



YouLearn.ca

December Newsletter

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

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Principal's Message

Excitement is in the air and winter break is almost here! Congratulations students and parents for making it through the first third of the year! Thank you, parents, for keeping your children connected to our teachers, their studies, and our school. Thank you, students, for working to regularly submit assignments, adhere to your course completion timelines, and contribute to our growing face-to-face programs.

As we head into break, maximize the remaining time you have and apply yourself to your learning over the next two weeks. This will make the holidays so much more deserved! For those who have fallen a bit behind, consider using a portion of your break to get caught up. However, be sure to take time to reset, recharge, and reconnect with family and friends as well.

Reminder, school closes for winter break on Friday, December 20 and does not open again until Monday, January 6. If you need anything beforehand, please be sure to contact teachers or our office. As always, we are here to help.

Finally, from all of us at YouLearn to you and yours, may the season bring you peace, good memories, joy, and cheer. We could not do what we do without you!

Will and the YouLearn Staff

Important Dates

December 9
Art Exploration Day
9:00-3:00 pm (Drop In)

December 16
Student Written Learning
Updates Published
(SPACES & Marksheets)

December 18
School-Wide Winter
Celebration @ The Oliver
Arena 11:30-2:30 pm

December 20
School Closes for Winter
Break

January 6
School Opens

Across the School

Learning Updates

Last year, the Ministry's new reporting order was implemented across the province. Instead of report cards, schools are required to provide parents/guardians with 4 Learning Updates (2 Informal Learning Updates and 2 Written Learning Updates) and 1 Summary of Learning that describes student learning in relation to the Learning Standards of the curriculum. At YouLearn, when and in what form these Learning Updates occur can be found on our [Student Reporting](#) page. Beyond keeping parents/guardians informed about student progress, it is our hope that parents and guardians regularly check students' SPACES accounts and Marksheets to discuss student progress and provide support, as needed.

School-Wide Winter Get Together

On Wednesday, December 18 from 11:30-2:30 PM we will be hosting our annual school-wide winter get together. We will start at the rink and join public skating from 12:00-1:00 then head up to the school for lunch and crafts. Anyone needing to borrow skates is encouraged to show up at the rink at 11:30 AM to secure skates. This year, we will be collecting canned goods and non-perishables from our attendees which we will donate to the Oliver Food Bank. Donations are greatly appreciated. Please RSVP by Monday December 16 using our [online registration form](#).

The Giving Table

In the spirit of giving and receiving, staff have set up a table of goodies outside our kitchen. Students are encouraged to take what they need or take something they know another will need and get it to them. For those inclined, donating gently used items (such as clothes, toiletries, food, or small household items) would be greatly appreciated.

Art Exploration Day

Join us on Monday, December 9 we will be having an Art Exploration Day, where Diane O'Neil (Art Teacher) will be assisting students with various creative endeavors. On this day, tables will be set up for the following: watercolor painting, acrylic painting, pencil drawing, pencil crayon coloring, and a 3D wood reindeer project. Student projects will be assessed and count toward grades in Art. Depending on the success of this event, further art exploration days may be added where we can explore other media like pastels and scratch art.

Core Competency Goals and Self-Assessments

As part of the new reporting order, all school-age students in grades K-12 are required to goal set and self-assess their progress against the [Core Competencies](#). Student generated goals and reflections on the Core Competencies are a key part of all Written Learning Updates and Summaries of Learning. At YouLearn, under the guidance of their classroom or mentor teacher, students are coached to meet these requirements. At the K-9 level, student goals and reflections can be found in students' Careers and PLP SPACES. At the 10-12 level, students have been asked to submit these assessments to teachers of courses most related to their goals. As a result, student goals and reflections are logged on students' course Marksheets (Core Competency Self-Assessments section) and work generated is archived in the students' corresponding Marked Assignment folder(s). Your help in supporting students with realizing the importance of continuous goal setting and reflecting as a successful life-long learner trait is appreciated. If you have specific questions about your child's goals and/or reflections, do not hesitate to reach out to your child's classroom or mentor teachers.

Spirit WEEK!

This year we have decided to have a Spirit Week during the last week of school before winter break. Please join us on the silly side . . .

