



MARCH NEWSLETTER

February 27, 2026
Phone (250) 870-5138
Email dwe@sd23.bc.ca



Mark Your Calendar

- March 12** - Second Written Learning Update (Report Cards) sent home via classroom teachers
- March 16-27** - **Spring Break**
- April 3-6** - **Easter Weekend**
- April 9** - Grade 5 English visit to Canyon Falls
- April 15-16** - **Spring Musical** (more info TBA)
- April 30** - Cultural Performance
- April 30** - PAC Event - **Spring Dance**
5:30pm-7:30pm
- May 13** - DWE Track Meet Grade 4-7 Apple Bowl
- May 14** - Éloiz Performance Field Trip for French Immersion Students
- May 18** - **Victoria Day**
- May 20-21-22** - Gardom Lake for Grade 6 French Immersion and Grade 5 English Program Students
- May 25** - Sailing Lessons Begin
- June 2** - **District Track & Field Day (for qualifiers)**
**date has been updated*
- June 4** - PAC Event - **Family Fun Night**
4:30pm-7:30pm
- June 25** - **Last Day of School for Students** / Final Written Learning Updates Distributed
- June 26** - **Administrative Day**

Written Learning Updates home March 12th
Last day before Spring Break is March 13th!

DWE Office hours: 8:00am-3:00pm
(doors unlocked)

Supervision hours = safe drop-off / pick-up
8:05am-2:40pm



Our **crosswalk supervisor**, Ms. Taisa, has moved on to a role in clerical and we wish her all the best! If you are interested in this paid position, please apply by contacting our office by March 5th.



Student Learning Survey

The Ministry of Education and Childcare would like to hear from you! Parent(s) / guardian(s) may access the annual Student Learning Survey through the Parent Direct Access at the website listed below by selecting:

- 1) your child's district (Central Okanagan Public Schools, SD23)
- 2) school's name,
- 3) and language of preference.



<https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>

NOONHOUR SUPERVISORS

DWE is looking for a couple more parent noon hour supervisors. If interested, please contact our office to apply!
Please apply by March 5th.

Safety Reminder

Please **DO NOT** enter our **staff parking lot** between 8am-3pm. Students are often crossing the parking lot before / after school. **We have had near-misses!**

A note from the Principal

Dear Families,

As we approach Spring Break, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all our DWE families. This time of year brings a sense of renewal with longer days, brighter sunshine, and a well-deserved pause to recharge. I hope the upcoming break provides your family with opportunities for rest, connection, and fun.

Before we head into the break, students will be receiving their **written learning updates**. These reports are an important celebration of each child's growth, effort, and achievements. I encourage you to take time to read through them together, highlighting moments of pride and reflecting on goals for the months ahead. Learning is a journey, and these updates help us appreciate just how far our students have come.

Looking beyond the break, we have an exciting spring ahead at DWE:

Spring Musical "Broadway!"

Our students and staff have been working hard behind the scenes to bring our spring musical to life. This year's theme, Broadway, promises vibrant performances, memorable music, and lots of creative energy. We can't wait to share this joyful celebration of the arts with our community.

Our Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.) is planning two wonderful community-building events:

(1) **Spring Dance** - A fun evening for DWE students and their parents/guardians.

- Please note: This is not a drop-off event. Parents must accompany their children, and older siblings may not attend due to vandalism that occurred at our last dance. Thank you for helping us ensure a safe, positive experience for everyone.

(2) **Family Fun Night** (outdoors) - All family members are welcome to join us for this relaxed, outdoor evening of games, activities, and togetherness.

We look forward to both events as opportunities to connect, celebrate, and strengthen our school community.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to the staff members and parent volunteers who dedicated their time and energy to coaching our basketball teams this season. Your commitment makes an enormous difference. Without your willingness to step forward, we simply wouldn't be able to offer a basketball program at DWE. Thank you for supporting our students and helping them build skills, confidence, and teamwork.

As always, I am grateful for the partnership of our families and the incredible work of our staff. Wishing everyone a joyful and refreshing Spring Break!

Warmly,

Christey Hughes
Principal, DWE



DWE Spirit Wear is Back!

