

FALCON Findings



Principal: Mrs. K. Poole

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

Dates to Remember

February 2025

- 4 Basketball game @
Senpaq'cin School in Oliver
- 4 Swimming Div 1 to 4
- 6 PAC Meeting @ 6:00pm
- 7 Pink the Rink 7pm
- 7 Ice fishing Div 5
- 11 Lacrosse Clinic
(All Divisions)
- 14 NO SCHOOL: *Pro D Day*
- 17 NO SCHOOL: *Family Day*
- 18 Swimming Div 1 to 4
- 21 Swimming Div 5 to 6
- 24 Boys Basketball
tournament
- 25 Swimming Div 1 to 4
- 26 Early Dismissal @ 12:00
- 26 Pink Shirt Day!
- 28 Swimming Div 5 to 6

Please see Swim schedule
on page 3.

Principal's Message

January was filled with exciting activities like ice skating, Okanagan Similkameen Days, Skiing and Family Literacy Week. Thank you for engaging with your children through these meaningful experiences. Family-centered literacy activities not only sharpen students' skills but also foster growth, enjoyment, and a love for lifelong learning. The connections you build during these moments create a strong foundation for their success and engagement at school.

This month, we're looking forward to even more activities, including Pink Shirt Day, random acts of kindness, swimming, lacrosse, basketball, and ice fishing. While these events promote growth, excitement and connection, let's not forget the importance of sleep. Adequate rest is essential for students' health, focus, and energy, helping them fully benefit from both school and extracurricular activities. Encouraging consistent bedtimes, limiting screen time, and establishing calming routines can make a big difference in keeping students energized and ready to thrive.

We are also placing a special emphasis on kindness this month. While kindness is always encouraged, we are intentionally creating opportunities for students to practice kindness toward others and themselves. Purposeful acts like offering a helping hand or practicing self-compassion build empathy, resilience, and a positive mindset. Together, we aim to cultivate a supportive environment where kindness becomes second nature, empowering students to feel valued, thrive, and spread positivity in their community.

Mrs. Poole

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a child that was born in 2020, they are eligible to attend
Full Day Kindergarten in September 2025.



Visit our school office between 8:00-3:00pm to register. Please bring your child's BIRTH CERTIFICATE, CARE CARD, PROOF OF RESIDENCY and other pertinent information. Kindergarten students will be invited to our annual Welcome to Kindergarten event, held in the Spring, to learn more about a positive transition to school. Please contact Mrs. Poole if you have any questions about our full day kindergarten, preschool, or StrongStart early learning programs.

StrongStart Program

Our DROP-IN StrongStart
Program
welcomes children ages 0-5 years
with their parent caregiver.
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
8:30-11:30

PAC NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME!

Our next meeting will be:

Feb 6, 2025

@ 6:00pm

OKF School Library



**Pink Shirt Day:
February 26**

The Pink Shirt Day Story



In 2007, Berwick Nova Scotia, after a new student at their school was bullied for wearing a pink shirt, two grade 12 students bought 50 pink shirts and encouraged their classmates to wear pink. The next day they went to distribute the shirts and to their surprise the majority of students arrived wearing pink! With that act of kindness, Pink Shirt Day was born.

In 2008, BC proclaimed February 27th to be the provincial anti-bullying day, and the movement has continued to grow. In 2012, the United Nations declared May 4 as anti-bullying day, and now the last Wednesday each February is Canada's National Pink Shirt/anti-bullying day.

**Join us , Wednesday February 26, and wear pink to
show your support of Pink Shirt Day!**

THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI) IS COMING TO OUR SCHOOL IN JANUARY/ FEBRUARY!

**Grade 6 students are invited to complete the MDI during class time between: January and March
2025.**

The MDI is organized by Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia to measure and promote children's social and emotional development, health, well-being, and assets. The MDI is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum, which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies.

**OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday
8:00-3:00**

ABSENT OR LATE?

Phone 250-497-5414 and leave a voicemail message before 8:45am, so it can be recorded as an explained absence.



Swimming in Summerland

3 swim lessons will be provided and 1 free swim. Mark your calendars!

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 multipurpose room.

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**

Division 6 Day at Baldy



Student Learning Survey 2024-2025: for Students and Parents

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teacher and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in 2025 the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in Grade 4 and 7 at the school.