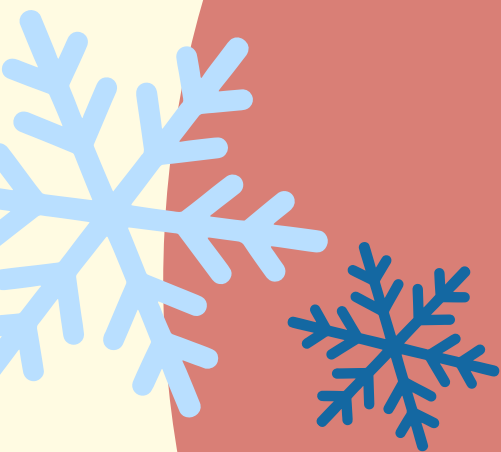
Monday, Dec. 16th
Candy Cane Day (red/white)

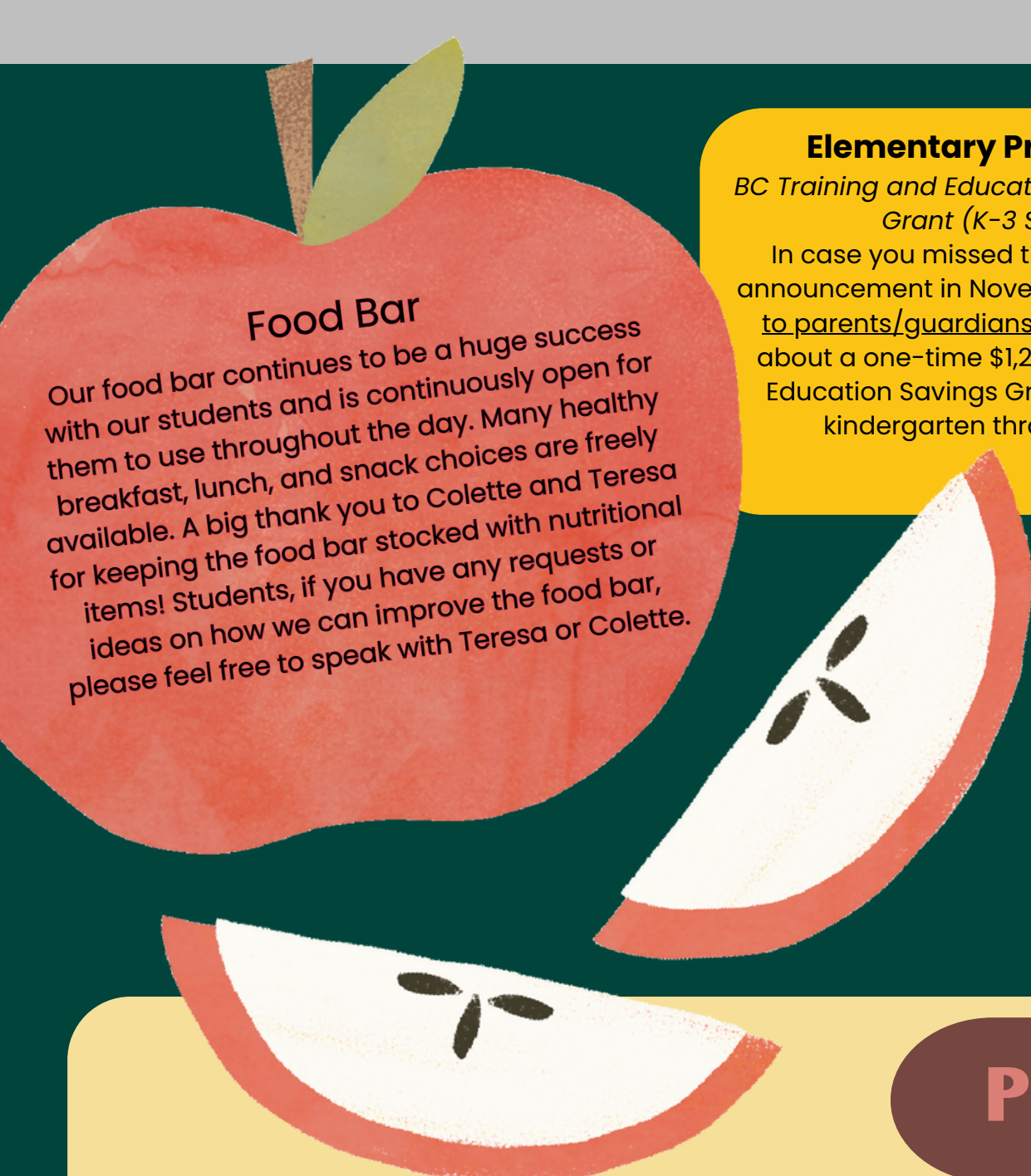
Tuesday, Dec. 17th
Hat/Head Decoration Day
(santa hat, antlers, colourful toque)

Wednesday, Dec. 18th
Plaid/Flannel Day

Thursday, Dec. 19th
Ugly Sweater Day

Friday, Dec. 20th
Pajama Day





Food Bar

Our food bar continues to be a huge success with our students and is continuously open for them to use throughout the day. Many healthy breakfast, lunch, and snack choices are freely available. A big thank you to Colette and Teresa for keeping the food bar stocked with nutritional items! Students, if you have any requests or ideas on how we can improve the food bar, please feel free to speak with Teresa or Colette.

