NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

November 1, 2026

Phone (250) 870-5138
Email dwe@sd23.bc.ca



A heartfelt THANK-YOU to our PAC for sponsoring our S.T.E.A.M. Lab! This month, each student at DWE was given the opportunity to be interviewed by their teacher or a member of our District's Learning Innovation Team to help us further develop Student Agency at DWE!

Questions that students were asked included:

1. When do you feel really proud, happy, or excited about something you are doing?
2. If you could learn about, explore, try, make, or figure out ANYTHING, what would you choose? Why?
3. What helps you believe, "I can do this!" - expecially when something is new or hard?
4. How can the S.T.E.A.M. Lab help you have more choice in your learning?
5. What's something about YOU that you wish your teachers knew?

Through these questions, our students provided us with some great ideas that staff is currently working on developing. We are so excited for what the future holds! Our students are capable, kind, and full of amazing ideas to share!

Upcoming Events

Nov. 3 - Boys' Volleyball Game at Bankhead Elem.
Nov. 4 - Girls' Volleyball Game at Bankhead Elem.
Nov. 9 - Light to Field of Crosses
Nov. 10 - Remembrance Day Assembly (Tuesday)
Nov. 10 - Macdonnell / Peters to Military Museum
Nov. 10 - Boys' Volleyball Game at ASM Elem.
Nov. 11- Remembrance Day / No School (Weds.)
Nov. 12 - Girls' Volleyball Game at ASM Elem.
Nov. 17 - Boys' Volleyball Jamboree at SMS
Nov. 18 - Girls' Volleyball Jamboree at SMS
Nov. 27 - First Written Learning Update
Dec. 7 - Mar-Cat Entrepreneur Fair in Gym
Dec. 15 - Winter Music Performance 9:15-10:15
Dec. 16 - Winter Music Performance 1:15-2:15
Dec. 21-Jan. 2 - WINTER VACATION
Jan 24-31 - Family Literacy Week
Feb. 12 - Pro.D. Day / School Closed
Feb. 15 - Family Day
Feb. 24 - Pink Shirt Day
March 15-25 - Spring Break
March 26 - Good Friday / School Closed
March 29 - Easter / School Closed

November brings cooler temperatues!

Please be sure to send your child with warm jackets, mitts and toques

A note from the Principal

It has been a another great month of reflection, connection, and learning at DWE!

Many thanks to our PAC for hosting a phenomenal outdoor **Movie Night** for our community to enjoy some fresh air and relax outdoors together!

One of the most meaningful pieces of work our staff have been engaged in this month has been conducting **Empathy Interviews** with every student in our school. Through thoughtful conversations, students were invited to share what makes them feel proud, happy, and excited at school; what they would most like to learn, explore, create, or discover; what helps them believe, "I can do this!"; how our **STEAM Lab** can provide more choice in their learning; and what they wish their teachers knew about them.

These conversations are helping us deepen our understanding of each learner while continuing to create the conditions for all students to succeed, explore their passions, and expand their capacity as learners. They are also supporting our ongoing work with the **STEAM Lab** as a powerful tool for building student agency and efficacy. We are incredibly grateful to our PAC, whose generous support and funding make this exciting project possible.

Student voice and leadership continue to be a priority at DWE. Whether through our **R.O.A.R. Council**, Lunch with the Principal, or our Empathy Interviews, students are being given opportunities to share their ideas and help shape our school community. We are continually inspired by the unique strengths, perspectives, and gifts each student brings to DWE.

Behind the scenes, staff continue to be busy co-creating our shared vision for student success while considering literacy and numeracy data together. The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) in Grade 4 is one of many sources of information we use to help determine next steps for our school. Staff are also using District Literacy Assessments and a newly developed district-wide Numeracy Continuum to support student growth and ensure learners are well-prepared as they transition to middle school.

