

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.

Dates to Remember

January 2025

Welcome back! Hope you had a lovely holiday time with friends and family.

- 9 Hot lunch forms due
- 14 Skating all divisions
- 21 Skating all divisions
- 24 Pink the Rink forms due.
- 29 Earl dismissal 12pm
- 30 Baldy Division 6 Mrs. Eddison

Principal's Message

WOW! December has flown by faster than Santa on his sleigh! It was an incredible month here at OKFE, brimming with events that captured the spirit of giving, teamwork, and joy.

PAC, the Lions Club, and Belich's did an AMAZING job on our pancake breakfast, and we want to thank them from the bottom of our hearts!! Each one of you is important to us and we cannot thank you enough for all that you do throughout the year!

Now that we are all rested from the Christmas break, we are diving into a new month filled with activities and more memories to make. Please remember that we enjoy time outside, even in the cold weather. Please check to ensure that your child(ren) are dressed appropriately for the weather and ice skating too ☺

Katie Poole, Principal

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:00–3:00

ABSENT OR LATE?

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

Notice of Kindergarten Registration 2025-26



January 15-March 15, 2025- Okanagan Falls Elementary

Children who will be five years old by Dec 31, 2024, may begin their first year of Primary (Full Day Kindergarten) in Sept 2025. **These will be children who were born in 2020.**

Parents or guardians may register these new students from Monday, January 15 to Friday, March 15, 2025.

- ◆ Please bring your child's birth certificate and Medical Card with you. Should you require further details, please contact your local school.
- ◆ Early registration assists the district with plans for September 2025. Also, Kindergarten spaces in a school may be limited and placement is done on a first come, first serve basis.

Follow the link for registration form. A full Kindergarten package is available at the school in the office.

[OK Falls Elementary Registration | Okanagan Falls Elementary School](#)

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:00-2:30pm

250-497-5414





Skating at Oliver Arena

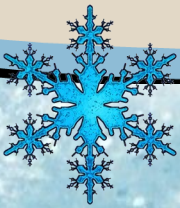
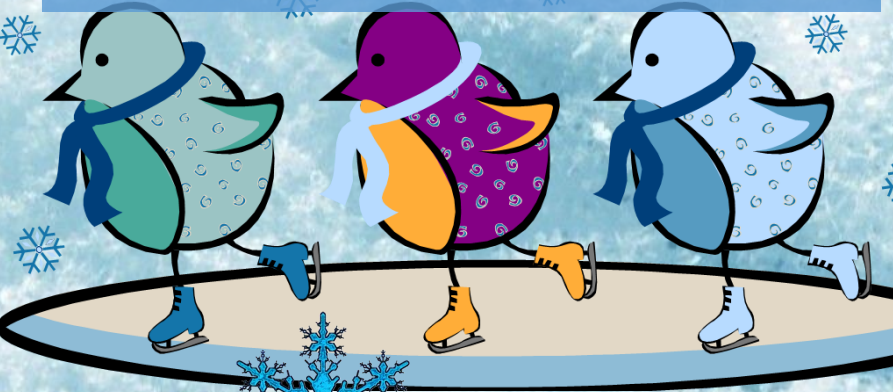
Tuesday, January 14 & 21

9-10am: Div. 2 Ms. Raines & Div. 4
Miss. Martin

10-11am: Div. 1 Mrs. Brockholm &
Div. 3 Mrs. Petry

11-12pm: Div. 5 Mrs. Souch & Div. 6
Mrs. Eddison

Please let your teacher know if you
can volunteer to help.



Downhill at Baldy Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing, tubing

January 30

Division 6 Mrs.
Eddison's



Please keep an eye out for permission, waivers, cost, and chaperone information coming home with your student this week. Chaperones welcome please fill out the volunteer form coming home with your student. There is something for all students to participate in.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Swimming in Summerland

**Tuesdays, February 4,
18, 25 & March 4**

at 930-11am

Divisions 1 to 4 Two groups
will rotate between
swimming, snack, and an
activity in the

**Fridays, February 21, 28
& March 7, 14**

at 915-10am

Divisions 5 & 6 will swim as
one group.

****Volunteers are needed please speak to
your students teacher regarding
volunteering. Thank you**

3

Coats for Kids

The Lion's Club will be offering gently used or new coats, snow pants, and/or boots to families in need of support. It is their vision to ensure every child has a winter coat to keep them healthy and able to attend school regularly. Please contact Mrs. Poole for more information.

**Thank you to the OK Falls
Lion's Club for your
continued support of our community!**



Supervision

There is **NO** supervision prior to **8am**. Please send students no earlier than 8am.



Interior Health

Health promoting Schools

Health promoting Schools-Parent

For more information regarding after school programs please follow this link.

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



and or Email South@bgco.ca

Understanding, Supporting and Connecting with Teens with Depression

January 9 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm PST

See link for events available throughout the year.

Understanding, Supporting and Connecting with Teens with Depression - FamilySmart



FamilySmart
Together-Centred



There are NO dogs allowed on school property during school hours. When using the property outside of school hours please **clean up after your pet**. We have had a consistent issue of droppings left where the students play.



StrongStart Program

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

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays 8:30-11:30

ALLERGY ALERT!!

Please refrain from sending hand sanitizer, soap or other scented products to school with your child without prior approval.

