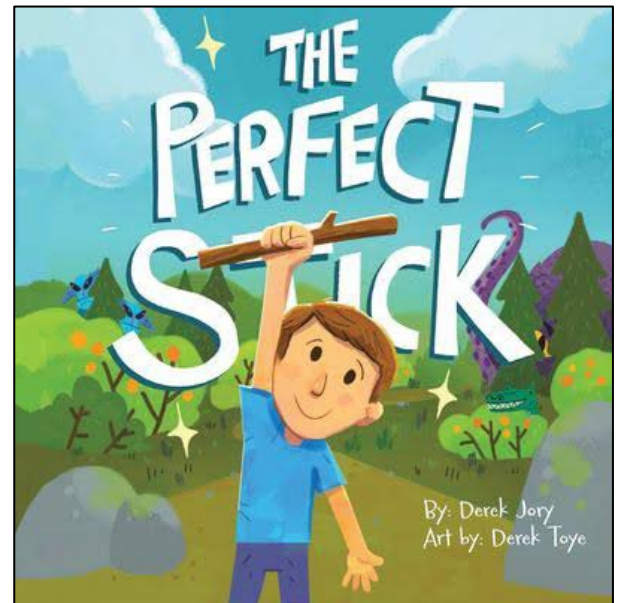
During the month of May, we also welcomed many of our incoming **Kindergarten** parents and students. The Parent Information Session was on Zoom on May 21. If you missed the presentation, the slides and info can be found [here](#). Families also signed their Kindies up for one of our school-based learning through play experience sessions in the StrongStart Centre.

On May 9th and 16th, all our grade 3 students participated in the **Lake Country Fire Department's Safe Program**. Students learned about basic fire safety, planning home escape routes, prevention strategies, and paid a visit to the fire safety training trailer.

On May 29, we held our annual **Talent Show**. Thank You to **Kim Payne** for organizing a very successful show. Everything about it was so well done and the students were so proud to share their talents and help behind the scenes! Thanks also to all the staff who supported Kim, covered her class etc.

On May 31st, our students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a real author visit. And the bonus was, it was with a local Lake Country author and PGE parent. We sure enjoyed listening to **Derek Jory**, author of the book

Coming up in June, all our grade 3 students will be participating in the **YMCA Swim Program** designed to teach water safety and skills in swimming. When our community is surrounded by water, these skills are critical to have! Whew! Now, we're on to June!



With gratitude,
Mr. Minkus and Ms. Kuzik

  2025 June Indigenous Peoples Month  Join us in celebrating Indigenous Brilliance this June 21st and all month.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Learn about Indigenous Peoples Day and share your learning with your class.	3 Read the Spirit Bear's Call to Action and choose a call for your class to focus on this month.	4 Explore what students know about the word Indigenous and what they know now after watching CBC kids "The Word Indigenous" on Youtube.	5 Go to First Voices Website and practice counting to 10 in nsyilxcen. Trying your best is ok!	6 Learn about sweet grass. Explore what is it used for traditionally and what does it symbolize for Indigenous "people"? Practice braiding with paper cleaners or yarn.	7 Share your learning with your family and community.
8	9 Share a map of the local syilx people and compare with a map of Canada. Share wonders and questions about the duck shaped the territory.	10 Research an Indigenous Canadian Athlete and share about them with your class.	11 Visit your school library. Choose a book by an Indigenous author. Learn about their nation and write and draw about the teachings in the book.	12 Play the Okanagan Song on Youtube. Read the English translation and imagine what this song means to the Okanagan People.	13 Learn about the First Peoples Principles and share them with your class.	14 Share your learning with your family and community.
15	16 Take time to explore the 13 Moon Calendar based on the design of a turtle's back. Create an art project where students draw what they enjoy doing in each of the 13 spots on the turtle's back.	17 Spend some time on the land. Find a sit spot and write/ draw what you notice with your senses.	18 Write/ draw student promises to care for the land.	19 Learn about Ogopogo. Learn about his Indigenous name and meaning. Draw pictures.	20 Review each of the Four Food Crops and their importance. Students connect with one Chief they aim to learn from and write/ draw about their learning.	21 Share your learning with your family and community.
22 29/30	23 Learn about Matis Dot Art. Explore the importance, history, and symbolism. Have students create their own dot art.	24 Share a music video from Canadian Indigenous Artist. Have the class learn more about the artist.	25 Read A Day with Yahyah or watch the read aloud on Youtube. Discuss the role of family for Indigenous people.	26 Learn about the K'namka? flower. Draw a photo write the nsyilxcen word.	27 Review all you have learned and talk about why it is important.	28 Share your learning with your family and community.