The PAC has opened up our second (and last) online shop of the school year:

<https://bcsportheawear.tuosystems.com/stores/dwespring2026>

Orders close March 15th.



Thank you, **DWE Parent Advisory Council** for providing the opportunity to order spirit wear one last time this school year! Orders close March 15!





Spring Performance in April – *I Love Broadway!*

We are excited to be preparing for our spring performance! Students have been exploring Broadway-style music, songs, and choreography, and we are looking forward to sharing their hard work with you.

There will be two separate shows:

Cast 1 (Mme King, Mme Rode, Mr. Nicholls, Mme Light, Ms. Nicolai & Mme Hayward)

 Wednesday, April 15

 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Cast 2 (Mme Morden, Mme MacDonnell, Ms. Peters, Ms. Rivet, Mrs. Lebbon, Ms. Lutz, Mme Stokes & Mme Johnson)

 Thursday, April 16

 1:25–2:25 p.m.

Costumes

Students are asked to wear:

- Black or blue jeans (or dark pants/shorts if preferred)
- A plain white t-shirt (logos turned inside out if needed)
- Runners or comfortable shoes suitable for movement



Dress Rehearsals

Dress rehearsals will take place during the three school days leading up to each performance. Being at school on these days will help students feel confident and prepared.

Students with Additional Parts

Some students in Grade 5 English and Grade 6 French Immersion have additional roles. These students will attend a weekly extra rehearsal on Tuesdays during their lunch hour to practice their lines. If they would like to bring a simple costume piece or accessory to enhance their role, they are welcome to do so but this is optional.



If you have any questions, please contact our Music/Fine Arts teacher, Joanna Ball, at joanna.ball@sd23.bc.ca.

We look forward to a wonderful celebration of Broadway!



ERASE Anti-Bullying Program

erase | EXPECT RESPECT &
A SAFE EDUCATION



I need help

You're not alone – everyone needs to ask for help sometimes



Talk to someone

Get in touch with a counsellor or a trained professional to talk about things you or someone you know may be dealing with.



Report it
anonymously

The erase Report It tool is an easy way to send a message to your school safety team, who can help.



Call 911

If you aren't sure if your situation is an emergency, you can still call. Help is available.

Learn about **erase**
and access the
Report It tool



erase.gov.bc.ca



ÉCOLE KLO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to École KLO Middle School! We are now looking at our timetable for the 2026/27 school year. As a future Grade 7 student, we would like to know your child's elective choice for next year. Grade 7 student elective options for next school year are Band or Fine Arts. Please go to the following Google Form to complete your course selection process:

[KLO Grade 7 Elective Course Selection 2026/27](#)



The deadline to complete the form is **Friday, March 13th**

As the end of the year approaches, you will hear more about your student's transition to Middle School. Mark your calendars for *KLO Grade 6 Family Information Night* on **Wednesday, June 3rd from 6:00-7:00pm**. Please see the other side of this letter for more information.

**LICENSED
SPRING BREAK
CAMP**

City of Kelowna day camps pack your week with gym games, creative crafts, outdoor adventures, and a splash-filled swim trip to Parkinson Rec Centre. Join our awesome staff for a fast-paced, fun-loaded adventure!

Watson Rd Elementary **Bankhead Elementary** **Age 5-12**

Registration
Registration must be completed through the Program Manager.
Please contact for more information.

Subsidy available!

Bankhead: bankheadkelowna@gmail.com
Watson Road: wraspkelowna@gmail.com



ÉCOLE KLO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Your student's full orientation and school tour will take place on the first day of the 2026/27 school year at KLO on September 8, 2026.

We look forward to welcoming your students into our school community. Please reach out to vice-principal Ty Nelson if you have any questions at ty.nelson@sd23.bc.ca or (250) 870-5106.

Sincerely,
Your KLO team

Grade 6 Family Information Night

Wednesday June 3rd, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 PM

KLO Gymnasium

This evening will focus on:

- The transition from elementary to middle school - An inside look at Grade 7 life at KLO Middle School

Please contact Ty Nelson with any questions:

ty.nelson@sd23.bc.ca

(250) 870-5106

KCR
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Diversity,
Equity, &
Inclusion
Workshop**

Explore the topics of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice and why they matter.
Open to anyone in the community!

