



Message from your Admin Team

It is truly hard to believe that we are already in the month of December! On December 18th, your child will be bringing home their first written learning update 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.

A GUIDE TO YOUR CHILD'S
WRITTEN LEARNING UPDATE

Central Okanagan Public Schools is committed to providing quality communication of student learning that will ensure families are informed about their child's growth and progress. The intent of this document is to provide guidance on how to interpret your child's Written Learning Update (formerly called Report Card).

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S WRITTEN LEARNING UPDATE

Written Learning Updates are one of many ways that teachers and students communicate learning with families all throughout the school year. The goal of Written Learning Updates is to highlight where students have grown in their learning, what their next steps are, and how families and teachers can work together to support students in their ongoing learning journeys.

As you read your child's Written Learning Update, we encourage you **first focus on the written feedback comments** as this is where the most valuable information lies within the document. This information will provide key insights into your child's growth and next steps in learning, and their progress in relation to curriculum learning standards.

We encourage you to discuss the Written Learning Update with your child. **Some prompts to consider for conversation:**

- What are you most proud of in your learning this term?
- Where did you show the greatest growth in your learning?
- What next steps are you working on in your learning?
- How can we continue to work together to support you in your learning journey?

LEARNING PROGRESS CONTINUUM

The Learning Progress Continuum, along with written feedback, is used to support and communicate learning. Students continually encounter new learning, and through practice and ongoing learning experiences, they gain more confidence, consistency and independence in demonstrating their learning to others.

Learning Progress Continuum (in relation to Curriculum Learning Standards)			
Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Student is beginning to demonstrate learning and/or requires direct support to access learning.	Student is demonstrating learning with growing consistency and independence and may require some direct support.	Student demonstrates learning with consistency and independence.	Student demonstrates learning with consistency, independence, and increasing depth and complexity.
"I am beginning in my learning."	"I am learning more on my own and need more practice."	"I am learning fully on my own."	"I am learning fully on my own and applying myself further."

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.



UPCOMING DATES

Dec 1 -10	Hot Lunch Ordering Period
December 4 & 5	Krastel, Letourneau, & Dion Skating (AM)
December 4	Hot Chocolate Sales by Leadership Students 7 - 11
December 17	Primary Winter Concert at 6:00 pm. Doors Open 5:45
December 18	Report Cards Home
	StrongStart Closed Today
December 19	Last Day of School Before Winter Vacation
	Holiday Caroling in the Gym
Dec 22-Jan 2	Winter Vacation
January 5	Schools Reopen After Winter Break
January 13	Parent Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:00 or on Zoom https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423
	MDI Surveys Begin (Grade 5)
January 14	Catton & Krastel to Sovereign Lake
January 15	Dion & Letourneau to Sovereign Lake
	Grade 1/2 Explore Science Program
January 23	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 22nd, 29th, and May 6th, 2026 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. Families of grade 3 students, please look for special forms and parental consent coming home from classroom teachers.