Family Fun Night

THANK YOU! SO MUCH

A very special THANK YOU to all our AMAZING
community partners for making this year's
Family Fun Night a HUGE SUCCESS!!!



UBC Geering Up
Engineering Outreach



iSTAND
for Diversity in STEM

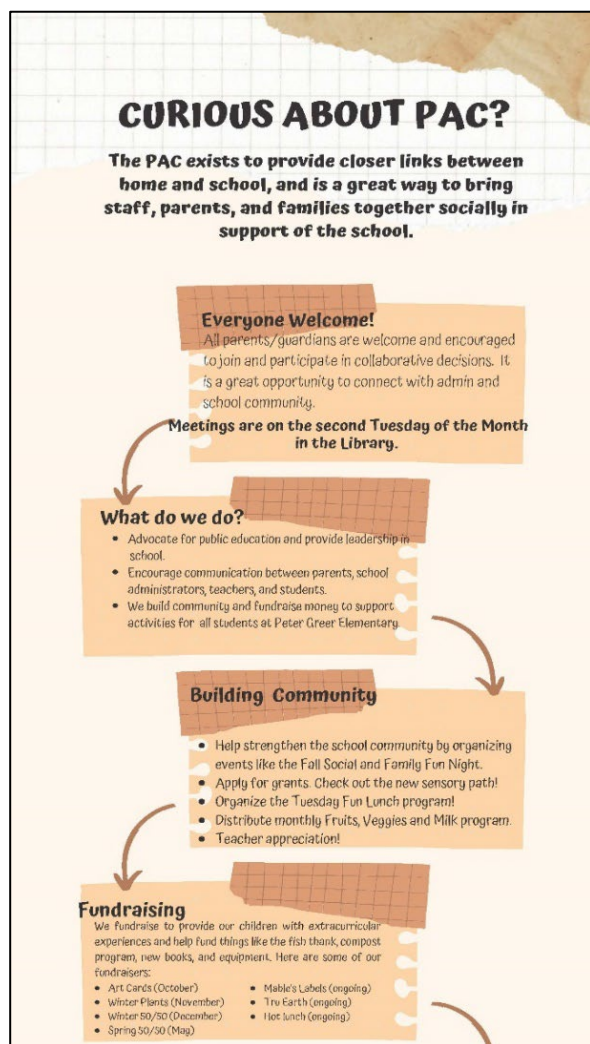


And to all our parents and volunteers
Thank You!

Parent Appreciation

Throughout the year, there have been many parents who have supported our school and its programs, mostly through volunteer work. We wish to take this time to say thank you so much. When you see parents involved in their children's school it is a clear indication that they care about and support education. They value and hold it important in their lives. Parent involvement is and will continue to be one of the greatest strengths of our school. We wanted to also send out a big thank you to our PAC Executive, who have generously donated their time to support the school, staff and programs.

Our PAC recently reached out to parents because our Executive needs some new members. Many of our current executive will have children moving to grade 6 and will therefore be moving on from our school. And others have reached their maximum years of service in that Executive position. Remember that executive positions can be shared!




PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

NEXT PAC MEETING!

TUESDAY 10 JUNE

6:00 in the Library or on Zoom
<https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423>

Connect with Other Parents and Learn How to Support Your Child's Growth! As parents, we all want the best for our children.