Register Now!

<https://www.cycnbrite.ca/e/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-tickets>

When: March 3rd, 5:00pm - 8:00pm
March 10th, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: KCR Community Resources, 620 Leon Ave - 2nd Floor

Cost: FREE

Questions? Contact:
Ximena | ximena@kcr.ca | 250-762-8008 ext. 202

Funded by: Financed par:



Planning for September

For families of students "moving up" to middle school in September:

Page 6 – French Immersion Grade 6 students going to **KLO** in September

Page 7 – English Program Grade 5 students going to **Canyon Falls Middle School** in September

For all other grades, if you are moving over the summer, please reach out to the DWE office to let us know of your plans as we begin to plan our class configurations. More information will come out later this spring regarding our process for class placements.

Placement Requests

Each year, CMS receives a number of parent requests regarding student placements for the upcoming school year. Please know that it is very difficult to accommodate specific requests. There are many factors to consider when placing students into a community including class organization, composition, and space. CMS's school staff and the elementary feeder schools work closely together starting in April to ensure **each** student's individual needs are considered. This includes good learning partners, academic and social emotional needs, and any other important information. Please note we will not be accepting specific teacher or community requests, however further information from parents regarding the kind of learning environment that you believe would be best for your child's learning is welcome and often helpful. This information must be submitted by April 1st in writing to carson.tonn@sd23.bc.ca.



Final placement decisions rest with the school with input from our elementary feeders. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Frequently Asked Questions



Welcome to Canyon Falls Middle School! We feel it is a privilege to be a part of this learning community and we are proud of our outstanding learners, staff and families. We are the home of the Phoenix and Together We Rise!

01

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LEARN IN A MULTI-GRADE COMMUNITY?

Learning communities are not new to SD23. Many schools across all levels have learning communities. At CMS, learners are grouped into 6 communities made up of gr. 6-8 students evenly mixed between our feeder schools and accepted applicants; this will allow for cross-grade community building throughout our school, providing for deep learner relationships to form across ages, opportunities for older learners to be leaders, and connecting learners based on interests, passions, and learning rather than based on age. We know that learners learn in different ways and at different rates and that does not always correspond to their age. Walking through the communities you will sometimes see students in multi-grade configurations and sometimes in grade configurations, depending on the learning that is taking place.

02

WILL LEARNERS STAY IN THE SAME COMMUNITY FOR 3 YEARS?

We have 6 communities in our school: Fox, Bald Eagle, Grizzly, Deer, Kokanee Salmon and Dragonfly. Each of these communities is made up of between 100 - 125 grade 6-8 students who stay in the community for the 3 years they are at CMS. Each community becomes like a close family over their time at CMS. There is a strong sense of safety and belonging which we know to be integral for learning to occur and especially important for adolescents. They know each other and their teachers well enabling us to design deep, rich learning experiences that align with their passions and interests and the curriculum. On occasion, a learner will change communities in consultation with families, teachers, and administration. New students will find out about their community placement at the end of summer at the orientation day.

03

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE CLASS SIZE?

Like all middle schools, we comply with contractual language around class size and the student to teacher ratio does not exceed 28 to 1. Even though students are in a community with over 100 students, **they are not learning all together at the same time in the same room.** Students are re-grouped throughout the day into smaller learning groups depending on the learning that is occurring. The design of our school, with moveable walls and furniture, gives us flexible learning spaces to move students around according to learning needs.

04

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?

Like all other middle schools, we follow the BC curriculum with all mandated courses being taught. However, we have a flexible, non-rotating schedule that looks different than a secondary school and more like an elementary schedule. There are no blocks that are scheduled for specific courses. The only course that is scheduled is PHE to manage gym time. This structure is based on research on adolescent development and middle schools, as well as what many years of experience tell us is best for young adolescent learners. Because we know that learning is deepened when we make connections with other learning, our structure allows for cross-curricular opportunities and for deep inquiry-based learning to occur. Learning does not need to stop when there is a class rotation. However, we recognize that students and families need structure to organize their day and week. Therefore, each community will plan out their week at a glance and communicate that with students and families.

