



SAVONA ELEMENTARY



October 2025

***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 to October! From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank students, staff, parents, caregivers, PAC, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and community members for welcoming me to (or back to) Savona Elementary School. September has flown by and it is hard to believe we are already welcoming October.

The weather allowed for a lot of outside time. Students had the opportunity to travel to Dufferin Elementary School to watch a Motivational Magic Show. Students (and staff) are still wondering how the real life bunny appeared. The Motivation Magic Show, not only entertained, but set the tone for the year about how to be 'AMAZING.' This is a message we will be revisiting as the year progresses. Staff and students also participated in the 'long standing tradition' of walking to school. After the walk, students were able to sit and visit with each other while enjoying cereal, fruit, and juice. Students were all smiles and 'thumbs up' as they enjoyed their breakfast. Thank you to our PAC for supporting this event. Savona Elementary was passionate about keeping Terry Fox's dream alive. Students demonstrated perseverance during the Terry Fox Run, and early fundraising totals indicate that we have raised about \$300.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation. When you do the math, we raised even more than our goal of each student bringing a Toonie For Terry! Savona Elementary does have a cross-country running team. This team has been working hard and diligently practicing (even in the warm temperatures). Savona has been doing very well at District Cross Country Runs so far! Go Savona Go! Thank you to our volunteer drivers for getting students to and from these races. September ended with honouring, The Missing, with our Orange Shirt Day activities and observances. At Savona Elementary, Every Child Truly Matters!

As we enter October, there is a lot to look forward to. We wish families a very Happy Thanksgiving! The school will be heading to Horstings Farm for a field trip. We are in the midst of planning pumpkin carving and other Halloween activities. There will also be a school-wide 'Drop Everything and Read Day (D.E.A.R.)' that will also involve a school-wide Pajama Day so we can do some 'Cozy Up and Read' activities.

We are early in the school year, but Savona students are already, SOARing! If I have not yet had an opportunity to meet / talk with you, please pop in and introduce yourself, or reach out to me. I strongly believe in the power of home / school communication to support these very AMAZING learners that we have here.

Ms. K. Chernoff
Very THANKFUL Principal
Savona Elementary

School Fees and Forms

Thank you to all parents who have sent in their fees and forms to the office. We appreciate you all getting them in so quickly, however we are still missing a few. Please call Mrs. Lamberton in the office at 250-373-2520 for new forms or if you have any questions.



Terry Fox

A very special thank you to everyone who brought in a "Toonie for Terry" or donated online in support of our Terry Fox Run on September 24th. Our school raised nearly \$300.00 for cancer research! Together, we can help keep Terry's dream alive and win the battle against cancer.



Sportball After-School Program

We are excited to have Chelsea Belcourt from the Kamloops Sportball program at our school this fall to host the after-school program. Sportball will take place on Thursdays after school from 2:34 – 4:30 pm and is open to students in grades 4-7. Students will have the opportunity to focus on 2 sports of the groups choosing. They will do a variety of activities and play games related to fundamental movement skills. There is no charge for the program, and a healthy snack is provided. Permission slips have gone home and are due back by Friday, October 3rd.



Picture Day

Right Photography will be here on Thursday, October 9th to take individual student photos. Picture proofs will go home with your child once we receive them back at the school. Retakes will take place on November 25th for students who missed picture day, or who would like to have their picture taken again. Right



Photography will be back again in the spring for class photos and a picture of the whole school.

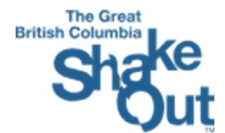
Do You LOVE Volleyball?

We are curious if there is anybody in the community who is passionate about Volleyball. Volleyball season is approaching. We have not yet done an ‘expression of interest’ with students, but we are curious if there are any coaches out there who would be available to run some volleyball sessions with interested students. If we have enough interest, we could register a team for some competitive play within the district. If we do not have the interest, we would still like to provide students with opportunities to practise their skills. If you are interested, please reach out to Ms. Chernoff and we can hopefully devise a plan and a schedule to give our students a volleyball opportunity.



Earthquake Drill - October 16

Savona is registered to participate in the Great British Columbia Shake Out. This will be happening on October 16. This is the day millions of people worldwide will practise how to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” during Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills.



Cross Country Running



Our Savona Elementary Run Club has had 2 successful runs at McArthur Park and Eagle Point. The last run will be at Westsyde Centennial Park on Wednesday, October 8th. A special Thank-you to all our parent drivers who have helped transport students to and from these runs.

