



YouLearn.ca

February Newsletter

762 Fairview Road
PO Box 940
Oliver, BC V0H 1T0
(250) 498-4597

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30 - 3:30pm

Principal: Brad Burns
www.youlearn.ca
(250) 498-4597
youlearn@sd53.bc.ca

Principal's Message

Just like that, January was here and then it wasn't! With February being a short month, we will be into March before we know it. It's important for students to keep working through assignments and reaching out to staff if you need some help or assistance. Staff will continue to monitor progress and reach out if they have any questions or concerns.

Report cards have been made available for families in Grades 10–12. These can be accessed through the MyEducationBC portal. Families in Grades K–9 reports are can be found in the SpacesEDU portal. If you are having trouble viewing the reports for your student, please reach out to Jessica in the office to help out.

Just a reminder that there is no school on February 13, which is the District's Professional Development Day, and Family Day on February 16. February 25 in an Inquiry Day and the school will be open in the morning.

Staff have been busy organizing field trips to enrich the learning opportunities for students. Students took a trip up to Mt. Baldy for some tubing on the snow as well as driving to Penticton to take in the symphony orchestra. There are a number of upcoming trips and refer to the dates and information within this month's newsletter.

Please reach out if you have any questions and take care.

Sincerely,

Brad Burns

Important Dates

February 2

K-12 Informal Learning Updates Due

February 3

Field Trip

Tubing @ Mount Baldy

February 4

Field Trip

Symphony Orchestra

February 13

Professional

Development Day

School's Closed

February 16

Family Day

School's Closed

February 23

Field Trip

Smoothies with Mrs. M

February 25

Inquiry Day

Early Dismissal

@ Noon



Okanagan
Similkameen
SD53

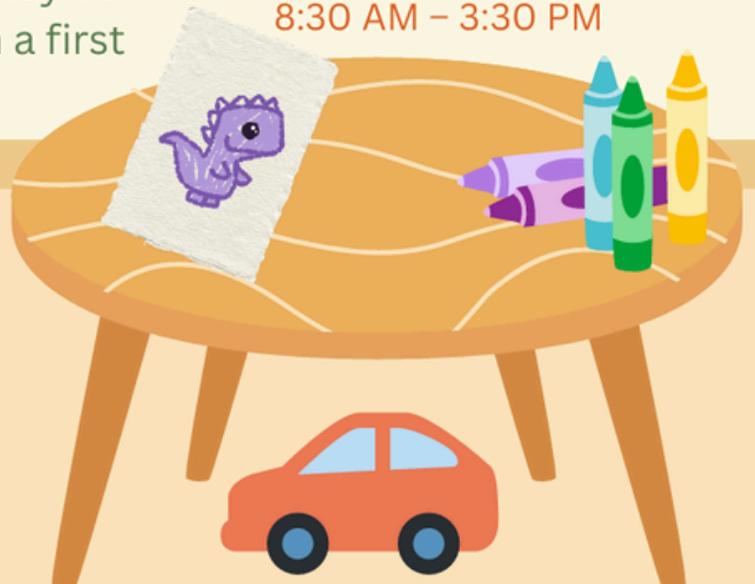
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

2026-2027 Registration for Children Born in 2021:
January 12 to March 13, 2026

- Children who will be five years old by December 31, 2026, may begin their first year of Kindergarten in September 2026. These will be children who were born in 2021.
- **Please bring your child's birth certificate and medical card with you, as well as proof of residency.** Should you require further details, please contact your local school.
- Parents may defer the entry of their child into Kindergarten for one year but registration must occur in the following school year.
- Early registration assists the district with plans for September 2026. Also, Kindergarten spaces in a school may be limited and placement is done on a first come, first serve basis.