- ✓ Meet other parents
- ✓ Get your questions answered
- ✓ Discuss important information

For More Information
pge.pacpresident@sd23.bc.ca



ECOLE PETER GREER ELEMENTARY

GRADE 5 FAREWELL

SAVE THE DATES!

GREEN BAY DAY CAMP

THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH

ALL DAY - PARENT PICKUP FROM PGE @ 5:30



- swimming
- kayaking/paddle boarding
- water wibit
- field inflatables & games
- bazooka ball
- team building

RED CARPET CELEBRATION

TUESDAY, JUNE 24TH

5:45 - 7:30



- 5:45 - Family Mingle
- 6:00 - Red Carpet Walk
- 6:45 - Ice Cream Truck & Photo Booths
- 7:00- Dance (group dances that students already know)
- 7:30 - Good night!

MORE DETAILS TO COME ABOUT EACH EVENT!

Grow your family this fall!

Join the growing community of Central Okanagan families hosting international students!

- Full-year or single semester
- Students arrive Sept. 2025
- Secondary students only
- \$1,100/month per student



Apply today!



homestay@sd23.bc.ca

BC Fruit and Vegetable Program

Did you know that once a month, PGE receives a delivery of fresh fruit or vegetables from the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation? Special thanks to volunteer **Sasha Yunick**, who coordinates the deliveries with some student helpers. The Ministry of Education and Childcare will work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as part of the 'Feeding Futures' initiative to include more food in schools.

The Feeding Futures program will address the immediate need of feeding students and builds on the progress made with the Student and Family Affordability Fund to help reduce the challenges of rising food costs for families who need it most. to include the Feed BC program in school food programs.



Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found has some nice items of clothing. They will be on display at the front of our school until 3:00 pm Thursday, June 26. Items left unclaimed after this time will be donated to our 'spare clothing' dresser and/or a local charity. Thank you for your help with this!



June is Pride Month. It is a time to celebrate and support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA) community. We are excited to see schools all over the district celebrate diversity and to support the equal rights of our 2SLGBTQ+ students and staff. It is a basic human right for each one of us to be safe, seen, valued, and included. Pride month is also a great opportunity to teach kids about the different ways that people can identify and love one another, and how to lift their own and others' voices for a more inclusive world. In order to celebrate Pride, it helps if

families and educators have discussion with students. Students have great insights, but they'll often have many questions too! Research from [Arizona State University](https://www.asu.edu/center-for-diversity-and-inclusion) shares these tips for explaining pride Month to children:

1. **Keep it simple.** You can't talk about LGBT Pride Month without first talking about what it means to be gay, bisexual, or transgender. This can be an easy discussion that can be started with asking your children what they already know. This allows the opportunity to correct misinformation. A great, simple explanation of what it means to be gay that satisfies most kids is something like, "when a man loves a man or when a woman loves a woman."
2. **Be honest.** Your kids will have questions — and don't be surprised if these questions are surprisingly deep or existential. If questions arise as to why the LGBTQ community has a Pride Month, honesty and simple answers tend to suffice. "This month happens to be LGBTQ Pride Month, which is when many people show in different ways, like in parades or in advertisements, that they are either proud of being gay or support the LGBTQ community."
3. **Be open.** Let your kids know that they can keep coming back to you with any questions that pop up. Being open also means keeping the conversation going. The older your kids get, the heavier the messaging so it's important to initiate check-ins in order to gauge what they know and what they are hearing from peers. At our house, we have found that the dinner table is a great place to discuss important issues.



Kelowna Pride Festival – is happening on Saturday, May 31st in City Park. Central Okanagan Public Schools will have a booth set up, celebrating and handing out lots of great swag! The booth will be open from 11am to 3pm and there is a Pride March/Parade at 10am.



KELOWNA MINOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

TACKLE **FOOTBALL**

JOIN THE KELOWNA FOOTBALL FAMILY
AGES 7-13 | TACKLE FOOTBALL REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN

WITH 40 YEARS OF FOOTBALL EXCELLENCE,
WE'RE PROUD TO OFFER A SAFE, FUN, AND
COMPETITIVE TACKLE FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS ACROSS KELOWNA.