Celebrate the Season

Primary Concert

Wednesday, December 18@ 6:00 pm

Doors Open 5:45

Payne & Mazey

Mme Tait & Mme Henderson

Swan & Martin

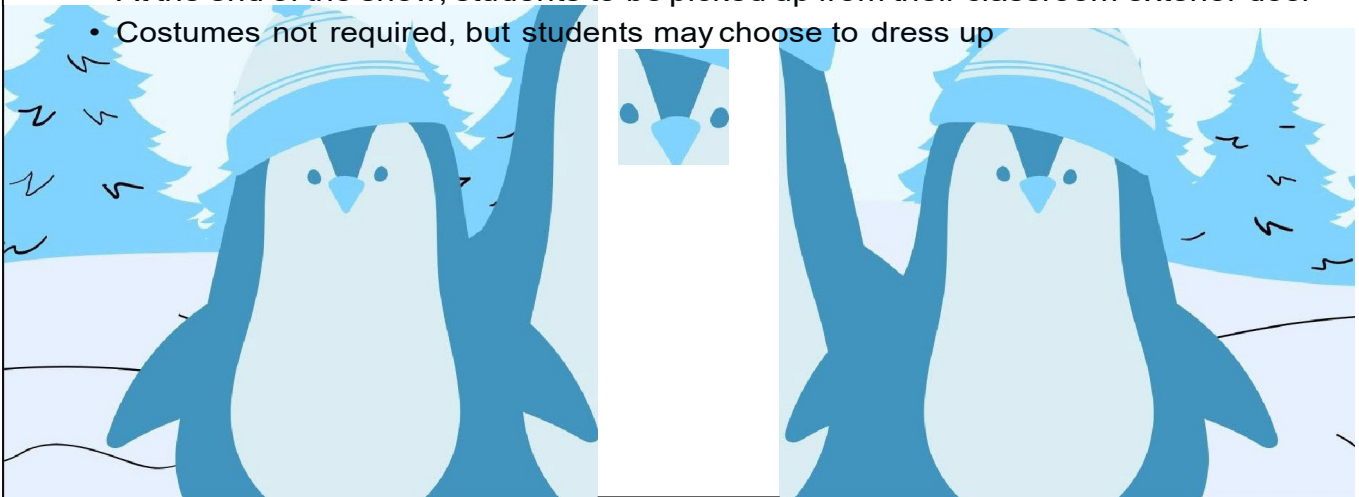
Starling & Albrecht

Mme Turik & Mme Lehman

Harper & Portwood

Mme Dewolf

- Due to fire regulations, there is a limit of 2 Tickets per family. Tickets will be sent home with the oldest sibling
- Siblings 3 and under must sit on lap of a parent
- Limited child-minding for children over 3 in library available - sign up using the following link: <https://forms.gle/2x49F2Uro2B1H>
- Please return unused tickets to the school
- Students go directly to their classroom entry line up location (only students allowed in classrooms)
- Audience requested to remain for the duration of the performance
- At the end of the show, students to be picked up from their classroom exterior door
- Costumes not required, but students may choose to dress up





PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)



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: [http g.IliJ.P-.com./g.Q.LP-q\\$.P-ac](http://g.IliJ.P-.com./g.Q.LP-q$.P-ac)
- 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 for a Sensory Path! Check it out outside the gym!
- **Applied for funding/grants to work with and alongside Syilx artists David Wilson, Sheldon Louie, and Chef Chantelle Eustache**
- 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 fund raising 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, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Library
(Zoom option available at <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423>)
Meeting ID: 273541942



LAUNCH into Spring contest!


@ LAKE
COUNTRY
LIBRARY



JAN 13 -
APRIL 12



GRADES K - .7



READ 5 BOOKS AND
ENTER TO WIN A
BOOK PRIZE!

THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI) IS COMING TO OUR GRADE 5s 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 students in grade 5 about their thoughts, feelings, and experiences.



THE MIDDLE YEARS WHY THEY MATTER

A time of risk, a time of opportunity

The **people** children spend their time with have the power to teach children the skills they need to be successful.

The **places** where children live, play and learn have a lot to do with health and happiness later in life.

The **experiences** children have in their middle years have lasting effects on brain development.

MIDDLE YEARS RESEARCH SHOWS:

INCREASED

- Poverty
- Stress
- Bullying
- Mental Illness

DECREASED

- Self-confidence
- Empathy
- Optimism
- Overall Health

WHAT MATTERS MOST?

- Caring Adults
- Happiness
- Sleep
- Friendships
- Nutrition
- Out-of-School Activities

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING teaches children how to:

- Control their emotions
- Manage their behaviour
- Feel self-confident
- Express their needs
- Show empathy
- Adapt to change
- Set goals
- Build strong friendships
- Cope with stress

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC is using the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) to understand more about children's thoughts, feelings and experiences inside and outside of school. The MDI is a questionnaire that gives schools and communities valuable information about the strengths and needs of their children.

HUMAN EARLY LEARNING PARTNERSHIP



To find out more, read on about the MDI or visit earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi

Version: 2024-25
H18-00507

1 of 2

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, Thursday, December 12. Items left unclaimed after this time will be donated to a local charity.

Thank you for help with this!

Local School Calendars

Principals, in consultation with staff and PAC, are required to establish calendars for the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 school years. Here are the proposed draft calendars:

Proposed 2026-2027 Calendar

Days in session: 189 (3 Summer Pro D Days)
Number of days of instruction: 182
Number of non-instructional days: 7

Summer Pro D Day for Teachers
Schools Open
National Day of
Truth & Reconciliation (Schools Closed)
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Administrative Implementation Day
Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed)
Teacher Professional Development Day
Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)
Last Day of School before Winter Vacation
Winter Vacation (Schools Closed)
Statutory Holiday (Schools Closed)
Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Staff Professional Development Day
Family Day (Schools Closed)
Last Day of School before Spring Vacation
Spring Vacation (Schools Closed)
Good Friday (Schools Closed)
Easter Monday (Schools Closed)
School Reopens after Spring Vacation
Victoria Day (Schools Closed)
Last Day of School for Students
Administrative Day
Schools Close

September 1 - 3
September 8 (11:00 a.m. dismissal)

September 30
October 7 - 11:30 early dismissal
October 8 - 11:30 early dismissal
October 9 – students do not attend
October 12
October 23 – students do not attend
November 11
December 18
December 21– January 1
January 1
January 4
February 4 - 11:30 early dismissal
February 5 - 11:30 early dismissal
February 12 – Students do not attend
February 15
March 12
March 15 – 25
March 26
March 29
March 30
May 24
June 29 - Regular Dismissal
June 30 – Students do not attend
June 30



Student School Supplies and Cultural Fees – A Reminder!

