



# SAVONA ELEMENTARY



January 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

Welcome back to school and welcome to 2026. I truly hope that Winter Break was able to provide families with a perfect combination of rest, relaxation, food, and fun!

December was a busy and exciting month at Savona Elementary! The craft fair was a success. Students shone at the Christmas Concert. We were also able to go skating, attend a play at Sagebrush Theatre, and, thanks to the generosity of the PAC, students had the opportunity to decorate sugar cookies. I need to once again thank ALL staff for their efforts with the Christmas Concert. Unfortunately, I was unable to go to the Christmas Train in Savona, but I did hear that the Barenaked Ladies gave Savona Elementary a 'shout out.'

I know it can be a little hard to get back into routine in January, but once routines are back in place January, February, and March are always great learning months. Personally, I am looking forward to making upgrades to the school library. Basketball season will be starting soon, and I know Savona Intermediate students are looking forward to this.

Savona Elementary is truly a great place to be! I am a grateful and proud Principal. I am excited to see and celebrate all the growth and successes that the next few months will bring.

Happy New Year!

Ms. K. Chernoff



## Learning Update Envelopes

Your child's learning updates were sent home in December before Winter break. If you have not done so already, please sign the brown envelope and return it to school.



We do hope to go paperless in Term 2 and only post Learning Updates to the Parent Portal. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher or call the school at 250-373-2520.

## Safe Arrivals and Departures

We would like to thank everyone who is using School Messenger to report their child's absence or late arrival. Afternoons at our school tend to get very busy so we would like to ask parents to please discuss pickup plans with their children before they leave for school whenever possible. Parents must contact the school if there is a change in the regular departure plan so that we can make sure your child makes it home safely. Thank you for your cooperation!

## Scent Sensitive Building

Just a reminder that Savona Elementary School is a **scent-sensitive environment**. To ensure the comfort and health of everyone, please avoid wearing or using scented products such as:

- Perfumes and colognes
- Scented lotions or hair products
- Air fresheners or essential oils



Thank you for helping maintain a safe and inclusive space for all.

### **Harper Mountain Ski/Snowboard Trip**

Ms. Mann's and Mrs. Regan's classes will be going to Harper Mountain to go skiing or snowboarding on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.



On both days, the bus will depart from the school at 8:30 am and will arrive back at the school between 3:15 & 3:30 pm.

Students who take the bus will be dropped off on their regular route which will run about an hour later than usual. For students who do

not take the bus, parents need to be at the school for pickup by 3:15 pm. Ski packages are due back by Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> as the ski hill needs time to organize equipment rentals and lessons. We are looking for a few parent volunteers who can help students with their equipment at the beginning and end of the day and that are able to ski or snowboard with groups. Please indicate on the permission slip if you can volunteer for one or both days. Volunteer lift tickets will be covered by the school, but you will be responsible for the rental of your equipment if needed. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 250-373-2520. We are looking forward to a couple of fantastic days on the hill!

### **Unplug and Play**

Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week runs from January 24 – January 31, 2026. We encourage all our families at Savona Elementary to do their best to unplug and play. Take the time to leave the electronics alone and spend more quality time with the ones you love. It is a time to recognize and celebrate the wonders of literacy, reading, and fictional characters as well as learning together as a family in fun and different ways. There are many ways to practice literacy together as a family - following a recipe, singing a song, or playing a game are just a few ways to engage in literacy activities. Students will be bringing home an Unplug and Play Log to track their progress throughout the week. The log will include a schedule of free activities and events that will be offered by community partners throughout the week for families to enjoy. Participation logs will be due back to school by Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for a chance to win a prize. For a schedule of free activities, visit [www.unplugandplayweek.com](http://www.unplugandplayweek.com).



### **Worldwide Opposite Day**

Worldwide Opposite Day is on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be celebrating this day a little earlier at Savona Elementary on **Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**. Some examples of things students can do to celebrate this day are to wear clothes inside out or backwards, eat dinner foods for breakfast and breakfast foods for lunch, or write their name backwards. We have some fun opposite day activities planned at school as well. More examples of ideas for opposite day can be found on our school website.

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Savona Elementary Kindergarten registration is coming up in February during the week of the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. The registration process will be as follows:

- Pick up a registration package from your catchment school. Return the completed forms to the school by 3 pm on Friday, February 6, 2026.
- Parents will be required to provide the child's care card, proof of address, child's birth certificate and custody agreement if applicable.
- Registration packages for students with an older sibling can be sent home and returned by that sibling. Please contact the office if you would like the package sent home.
- If you have any questions, please contact the school directly.

There is a Virtual Kindergarten Information Session on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

[ZOOM Link Here](#)

Meeting ID: 634 1071 0053

Passcode: 389554

Parents are strongly encouraged to register their child for Kindergarten during these dates. We look forward to meeting all our new Kindergarten students soon!



## Seven Grandfather Teachings Monthly Focus –

### Swan

There will be a focus in the teachings of Swan this month at Savona Elementary.

*Swan speqmíc* A legend tells of Swan resolving differences through the spirit of respect, reciprocity, and by sharing knowledge with others. Swan takes action and leadership to overcome problems. This shows how swan moves gracefully, openly, and honestly *wenecwem7úy* with his community.



### After School Programs – Stay Tuned

Savona Elementary has been approved for an after-school Art Program starting in January. We have also been approved for an after-school Basketball Program (this will be in addition to the basketball team practices). We are just awaiting confirmation of some final details. Look for information and permission forms coming home soon. We hope to open up these programs to students in Grade 3 to 7.



### Upcoming Events

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Jan. 6     | PAC Hot Lunch Forms Due                            |
| Jan. 9     | PAC Hot Lunch – Chicken Noodle Soup w/bun          |
| Jan. 9     | Harper Ski Forms due                               |
| Jan. 12    | PAC meeting @ 5:00 pm                              |
| Jan. 16    | Hot Dog lunch (if purchased)                       |
| Jan. 21    | Worldwide Opposite Day Activities                  |
| Jan. 22    | Harper Ski Trip DIV 002 & 003                      |
| Jan. 23    | Harper Ski Trip DIV 002 & 003                      |
| Jan. 24–31 | Unplug and Play Week                               |
| Jan. 25    | Worldwide Opposite Day                             |
| Jan. 28    | Kindergarten Information Session 6:30 pm (virtual) |
| Jan. 30    | PAC Hot Lunch – Chicken Caesar Wrap                |
| Feb. 2-6   | Kindergarten Registration Week                     |
| Feb. 6     | District Non-Instructional Day                     |