As we look ahead to November, we are excited to continue this important work and celebrate upcoming opportunities for students to shine. Stay tuned for more news about our Entrepreneur Fair (The **Mar-Cat**) and our **Winter Music Concerts**. We look forward to sharing these special events with our school community in the weeks ahead.

I'd like to also take a moment to thank our amazing **Volleyball** Coaches for their commitment and time these past several weeks, providing opportunities for our athletes to get out into the community and represent DWE! Thank you, Mariah Peters, Kailey King, Gord Sparrey, and Justin Brown.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support of our students and staff. Together, we are creating a learning community where every child can achieve their best.

Warmly,

Christey Hughes

Principal, DWE

COUNSELLOR CONNECTION

November Theme: **The Importance of Play**

Children learn so much through play — especially the kind of play that is open-ended, outdoors, hands-on, and child-led. One idea explored in The Anxious Generation is that today's children often have fewer opportunities for independent play and face-to-face connection, while spending more time online.
Play helps children build confidence, creativity, social skills, and resilience. It also supports important developmental skills such as coordination, fine motor development, problem-solving, and independence.
Through play, children learn important social skills such as sharing, negotiating, reading body language, and working through disagreements.

This month, consider trying:

- Encouraging outdoor play whenever possible
- Allowing children time for unstructured activities
- Making space for screen-free family time
- Supporting opportunities for children to solve small problems independently

Simple experiences like riding bikes, building forts, playing games, or exploring outdoors help children develop important life skills while supporting emotional well-being.

Ms. Knox: School Counsellor
Book Study: **The Anxious Generation** by Jonathan Haidt

Bikes and Scooters

- *All student bikes MUST be parked at our designated bike racks and not along our fences, please!*
- *Non-motorized scooters may be parked at the "scooter cage" nearest our front entrance.*
- *Motorized scooters are not permitted.*
- *Helmets must be worn.*
- *"Wheels" must be walked at our crosswalk and on our school property*



Optional Student Accident Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. Student Accident Insurance by StudyInsured is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Plan or to find out more, visit this website:

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/

ARRIVING TO SCHOOL ON TIME

Our school places an emphasis on being on time. It is very helpful and adds success to each child's day when all students are seated by the second bell and classroom instruction can begin without interruption. Arriving on time sets up all our students for success. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with this goal. If your child arrives late, please ensure that they report in at the school office before going to their classroom.

Please also remember school ends at 2:25pm and there is supervision outdoors until 2:40pm.



Safety Reminder

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

Personal Devices at School

We want to remind parents and guardians that students are not permitted to use their personal devices at school (this INCLUDES texting with smart watches).

During school time, including lunch and recesses, personal devices should be in backpacks and smart watches should not be used for any other purpose than to tell time. If a student needs to contact their family, or receive an important message, this should be done via the office.

WINTER SHOW

We are excited to announce our **School Winter Performance**! Please see the performance and rehearsal schedule below to help you plan ahead. We hope you can join us for one of our two performances, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Concert Performances *(parents / guardians invited)

Tuesday, December 15: 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday, December 16: 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Rehearsals (for students only)

Wednesday, December 9: 12:10 to 2:25 p.m.
Thursday, December 10: 12:10 to 2:25 p.m. This session is for classes that did not rehearse on Wednesday.