Horsting’s Farm Field Trip

We will be going on a school-wide field trip to Horsting’s Farm on Thursday, October 23rd. The school will be split up into 3 groups and will rotate between picking out a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch, finding their way through the corn or haybale maze, and playing on the jumping pad, pedal karts, and sand play area. Permission slips for this trip will go home soon. We would love to have some parent volunteers join us. Their admission fee will be covered by the school, but they will need to drive in their own vehicles as we do not have enough room on the bus. Volunteers are responsible for paying for their own pumpkin if they’d like one. We are looking forward to this amazing school trip!



Kindergarten Families - CHEQ

Earlier this month, you were sent some information regarding a survey, CHEQ, that Kindergarten parents across the district and province are encouraged to complete. If you have not yet completed the survey, the deadline has been extended until the end of October. If you have misplaced your log-in information, please reach out to Ms. Chernoff to get your unique log-in information. Thank you very much! Please refer to the following website for more information. <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/cheq/cheq-overview/> If you require technology for logging in and completing this survey, please come into the school and we can provide the technology to complete this survey.

PAC - Parent Advisory Council

Our PAC group would like to extend an invitation to all interested parents: Come on out and join the group! PAC meetings are held bi-monthly at the Savona Elementary School Library and childcare is provided during the meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 3rd at 5:00 pm. We would like to encourage parents to join the Savona Elementary PAC Facebook page as well. It is a GREAT way to keep current with school events and PAC fundraising efforts.



The next PAC fundraiser will be Sandbagging on Sunday, October 5th at 10:00 am at the Savona Transfer Station. Volunteers are needed to help fill and deliver sandbags to our local gas stations. Please comment on the PAC Facebook page if you are able to donate some time.

PAC will also be sending home a Growing Smiles Poinsettia order later in October. Orders will be due back by November 14th and pickup of items will take place December 3rd.



Scholastic Book Fair

We are happy to announce that we are hosting our Scholastic Book Fair again this year from November 3rd – November 7th.

Students will be given time on Monday to view the books and create a wish list to bring home. They will be allowed to make purchases during their lunch hour throughout the week. Parents are welcome to come to view the books and make purchases during lunch hours between 12:15 pm and 12:45 pm or after school between 2:35 pm and 3:30 pm. Our goal is \$2000 in book sales which would earn us \$600 in resources for our school. There will be great reading materials for all ages, and it is an excellent opportunity to get some Christmas shopping done early!



Savona Elementary School's Library is Open

I (Ms. Chernoff) is working to try and obtain some grants for a Savona Elementary School Library Learning Commons Upgrade. I will keep families posted. In the meantime, library sessions have started in the school library. In order to take out new books, students are encouraged to return books each week. Students are also encouraged to come up with a system, at home, of keeping school library books and public library books separate. There will be variations to this schedule due to Pro-D Days, School Holidays, and My Administration Meetings, but the schedule is:



Mrs. Regan's Class (5/6/7) - Tuesdays
Ms. Gill's Class (K/1) - Wednesdays
Ms. Mann's Class (2/3/4) - Thursdays

*** Again, subject to change depending on Holidays, Non-Instructional Days, and Meetings. The goal is always to make-up missed library times, there may be certain weeks where this is not possible. Please note, Savona School Library will be closed for book exchanges the week of November 3 due to the Book Fair.

Every Child Matters - September 30

"Orange Shirt Day is a time for reflection, learning, and listening. We honour the survivors and remember the children who never came home from residential schools.

As a school, we are committed to Truth and Reconciliation not just today, but every day."



Come Read with Me – Save the Date

We will be hosting a Come Read with Me workshop for Grade 1 & 2 students and their parents on Wednesday, November 12th at 9:00 am. This session



will take place in person in our school library and is meant to help students and parents learn how to increase their child's reading motivation and confidence. Participants will receive a free package with a book, word games and word cards. More information on this event will be going home near the end of October.

Flexible Format Learning Updates

Student assessment and reporting is continuously evolving and changing. Teachers are required to report on student achievement five times during the school year. Three of these updates will be written and two are called 'Flexible Format.' Flexible Format Learning Updates can look differently for each teacher or in some cases for individual students. Parents can expect to have some communication (for example, written, oral, student self assessment, sample of learning, etc.) from teachers between Mid-October and Early November. Again, these Flexible Format Learning Updates can be done in a variety of ways and may or may not be done face to face. The first Formal Learning Update will be coming home in December and will be a written Learning Update. Involving parents is key to student success so if you do have questions about student progress, please reach out to teachers, or Ms. Chernoff. If you have questions about Learning Updates, Flexible or Formal, please reach out to Ms. Chernoff.