Elementary Program K-6

BC Training and Education Savings Program Grant (K-3 Students)

In case you missed the Ministry's grant announcement in November, here is a [letter to parents/guardians](#) letting them know about a one-time \$1,200 BC Training and Education Savings Grant for students in kindergarten through Grade 3.

(You can also find a copy attached to the end of this Newsletter)

PAC

PAC AGM and Next Meeting

YouLearn PAC will be holding its annual general meeting (AGM) and first meeting of the year on January 29, 2025 from 4:00-5:00PM.

YouLearn's PAC is a small group of parents and former adult students who meet three times a year to plan on how to disburse grant money they receive each year to best help YouLearn. No former committee meeting experience is needed, and all YouLearn parents/guardians and graduated former YouLearn students are welcome.

Those interested in attend January's meeting, or volunteering for PAC, are encouraged to show up at YouLearn in Oliver or email Melanie Olson (youlearn.mel@gmail.com), our PAC president.



2025 Graduation Assessment Registrations

As part of the BC Graduation Diploma requirements, all students must write three assessments: one Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment (NME10), one Grade 10 Literacy Assessment (LTE10), and one Grade 12 Literacy Assessment (LTE12). Each year, the expectation is that Grade 10 students write their assessments in Grade 10. At YouLearn, we will host an April sitting for all YouLearn students to write each of these required assessments. More info to come in the new year. However, for students who would like to write in January, they are encouraged to contact their mentor teacher, and arrangements for them to attend one of SESS, SOSS, or OSS sittings will be made.

Second Semester/Second Quarter Courses (Grade 10-12 Students)

For students looking to take courses in semester two at SESS, SOSS, or OSS, please contact your mentor teacher ASAP. Classes start January 30, and before the semester begins mentors need to contact high school counsellors and work to get you enrolled.

*Great
work
class of 2025!*

GRADUATION

Earlier this week, we had our first grad meeting of the year. If you missed it, don't worry. In the new year you will receive another email invitation to attend our second meeting. For those heading off to post-secondary, two things:

- 1) Be sure to check out our [Scholarships and Bursaries](#) page, as well as the scholarships/bursaries pages of our District partner schools: SESS, SOSS, and OSS. Depending on the community you live in, you might be eligible for some of the scholarships listed on their sites.
- 2) Don't forget you will need to complete your Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) selection forms (*see instructions on the next page*).

To all grads, if you are unsure of your grad plan or have questions, be sure to connect with your mentor teacher before heading home for winter break.

For those needing to apply to post-secondary institutions work through the following process and if you get stuck, call our office or reach out to your mentor teacher:

Important Update: New Login Security Measures

To enhance our cybersecurity, SD53 will be implementing a new login rule starting next Wednesday, December 11th. This rule will block logins from outside of Canada unless Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is used.

What This Means:

- Staff: This change should not affect staff members.
- Students: Students who need to access their Office 365 accounts from outside Canada will need to use MFA. We can add students as exceptions if necessary, or they can enable MFA on their accounts.

We encourage students and parents to be aware of this update. These measures are being put in place due to recent cyber-attacks, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Thank you for helping us keep our school community safe!



POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION SELECTION FORMS INSTRUCTIONS

1. Research Institutions and Programs:

Start by exploring the different post-secondary institutions and programs available in BC. You can use the EducationPlannerBC website to find detailed information about various institutions and programs.

2. Create an EducationPlannerBC Account:

Sign up for an account on [EducationPlannerBC](#) to manage your applications. This platform allows you to apply to multiple institutions in BC with a single application.

3. Select Your Institutions and Programs:

Once you have an account, select the institutions and programs you are interested in. You can find a list of BC's public post-secondary institutions on the [Government of BC's website](#).

4. Complete Your Applications:

Fill out the application forms for each institution and program you are applying to. Make sure to provide all required information and documents. EducationPlannerBC provides a step-by-step guide on how to complete your application.

5. Pay Application Fees:

Each institution may have an application fee. Ensure you pay the required fees for each application. Details about fees can usually be found on the institution's website or during the application process on EducationPlannerBC.