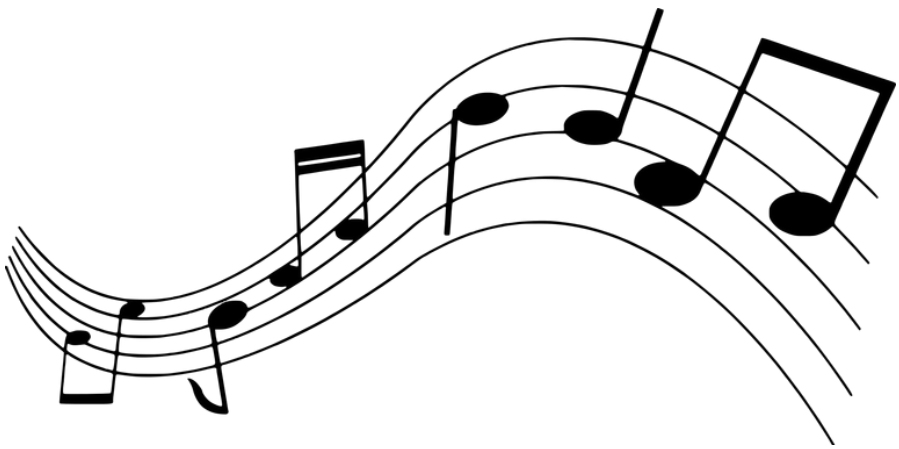
Dress rehearsals – Monday, December 14 (for students only)

9:30 to 10:50 a.m.: A full run-through of the show.
12:10 to 1:10 p.m.: A rehearsal for students selected as narrators, usually from Grades 5 and 6.

Winter Performance Concert Attire

Students should wear dark pants or a dark skirt with a shirt in their class color below. Any shirt style is welcome, including collared shirts and T-shirts. Shirts may have prints or designs on them.

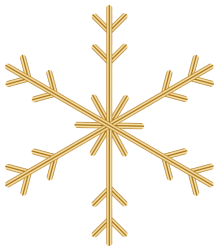
- **Red**: Mrs. Lebbon/Settingiano, Mme King, Mme Macdonelle, Mr. Brown
- **Green**: Mr. Nicholls, Mme Rode, Ms. Peters, Mme Johnson
- **White**: Mme Morden, Mrs. Murch, Mrs. Jensen, Mme Light



Salvation Army Toy/Gift Drive

Dear DWE Families,

At this time of year, we are reminded to be thankful for all that we have and to look for ways to support others in our community. Participation in this donation drive is entirely optional, but any contributions are greatly appreciated. If you would like to participate, we invite you to talk with your child about what type of gift another child or teenager might enjoy receiving for the holidays. You can purchase a gift together and send it to school with your child to donate to a family in need. A list of recommended gift ideas can be found on the back of this sheet.



Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Gifts must be new and unwrapped.
- Please do not donate stuffed animals or candy.
- Each afternoon, students from Mrs. Jensen's Grade 5 classes will visit classrooms to collect donated gifts.
- Gift cards for families, such as those for grocery stores or Walmart, are also gratefully accepted.

Donations will be collected at school from November 30 to December 11.
Thank you for your kindness and generosity in helping make the holiday season a little brighter for families in need. Your support is appreciated!



If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Jensen at jessica.jensen@sd23.bc.ca.
With gratitude,
Mrs. Jensen
DWE Grade 5 Teacher

Salvation Army Gift Suggestions

Teen
Toiletries, nail polish, facial care, lip balm, hair products, socks, candles, card games, Escape Room in a Box, headphones, journal, toque, mitts, gift cards (Orchard Park Mall, Cineplex, Landmark Cinemas, Walmart, Best Buy, Chapters, iTunes etc.)

10-12 year old
Tech Deck, Beyblades, headphones, slime, advanced Lego, Meccanno, Nerf toys, remote control vehicle, Minecraft, watch, books, sports balls, fidget toys, K-nex, Snap Circuits, board game, bath set, advanced art set, crafting kit, sketch set, make-up, hair care, facial kit, science kit, LED lights, bluetooth speakers, anime, nail art, skateboard

7-9 year old
Lego, Pokémon, Beyblades, Hot Wheels, coding toys, remote control vehicle, Star Wars, science kit, fidget toys, K-nex, marble set, minecraft, Monster Jam, Kinetic Sand, superheroes, Bionicles, Tech deck, Polly Pocket, Nerf, Pop It, Hatchimals, LOL Doll, art kit, craft Kit, Barbie, slime kit, dollhouse, Rainbow Loom, Pixies, DIY Kit, Rainbowcorn/Fairycorn Surprise, books, board games, card games, puzzles