Please check-out the following website for more information:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/student_reporting-brochure_for_families.pdf

Halloween Costume Expectations

We will be sending out more information about Halloween as October 31 gets closer. We do know that students are always very excited to plan their costumes. Students are welcome to wear their costumes for a portion of the day on October 31. As students begin to plan their costumes, please be mindful that SD 73 has some expectations regarding Halloween costumes at school:



- Student faces must be visible at all times (masks cannot cover student faces);
- Props that resemble weapons are not permitted at school; and
- Make-Up should not depict extreme gore.

Student Dress Code

In Accordance with School District 73 Administrative Procedure 350.2: Students must not wear clothing which undermines the District's commitment to a safe and inclusive learning environment. This includes:

- Clothing that promotes the use of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol;
- Clothing that advocates illegal activity;
- The wearing of clothing, insignias, symbols or adornments that denigrate or promote hatred of a person or persons, including, but not limited to, clothing that denigrates or promotes hate based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, or age;
- Clothing which contains profanity, pornography or obscene images.

Student clothing must conform to health or safety requirements, including requirements arising from participation in specialized programs and events. Other than for religious purposes, health and safety requirements, or where required to accommodate a disability, students must not wear clothing which obscures their face

Parent Engagement Session

Title: English Language Learners and Newcomer Families

Presented by District English Language Learners Resource Teachers from SD73 and Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) from Kamloops Immigrant Services

Please join us as we share information with parents about schools in Kamloops for English Language Learners and newcomer families. Participants will learn about public education in our school district, including English language services for students who speak other languages, school expectations, grade placements, curriculum, and community support resources. This online session is open to all families with children in Grades K-12.

This information session will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, October 8, 2025**, from **6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. If you are interested in attending, please register in advance [here](#). A Zoom link will be provided upon registration.



For more information, please contact Clara Kong at clara@kcris.ca or Anna Ediger at swis@kcris.ca.

Fire Prevention Week – October 5th - 11th



Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home

That is the theme for Fire Prevention Week™ this year.

This year’s focus on lithium-ion batteries works to better educate the public about how to buy, charge, and dispose of them safely. Most of the electronics in our homes – smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, headphones and toys, just to name a few – are powered by lithium-ion batteries. If not used correctly or damaged, they can overheat and start a fire or explode. The three key messages that support “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” include:

BUY only listed products

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets established safety standards.
- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

CHARGE devices safely

- Always use the cables that come with the product to charge it. Also, charge the device in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.


- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved
 - Charge your device on a hard surface. Don’t charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
 - Don’t overcharge you device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it’s fully charged.
- DISPOSE OF/RECYCLE batteries responsibly**
- Don’t throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
 - Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week, please visit <https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week>.



Upcoming Events

- Oct. 3** PAC Hot Lunch – Pancakes
- Oct. 5-11** Fire Prevention Week
- Oct. 5** PAC Sandbag Fundraiser @ 10:00 am
- Oct. 8** Cross Country Run @ Westsyde
- Oct. 9** Right Photography Picture Day
- Oct. 9** After School Program 2:34 - 4:30 pm
- Oct. 10** PAC Hot Lunch – Chicken Noodle Soup w/bun
- Oct. 13** Thanksgiving – **No School**
- Oct. 16** After School Program 2:34 - 4:30 pm
- Oct. 16** Earthquake Drill
- Oct. 17** Hot Dog Day (if purchased)
- Oct. 23** Field Trip to Horsting’s Farm
- Oct. 23** After School Program 2:34 - 4:30 pm
- Oct. 24** Pro-D Day – **No School**
- Oct. 30** After School Program 2:34 - 4:30 pm
- Oct. 31** PAC Hot Lunch – Soft Tacos
- Oct. 31** Halloween Activities – Costume Parade after lunch
- Nov 3-7** Scholastic Book Fair Week
- Nov 3** PAC Meeting @ 5:00 pm



Worry Bugs 2025/2026

Worry Bugs is a group for children in kindergarten and grade 1 who struggle to manage day-to-day worries.

Together, children and caregivers will learn strategies to manage anxiety.

Fall session: Thursdays 4:00-5:00PM
Nov. 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18 2025

Winter Sessions: Wednesdays 4:00-5:00
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4, 2026
- OR -

Thursdays 4:00-5:00
Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar. 5, 2026

All sessions will be held at the Henry Grube Centre - 245 Kitchener Crescent.

Registration pre-screening are **required**.

For more information contact Ian Reedman at:

email: ireedman@sd73.bc.ca
phone: (778) 694-7620