Parents of Grade 4 and 7 students are expected to complete the survey by the Ministry of Education. We would like to encourage ALL parents to participate.

The results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province—in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

Parents/guardians/caregivers will have access to this online survey until April 30.

Thank you for participating in this innovative project. If you need more information, contact Mrs. Poole at 250-497-5414.

[Student Learning Survey - Province of British Columbia](#)

To complete the survey:

1. Go to any computer that has an up-to-date internet browser access (home, work, or school)
2. Go to www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm
3. Under the section *Direct Access*—no logon number required select:
 - **District:** *Okanagan Similkameen (School District #53)*
 - **School:** *Okanagan Falls Elementary*
 - **Language:** *the language of your choice*
4. Complete the survey by clicking on the appropriate circle to answer each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on the right arrow in the bottom right corner of the screen. Click on the left arrow to navigate backwards.
5. When you are finished the survey, you will get a message “Thank you for sharing your views.”
6. Once complete, your school will have the results immediately.



Ready, Set, Learn Event

If your child is of preschool age or going into kindergarten this year, please register to attend this fun event!

Wednesday, March 6 from 5:30-6:30pm

Okanagan Falls Elementary

1141 Cedar St, OK Falls

****Registration Required by Feb 28****

RSL is sponsored by School District #53 and the Ministry of Education & Childcare.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Ms. Sam at OKF StrongStart or phone 250-497-5414.

By participating, you will receive:

- ◆ Complimentary pizza by the slice.
- ◆ An age appropriate book for your child
- ◆ Helpful tips for supporting your preschooler's learning and development
- ◆ Connections with the school and parents with similar age children
- ◆ Information for families from early childhood service providers
- ◆ Meet the Principal and potential teachers for future years



REGIONAL



VALENTINE'S DAY COLOURING CONTEST

Pick up colouring sheets from the Okanagan Falls and Cawston Elementary School office or find them online at rec.rdos.bc.ca starting February 1, 2025.

Colouring sheets are due back to your elementary school office on February 12, 2025, or you can email them to rec@rdos.bc.ca.

Please make sure to include your name, age, and email on the colouring sheet

Winners announced February 18, 2025



In February, Family Smart is hosting a few online events that may be of interest to our students and families including: ADHD—The Real Deal, Eating Disorders, and Emotion Regulation.

Here is the link : <https://familysmart.ca/monthly-events/>

Substance prevention and Mental health sessions

The Ministry of Education and Child Care, in partnership with adolescent clinical psychologist Dr. Hayley Watson from Open Parachute, will host three, free virtual sessions for parents, guardians and caregivers that will focus on practical skills you can teach your child and youth (ages 0-19) to prevent substance use and mental health needs. These sessions will build on a previous presentation, which focused on practical conversation tools for speaking about substance use prevention with your children/youth. The previous session is not a pre-requisite for this session.

Here is the link: 185114-9c15e8e2-e62e-4df2-8b8a-ea2de9febd35.pdf

Thank you **Pizza Pizza** for “book club” pizza slice coupons and for delivering on PAC pizza days.

Thank you **Belich’s and Lions Club** for adding milk, chocolate milk and juice to the breakfast program.

Thank you **Barb Langston** for donating a Silhouette craft cutter for the staff workroom.

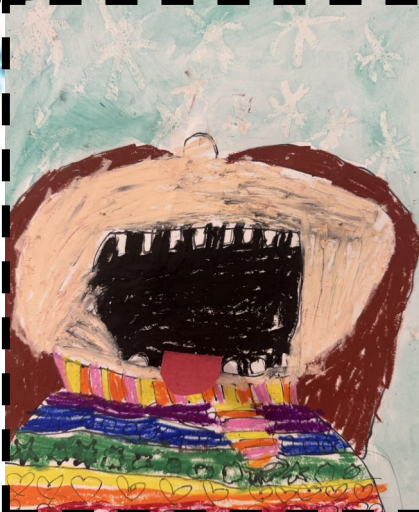
Thank you **parents** who volunteered for Ice skating and Baldy!

Thank
you

OKANAGAN FALLS
ELEMENTARY

STUDENT ART ★

Division 4



FABULOUS FALCON PHOTOS

Div. 5 with Mr. Azak (Indigenous advocate) made Indigenous rattles.



Ice SKATING