SCHOOL OFFICE INFORMATION

- **CAWSTON PRIMARY**
250-485-4434
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- **OKANAGAN FALLS ELEMENTARY**
250-497-5414
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- **OLIVER ELEMENTARY**
250-498-3468
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- **TUC-EL-NUIT ELEMENTARY**
250-498-3415
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- **OSOYOOS ELEMENTARY**
250-485-4444
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
- **YOULEARN**
250-498-4597
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM



YouLearn.ca's Career Programs Summary

Period	Program	Details
September	Health Care Sampler	2 days per week online and 2 days per month on campus in Penticton.
September	Information Technology (Computers) Sampler	(Offered every other year) 1 day online and 1 day on campus each week in Penticton.
September	Early Childhood Educator	2 days online each week and 2 days each month on campus in Penticton.
February	Chef Program Camosun College	Online self-paced lessons with a lab one afternoon in Oliver.
February	Trades Sampler	4 days each week in Penticton for 16 weeks.
July	Emergency Medical Responder	5 weeks during the Summer Break.
May	Royal Canadian Mounted Police Jean Minguy Youth Academy	10 days in Vernon in the spring. <u>Deadline to apply is in early January.</u> Recommended participants are grade 12 students.
May	Inclusive Trades Sampler	1 day in each secondary school. Recommended participants are grade 10 students.
All Year Intake	Nail Technician	Kelowna - Marvel College
All Year Intake	Dual Credit College Programs	Penticton and Kelowna Campuses Some common programs include automotive services technician, welding, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.

Please contact YouLearn.ca's Career Education Teacher, Steve Pozzobon, if you are interested in taking any of the above programs!

Interested in any of the following career paths?

Health Office Administration
Dental Health
Pharmacy
Nursing
Social Work and Counselling
Allied Health

Enroll in YouLearn's Health Sampler program today! in partnership with Okanagan College

This 120-hour course is a gateway to the dynamic world of health care professions. It will provide students with an opportunity to explore a variety of high demand health care careers, sample job tasks, and identify educational requirements for entry into the profession. The learning experience is designed to help students choose a health career path that aligns with their passion and skills.

Enrollment Requirements

Students must be in Grade 11 or 12

Credits Earned

Students will earn 4 credits (one course) at the Grade 12 Level

Dates

February 2nd to June 17th

Times & Locations

Tuesdays and Thursdays Online from 6-9 pm

+ every second Saturday at the Okanagan College Penticton Campus

- Learn common terminology used in health care settings.
- Build therapeutic relationships with professional practice standards.
- Understand scope of practice and interprofessional health care teams.
- Develop cultural sensitivity and inclusive practices.
- Identify labour market needs, job opportunities in the local area, and how to prepare and apply to college programs.

Please contact YouLearn.ca's Career Education Teacher, Steve Pozzobon, if you are interested in taking the above programs!

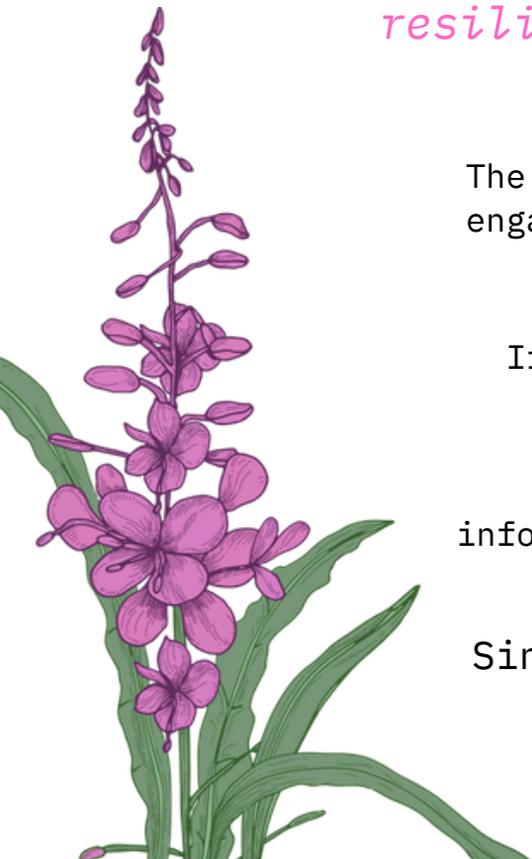


Why fireweed? ...with its ability to thrive in disturbed areas, long blooming season, and wind dispersed seeds, fireweed is a stunning symbol of rejuvenation and new growth after destructive events. Its beauty and resilience are truly remarkable

The Collective is a multi-age group who meets monthly to engage in nature-based social activities. The purpose of 'being around others who just get it'.