4-6 year old
Lego, Pop It, superheroes, Paw Patrol, Dino Smashers, monster trucks, Crayola, remote control vehicles, Kinetic Sand, Hot Wheels, Bionicles, Beyblades, action figures, coding toys, building set, dinosaurs, Transformers, Playmobil, Rainbowcorn, Mini Brands, Lol Doll, Polly Pocket, Pixies, Hatchimals, tea set, dollhouse, Barbie, Cry Babies, Magformers, Disney, Crayola, My Little Pony, Baby Alive, doll accessories, Fur Real, books, puzzles, games

1-3 year old
Paw Patrol, Leap Frog, Little People, Crayola, tool set, building blocks, walking toys, trucks, cars, trains, Play Doh, ride-ons, Peppa Pig, Fisher Price, PJ Masks, Elmo, V-Tech learning toys, dinosaurs, Lego Duplo, Water Babies, baby dolls, doll stroller, tea set, building blocks, play kitchen items, dollhouse, dress up, Calico Critters, Woodland Treehouse Playset, books, wooden puzzles

Infant (0-12 months)
Rattles, learning toys, teething toys, infant essentials (excluding diapers/wipes),
developmental toys, learn to walk, shape sorter, stackable toys, board books, Sophie the Giraffe, Go Go Smart Friends, Lamaze Mix and Match Caterpillar

25 September 2026

RE: Online and In-Person Child Safety Parent Information Night (IH, RCMP, SD23)

Dear Central Okanagan Public Schools Parent Advisory Council Members,

Greetings from the Sexual Health Education Program (SHEP) team in the newly established Student Safety, Belonging and Well-Being department.

This year, we are excited to co-host a series of three presentations for parents and caregivers throughout the 2026/27 academic year. Research shows that conversations about sexual health and safety at home are important for helping children stay safe, yet these conversations can be difficult for parents and caregivers to initiate. These presentations aim to provide parents and caregivers with practical tools and strategies for discussing sexual health and safety with children, youth, and young adults.

The presentations are being developed and delivered by Interior Health in collaboration with public-sector partners in our community, including the RCMP.

Our first presentation will focus on **online and in-person child safety as it relates to sexual health and well-being**. It will be led by an Interior Health Registered Nurse and an RCMP officer specializing in child safety. **The focus for this presentation is Elementary and Middle School families.**

Presentation Details:
Online and In-Person Child Safety
November 4, 2026 | 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Hollywood Road Educational Services Building
1040 Hollywood Rd. S.

Please see the attached poster for additional information and registration details.

We would greatly appreciate your support in promoting this presentation by sharing the poster in your October Parent Advisory Council meetings at your individual schools. We hope to see a strong turnout for this important community event.

This is the first time our School District, Interior Health, and the Kelowna RCMP have collaborated on this topic, and we hope to build on this impactful, community-driven partnership in the future.

Please feel free to reach out to our Sexual Health Education Program (SHEP) team with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Central Okanagan Public Schools SHEP Team

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

Parent Information Night

Online and In-Person Child Safety



DATE
November 4, 2026

TIME
Doors open: 5:30pm
Presentation: 6:00-7:00pm

Question period to follow

LOCATION
School Board Office
(1040 Hollywood Rd. S)

LC Meeting Room 355

SCAN OR CLICK TO SIGN UP

TOPICS COVERED

- Why talking about bodies and personal safety matters
- Prevention of online exploitation
- Child abuse prevention strategies
- How to talk to your child about their body and personal safety
- Strategies and tools for parents and caregivers

