

FALCON Findings



Principal: Mrs. K. Poole
kpoole@sd53.bc.ca

Phone: 250-497-5414
Fax: 250-497-8279

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

Principal's Message

Hello and Welcome back falcon families!!

I'm delighted to welcome all of you back! I hope your summer was a chance to recharge, explore new things, and enjoy time with family and friends.

The year ahead holds so much potential for learning, growth, and connection. Our incredible teachers and staff have been thoughtfully preparing to ensure our classrooms are places where every student feels supported and inspired. We're excited to greet both familiar faces and those who are new to our community as we start this journey.

Did you know that when students miss school—even just a few days—they can fall behind in key areas like reading and other foundational skills? Every single day at OKFE is filled with meaningful learning, connection, and growth—even on our half days!

Our half days are extra special because they give us time to build relationships beyond the classroom. Through our spirit teams, students connect with peers and staff across the school, helping to create a strong, inclusive community where every child feels seen and supported.

We truly value your partnership in helping your child succeed. Their presence matters so much—not just for academics, but for friendships, confidence, and a sense of belonging. We love having them here, and we want to see them thrive every single day.

Thank you for all you do to support your child's learning journey. Together, we can make every day a great day at OKFE!

Mrs. Poole



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.

Dates to Remember

September 2025

9 Welcome BBQ @5pm

By donation.

24 Early dismissal 12pm

25 Terry Fox Run Dress for the weather!

29 Orange Shirt Day! Every Child Matters!

30 National Day for Truth &

Reconciliation NO SCHOOL

Oct. 6 to 10 Emergencies

Practice Drill Week

Oct. 13 Thanksgiving No School

Oct. 16 Picture Day

Please follow this link in reference to a water main repair affecting roads in our area. [Information Releases](#) | [RDOS](#)



2025-26

Bell Schedule



Warning Bell	8:27
Classes Begin	8:30
Recess	10:00-10:15
Lunch Hour Begins	12:15
Mid Lunch Bell	12:30
Lunch Hour Ends	1:02
PM Classes Begin	1:05
Classes End	2:28

Important Forms coming home.

A Student Packet is coming home today or tomorrow including Parents/Guardians permissions needed for the school year as well as a Student Information page listing Parents/Guardians/Address/Emergency Contacts/Alerts. Please review this form carefully, edit any changes that should be made and return to the school ASAP.

School F E E S

Okanagan Falls

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Safe, Optimistic, Achievers, Respectful."



2025-2026 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.

2025-2026 Supply and Fees

Grade	School Supplies	Activity Fees	TOTAL
K	\$45	\$20	\$65
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
Skating

Golf Lessons
XC Skiing

Bowling
Curling
Dance

In-Line Skating
Ukelele/Singing
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
Grade 6/7 Trip

Sports Teams
Safety Village

Skiing/Snowboarding

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 19, 2025.**

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.

E-Transfer to: okf@sd53.bc.ca Please use Password: Falcons

Or pay Cash/Cheque at the office.

Breakfast Program

OK Falls Lion's Club

Starting Monday, September 8

The Lion's Club is proud to provide our students with a FREE breakfast sandwich on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings**. Breakfast will be served from **8:10-8:25am** at the Parks & Rec North doors. If you would like to volunteer please let the office know.



Starting in September we are participating in province wide healthy initiative to encourage

healthy eating by providing fresh BC fruits, vegetables, dairy, and nutritious products for our students during the school day. Our students will receive these healthy options over the school year.

Hot Lunch Program

will begin in the coming weeks.

More information coming soon.



**STARFISH
PACK**

Many students across the province rely

on school breakfast and lunch programs to fill their tummies on school days.

When it comes to the weekend, they don't have the food they need. Starfish Pack was designed to help change that. Starfish provides backpacks with 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, and snacks to hungry students each weekend of the school year. Visit <https://starfishpack.com> for more information. See the office to sign up.

Declaration of Aboriginal Ancestry

Are your children descendants of First Nations, Metis, or Inuit peoples?

If yes, they qualify for additional service through funding from the Ministry of Education. This funding is used by our school district to provide additional academic support and cultural programs to these students. Parents/Guardians only need to self-identify to qualify for this funding, status is not a requirement. If your child is of Aboriginal descent and you would like to fill out the Aboriginal Ancestry form, please contact the office as soon as possible.

