



# SAVONA ELEMENTARY



April 2026

***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

I hope students and their families had a restful, relaxing, and fun Spring Break. March was a short month as far as school days, but there were also lots of fun events and learning opportunities.

A highlight of the month was our field trip to Riverside Park and then our food experience at Bamboo Inn. Whether students skated or played on the playground, there were many positive comments from staff and students about our time at the park. Thank you to the parent volunteers who came to help tie skates. Students did an excellent job of showing restaurant etiquette at the Bamboo Inn. Students were willing to try new food. All comments indicated that the food was delicious. The food experience exceeded my expectations and I would proudly work to do another food experience like this in the future. I do have to give a 'shout out' to the Bamboo Inn who accommodated us and made sure there was lots of food. The service was excellent.

Students attended the Health and Career Fair at Skeetchestn Community School. Savona Elementary extends gratitude for the invitation. The presenters were engaging and willing to answer student questions. There were a lot of free giveaways that students were excited about, as well as, Savona Students were lucky in the doorprizes. Students were introduced to a variety of career options.

Learning Updates (Report Cards) were published to the Parent Portal on Wednesday, March 11. These Learning Updates will be visible on the Parent Portal until the end of May. We hope that parents have had a chance to read these and share them with students. Please reach out if you need clarification or have any questions. It is important that there is clear

communication between school and home. Parents often ask how to support learning at home. There are many ways to support learning at home without 'worksheets' or tasks sent from the school. Students should have an opportunity to engage with a book for about 10 minutes each night. Students can read or be read to. Engaging in a writing task helps both writing and fine motor skills. For example, involve your child (ren) in writing a grocery or 'to do' list. Card games and dice games naturally promote numeracy skills. Social Studies skills can be enhanced by looking at maps when visiting places like a mall, theme park, ski hill, or Wildlife Park.

March has had a focus on the teachings of Coyote. Coyote spreads the message and teachings of Humility. April will focus on the teaching of Beaver. Beaver spreads the message and teachings of wisdom.

I want to take this time to thank parent volunteers who come and make lunches on PAC hot lunch days. I also want to thank Mrs. Lamberton for her dedication and hard work on Hot Dog Days. We are looking into options and opportunities for lunches for next year. Please reach out to me, Ms. Karla Chernoff, if you have input, ideas, or suggestions.

Welcome to April! Easter is almost here! Happy Easter!

Ms. Karla Chernoff



## Day of Suwentwécw

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 Suwentwécw (Acknowledging One Another) is an annual initiative. This year it will be held on April 7<sup>th</sup> to recognize and celebrate the Secwépemc People (Secwepemcúl'ecw) and other Aboriginal people residing within the Secwépemc Territory.

This year's theme, "*Wenecwsín - Speaking Our Truths*," is based on the First Peoples Principles of Learning and Indigenous Worldviews and Perspectives. At Savona Elementary, we will start our morning with a gathering outside. Students will be learning from the teachings of an Indigenous legend and will be rotating through several themed stations. We will be ending the day with a beach walk and clean-up.

## Young Authors' Conference

The Young Authors' Conference brings together committed young writers in School District No. 73 to work with professional authors. Students who have expressed interest have been given the manuscript criteria. The deadline for submissions is Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Two students will be selected to attend the conference at TRU on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.



## Young Artists' Conference

Congratulations to Sylvie Haywood-Farmer and Ben LeBlanc 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, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Thompson Rivers University.



## After School Program

Ms. Mann will be leading an Outdoor Skills and Art Education after school program. This program will take place on Tuesdays after school from 2:34 – 4:30 pm and will run for 8 weeks beginning on April 7<sup>th</sup>. It



is open to students in grades 4 – 7. During this time, participants will dive into the creative process while also learning some valuable outdoor skills. This program will include some light hiking or walking in the area, allowing participants to find inspiration from the

materials, places and resources around us. There will be a variety of projects and skills, including art using natural materials, games, survival techniques, team building, Indigenous connections and more. The program emphasizes fun, positivity, self-confidence and aims to create a sense of camaraderie among participants. There is no cost for the program, and a healthy snack will be provided. A permission slip is required to take part in the program.

## Lahal Tournament at Skeetchestn School

Our intermediate students will be taking the bus to Skeetchestn Community School on Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> 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 fun event! More details and permission slips will be sent home with students soon.



### PAC Hot Lunch Program

Order forms have gone home for the last 7 PAC hot lunches of the school year! Order forms and payment are due back by Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 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.



### PAC Fundraising

The Savona Elementary PAC has partnered with Dielman Fundraising for a "Big Deal Box" card set.