PRESENTERS

Cpl. Renee Brand
Kelowna RCMP's Child Abuse Unit

Sgt. Celina Gammie
Kelowna RCMP's Vulnerable Persons Unit

Natalie Howe, RN
Interior Health
Population Health
Program Specialist

Central Okanagan Public Schools
Together We Learn

Interior Health

LIGHT SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS
provided

Community


CARE CLIMATE ACTION RIPPLE EFFECT
MENTORS NEEDED!
Mentorship changes lives for youth and mentors. Join our program!
AS A MENTOR YOU WILL...
• Share your passion for climate action while supporting student learning and innovation
• Create a local solution with a team of students grades 6-12
• Meet with your CARE team in person or via Zoom
• Commit 10-15 hours from March to mid-May, 2027
FOR MORE INFO
Kasey@freshoutlookfoundation.org
WWW.CLIMATEACTIONRIPPLEEFFECT.ORG


SCHOOL'S OUT
2026 ENROLMENT OPEN NOW!
FREE for newcomers, immigrant families, and low income families
Fun & Engaging Activities - A variety of activities throughout the program, including arts & crafts, sports, games, educational activities, and more!
: K - GR 6 (YRS 5-12)
: OCT 07, 2026 - DEC 18, 2027
: TUESDAY & FRIDAY
: 2:45 PM - 5:00 PM
: OCCA, 1460 INKAR RD, KELOWNA
Registration Email:
schoolsout@occabc.ca
United Way
British Columbia


MISSION DANCE
CENTRE & COMPANY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TANYA VADUROVA
THE NUTCRACKER
SCHOOL & SENIOR SHOWS
THURS DEC 17 & FRI DEC 18
11:45am to 1:45pm
Rotary Centre for the Arts
$10 per student/senior
(free admission for staff & volunteers)
EMAIL US TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS:
admin@missiondancecentre.com
Reservation Deadline: November 13 | Payment Deadline: November 27


Night sky after school club
Thursdays, November 5 – 26 | 3:30 p.m.- 5 p.m.
Mission Creek Regional Park | Ages 7-11
$30
For the four-week series
Join us Thursdays in November at the EECO Centre in Mission Creek Regional Park to explore the stars, planets and wildlife through hands-on activities, outdoor games, star charts and creative projects. Each week brings a new adventure in the park!
Registration required: rdco.com/parkprograms
Regional District of Central Okanagan

Arts Blast

WHERE KIDS CREATE TOGETHER AND TAKE THE STAGE



2027 SPRING/SUMMER CAMPS

Award-winning arts camps for kids ages 5–12 to play, create, and explore music, theatre, and visual art together, ending the week with a performance on the Mary Irwin Theatre stage. Guided by expert artist-instructors, kids build confidence, self-esteem, and creative skills.

5 DAY CAMP –
Time: 9 AM – 4 PM

- March 15-19
- July 5–9
- July 12–16
- July 19–23
- July 26–30
- August 9–13
- August 16–20
- August 23–27
- August 30–September 3

4 DAY CAMP –
Time: 9 AM – 4 PM

- March 22-25
- August 3-6



JAZZ CAMP
$485
Time: 9 AM – 4 PM
August 16-20

"The teachers, programming, and energy was so positive and enriching, and I highly recommend them for parents looking for a safe, positive, culturally rich camp activity for your kids!"
-Danielle

Scan to Learn More

250.717.5304
421 Cawston Ave, Kelowna BC
RotaryCentrefortheArts.com
@RotaryCentrefortheArts

ROTARY centre for the arts

FREE

Youth Nights

City of Kelowna

OUR NEXT YOUTH NIGHTS

Nov 7th & Dec 5th

6 - 9 PM | GR 6 - 9

Come to Parkinson Rec Center for a free, fun-filled night.
Pizza and snacks included!