If your child has experienced the death of a parent, caregiver, or sibling, please reach out to your school's Administrator if you would like further information or to register your child/teen for the group.

Sincerely, The District Counselling Team, ICY & Healthy Schools



Career Ed. Newsletter- February 2026

Career Ed. Report

As we wind down semester one, WEX students and Youth Work in Trades students are finishing hours and completing final assignments. While Train in Trades students continue to work in their programs at OC.

With Semester 2 approaching School District 53, has 21 students starting trade programs at Okanagan College, Camosun College and UFV, as well as 5 students starting academic dual credit programs for the winter semester at OC, TRU and College of the Rockies. The success that SD53 students are having in post-secondary dual credit courses can be attributed to having support through their transition from secondary to post-secondary.

Trades programs throughout the province fill up quickly so if the school district needs to secure more than our priority seats it is important that students interested in dual credit programs apply when applications open.

Skills Canada Regionals is just around the corner on February 20, 2026. All three secondary schools have students competing in a variety of skills.

Finally, our dedicated careers team and CLE and CLC teachers will be attending the Career Educator Society's interior mini conference.

Up Coming Events :

Interior Health Career Exploration
February 10th

Career Education Society Interior Conference
February 13th

Skills Canada Regionals
February 20th

Check out this link for more information about the ECE program:
[Early Childhood Education-Okanagan College](#)

WORK EXPERIENCE



Work Experience prepares students transitioning from secondary school to the world of work. It consists of 100 hours of work at a work site, combined with 20 hours of related career and work experience assignments.

The Goals of Work Experience

- Students have the opportunity to observe and practice generic employability skills required in the workplace, as well as technical and applied skills relating to occupations or industries.
- Connect what they learn in the classroom with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed in the workplace to be successful
- Develop job readiness skills for specific occupations and careers
- Understand the similarities and differences in behavior standards between the workplace and school



What does the course consist of?

- Unpaid work meant to gain employability skills, many students turn their placements into paid jobs.
- Provide work to an employer with a Placement Agreement in place, ensuring that students are covered by the Ministry of Education's Workers Compensation plan- The School District will handle any WCB claim.
- Students must complete all safety assignments and provide documentation prior to commencing work experience at the placement



READY TO EXPLORE CAREER EDUCATION WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM?

Scan the QR Code and a staff member from the SD53 Careers Department will get in touch with you

Have a question? Email Mr. Turnbull at: bturnbul@sd53.bc.ca



Current Offerings

SEATS ARE AVAILABLE FOR 26/27

Early Childhood Educator,
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
Mechanic,
Welding,
Automotive Service Technician,
Heavy Duty Mechanics,
Health Care Aid,
Business Administration,
Technology Sampler,
Carpentry
Plumbing
Aircraft Maintenance Engineering
Structures,
Electrician,
Professional Cook,
Trades Sampler,
Health Sampler,
Engineering Sampler,
Academic Dual Credit,
Office Administration,
Nail Technician,
Hairdressing,
Leadership in Action,



WE ARE HIRING!



EDUCATION ASSISTANTS

"EARN AND LEARN" EMPLOYMENT PATHWAY

We are seeking caring, motivated individuals interested in supporting students in inclusive school settings. This is an excellent opportunity to join our team as an Education Assistant.



For more information, email employment@sd53.bc.ca or visit www.sd53.bc.ca

Education Assistants

- 27.5 hours per week
- \$28.29 per hour
- Paid work and training opportunity

All required training, mentorship, and skill development will be provided by the district. Previous coursework, certification, or work/volunteer experience will be considered. Successful candidates will demonstrate a commitment to working with students and a willingness to learn.

APPLICATION PACKAGE SHOULD INCLUDE:

- COVER LETTER (WITH WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS OPPORTUNITY)
- RESUME
- APPLICATION FORM (AVAILABLE ON SD53 WEBSITE)
- PROOF OF GRADE 12 GRADUATION
- POST-SECONDARY TRANSCRIPTS/CERTIFICATES (IF AVAILABLE)
- THREE WORK SUPERVISOR REFERENCES

PACKAGES DUE BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

SEND YOUR PACKAGE TO
employment@sd53.bc.ca



February 11, 2026

Dear families,

Yesterday's tragic and deeply traumatic events in Tumbler Ridge are understandably upsetting for adults and children alike. It is often hard to know how to reassure our children when we ourselves are striving to process and make sense of this violent incident and all those impacted by this tragedy.

