



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 2025

Phone (250) 870-5138

Email dwe@sd23.bc.ca

Safety Reminder

Please **DO NOT** enter our **staff parking lot** between 8am-3pm. Students are often crossing the parking lot before / after school. We have had several near-misses!

Mark Your Calendar

December 1 - DWE MAR-CAT, 9:00am-11:00am - Entrepreneur Fair (by Grade 5 English Program / Grade 6 French Imm.)

December 10 - 5:30pm Winter Art Walk & 6:00pm Performance (show is approx. one hour)

December 11 - 1:00pm Winter Art Walk & 1:30pm Performance

December 22- January 2 - Winter Break!

January 5 - School Re-Opens

January 25-February 1 - Family Literacy Week

February 13 - No School / Teacher Pro.D. Day

February 26 - Bullying Awareness / Pink Shirt Day

February 26 / 27 - Student-Led Conferences

March 16-27 - Spring Break

April 3-6 - Easter Weekend

May 18 - Victoria Day

June 25 - Last Day of School for Students

June 26 - Administrative Day

Personal Devices at School

We want to remind parents and guardians that students are not permitted to use their personal devices at school (this **INCLUDES** texting with smart watches).

During school time, including lunch and recesses, personal devices should be in backpacks and smart watches should not be used for any other purpose than to tell time. If a student needs to contact their family, or receive an important message, this should be done via the office.



Thank You, PAC!



We are so appreciative of the updated info board sign topper at the front of our school! We take so much pride in our school and each special touch enhances the care that we show in our learning environment.

ARRIVING TO SCHOOL ON TIME

Our school places an emphasis on being on time. It is very helpful and adds success to each child's day when all students are seated by the second bell and classroom instruction can begin without interruption. Arriving on time sets up all our students for success. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation with this goal. **If your child arrives late, please ensure that they report in at the school office before going to their classroom.**

Please also remember school ends at 2:25pm and there is supervision outdoors until 2:40pm.



**We wish you a
wonderful winter break!**

DWE MarCAT

Our Grade 5 English classes and Grade 6 French Immersion classes are excited to invite you to the DWE Wild MarCAT (Entrepreneur Fair) in the DWE Gym on **Friday, December 1.**

Each class will sign up for a time to visit the market. Students are encouraged to bring a small amount of cash to purchase some of the many creative items for sale, most priced at \$10 or less.

Families are warmly invited to visit the market at any time between **9:00am and 11:00am**. This invitation is open to all DWE families, not just families of student vendors. Please help support our young entrepreneurs!

Please note: MarCAT vendors will accept **cash only**.

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Left - Mme Johnson's Class
Performed song, "One Day"
at our Harmony Day Assembly Nov.
20th

Below - Grade 3 & Grade 3 / 4
performed with Norman Foote at
the Community Theatre Nov. 19th

Top Right - Our Custodian, Mr.
Hastings on Halloween!



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Students Create with Watercolour Artist, Janice Hennig!



A Message from the Principal

Growing Together: Celebrating Learning, Creativity, and Community

Dear DWE Community,

I am proud of our students for their leadership and participation in our **Remembrance Day Peace Assembly** on November 10. For the first time in many years, we welcomed a colour guard that included Cadets and a trumpeter, adding a meaningful sense of tradition to the event. Our students demonstrated remarkable composure during the moment of silence as we reflected on the importance of peace. Their respect and understanding of the significance of this day were evident and deeply moving.

On November 19th, our Grade 3 and **Grade 3/4 classes performed with Norman Foote** at the Kelowna Community Theatre! It was wonderful to see so many students having fun on stage. The songs were playful and engaging, and students participated enthusiastically. Many thanks to Mrs. Ball for coordinating this special opportunity for our youngest learners at DWE.

The following day, we hosted our **Harmony Day Assembly**, where Mme Johnson's class led a thoughtful presentation about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and performed the song *One Day* by Matisyahu. Our Teacher-Librarian, Ms. Newell, shared a story about resilience, and our Inclusion Teacher, Mrs. Foster, spoke about our **R.O.A.R.** values. Students participated beautifully in this joyful assembly, which focused on kindness and belonging.

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate the creativity and talent of our students during our upcoming **Art Walk and Winter Performance** on the evening of December 10, followed by a matinee on December 11. The art displayed during the Art Walk has been created by our students with guidance from **Kelowna artist Janice Hennig**, making this event even more special. Families will also have the opportunity to support our PAC by enjoying coffee or tea by donation during the evening Art Walk.

Please remember to bring your tickets for either the evening event or the matinee. This helps us respect capacity limits so everyone can enjoy the Winter Performance comfortably.

Thank you for your continued support in making École Dorothea Walker Elementary a place where learning, creativity, and community thrive.

Wishing you a joyful winter break!

C. Hughes

Mme Christey Hughes
Principal / Directrice





Art Walk / Winter Performance

We will have performances on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:00pm and Thursday, December 11th at 1:30pm. **Because we will have a capacity limit for our gym, we will be issuing tickets** (as per our School Messenger email sent home on November 14th). In the event that we have remaining tickets after the request process, the office staff will make additional tickets available on a first-come-first-served basis. At that time, we will send out a School Messenger update with how to request extra tickets. Our school secretary team will be able to assist at that time. Please note that the tickets provided will indicate if they are for the evening show or for the matinee.

During the performance, students will be in their classrooms with their teachers. We don't have space in the gym for students to watch (they will get to see the dress rehearsal). This will be an informal and casual performance filled with student voices, creativity, and community spirit.