More info at
kelowna.calendar

FREE

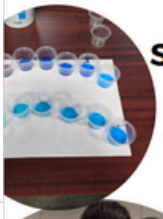




WWEST

STEM PROJECT INCUBATOR
(COME DESIGN YOUR OWN PROJECT)

GRADE 6-12 STUDENT OPPORTUNITY



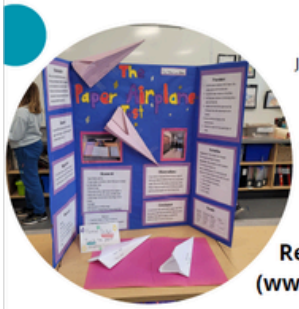


LOCATION
Okanagan Science Centre
2704 Hwy 6, Vernon, BC

DATES
Oct 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12, 26

TIME:
3:30-4:40pm

COST: $70.00
(financial assistance is available, contact us)



WHAT IS IT?

Plan & create your own STEM project(s). Join WWEST, the Okanagan Science Centre, and fellow next-gen scientists for an interactive science experience.

Projects created may be eligible for the upcoming Okanagan Shuswap Regional STEM Fair (April 2027)

If unable to join in-person, virtual attendance is an option!

Register here: (wwest-cwse.ca/)

OKANAGAN SCIENCE CENTRE

Have questions? Email: wwest.ok@ubc.ca

ÉCOLE DOROTHEA WALKER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2026-2027

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan Public Schools)

4346 Gordon Dr, Kelowna, B.C. V1W 1S5
Phone: (250) 870-5138 www.dwe.sd23.bc.ca

Days in session	189
Number of days of instruction	182
Number of non-instructional days	7
Schools open – Tuesday only, 8:25-10:55	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Administrative Implementation Day (no regular classes)	Friday, October 9, 2026
Thanksgiving Day (schools closed)	Monday, October 12, 2026
Early Dismissal at 12:25 for Parent-Teacher Conferences	Thursday, October 15, 2026
Early Dismissal at 12:25 for Parent-Teacher Conferences	Friday, October 16, 2026
Teacher Professional Day	Friday, October 23, 2026
Remembrance Day (schools closed)	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
First Written Learning Update	Friday, November 27, 2026
School closes for Winter vacation at 2:30	Friday, December 18, 2026 at 2:30pm
Winter vacation period (schools closed)	Monday, December 21, 2026 – Friday, January 2, 2027
Statutory holiday (schools closed)	Friday, January 1, 2027
School reopens after Winter vacation	Monday, January 4, 2027
Teacher Professional Day (Support Staff In-Service Day)	Friday, February 12, 2027
Family Day (schools closed)	Monday, February 15, 2027
Early Dismissal at 12:25 for Parent-Teacher Conferences	Thursday, February 25, 2027
Early Dismissal at 12:25 for Parent-Teacher Conferences	Friday, February 26, 2027
Second Written Learning Update	Thursday, March 11, 2027
School closes for Spring vacation at 2:30	Friday, March 12, 2027 at 2:30pm
Spring vacation period (schools closed)	Monday, March 15 – Friday, March 25, 2027
School reopens after Spring vacation	Tuesday, March 30, 2027
Good Friday (schools closed)	Friday, March 26, 2027
Easter Monday (schools closed)	Monday, March 29, 2027
Victoria Day (schools closed)	Monday, May 24, 2027
Last Day of School and Third Written Learning Update	Thursday, June 29, 2027
Administrative Day (students do not attend)	Friday, June 30, 2026
School closes for summer	Friday June 30, 2026

Bell Schedule for 2026-27

8:20 Welcome Bell
8:25 Morning Classes Begins
11:10 Outdoor Play
11:35 Lunch
12:00 Lunch Completes
12:05 Afternoon Classes Begin
1:10 Little Recess
1:25 Final Period
2:25 Dismissal

Early Dismissal Days for 2026-27

Dismissal will happen at 12:25 on the following days:
October 15 and 16, 2026
February 25 and 26, 2027

Staff In-Service Days for 2026-27

Friday, October 9, 2026
Friday, October 23, 2026
Friday, February 12, 2027

Statutory Holidays are highlighted in the above calendar.