6. Submit Your Applications:

Review your applications carefully before submitting them. Once you are sure everything is correct, submit your applications through EducationPlannerBC.

7. Track Your Application Status:

After submitting your applications, you can track their status through your EducationPlannerBC account. You will receive notifications and updates about your application status.

8. Prepare for Admission Requirements:

Some programs may have additional admission requirements such as interviews, portfolios, or entrance exams. Make sure to prepare for these requirements as needed.

9. Apply for Financial Aid and Scholarships:

Look into financial aid options and scholarships to help fund your education. The Government of BC's website provides information on financial aid and scholarships available to students.

10. Accept an Offer of Admission:

Once you receive offers of admission, decide which institution you want to attend and accept the offer. Follow the instructions provided by the institution to confirm your enrollment.

August 31, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians of Distributed Learning Students and Homeschooled Students,

Re: Public Health Services for School-Age Children

As a new school year begins, I am writing to remind you of some of the health services and resources available to school-age children through Interior Health's (IH) Public Health.

Details about all the services and resources available can be found online by using the QR code to the right or going to <https://bit.ly/4dCzrtW>



Interior Health offers Public Health services through community health centres. You can find the closest community health centre and specific services by searching for **Public Health** through the **Find a Service** button on interiorhealth.ca.

Hearing Health

Early detection of hearing loss and information about options for interventions are available through Public Health.

Immunizations

Immunizations are the best protection against many serious vaccine-preventable diseases. BC students, kindergarten to grade 12, are eligible for publicly funded vaccines.

All publicly funded immunizations are available by appointment at your local community health centre. You can find health centre contact information on the back page of this letter.

Sleep

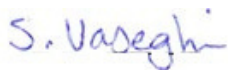
Proper sleep is vital to support learning and development in school-aged children. Among other resources you can learn about back-to-school sleep routines here: <https://bit.ly/3WKVIEu>

Tobacco and Vaping

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and illness, and 85% of smokers started in their school-age years. Interior Health offers resources to help you talk with your children about using tobacco and vapes.

Thank you for helping our children and our communities stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Sanaz Vaseghi, MD MPH FRCPC
Medical Health Officer

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dākelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.

Public Health at Community Health Centres

IH West	IH Central	IH East
100 Mile House250-395-7676	Armstrong250-546-4727	Castlegar250-365-7711
Ashcroft250-453-1940	Enderby250-838-2450	Cranbrook.....250-420-2207
Barriere250-672-5515	Kelowna250-868-7700	Creston250-428-3873
Chase250-679-1418	Keremeos250-499-3029	Fernie250-423-8288
Clearwater250-674-3141	Lumby250-547-2164	Golden250-344-3001
Kamloops250-851-7300	Oliver250-498-5080	Grand Forks250-443-3150
Lillooet250-256-1314	Osoyoos.....250-495-6433	Invermere250-342-2360
Logan Lake250-378-3400	Penticton250-770-3434	Kaslo250-353-2291
Merritt250-378-3400	Princeton.....250-295-4442	Kimberley250-427-2215
Williams Lake250-302-5000	Revelstoke250-814-2244	Midway250-440-2887
	Rutland250-980-4825	Nakusp250-265-3608
	Salmon Arm250-833-4100	Nelson250-505-7200
	Sicamous250-836-4835	Salmo250-357-9511
	Summerland250-404-8050	Sparwood250-425-2064
	Vernon250-549-5721	Trail250 364-6219
	West Kelowna.....250-980-5150	

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November 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Government of British Columbia is pleased to inform you that your child may be able to receive the **\$1,200 B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant**.

Children may be eligible if:

- The parent or guardian, and the child, are B.C. residents, and
- The child is between the age of 6 and the day before turning 9.

Once you open an account, known as a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), and apply for the B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant (BCTESG), \$1,200 will be deposited into the RESP for your child. Students can then use the money to pay for post-secondary education or training expenses.

Plan today: you don't have to put any money into the RESP to receive the \$1,200.

Step 1: Get Social Insurance Numbers (SINs) for you and your child. Go to <http://www.canada.ca/social-insurance-number> to find out how.

Step 2: Make an appointment with one of 56 financial organizations that offers the BCTESG. A list of partners is available here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/canada-education-savings/resp-promoters-list.html>

Bring the **SINs for you and your child and proof of B.C. residency** and say: **"I want to open an RESP and get the B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant for my child."**

Learn more:

BCTESG homepage QR Code



BCTESG homepage URL

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/BCTESG>

Question? Contact: BCTESG@gov.bc.ca Your child may also be eligible for other, federal incentives, see: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/education-savings.html>.