Thank you

Thank you **Wildstone** for your generous donation to our school meal program.

Thank you **OK Falls Market** for your donation towards new microphones for our fine arts program.

Thank you **PAC** for donating to our Christmas craft fun!

Thank you **PAC, Legion , Belich's** and community for a wonderful pancake breakfast.

Thank you to **Rocky Bedard** for delivering our students hot lunch every Wednesday, also for your "special" role at our pancake breakfast!!

Thank you **OKF Legion** for your generous monetary donation to our school .

Thank you **Leona Hallerson** for donating some musical instruments to our fine arts program.

We filled the truck with all your amazing donations for Helping Hands!
Thank you for your generosity. We also met and exceeded what we could have hoped for, for the SOWINS Share the Spirit family.

An important lesson for our students to learn about the joy of giving and thinking of others.





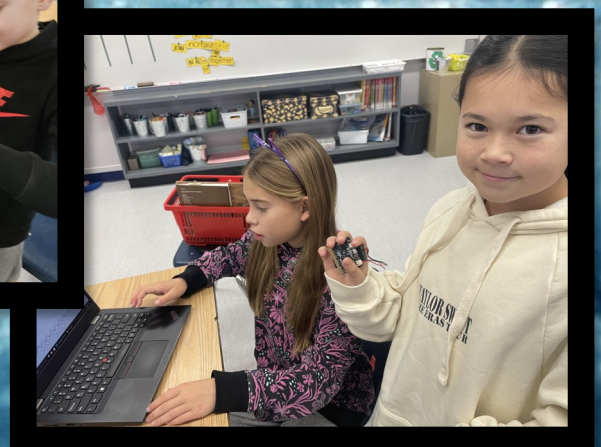
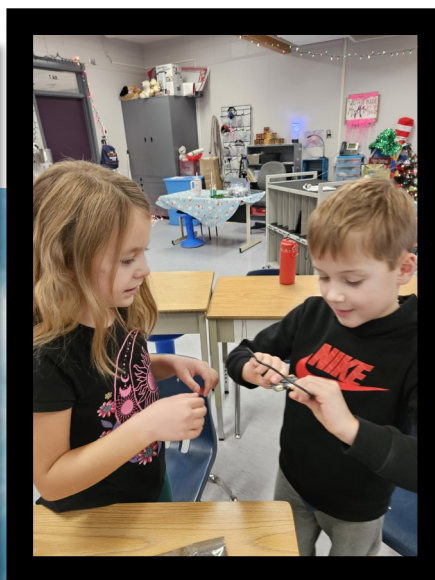
Thank you to the Penticton Vees for coming to interact and have some fun with our students.

Thank you to Hilary from Science World for teaching 3 of our divisions.

Div 6: BYOChatbot: Students learned how A.I. “understands” language and discuss ethical implications of the technology.

Div. 5: Machine Learning: Students explored how machine learning depends on data. They create a simple Artificial Intelligence model using micro:bits to recognize physical movements.

Div. 4: Designing from Nature: Students consider how inventors can be inspired by nature. Students use the design cycle to code a micro:bit to sense and respond to its environment.





**Gingerbread house
making fun!
Pancake breakfast,
Christmas Concert
and Miss Sam's
annual guess the
handprint winners!**



**Thank you Lynn for
your many years of
service and support
to our students from
our local library.
Happy Retirement.**

Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI)

Improving Fish Habitat Below *sx^w əx^wnɪtk^w* (Okanagan Falls)

The Need to Restore Fish Habitat in *sq'awsitk^w* (Okanagan River)



Salmon spawning habitat is extremely limited in the *sq'awsitk^w* (Okanagan River), mainly due to river channelization in the 1950s.

During channelization, vertical drop structures (VDS 17-14) were installed to stabilize the riverbed's increased slope. Rearing and spawning habitat is currently marginalized in this section of the river and fish migration delays occur at each VDS.

Okanagan River Restoration Initiative

ORRI is a collaborative approach for restoring and regaining some of the lost river habitat. ORRI's long term purpose is to:

- create self-sustaining, complex, and diverse fish and wildlife habitat;
- improve the water quality;
- enhance human relations with the river ecosystem.

Riffle and Habitat Construction

Backwatering VDS 16 and VDS14 with nature-like riffles will improve fish passage and spawning habitat while increasing habitat diversity.

Outcomes:

- Enhancing quality of rearing habitat for native salmonids and improving conditions for their migration and spawning.
- Enhancing habitat for at-risk Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels.
- Reduction of exotic species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil.
- Enhancing riparian habitat for native wildlife species, including species-at-risk.
- Maintaining channel flood capacity and bed stability.



CAUTION CONSTRUCTION WORKS (December 2 - January 31)

For your safety, please obey temporary pedestrian/cyclist detours and relocated river access



HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE PRIEST RAPIDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE



HABITAT CONSERVATION
TRUST FOUNDATION

SOUTH OKANAGAN
CONSERVATION FUND



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
Canada



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD



CAUTION CONSTRUCTION WORKS (December 2 - January 31)

For your safety, please obey temporary pedestrian/cyclist detours and relocated river access



For more information contact
Lee McFadyen ORRI Public Relations
T: 250-499-5404 E: mariposaorgf@hotmail.com

