



Please visit okf.sd53.bc.ca to keep up-to-date on your child's school.

First day back to school **Tuesday,** **September 8**

A New School Year is Underway!

There is always a special feeling that comes with the start of September. After a summer of sunshine, adventures, and family time, our school is once again buzzing with the excitement of students returning, staff preparing engaging learning opportunities, and families settling back into familiar routines. The beginning of a new school year offers a chance to embrace new possibilities, form meaningful connections, set goals, and look ahead to the opportunities that await.

As we welcome students back through our doors, we are reminded that schools thrive when strong partnerships exist between home, school, and community. Our school is fortunate to be part of a caring and supportive community, and those connections help create a place where every child feels safe, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential. Our school is an important part of our community, and our community plays an important role in our school. Thank you to all of those who support our students through our many partnerships. We encourage you to join our school's PAC and other opportunities to get involved. Together, we create the conditions that help students learn, grow, and succeed.

Throughout the year, we look forward to providing students with engaging learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom. We want every learner to feel a strong sense of belonging, develop confidence in their abilities, and recognize the positive impact they can have on those around them.

We encourage families to stay connected by regularly visiting our school website and checking the website calendar for important dates, upcoming events, school activities, and opportunities to become involved in school life.

We also recognize the importance of strong communication between home and school and encourage families to reach out whenever they have questions or concerns regarding their child. While I am always available to provide support and assistance, the classroom teacher is typically the best first point of contact, as they work most closely with students each day and can often address questions or concerns quickly and effectively.

If, after speaking with your child's teacher, additional support or discussion is needed, please feel free to contact me to arrange a meeting. We value our partnership with families and look forward to working together to support the success and well-being of every student.

Wishing everyone a fantastic school year filled with learning, growth, connection, and success. Welcome back to our existing families and WELCOME to our new families, we are excited to have you in our falcon family! Here's to another year of growing, learning, and belonging together!

Katie Poole

Principal at Okanagan Falls
Elementary School

250 497 5414

kpoole@sd53.bc.ca



UPCOMING

First day of School Tuesday, September 8 8:30 to 11am

Buses will run at this time.

Please arrange pick up for your student(s)

School Fees are now due.

Please see school fees page for more information.

Lions Club Free Breakfast

served Monday, Wednesday and Fridays each morning at 8am

StrongStart STARTS Tuesday, September 8 8:30-11:30am

Ages: 0-5 Free program

PAC Meeting Tuesday, September 8 @6pm school library

All parents/guardians are invited and encouraged to attend.

Before School Care is available for families needing care it begins at 7:15am and requires registration and a cost involved.

Please reach out to the office for more information.

Tuesday, September 15: Welcome Back BBQ

Teachers will be available in the classroom from 5-5:30pm

BBQ available outside from 5-6pm

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday
8:00–3:00

ABSENT OR LATE?

Phone 250-497-5414 and leave a voicemail message before 8:45am, or email okf@sd53.bc.ca so it can be recorded as an explained absence.

Upcoming events: September

Please go to our website Calendar



September 8, 2026

8:27 AM - 11:00 AM • 1st day of school! - EARLY DISMISSAL 11:00

September 9, 2026

All-day • Kindergarten Interviews

September 10, 2026

8:27 AM - 10:30 AM • Kindergarten welcomed to school - 8:27-10:30

September 11, 2026

8:27 AM - 10:30 AM • Kindergarten - 8:27-10:30

September 14, 2026

8:27 AM - 12:15 PM • Kindergarten - 8:27-12:15

September 15, 2026

8:27 AM - 1:10 PM • Kindergarten - 8:27-1:10

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM • Welcome Back BBQ

September 16, 2026

8:27 AM - 2:27 PM • 1st FULL DAY OF KINDERGARTEN!

September 23, 2026

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM • Terry Fox Run

12:00 PM - 2:30 PM • Early Dismissal at 12:00

September 29, 2026

All-day • Orange Shirt Day

September 30, 2026

All-day • National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - No School

FALCON FRIDAYS

Wear your spirit wear gear on Fridays to earn points for your class to win a class reward each month.



Welcome BACK TO School

Tuesday, September 15 from 5-6pm

Teachers will be available in the classroom from
5-5:30pm

BBQ is open outside from 5-6pm

We hope to see many of our families! Thank you 



Before School Care is available starting at
7:15am. 

Registration and Fees are required. Please
reach out to the office for more information. 