Each box includes 40 cards and all profits will go directly to Savona students. Information and order forms have been sent home and are due back by Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Cards can be viewed at the office

if you would like to take a look before you order.

There will also be a Mabel's Labels fundraiser starting soon that will be ongoing throughout the year. More information will be sent home about this soon.

### Bus Zone

Please be mindful and pay attention to our bus parking zone. We are hoping to get signage upgraded, but it does create a challenge when there are vehicles parked in the bus zone, especially when we are returning from a field trip. Student safety is our number one priority, and we want our bus to be able to pull in safely. We also want our students to be able to navigate themselves safely to vehicles without the bus blocking their visibility.



### Tick Season

The ticks are back and hanging out in local bushes and tall grasses. Below are some suggestions 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/healthlinkbc-files/tick-bites-and-disease>

### SPARK - Smart Prepared and Ready for Kindergarten

We are excited and happy to be in the planning stages for SPARK Sessions (students coming into Kindergarten). We hope to do three sessions for students coming into Kindergarten. These sessions will be scheduled between late April and Early June. We are planning a Literacy / Numeracy focussed session. We are also planning a Social Emotional focussed session. The final session will be focussed on Physical Literacy. Sessions will be about 45 minutes long. Dates will be announced shortly after Spring Break. We encourage all students coming to Kindergarten to attend.



Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten

### Day of Mourning

Marked annually in Canada on April 28, the National Day of Mourning is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job, or experienced a work-related tragedy. All schools will be flying flags at half-mast on this day.



### Immunizations and Catch-ups

Our Public Health Nurse, Melissa O'Neill, will be at Savona Elementary on May 6<sup>th</sup> for Grade 6 Immunizations. She is also willing to do any Kindergarten aged immunizations and catch ups on this day as well. A consent letter has been sent home with Grade 6 students, but any other catch ups or Kindergarten immunizations must be booked with her as soon as possible. Please contact her at 778-362-6810 ext: 10640 to book a time or if you have any questions.



### File Completion and Information (Medical)

It is imperative, especially at this time of the year, that student files are up-to-date. It is important that we have the most current documentation in student files. If there have been any changes with emails, or



phone numbers, please provide information to the office. We need BC Care Card information. If there are any custody changes or documentation, we need that

as well. Mrs. Lamberton has been diligent in reaching out if there is missing information. Please note the importance of this information, and get it to us immediately. As a reminder, if there are any changes to your child (ren) health information, please alert the office. If there is a need to administer medication to a student (even temporarily), we need a signed form from the doctor.

### School Library Books

The school library is accessible for students needing books. We do have some outstanding library books that are overdue. Please check student bedrooms or under the couch or wherever Savona Elementary Books might be hiding. Library times do change at times, depending on the week, but generally speaking class library times are as follows (return library books on these days):



Ms. Gill on Wednesdays  
Ms. Mann on Thursdays  
Mrs. Regan on Wednesdays \*\*\* Previously on Tuesdays.

### Real World Scientists - Grade 5/6/7 Science

Savona Elementary (Ms. Chernoff) is calling on any parents who use Science in their workplace . . . Ms. Chernoff would love to talk to you about being a



guest presenter about 'real world' science. These presentations can be as long or as short as presenters would like. It is important as a curriculum connection for students to see the relevance and application of science in the

real world. Parents, family members, and community members are welcome to come and share their expertise.



### Upcoming Events

- April 3 Good Friday – **No School**
- April 6 Easter Monday – **No School**
- April 7 Day of Sucwentwécw
- April 7 PAC Hot Lunch order forms due
- April 7 After School Program – 2:34-4:30 pm
- April 10 Young Authors' submissions due
- April 10 PAC Hot Lunch – Chicken Caesar Wrap
- April 14 After School Program – 2:34-4:30 pm
- April 17 Hot Dog Day (if purchased)
- April 21 After School Program – 2:34-4:30 pm
- April 24 Lahal Tournament at Skeetchestn – Grades 4-7
- April 24 PAC card fundraiser orders due
- April 27 Pro-D Day – **No School**
- April 28 After School Program – 2:34-4:30 pm
- April 28 Day of Mourning
- April 30 School & Class Photo Day
- May 1 Young Authors Conference @ TRU
- May 1 PAC Hot Lunch – Beef Vegetable Soup
- May 4 PAC Meeting @ 5:00 pm
- May 5 After School Program – 2:34-4:30 pm
- May 6 Grade 6 Immunizations
- May 6 Young Artists Conference @ TRU