



# SAVONA ELEMENTARY



April 2022

*Our Mission Statement – To respect and enable learners to grow intellectually, emotionally and socially by providing a safe, nurturing environment that encourages risk taking.*

## Principal's Message

Spring has sprung, which brings feelings of renewal and hope. Having now come out of Spring Break, I hope both staff and students feel that and are refreshed and ready to finish the year well. April to June typically goes by very quickly, but much learning is still to occur. It was great to see everyone return to school yesterday and see their smiling faces and excitement.

Now that there are no COVID restrictions pertaining to visitors, we are incredibly excited to be able to host an Open House/Presentation of Learning on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Student learning is our primary focus, so we are excited to provide an opportunity for students to show off that learning. More details are in this newsletter, and emails will follow as well.

I want to thank the PAC for their continued support as well. They are always just a phone call away and always willing to help. They have purchased materials and food for Halloween and Christmas activities, a breakfast for Walk to School day, paid for student entry fees for the Young Artists conference, and then most recently agreed to purchase five Chromebooks for the school. As I have repeatedly stated, the community feel in Savona is extraordinary, and the PAC is a great example of this.

Happy Easter, and I hope to see you at our Open House.

Cheers

## Young Artists Conference

Congratulations to Jaxon and Jordan who have had their artwork selected to represent Savona Elementary at this year's Young Artists Conference. More details will be sent home about what the conference will look like this year as it becomes available.



## Day of Suwentwecw

The Kamloops Thompson School District currently occupies the territories of the Suwentwecw and Nlaka'Pamux people. This year, the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of Suwentwecw will be held on April 7, 2022.



The Day of Suwentwecw occurs only in SD73, and takes place in order to recognize and celebrate the history of the Secwepemc people and other Aboriginal people residing within the territory of the Shuswap Nation, 'Secwepemcúl'ecw'. Suwentwecw means acknowledging one another. This year's theme is "Well Becoming Through Emotional, Physical, Intellectual and Spiritual Indigenous Values." The day will be marked by the hosting of gatherings "splulkw" within schools and classrooms and teachers will be doing in class activities and teachings relating to the theme.

## Update on Covid Guidelines

The Ministry of Education K-12 Provincial Guidelines have been updated as on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Here is a summary of the changes that have been made:

- Space Arrangements – Schools can return to classroom and learning environment configurations and activities that best meet learner need and preferred educational approaches, though should still consider strategies to create space between people.
- School Gatherings & Events – Gatherings/meetings between one school or facility have no limits on attendance. Gatherings/meetings where there are mixed groups, spectators or visitors have 50% capacity or 50 people, whichever is greater.
- Visitor Access – Schools are open to visitors and schools can return to routine sign in/sign out practices. Elementary school doors will remain locked and visitors are asked to contact the school prior to arrival. Students will continue to enter

and exit through classroom doors to avoid crowding.

- Personal Protective Equipment – The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice.
- Masks & International Travel – Requirements currently include that adults and children aged 5 and older who have traveled internationally must wear a well-constructed and well-fitting mask in indoor and outdoor public spaces, including schools, for the first 14 days after entry. This means wearing a mask at school is not a personal choice for those who have traveled internationally for 14 days after entry.

### Young Authors' Conference

The Young Authors' Conference offers creative writing workshops to students in grades 4-12. This year, the conference will be a hybrid format. There will be one day of online workshops on May 5<sup>th</sup> and a one day in-person conference at TRU on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will be registering their classes for online workshops. If your child is interested in attending the in-person conference, please have them talk to their teacher for a copy of the manuscript criteria. Manuscript submissions are due by Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. If your child has been chosen to attend, more information about the conference at TRU will be sent home.

### Parent Engagement Session – “Your Child and the New Competency Based IEP”

**When: Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6:00pm – 7:00pm**

**Your Child and the New Competency Based IEP... Coming Soon**

Presented by Pam Gurney, District Coordinator - Inclusive Education Services

Does your child have an Inclusive Education Plan (IEP)? If so, then this session is for you! School District No.73 is rolling out competency-based IEPs in September 2022. Learn how competency-based IEPs are similar and yet different from the current IEP being used. You will also learn more about how you, the parent/guardian, will be a significant stakeholder in the development of the new competency-based IEP process.

Register for this live Zoom Event at:

<https://forms.sd73.bc.ca/Parent-Engagement/2021-2022/Your-Child-and-the-New-Competency-Based-IEP-April>.

### Point of Progress – Open House

We are excited to be able to host an Open House at Savona Elementary for the first time in 2 years! Our Open House will take place on Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> between 3:00 – 4:30 pm. This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> point of progress for students with the last one being their final report card in June. Teachers will have their classrooms open to you and students are excited to share the work they've done. We will have coffee, tea and snacks available as well. We hope that you are able to join us!



### Tick Season

The ticks are back and hanging out in local bushes and tall grasses. Below are some suggestions to follow on how to avoid you and your child being bitten by a tick:

1. Walk on cleared trails wherever possible when walking in tall grass or woods.
2. Wear light colored clothing, tuck your top into your pants and tuck your pants into your boots or socks.
3. Use an insect repellent containing DEET on your clothes and on all uncovered skin. Reapply it as directed on the container.
4. Check clothing and scalp when leaving an area where ticks may live. Check in folds of skin. Have someone help you check young children.
5. Regularly check household pets which go into tall grass and wooded areas.

For more information on ticks and how to remove them, please go to:

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/tick-bites>



### Practicum Students in Mrs. Regan's and Mrs.

#### Walker's Classes

We are pleased to welcome 4 practicum students to our school from April 19<sup>th</sup> until April 29<sup>th</sup>. Jessica Merrikin and Jennifer Murray will be doing their practicum with Mrs. Walker's class while Terry Rickett and Carly Sutherland will be doing their practicum with Mrs. Regan's class. We look forward to helping them learn in our classrooms.

### **Trauma, Resilience, and Navigating Reconciliation**

Dr. Kevin Lamoureux is a renowned Indigenous author, co-author of 'Ensoulng Our Schools,' and former Education Lead for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Dr. Lamoureux will be addressing the concept and understanding of reconciliation and what that looks in the Canadian landscape. As well, he will be touching on the role of trauma and resiliency for children and families in the current public school system.

The workshop will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, April 12, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. If you are interested in attending, you are asked to register at <https://forms.sd73.bc.ca/Parent-Engagement/2021-2022/Trauma-Resilience-and-Navigating-Reconciliation> and you will be provided with the link to the meeting.

### **Pitch-In Canada Week – April 17 - 23**



PITCH-IN Week began in 1967 with a handful of concerned citizens picking up harmful debris along the shore of Vancouver Island. In 2021 over 550,000 volunteers took part in more than 28,000 individual clean ups resulting in 3.7 million pounds of litter being removed from parks, streets and waterways! At Savona Elementary, we will be doing our part during this week by picking up litter in our community.



### **Upcoming Events**

April 7	Day of Suwewtwecw
April 8	Purdys Delivery
April 14	Lockdown Drill
April 15	Good Friday – No School
April 18	Easter Monday – No School
April 19 – 29	Practicum Students in Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Regan's classes
April 21	Hot Dog Day (if purchased)
April 25	District Non-Instructional Day – No School
May 4	Open House – 3:00pm – 4:30pm