



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

September 11, 2026

Phone (250) 870-5138

Email dwe@sd23.bc.ca

WELCOME BACK!

We are delighted to welcome our students and families back for another exciting school year. It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces return, ready to learn, connect, and grow together.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our team: Mrs. Murch (Grade 4), Monsieur Brown (Grade 5/6 French Immersion), and Mrs. Cates (CEA). We are equally pleased to welcome back Mrs. Settingiano, who will be sharing the Grade 3 class with Ms. Lebbon this year.

During our first week of school, students participated in a variety of community-building activities while learning about our school expectations through our R.O.A.R. framework and school matrix. These important themes were also celebrated at our Welcome Assembly today. Students are settling in well to their new classrooms, and families can expect information coming home soon regarding our upcoming Terry Fox Run. As we begin the year, we encourage families to connect with their child's classroom teacher as the first point of contact for questions or concerns. Our office team is also happy to assist and can be reached at dwe@sd23.bc.ca.

Thank you for being an important part of our school community. We look forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth, and partnership together.

Warmly,
Christey Hughes
Principal



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/

Terry Fox Run - Friday, September 18

Our school is excited to participate in our annual Terry Fox School Run on Friday, September 18. This event is an opportunity for our school community to come together, be active, and continue Terry Fox's legacy of courage, perseverance, and hope. We will begin with a brief whole-school assembly, followed by the run from approximately 12:20–1:10 p.m.

Students will run/walk through our school community along Gordon, San Michelle, and back through the walking path to the school field.

Students will be encouraged to run or walk at a pace that is comfortable for them as we work together to support Terry Fox's goal of raising awareness and funds for cancer research. Staff and parent volunteers will be positioned along the route to help students stay on course safely.

Please ensure your child comes prepared with:

- Athletic clothing appropriate for the weather
- Proper running or athletic shoes
- A filled water bottle
- A hat and/or sunscreen if the weather is warm

We will also be raising money for the Terry Fox foundation next week!

Please help our school reach its goal of \$1000 by bringing:

Monday: Quarters

Tuesday: Loonies

Wednesday: Toonies

Thursday / Friday: Any contribution!



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation is Wednesday, September 30th - School will be closed.

In March of 2023, the Province of B.C. recognized September 30th as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, declaring it a statutory holiday. This day creates time and space for all families and communities in British Columbia to reflect on Canada's history and to engage in Indigenous community events.

The day honours the children in Canada who attended residential schools, the survivors, and their families. It is also an opportunity for all British Columbians to learn about this part of our shared history and to reflect on a path forward towards reconciliation.

This statutory day responds to Call to Action #80 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, chaired by the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, which called on the federal government to establish a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to ensure public honouring of the history and legacy of residential schools is held up as an important part of the reconciliation process.

On September 30, we encourage families to wear orange, take part in local events, read Indigenous authored stories, learn more about the local syilx territory, and spend time learning and talking together about truth and reconciliation. Walking this path is a journey we share, hand in hand, as British Columbians.

THANK YOU, P.A.C.!

Exciting News: S.T.E.A.M. Lab Development at DWE!

Our staff is excited to be developing a new S.T.E.A.M. Lab at DWE! During this week's station rotations, students received a brief presentation from Mr. Nicholls about the vision for the space, how it is being designed, and the many ways it will support learning across our school.

S.T.E.A.M. stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. In schools, S.T.E.A.M. learning encourages students to explore real-world challenges through creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and innovation. By integrating these disciplines, students develop the skills and mindsets needed to become curious problem-solvers, confident learners, and engaged citizens.

The DWE S.T.E.A.M. Lab will provide opportunities for students to design, build, create, experiment, and explore. Through hands-on learning experiences, students will deepen our school's core competencies, including creative and critical thinking, communication, personal responsibility, and collaboration. The lab will also support the development of important school attributes such as **R**esponsibility, **O**pen-Mindedness, **A**ppreciation and **R**espect (**R.O.A.R.**).

As our vision continues to develop, we hope to build meaningful connections with our wider community. The S.T.E.A.M. Lab will create opportunities for students to learn about local trades, skilled professions, entrepreneurship, technology, the arts, environmental stewardship, and other career pathways.

This exciting project has been made possible through the generous support of our amazing **P.A.C.** as well as **Honour the Work**. After carefully reviewing past fundraising initiatives, playground expenses, and the long-term impact of school-wide donations, our P.A.C. chose to invest in the development of this innovative learning space. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment to enriching opportunities for all DWE students.

Student voice will be an important part of this journey. Later this month, staff will be interviewing students to gather their ideas, interests, and hopes for the S.T.E.A.M. Lab as we continue its development.

We are thrilled to begin this exciting new chapter and look forward to sharing updates as our S.T.E.A.M. Lab takes shape. Stay tuned!

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.