

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 the second term written learning updates 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 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 our Music/French LAT Teacher **Becky Carr** for directing our Primary Winter Concert. It was a great success. Thanks also to all the teachers, staff, **Mme Catton** and our Grade 5 Leadership Students 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 our students for being brave and to all our families for coming out to enjoy the performance.

The students and staff would like to thank **Ms. Sue Stevenson**, a retired SD 23 Principal, for helping support our school during the three-week absence of our Vice Principal, **Ms. Tracy Kuzik**. Ms. Kuzik is looking forward to being back to school in January and misses all the students' smiling faces.

Mr. J. Minkus and Ms. T. Kuzik





PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

NEXT PAC MEETING!

TUESDAY
13
JANUARY

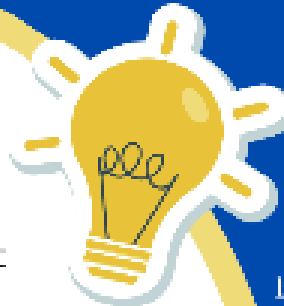
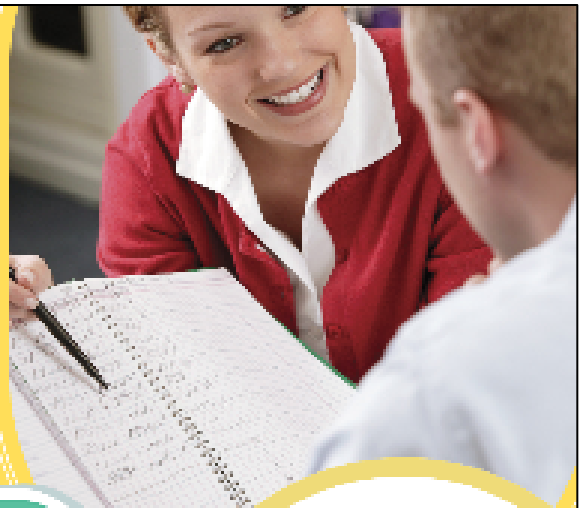
Connect with Other Parents
and Learn How to Support
Your Child's Growth! As
parents, we all want the best
for our children.

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

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

6:30 in the Library
or on Zoom

<https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2755410423>



IMPORTANT DATES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Dec 20-Jan 4	Winter Vacation
January 5	Schools Reopen After Winter Break
January 13	Parent Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:30 in the Library or on Zoom: https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423 (Meeting ID: 273 541 9423) MDI Surveys for Grade 5s French Immersion Kindergarten Info Session for Families @ 6:00 pm on Zoom
January 14	Catton & Krastel to Sovereign Lake (X Country Skiing & Snowshoeing)
January 15	Sion & Letourneau to Sovereign Lake (X Country Skiing & Snowshoeing)
January 15-16	Grade 1/2 Explore Science Program
January 23	StrongStart Closed Today
January 23 & 24	Gr. 1-3 Explore Science Program
January 27	Grade 3 Indigenous Student Winter Gathering
February 2	Registration for 2026 Opens (Families of Current Students Do Not Need to Register)
February 5 & 6	Parent-Teacher Conferences: Early Dismissal 12:30
February 10	Parent Advisory Council Meeting @ 6:30 in the Library or on Zoom: https://sd23.zoom.us/j/2735419423 (Meeting ID: 273 541 9423)
February 13	Pro D Day: No School
February 16	Family Day: Schools Closed
February 17	StrongStart Closed Today Fire Drill #4: 2:10 pm
February 19	Cultural Performance 10:00: Dufflebag Theatre: Peter Pan

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 1-10. Please put in your orders ASAP.

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

Order Deadline: January 10. 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 13
6:00 pm

Zoom

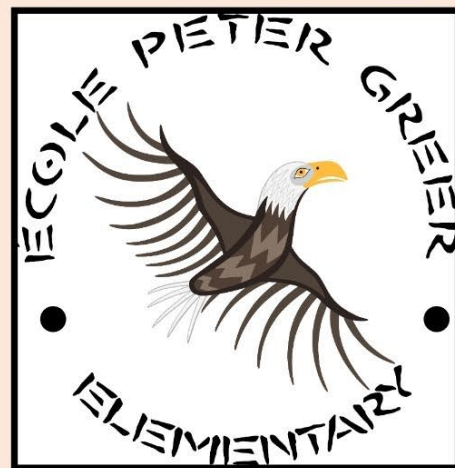
<https://sd23.zoom.us/j/64295820700>

Meeting ID: 64295820700

Do you have a child starting
Kindergarten in September 2026?

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
tracy.kuzik@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. Our StrongStart Facilitator is Chelsea Coates.

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**
Together We Learn





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 12th and March 13, 2026.

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.

PGE Squads

Thank you to **Dana Guthrie, Christy Catton**, and the Grade 5 Leadership Students for an awesome first Squads gathering on **Harmony Day**. Squads, or 'Family Groupings' as sometimes called in schools refers to the practice of grouping students from different age groups and grade levels together, often for certain activities or learning experiences. The benefits of family groupings in schools include:

Promotes Peer Mentoring and Leadership

- Older students serve as role models and mentors for younger ones, fostering a sense of responsibility and leadership.
- Younger students can learn from the experiences of older peers, which can boost their confidence and academic growth.
- This mentoring dynamic helps develop communication and social skills among all students.

Encourages a Supportive Community

- Students develop closer bonds with peers across different age groups, creating a sense of belonging, togetherness, and a supportive school environment.
- The mixed-age group allows for stronger relationships, as students interact more regularly with a wider variety of classmates. This promotes acceptance and inclusion regardless of physical appearance, skin colour, ethnicity, culture, and gender orientation.

Improves Social Skills and Emotional Development

- Family groupings promote empathy, cooperation, and conflict resolution as students work together and interact across different age groups.



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.



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
- Parent/Guardian



Often the SBT can also include:

- School Counselor
- Speech Language Pathologist

On a case-by-case basis the SBT can include:

- Inclusion Teacher
- Indigenous 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)

**Families of current students
do NOT need to register!**



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**
Together We Learn

**French Immersion Kindergarten
Informational Session: Tuesday, January 13, 2026
@ 6:00-7:00 pm Zoom Link: sd23.org/french
This meeting will be recorded and posted on the
District website**

**ONLINE APPLICATION for STUDENT ENROLLMENT begins on
Monday, February 2, 2026, at 7:00 am for 2026 - 2027 School Year**
(for kindergarten, new students, and school of choice for K – 12)

Schools will be open at 7:00 am to provide support to parents that require assistance.
Documentation Submission Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2026

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://www.sd23.bc.ca/school-enrollment>

No internet access? Please contact your school for assistance.

Online applications begin on Monday, February 2, 2026 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 by email or in person by **Friday, March 13, 2026**.

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 (3.) below; or,
 - c. Proof of application for BC Medical Services Plan and one item from the list of Supporting Documentation below.
3. **Supporting Documentation/Proof of Parent/Guardian Living Address**
 - 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, September 3, 2026

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 will 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, 2026, to qualify for school enrollment in September 2026. No exceptions.

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