Children may experience a wide range of emotions in response to what they hear or see and they will look to the adults in their lives to help them feel safe and understand the world around them. Over the coming days or weeks, we encourage families to remain attentive to any changes in their child's behaviours that may indicate a need for additional support.

We are sharing below some strategies and resources to help guide conversations with children, with the understanding that responses will vary depending on age, development, and connection to this tragedy.

Limit exposure to news stories on traditional and social media channels

Consider how you access news and how that may impact children nearby. Young children may not know how to make sense of the news they are seeing and can quickly become overwhelmed. Encourage older children to rely on reputable news sources, and where possible limit their consumption and exposure to upsetting coverage.

It is important to have conversations, and model with your own behaviours, the additional traumatic impact for victims and families when upsetting images are re-circulated. We are respectfully suggesting that individuals do not watch, repost or share videos of the tragedy.

Acknowledge feelings

Our children and youth will look to us for cues on how to process this upsetting information. Acknowledging our own feelings gives children a model for how to express and process their strong emotions. It is normal to experience a range of emotions in response to such unsettling news.

Listen more than you speak

Listen to your child's concerns before offering any explanations. Give them an opportunity to voice their fears and ask age-appropriate open-ended questions. These conversations will help you understand if your child is coming from a place of curiosity, concern or fear, and will help you gain a sense of what your child may need from adults to feel safe and supported.



Provide facts

Tell the truth but do it gently. Give your child facts as long as it is consistent with their stage of development - keep conversations age appropriate. Children need to know their concerns and questions are being taken seriously by the adults around them and that they can trust their adults to be truthful with them. If you don't know the answer to a question, don't be afraid to say so.

Importance of Routine

Maintaining daily routines can provide a sense of stability and security for children and adults. It can also be important to give children permission to continue to find hope in their daily world.

Encourage empathy and compassion

Remind your child there may be others in their daily lives who may be impacted by this tragedy. Talk with your child about how we need to treat others with extra compassion and empathy during times like these. Tragedies and times of sadness and grief can serve as meaningful moments to teach compassion, which can help children feel empowered as they find additional ways to be kind and caring.

As school district staff, we recognize that our students may require additional support. We will continue to prioritize the mental health and well-being of our students. Be mindful of any changes in your child's typical behaviours. If you feel your child needs additional support, please reach out to your school and/or access the community supports identified in the following resources.

Resources

- [Canadian Mental Health Association](#)
- [ERASE](#)
- [Healthlinkbc: Helping Children with Grief](#)
- [Kelty Mental Health](#)
- [Learning through Loss](#)
- [Foundry Virtual BC - Foundry BC App](#)

Sincerely,

Kirsten Odian, Director of Student Support Services
Okanagan Similkameen SD 53



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				

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	

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						

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			

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						

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	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				

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	

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						

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

We are an innovative learning community where all members are supported in their academic, social, and mental well-being equipped with the skills and experiences necessary to thrive in a diverse and changing world.

SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

Cawston Primary School
Principal: Amanda Palmer

Phone: 250-485-4434
Fax: 250-499-5288
Hours: 8:38am-2:30pm

Okanagan Falls Elem. School
Principal: Katie Poole

Phone: 250-497-5414
Fax: 250-497-8279
Hours: 8:30am-2:27pm

Oliver Elementary School
Principal: Scott Tremblay

Phone: 250-498-3468
Fax: 250-498-0339
Hours: 8:30am-2:23pm

Osoyoos Elementary School
Principal: Jason McAllister

Phone: 250-485-4444
Fax: 250-495-2855
Hours: 8:30am-2:30pm

Osoyoos Secondary School
Principal: Dave Foster

Phone: 250-485-4433
Fax: 250-495-2669
Hours: 8:35am-2:45pm

Similkameen Elem. Sec. School
Principal: Stacey Smith

Phone: 250-499-2727
Fax: 250-499-2411
Elem Hours: 8:30am-2:35pm
Sec Hours: 8:30am-2:40pm