05

WHAT ARE EXPLORATORIES?

Each learner has the incredible opportunity to take part throughout each year in 6-7 week immersive, collaborative learning experiences in the following exploratory courses: Foods, Technology Education, French, Art, Drama, Music (Band will be an elective run outside the timetable.) Our goal as a middle school is to have learners explore these various areas so they have a thorough understanding about their passions for when they transition to high school. We are grateful for the value these classes give to each learner.

06

Christey Hughes (christey.hughes@sd23.bc.ca)

WHERE CAN LEARNERS AND FAMILIES GO FOR SUPPORT?

CMS has a full support team that include specialists in Learning Assistance, Indigenous Education, Inclusive Education, Counselling, and Social Emotional Support. We are also grateful to partner with ARC and Foundry clinicians to provide additional support when necessary. Additionally, we offer before and after school academic support through homework club. If a student needs extra support our support team along with community teachers and administration are here to help! Please do not hesitate to reach out.

07

HOW DO LEARNERS AND FAMILIES KNOW HOW STUDENTS ARE DOING?

Communicating student learning is ongoing through conversations with teachers, portfolios, learner-led conferences, emails, year-end presentations of learning, student work coming home, and learning updates (report cards). We have 2 scheduled learner-led conferences throughout the year (October and February/March) and formal learning updates go home 3 times a year (December, March, June). Additionally, many communities maintain ongoing communication with families through portfolios, weekly emails, phone calls, and student work going home. Learners should always know how they are doing, their strengths and growth areas, and ways to improve. Families are encouraged to reach out to teachers and support staff at any time if they are looking for more information.

08

WHY ARE MIDDLE SCHOOLS IMPORTANT?

Young adolescents undergo rapid and profound personal changes between the ages of 10-15. Adolescence also sees great variability in youth even amongst the same gender and age. All 7th Graders for instance are not developing in the same ways. Physical, emotional and intellectual changes are irregular and occur in different ways and at different rates. Adolescents are often seeking independence but also require a strong sense of safety and belonging. The research around young adolescents and their learning needs is extensive and is foundational to our district's middle school model. The staff at CMS are specialized middle school educators who love to work with and advocate for young adolescents. In designing learning, they make decisions that are research-based and reflect the needs, interests and abilities of each adolescent learner.

09

IS THE CURRICULUM REALLY WORKING?

YES! BC's Redesigned Curriculum for K-12 has been in place for **all schools** since May 2014. BC has one of the best education systems in the world, consistently ranking as the top province in Canada. We are living in a world of rapid change. It is a technology rich world where communication is instant and information is immediately accessible. To prepare students for the future, BC recognized that we need to focus on literacy and numeracy but also develop learners' ability to communicate, collaborate, think and problem-solve. For more information, please visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/overview>.

10

WILL CMS LEARNERS BE READY FOR FUTURE LEARNING?

YES! We work closely with our elementary and high school colleagues to ensure our students are prepared for all of their next steps. There are always adjustments when students are transitioning from one grade to the next and from one school to the next. However, we are all aligned around BC's Curriculum to ensure learners have strong literacy and numeracy skills and the skills to thrive in any learning environment. It is not about memorizing but understanding deeply. We engage students in cognitively challenging work so that they are able to apply their understanding in new ways, new contexts, and across subjects because that is what learners need to thrive in the world today.

11

OTHER

Are students allowed cell phones?
We require cell phones to be locked in lockers during the entire school day unless teachers require students to use them for educational purposes.

Do students receive a locker and what school supplies will they need?
Each student will have a locker and we provide locks. Each community will provide students with a required supply list.

What do break and lunch times look like?
Students receive a 15 min morning break and a 45 min lunch break. Students are free to eat where they choose both inside and outside of the school but must remain on school property. These times are great opportunities to mix with friends from other communities, play and meet new friends. Please note we have a closed campus.

Do students have a lot of homework?
Homework is only assigned when completing work that was not finished in class or is part of a larger project. Extra practice or work to extend thinking is always available.