SAFETY FIRST
WE USE GUARDIAN CAPS—JUST LIKE THE NFL
—TO PROTECT OUR ATHLETES AND ENSURE
SAFER PRACTICES.

BUILT FOR KELOWNA YOUTH
OUR LEAGUE IS BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE
COMMUNITY—FOSTERING TEAMWORK,
DISCIPLINE, AND FRIENDSHIPS THAT LAST A
LIFETIME.

BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER
FOOTBALL IN KELOWNA IS BOOMING—AND YOU
CAN BE PART OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF
STARS.

WHETHER YOU'RE NEW TO THE GAME OR READY
TO LEVEL UP, FOOTBALL IS FOR EVERYONE.

SPOTS ARE LIMITED—REGISTER TODAY AND
JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN VISIT
KMFA.CA FOR TACKLE 2025





During the months of July and August, the Kelowna Art Gallery's popular children's art camps return. **Art Adventures** are week-long, either half-day or full-day art camps for children ages 6 to 12.

Each week explores a different theme and a variety of art materials, techniques, and creative approaches to making art. Class sizes are limited so that children receive one-to-one instruction in a friendly, non-competitive environment.



Children ages 6 – 8
Full Day: 9 am – 3 pm
Half Day: 9 am – 12 pm
July 2 – 4 (3-day camp)
July 14 – 18
July 28 – Aug 1
August 11 – 15

Children ages 9 – 12
Full Day: 9 am – 3 pm
Half Day: 9 am – 12 pm
July 7 – 11
July 21 – 25
Aug 5 – 8 (4-day camp)
Aug 18 – 22



Weekly Cost: \$275 (full day) \$165 (half day)
Members receive a 20% discount

Register Online Today! or call 250-762-2226

**KELOWNA
ART GALLERY**

1315 Water Street | www.kelownaartgallery.com

Are You Moving?

To make accurate plans for next year's school organization, we need your assistance in confirming student enrollment for September. If you know you will be moving between now and the end of summer, please call Ms. Nuyens in the school office and contact your child's teacher at your earliest convenience.





WE STOP – YOU STOP!



You must stop for school buses showing flashing red lights and extended stop signs.



Traffic in both directions must stop because children may cross the street in front of the bus.



Failure to stop for a school bus can result in a \$368 fine. Repeated violations carry escalating penalties.



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

École Peter Greer Elementary
2025-2026 Calendar

Days in session: 190

Number of days of instruction: 183

Number of non-instructional days: 7

Summer Pro D Day for Teachers

August 25 – 27

Schools Open

September 2 (11:00 a.m. dismissal)

National Day of

Truth & Reconciliation (Schools Closed)

September 30

Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 8 - 12:30 pm dismissal

Parent-Teacher Conferences

October 9 - 12:30 pm dismissal

Administrative Implementation Day

October 10 – students do not attend

Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed)

October 13

Teacher Professional Development Day

October 24 – students do not attend

Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)

November 11

Last Day of School before Winter Vacation

December 19

Winter Vacation (Schools Closed)

December 22– January 2

Statutory Holiday (Schools Closed)

January 1

Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation

January 5

Parent-Teacher Conferences

February 5 - 12:30 pm dismissal

Parent-Teacher Conferences

February 6 - 12:30 pm dismissal

Staff Professional Development Day

February 13 – Students do not attend

Family Day (Schools Closed)

February 16

Last Day of School before Spring Vacation

March 13

Spring Vacation (Schools Closed)

March 16 – 27

School Reopens after Spring Vacation

March 30

Good Friday (Schools Closed)

April 3

Easter Monday (Schools Closed)

April 6

Victoria Day (Schools Closed)

May 18

Last Day of School for Students

June 26 - Regular Dismissal

Administrative Day

June 27 – Students do not attend

Schools Close

June 27

Bell Schedule

Classes in Session

8:30 a.m. (8:25 warning bell)

Lunch

11:15 a.m.

Classes in Session

12:12 a.m.

Recess

1:34 – 1:49 p.m.

Dismissal

2:30 p.m.