PAC executive team 2025/26

Kari Hill **President**

Vanessa Morigeau **Treasurer**

Melissa Mundy **Secretary**

Chelsea Fairweather and

Cam Hutchinson

Members at large

The PAC would like to welcome all students and families back to a brand-new school year! We're excited to see the halls buzzing with energy again and look forward to another year of learning, growth, and community connection. The PAC plays an important role in supporting our school, and we can't do it without you! We are looking for volunteers to help with events, fundraisers, pizza days and more. We also have a few executive positions that need to be filled—if you've ever thought about getting more involved, now is the perfect time. We are looking for a Secretary and Vice Chair. Your ideas, time, and energy make a real difference in the lives of our students. If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please reach out to us at okfpac@gmail.com. Don't forget to follow our Facebook page to stay updated on PAC news, important dates reminders and upcoming events.

Thank you,

Kari

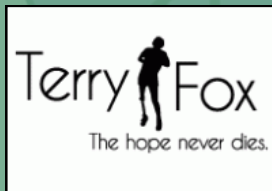
SPIRIT WEAR For Falcon Fridays

*New students will receive a **FREE** Falcon shirt **thanks to our OKF PAC!***

Terry Fox Run

September 25

Okanagan Falls Elementary is proud to be continuing the legacy of one of our greatest heroes.



We encourage each student to bring a toonie for Terry. Collection jars will be in each classroom. If you wish to contribute more please donate at:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/100033>

Together, we can all make a difference!

National Day for Truth &



Reconciliation

(Sept 30 No School)

OKF will wear Orange on September 29 to recognize that **EVERY CHILD MATTERS.**

Dress to be outside!



One Sky at OKF Elementary!!

One Sky is a early learning program in our school!

If you are interested in the early learning program, please email:

childcare.waitlist@oneskycommunity.com

Include in your email your child's name and date of birth.

Come Visit our StrongStart Program

Our DROP-IN StrongStart Program welcomes children ages 0-5 years with their parent caregiver.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

8:30-11:30



For more information regarding the after school program please follow this link.

<https://www.bgco.ca/club-location/south-okanagan/ok-falls-oliver-osoyoos/>

And or Email South@bgco.ca

For community activities check out!

By Area | RDOS





Okanagan
Similkameen
SD53

2025/2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 2025

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				

November 2025

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						

January 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

March 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				

May 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						

October 2025

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

December 2025

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 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

April 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

June 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				

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

September 1	Labour Day
September 2	Schools Open
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconcil.
October 13	Thanksgiving Day
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 22	Christmas Break Begins
January 5	Schools Re-Open
January 23-27	Secondary Exam Days
January 28	Second Semester Begins
February 16	Family Day
March 16	Spring Break Begins
March 30	School Re-Open
April 3	Good Friday
April 6	Easter Monday
May 18	Victoria Day
June 22 to 24	Secondary Exam Days
June 25	Last Day of Classes
June 26	Administrative Day (School Closed for Students)

Number of Days in Session 192

Number of Days of Instruction 184

DISTRICT NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

October 24 – Professional Development Day
February 13 – Professional Development Day
March 23 to 27 - 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 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10

Osoyoos: October 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10

Oliver/OK Falls: October 22 & 23 / April 9 & 10

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

Family Conferences

October 22: CPS, OKF, OES, OSE, OSS, SESS, SOSS, TEN

April 9: CPS, OKF, OES, OSS, SESS, SOSS, TEN

April 9 and/or 10: OSE

○ Stat/School Holidays □ Non-Instructional Days

♥ Secondary Exam Days ● Year End Administration

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**

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

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

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

Guidelines for Positive Communication



Okanagan
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SD53

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In the Okanagan Similkameen School District, we want schools to be safe, supportive, and welcoming places for students to learn and for staff to work. A key part of creating this environment is how we communicate and work together as a community.

We deeply value the partnership between home and school and ask for your support in the following areas:

Communication

- Please follow our process when concerns arise: Begin by making an appointment to speak with your child's teacher, and if more follow-up is needed, contact the school administration. Additional information can be found in Board Policy [F-10 Dispute Resolution Policy](#)
- Use respectful language in all communication, whether in person, on the phone, or through email.
- Please understand that responses may not always be immediate. Staff will do their best to communicate with you as soon as possible.
- Clarify your child's perspective with staff to better understand the full picture, and work toward calm, reasonable solutions.
- Avoid using social media to air complaints. It does not resolve concerns and often makes situations harder for everyone involved.

Partnership

- Support your child's regular attendance at school and reach out if you need help with this.
- Work with staff to find solutions when issues come up.
- Review and discuss the Student Code of Conduct with your child so they understand expectations.

Conduct

- When visiting the school, please remain calm and respectful. Swearing, inappropriate language, threats, or verbal abuse are not acceptable.

School Culture

- Please join us in treating all members of our school community with dignity and respect. This includes respecting diversity in identity, race, culture, beliefs, family status, abilities, gender, and age, as outlined by the BC Human Rights Code.

Together, we can build a school environment where all students and adults feel safe, respected, and supported in their learning. Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Warm regards,

Marcus Toneatto
Superintendent of Schools