Southern Okanagan Sec. School
Principal: Bev Young

Phone: 250-498-4931
Fax: 250-498-6957
Hours: 8:30am-2:45p

Tuc-el-Nuit Elementary School
Principal: Shannon Miller

Phone: 250-498-3415
Fax: 250-498-0388
Hours: 8:30am-2:27pm

YouLearn.ca – Online Learning & Continuing Education

Principal: Brad Burns Phone: 250-498-4597

DISTRICT CONTACTS – 250-498-3481

Marcus Toneatto
Subra Paliappa
Naryn Searcy
Debby Sansome
Susan Trower
Heather Rose
Melia Dirk

Superintendent of Schools
Secretary Treasurer
Director of Learning & Inquiry
Director of Facilities
Manager of Human Resources
Director of Student Services
District Vice Principal, Early Learning & Childcare

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Rob Zandee
Debbie Marten
Casey Brouwer
Sholeh Pickell
Christine Watson
Karen Clayton
Brenda Dorosz

PARENT AND STUDENT APPEALS:

Where a decision of an employee of the Board significantly affects the education, health or safety of a student, the parent/guardian of the student, or the student may, within a reasonable time from the date that the parent/guardian or student was informed of the decision, appeal that decision to the Board. Further information regarding the appeal process can be obtained [HERE](#).

ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORTS ISSUED:

Mid-Year Reports: Date to be determined by each school

Final Report: Thursday, June 25, 2026



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53
PARENT CONSENT FOR FIELD TRIPS
STUDENT ACTIVITY/FIELD TRIP

YouLearn.ca is planning the following student activities. Your written permission is required by the school if your child is to attend.

Description of Activity: These are planned activities for our student body. The goal is to build community, enhance social comfortability and have fun. We will provide transportation. Included activities may be considered low risk such as forest walks, having BBQs, and swimming in public pools with a lifeguard.

Location of Activity: Please see below for list of activities. A guardian will need to sign and initial each activity on the list.

Town: Oliver, Osoyoos, Penticton, Okanagan Falls, Kaleden

Date(s): February 3, March 3, March 10, April 20, May 5, June 2, 2026

Mode of Transportation: School Bus and staff personal vehicles that are insured to carry children.

If you have any questions at all regarding this activity, please contact the undersigned at 250-498-4597.

Accidents can be the result of the nature of the activity and can occur with or without any fault on either the part of the student, or the School Board or its employees or agents, or the facility where the activity is taking place. By allowing your son/daughter to participate in this activity, you are accepting the risk of an accident occurring, and agree all these activities, as described below, are suitable for your child.

I give (name of student) permission to participate in the field trips organized by YouLearn.ca. I understand that my child may be exposed to certain risks while participating in this activity. Accidents and injuries may occur.

Signature of Guardian

Date

Printed Name of Guardian

B.C. Personal Health Number of Student (please fill in)

Address of Guardian

Home/Work/Emergency Phone #s

Any medical needs/medications/allergies we should be aware of:

Is there anything you would like us to know about your child?

Teacher Sponsor

Handwritten signature of Administrator

Activity	Date and Times	What will we do	What to bring	Transportation	Guardian Initials
Mount Baldy Tubing **WAIVER ATTACHED**	Tuesday, Feb 3 Back at school by 2:30pm or before.	- Tubing Tubes are provided.	- Water bottle - Appropriate winter clothing (<i>warm waterproof boots, snow or water-resistant pants, a warm zip up coat, a toque or hat that covers the head and ears, water resistant gloves or mittens</i>) Lunch and snacks will be provided.	School bus or car driven by chaperone	
Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre	Tuesday, Mar 3 Back at school by 2:30pm or before.	- Explore and learn about our local land and the history of the Osoyoos Indian Band.	- Water bottle - Appropriate clothing (<i>comfortable shoes, warm coat and a warm hat</i>) Lunch will be provided.	School bus or car driven by chaperone	
Swimming at The Penticton Community Centre	Tuesday, Mar 10 Back at school by 2:30pm or before.	- Swimming	- Water bottle - Appropriate swimwear (<i>modest two piece or a one piece for females, trunks or swim shorts for males</i>) - Towel Snacks will be provided.	School bus or car driven by chaperone	
Peachcliff Quarry Walk	Monday, Apr 20 Back at school by 2:30pm or before.	- Nature walk	- Bagged lunch - Water bottle - Sunscreen - Hat - Good, comfortable shoes Snacks will be provided.	School bus or car driven by chaperone	
Kettle Valley Railroad (KVR) Nature Walk	Tuesday, May 5 Back at school by 2:30pm or before.	- Nature walk on the KVR trail starting in Okanagan Falls to Kaleden - BBQ in Kaleden, then walk back to Okanagan Falls	- Water bottle - Sun hat - Sunscreen - Good, comfortable shoes Lunch will be provided.	School bus or car driven by chaperone	
Swimming at Oliver Pool	Tuesday, Jun 2 Back at school by 2:30pm or before.	- Swimming	- Water bottle - Appropriate swimwear (<i>modest two piece or a one piece for females, trunks or swim shorts for males</i>) - Towel - Sunscreen Snacks will be provided.	School bus or car driven by chaperone	