A reminder that we still have quite a few families who have not yet paid the school supply and cultural performance fees. **School supplies fees are \$40.00.** The prompt payment of “School Supply Fees” by our parents does much to keep our record keeping efficient. **If you are unable to pay your child’s school fees, please contact administration. Thank you for your efforts in this regard.**

Cultural Fees - Schools also charge a \$10.00 Cultural Fee. This fee provides various cultural performances and concerts in our gym throughout the school year. The performances include live theatre, musicians and other talented groups that have been carefully selected by a District Committee consisting of both School District personnel and parents.

Parents are asked to pay online (<https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com/>). By doing so, you may be eligible to win a refund of your school fees.

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Proposed 2027-2028 Calendar

Days in session: 189 (3 Summer Pro D Days)	
Number of days of instruction: 182	
Number of non-instructional days: 7	
Summer Pro D Day for Teachers	August 31 – September 2
Schools Open	September 7 (11:00 a.m. dismissal)
National Day of	
Truth & Reconciliation (Schools Closed)	September 30
Parent-Teacher Conferences	October 6 - 11:30 early dismissal
Parent-Teacher Conferences	October 7 - 11:30 early dismissal
Administrative Implementation Day	October 8 – students do not attend
Thanksgiving Day (Schools Closed)	October 11
Teacher Professional Development Day	October 22 – students do not attend
Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)	November 11
Last Day of School before Winter Vacation	December 17
Winter Vacation (Schools Closed)	December 20– January 3
Statutory Holiday (Schools Closed)	January 3
Schools Reopen after Winter Vacation	January 4
Parent-Teacher Conferences	February 10 - 11:30 early dismissal
Parent-Teacher Conferences	February 11 - 11:30 early dismissal
Staff Professional Development Day	February 18 – Students do not attend
Family Day (Schools Closed)	February 21
Last Day of School before Spring Vacation	March 17
Spring Vacation (Schools Closed)	March 20 – 31
School Reopens after Spring Vacation	April 3
Good Friday (Schools Closed)	April 14
Easter Monday (Schools Closed)	April 17
Victoria Day (Schools Closed)	May 22
Last Day of School for Students	June 29 - Regular Dismissal
Administrative Day	June 30 – Students do not attend
Schools Close	June 30



Family Holiday Skate



Sunday, Dec. 14
1 - 3 p.m. at Rutland Arena

Join in on some free family fun!

Skating, treats, games, door prizes & more!

Admission is free, but donations to the food bank are greatly appreciated.

kelowna.ca/calendar



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 Ms. Nuyens in the office. If your child requires daily prescription medication, you will also need to complete this form.

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS



HEALTHY EATING

Eating disorders are complex mental health conditions that affect individuals across all ages, genders, and backgrounds. Neurodivergent children and youth may be at increased risk of exhibiting disordered eating behaviours or developing an eating disorder. EmbodyBC has resources for parents and professionals. Check them out here: [Neurodiversity and Eating Disorders - a guide for parents & professionals](#)

LEGAL SUBSTANCES

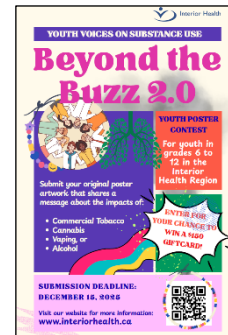
REMINDER: Beyond the Buzz 2.0

Just a reminder the submission deadline for the **Beyond the Buzz Poster Contest** is **December 15, 2025**. Click [here](#) for all the details.

MENTAL HEALTH

Recognizing Self-Harm: How to Support Your Child

Self-harm is when someone intentionally hurts themselves to cope with difficult emotions. It's a way some teens express or manage intense feelings, not necessarily a desire to end their life. It's natural to feel shocked, confused, guilty or angry when you find out that your child is self-harming. Check out resources to learn more about self-harm and how you can help. **Remember: You're not alone, and neither is your child. With the right support, things can get better.**



See the resources here:

[Talking About Self-Harm: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers | Kelty Mental Health](#)

PHYSICAL LITERACY

Outdoor play

Outdoor play is a basic childhood need and taking risks is a necessary part of play. Whether jumping in a pile of leaves, climbing a tree, or playing street hockey, children are often happiest when playing. These kinds of experiences are a lot less common for kids today. **Check out UBC's [OutsidePlay](#) which has resources for parents, ECEs, and teachers on outdoor play.**



Keep non-sporty kids moving

There are kids who would prefer to draw than to dive. Kids who prefer to read than to run. And kids who prefer to investigate than to inline skate. Just like the clothes you prefer to wear, sport and physical activity is a matter of personal choice and taste. But no matter how much a kid likes sport or not, being active and moving everyday is good for all kids. So how do you get your non-sporty kid to be active? **Try these [tips](#) from Active for Life to incorporate what they love with movement.**