



SAVONA ELEMENTARY



April 2023

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 today and see their smiling faces and excitement.

We are incredibly excited to be able to host an Open House/Presentation of Learning on April 19th. Students have been working on passion projects, and they are excited to share them with family and friends. More information on the event is in this newsletter.

Students have also started to reflect on the Core Competencies. The Core Competencies are life skills for success, namely communication, thinking, and personal and social responsibility. Students have completed a self-assessment of their communication skills, and will now start self-assessing their collaboration skills over the next two weeks. After completing all reflections, this student collected information will be linked on June report cards, so families can look at student thoughts and work.

I hope everyone has a great Easter weekend, and I hope to see you at our Open House.

Sincerely,

Scott Galloway

Day of Sucwentwécw

Kamloops School District No. 73 is located within the traditional territory of the Secwépemc people and includes the seven Secwépemc First Nations Bands:

- Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
- Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band
- Skeetchestn Indian Band
- Simpcw First Nation
- Adams Lake Indian Band
- Little Shuswap Lake Band
- Neskonlith Indian Band



The Day of Sucwentwécw (Acknowledging One Another) is an annual initiative. This year it will be held on April 6, to recognize and celebrate the Secwépemc People (Secwepemcúl'ecw) and other Aboriginal people residing within the Secwépemc Territory.

This year's theme, "Courage to Explore and Embrace Your Identity Which Involves Connection to Family, Community, and Culture," is based on the First Peoples Principles of Learning and Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives. At Savona Elementary, we will be creating walking sticks. Throughout the week, students will pick out, design, and then create their walking sticks. On Thursday, the Day of Sucwentwécw, we will have an assembly from 9:45 – 10:15am where Mr. Terry Deneault has agreed to come and speak with students about this year's theme. Parents/guardians are welcome to join us for the assembly. After lunch, students will go on a community walk where they will have the opportunity to test out their walking stick. For more information on the Day of Sucwentwécw, please visit the [link](#) on our school's website.

Presentation of Learning

We are excited to host our Presentation of Learning on Wednesday, April 19th from 3 – 4:30 pm. This will be our 4th 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 passion projects that they've been working hard on. We hope that you will be able to join us!



Young Artists' Conference

Congratulations to Mya Colville and Avery Scott who have had their artwork selected to represent Savona Elementary at this year's Young Artists' Conference. This year's conference takes place on Wednesday, April 26th at Thompson Rivers University.



Young Authors' Conference

The Young Authors' Conference brings together committed young writers in School District No. 73 to work with professional authors. 2023 marks the 44th anniversary of this popular event. Students who have expressed interest have been given the manuscript criteria. Submissions are due back to Mrs. Regan by Thursday, April 6th. Two students will be selected to attend the conference at TRU on Friday, April 28th. Their manuscripts will be collected and considered for recognition and the Marg van Dusen award. More information and permission slips will be sent home with the selected students.



Pitch-In Canada Week – April 17 - 21



In 2023, Pitch-In Canada celebrates 56 years of cleaning up communities across the country. At Savona Elementary, each class will be doing their part during this week by picking up litter in our community.

Lahal Tournament at Skeetchestn School

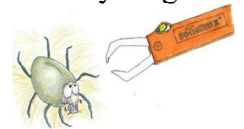
Our intermediate students will be taking the bus to Skeetchestn Community School on Friday April 28th to participate in their annual Lahal Tournament. Lahal is a traditional game of our indigenous people. With 11-13 sticks and 4 bones, the objective of the game is to win all the sticks by guessing where the unmarked bones are in an opposing team member's hand. We are thrilled to take part in this great event! Skeetchestn will be providing lunch for us. Students should bring their morning snacks and water bottles as usual on this day.



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>

Day of Mourning

Across Canada, April 28th has been designated the Day of Mourning. Workers, families, and employers, come together each year to remember those who have been injured and lost their lives on the job, and renew their commitment to creating healthy and safe workplaces. All schools will be flying flags at half-mast on this day.



PAC Hot Lunch Program

Order forms have gone home for the last 5 PAC hot lunches of the school year! Order forms are due back by Wednesday, April 12th. Please indicate on the back of the order form if you are available to help prepare lunch on any of these days.



PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting will take place on Monday, May 1st at 6:30 pm in the Savona Elementary School library. Childcare will be provided at the school during the meeting. We encourage all parents to attend, even if you've never been to a PAC meeting before. It is a great way to find out about events and fundraisers happening at our school that benefit all our students. We also encourage you to join the Savona Elementary PAC group on Facebook for information on different events and fundraisers that are coming up.



Found4Kids

We would like to let parents know about the Found4Kids program that helps students and families across School District No. 73 who are in need of clothing. This program provides gift certificates to a local thrift shop where families can choose clothing for children of all ages. If you need assistance, please contact Mr. Galloway for more information.



Upcoming Events

April 6	Day of Suwentwécw
April 7	Good Friday – No School
April 10	Easter Monday – No School
April 12	PAC Hot Lunch orders due
April 14	PAC Hot Lunch – Grilled Cheese
Apr. 17-21	Pitch-In Canada Week
April 19	Presentation of Learning 3-4:30 pm
April 21	Hot Dog Day (if purchased)
April 24	Non-Instructional Day – No School
April 26	Young Artists' Conference at TRU
April 28	Lahal Tournament at Skeetchestn
April 28	Young Authors' Conference at TRU
April 28	Day of Mourning
May 1	PAC Meeting at 6:30 pm