STRONG START PROGRAM

**MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
8:30-11:30AM**

****WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION***



AGES 0-5

FREE

**STRONGSTART IS A FREE DROP-IN,
PLAY-BASED PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN
ATTENDED WITH A PARENT OR
CAREGIVER. CHILDREN ENJOY STORIES,
SENSORY ACTIVITIES, GYM & OUTDOOR
PLAY WHILE BUILDING EARLY LEARNING
AND SOCIAL SKILLS IN A FUN, WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT
WITH SNACK PROVIDED.**



PLAY & LEARN

**MAKE
FRIENDS**



OKANAGAN FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1141 CEDAR STREET
OK FALLS, BC V0H 1R0
PHONE #: 250-497-5414
EMAIL: OKF@SD53.BC.CA
WEBSITE: [HTTPS://OKF.SD53.BC.CA/](https://okf.sd53.bc.ca/)



Okanagan
Similkameen
SD53

Why Student Attendance Matters



Okanagan
Similkameen
SD53

In the Okanagan Similkameen School District, we all share the responsibility - educators, families, and community members - to help every student not only succeed but thrive. A key part of that success is **being at school every day.**

When students miss school they:

- Miss valuable learning that cannot be replaced with homework
- Fall behind in reading, especially by Grade 3
- Struggle more in later grades
- Are less likely to graduate from high school
- Absences also affect classmates and teachers. Group work, hands-on activities, and daily social experiences can't be recreated. Teachers must adjust plans and spend time helping absent students catch up, which impacts the whole class. Every missed day affects learning.

What is Chronic Absence?

- Missing **20% of the school year** (about 3-4 days per month)
- Includes **excused absences, unexcused absences, late arrivals, early pick-ups, and suspensions**

What Parents Can Do

You play a key role in building strong attendance habits. Here's how you can help:

- **Communicate** with the school about any lateness, early pick-ups, or absences
- **Schedule appointments** after school or on non-school days
- **Plan vacations** during school breaks
- **Have a backup plan** for getting your child to school if something unexpected happens
- **Build healthy routines:**
 - Create regular bedtimes to ensure enough sleep. Cell phone & electronic usage should end before bedtime.
 - Have clothes & backpacks ready the night before.
- **Address anxiety early**—if your child is worried about school, talk to their teacher or school counsellor

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS

- Students are expected to **arrive on time and stay for the entire school day**
- If your child is absent, you **must notify the school office**
- Review school calendars as days off & breaks are posted on each school's website

🌟 **Every Day Matters – Together, we can help all students learn, grow, and succeed!** 🌟

WELCOME BACK FROM THE **OKANAGAN FALLS ELEMENTARY PAC!**

Welcome back to all of our students and families for the 2026/2027 school year!

A special welcome to all of the new families joining Okanagan Falls Elementary this year. We're so happy to have you as part of our school community!

Our PAC meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00pm in the school library, and childminding will be provided. We welcome everyone who is able and interested in attending! PAC meetings are open to all parents and guardians, and there's no commitment required. Whether you want to volunteer, share some ideas, learn more about what PAC does, or simply see what we're up to, we'd love to have you join us.

We have a bunch of fun new ideas for this year's fundraising efforts, along with some of our favourite tried-and-true events, including our markets and BBQs. We're also excited to be back at the Legion for our monthly meat draws!

As always, these events wouldn't be possible without our amazing volunteers. If you're able to lend a hand throughout the year—even just for an hour here or there—we would greatly appreciate it!

PAC is here to support our students, staff, and school, and we want to hear from you. If you have an idea, question, concern, or something you'd like discussed at an upcoming PAC meeting, please email us at okfpac@gmail.com.

Here's to another fantastic school year!
— Okanagan Falls Elementary PAC



Okanagan Falls PAC

AGENDA // MEETING MINUTES

OFES 8/September/2026/6PM

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Okanagan Falls PAC would like to acknowledge the Syilx Okanagan people, the traditional caretakers of this land. We feel lucky to live, learn, and be part of such a beautiful place.

- a. Introductions
 - In attendance:
 - Call to order:
- b. Adoption of agenda:
 - Adopted:
 - Seconded:
- c. Approval of minutes from AGM 2026
 - Motion to approve:
 - Seconded:

2. Reports

- a. School Trustee – Sholeh Pickell – Board Report
attach
- b. Administrator – Katie Poole
- c. Treasurer – Vanessa Morigeau
 - Small Business Account (CHQ) :
 - Gaming Account :
 - IPAD Trust:

3. Business

- a. Welcome Back BBQ at the school in September
- b. "Gathering and Celebration of Community Volunteers" September 13
- c. Fundraisers 26/27
 - Fall BBQ at Belich's
 - PAC Pizza
 - Winter Market
 - Comedy night
 - Paint night
 - Purdy's order
 - Movie night concessions
- d. New Scooter Ramps

4. Wrap Up

- a. Skaha matters communication
- b. Open Floor

5. Next Meeting October 6, 2026, 6PM

6. Adjournment:

School Bus Registration Now OPEN

Bus registration for the **2026–2027 school year** is now open.