Wednesday, December 10: Art Walk 5:30pm (with a refreshment table for parents by donation to the PAC). Show starts at 6:00pm in the gym. **Please bring your ticket.**

Thursday, December 11: Art Walk 1:00pm. Show starts at 1:30pm in the gym. **Please bring your ticket.**

For information about the music performance, you may contact our music teacher at joanna.ball@sd23.bc.ca

Please note that due to very limited capacity in our gym, we are unable to accommodate extended family / friends. Only parents / guardians are invited.

Sharing Holiday Support

Some DWE classes have partnered with an OKM Leadership class to help fill the Salvation Army Santa Bus this holiday season! If you would like to contribute a new, unwrapped toy item, feel free to drop it off at the front office to be collected by Mrs. Jensen's students by December 10th. If you have any questions about items to donate, please contact Mrs. Jensen at jessica.jensen@sd23.bc.ca

Thank you for your support!



Winter Concert Attire – December 10 & 11

Dear Families,

We are excited to welcome you to our upcoming Winter Concert on December 10th and 11th! To help create a festive and unified look on stage, we kindly ask that students follow the attire guidelines below.

Bottoms:

Black or dark-colored pants

Tops:

Solid-colored shirts in red, dark green, or white

If your child does not have a solid shirt, please don't worry. A shirt in the correct color is perfectly fine—even if it has a small logo or light print. Students are welcome to wear shirts inside out or backwards if that helps minimize a design. We want this to be simple and stress-free for families while still keeping our performers coordinated.

Shirt Colors by Teacher

White:

Ms. Rivet / Ms. Nicolai

Red:

Mme Hayward / Mme Johnson

Ms. Peters / Mrs. Jensen

Mme Rode / Mme Macdonnell

Dark Green:

Mme Morden / Mme King

Mr. Nicholls / Ms. Lebbon / Ms. Lutz

Mme Stokes / Mme Light

Thank you for your support in helping our students look their best for this special event. We can't wait to share an evening of performances with you!

-Joanna Ball, Music Teacher



Indigenous Presenter, Sharon Hopf

joins us every couple weeks at DWE,
supporting our Indigenous Students



Sharon is a proud Chipewyan Dene who was raised in Deninu K'ue (Fort Resolution), NT. While growing up, she cherished the quality time spent with her parents learning her Indigenous culture and traditional ways of life of her family and people. Her childhood best memories were racing sled dogs competitively while raising six dogs of her own.

Her lessons in her culture were also passed down from extended family and community elders. These lessons included sewing, stories, tanning hides, knitting, beading, harvesting, and gathering—she thrived in her cultural environment. Sharon was also an active person; if she wasn't learning her cultural ways of life, she was playing all types of sports.

To further her education, Sharon left her home community to attend school in Yellowknife, where she stayed in a residential school. In the summers, she would return to her community to follow in her grandfather's footsteps (Harry Balsillie). Sharon became a Special Constable with the RCMP 'G' Division, a position she held for three consecutive summers.

Once she completed her high school diploma, Sharon remained in Yellowknife, where she entered the workforce as the Resource Centre Coordinator with the Dene Nation. She briefly left the Dene Nation to assist the Native Women's Association of the NWT in their growth as a non-profit organization. But it was the attraction of the Dene Nation and the opportunity to advance her career that drew her back to the organization. From here, she would advance herself and settle into the Chief Executive Officer role and Special Advisor to the Dene National Chief.

Sharon stayed active outside of her career by volunteering with the Metis Reelers dance group, which performed in many communities across the North.

In 2016, Sharon and her husband Greg, with their two children, Keaton and Presley, moved to the Okanagan Valley. We are very happy to welcome Sharon to DWE.



FEED YOUR NEED FOR SPEED



**Supportive coaching, friendly
teammates, fun racing
opportunities, team spirit,
excitement and adrenaline!**

All ages and experience levels welcome!!

Check out our Facebook page or email
kelownaspeedskate@gmail.com for registration info

*** FREE Try-It Session Dec. 15th @ MNP Place ***

Register Today!

Big White Ski Club BLAZERS:

- 10 week program
- Starting early January, choose Saturdays or Sundays
- An introduction to ski racing
- For skiers aged 6-11 (not a learn to ski program)



*payment plans available

www.bigwhiteskiclub.com/registernow



WINTER STEM CAMP

Looking for some fun during the Winter Break?

Join the WWEST team for a fun-filled, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) based camp! This camp will engage youth aged 5-10, in winter-STEM themed activities ranging from technology to neuroscience, alongside indoor and outdoor movement breaks!
Daily registration means you can choose 1, 2, 3, or all 4 days of camp!

December 29, 2025-January 2, 2026
 *(no camp on January 1, 2026)
 8:30am-3:30pm
 UBC Okanagan
 ARTS Building 1147 Research Road

\$55/youth/day

TO REGISTER VISIT: wwest-cwse.ca
or scan the QR code

EXPECT RESPECT & A SAFE EDUCATION

Information for Parents and Caregivers

Resources to support you and your child

Register for free training
Tips to protect children and youth online

Have a conversation
Talk with children and youth about things they may be experiencing

What kind of information can I find on erase.gov.bc.ca?

- **Practical guidance** to help you support your child's safety and well-being
- **Resources and information about:**
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Mental health and substance use
 - School and online safety
- **Free training sessions** to help you keep your child safe online
- **Videos** explaining erase, the Report It Tool, and safe, caring and inclusive schools
- **Tips** for bringing concerns to your child's school

What is the Report It Tool?

Report It is an anonymous online tool for students to report anything concerning to their school safety team—whether it happens at school, online, or somewhere else. Find it at erase.gov.bc.ca.

Questions? Reach out to your school to learn more.

Ministry of Education and Child Care