Community Engagement

LIONS PARK Improvement Project

1

THE CONCEPTS



2



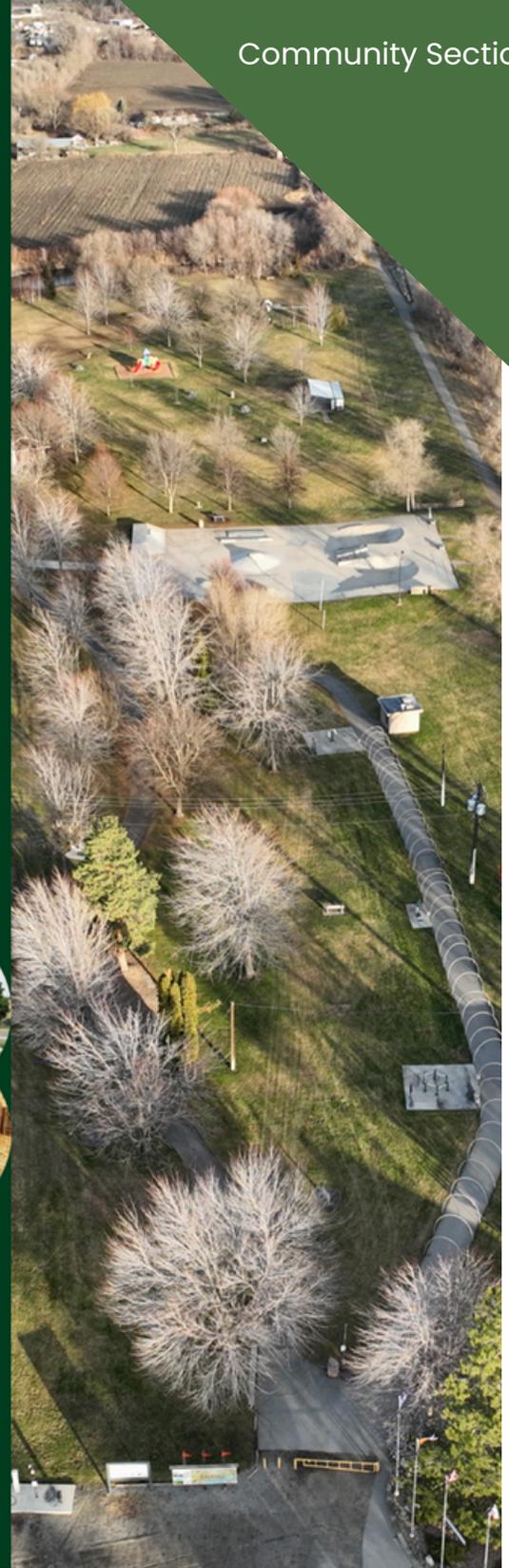
3



View the Informational
Presentation & take the
Survey Online or scan
the QR code



www.oliver.ca/recreation



Join us and share your ideas!
Input accepted until February 16th 2026



oliver.ca/recreation

LION'S PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

THE CONCEPTS

1



Parkour Park

2



Pump Track

3



Nature Playground

View our presentation and take the survey at

oliver.ca/recreation

Or Scan the QR Code