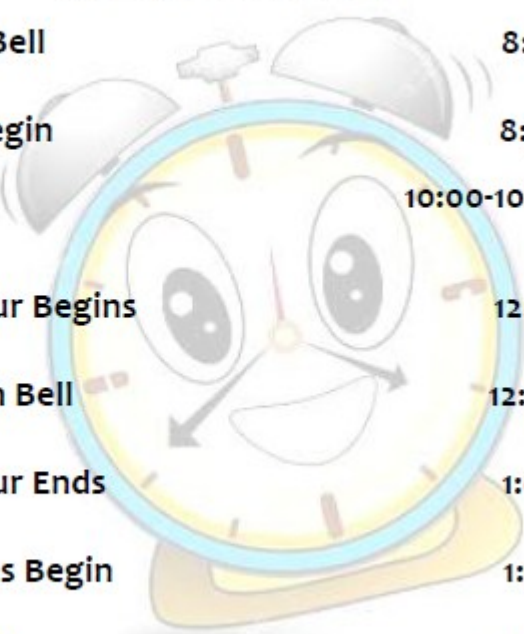
- **Current bus students** do **not** need to re-register.
- If your child is **new to the bus** or if your **address has changed**, you **must register** for bus service.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we plan for a successful school year ahead!

[Student Transportation - Student Transportation - Okanagan Similkameen \(SD53\)](#)



Okanagan Falls Elementary BELL SCHEDULE



Warning Bell	8:27 am
Classes Begin	8:30 am
Recess	10:00-10:15 am
Lunch Hour Begins	12:17 pm
Mid Lunch Bell	12:32 pm
Lunch Hour Ends	1:00 pm
PM Classes Begin	1:02 pm
Classes End	2:28 pm



Okanagan
Similkameen
SD53

2026/2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 7	Labour Day
September 8	Schools Open
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconcil.
October 12	Thanksgiving Day
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 21	Christmas Break Begins
January 4	Schools Re-Open
January 28-29 & Feb 1	Secondary Exam Days
February 2	Second Semester Begins
February 15	Family Day
March 15	Spring Break Begins
March 26	Good Friday
March 29	Easter Monday
March 30	Schools Re-Open
May 24	Victoria Day
June 24, 25 & 28	Secondary Exam Days
June 29	Last Day of Classes
June 30	Administrative Day (School Closed for Students)

Number of Days in Session 190

Number of Days of Instruction 183

DISTRICT NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

October 23 – Professional Development Day
February 12 – Professional Development Day
March 22 to 25 - Connected to Spring Break

EARLY DISMISSAL DATES

Schools will notify parents of early dismissal times
Also available on our website: <http://www.sd53.bc.ca/>
Cawston/Keremeos: October 21 & 22 / April 8 & 9
Osoyoos: October 21 & 22 / April 8 & 9
Oliver/OK Falls: October 21 & 22 / April 8 & 9

District wide early dismissal days for Inquiry Time are indicated on calendar with this symbol { }

Family Conferences

October 21: CPS, OKF, OES, OSE, OSS, SESS, SOSS, TEN
April 8: CPS, OKF, OES, OSE, OSS, SESS, SOSS, TEN

- Stat/School Holidays □ Non-Instructional Days
♥ Secondary Exam Days ● Year End Administration



2026-2027 Supply and Fees Guide

Okanagan Falls Elementary will continue to simplify back-to-school stresses by purchasing main supplies in bulk for classes. Parents will be responsible for providing kids with a backpack, lunch box, inside shoes, gym strip, Kleenex, etc. Some minor additional supplies may be required by the individual classroom teacher upon request.

2026-2027 Supply and Fees

Grade	School Supplies	Activity Fees	TOTAL
K	\$45	\$30	\$75
1	\$45	\$30	\$75
2	\$45	\$30	\$75
3	\$45	\$30	\$75
4	\$60	\$30	\$90
5	\$60	\$30	\$90
6	\$60	\$30	\$90
7	\$60	\$30	\$90

Activity Fees

\$30/activity

All activities include equipment, instruction, and facility use. Activities may vary depending on the class.

Some of the activities may include:

Swimming lessons

Golf Lessons

Bowling

In-Line Skating

Skating

XC Skiing

Curling

Ukelele/Singing

Dance

Safety Village

Extra curricular activities:

Activities organized and planned by teachers for clubs, teams or specific groups of students. Parents may need to share the cost of these activities such as student meals, applicable admission charges, etc.

Examples include:

Fine Arts

Sports Teams

Skiing/Snowboarding

Grade 6/7 Trip

Safety Village

Spirit wear is available to order annually.

Kindergarten and new students will receive a FREE school t-shirt, provided by PAC. These are requested for school trips, spirit days, etc.

**Please pay all school fees no later than
Friday, September 18, 2026.**

You may pay Cash or Cheque payable to Okanagan Falls Elementary School or
by E-transfer to okf@sd53.bc.ca PW: Falcons Please state student name in comments.

If you require financial assistance, please contact Mrs. Poole at 250-497-5414 or kpoole@sd53.bc.ca.

**Your school fees are due now. Please E-transfer to okf@sd53.bc.ca Password:
Falcons or Cash/CHQ to the office by September 18.**

Thank you