

February 2023

École Isabella Dicken Elementary School

1301 2nd Avenue, Fernie BC

250-423-4651



## Principal's Message

School District 5 Southeast Kootenay welcomes all children born between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2018, and encourages parents to register their children at their catchment area school for September 2022 Kindergarten entry. School District 5 Southeast Kootenay provides a warm, caring learning environment for all students. We offer our Kindergarten students a developmentally appropriate program along with access to computer technology, a Fine Arts program, and student services support. For more information about Kindergarten, please visit our school website. Please register before the end of the month because this helps with planning for September.



Thank you to all our PAC volunteers who organized an amazing book fair and bake sale. Thank you to all of our wonderful students, parents, and grandparents that helped make our Scholastic Book Fair a big success!

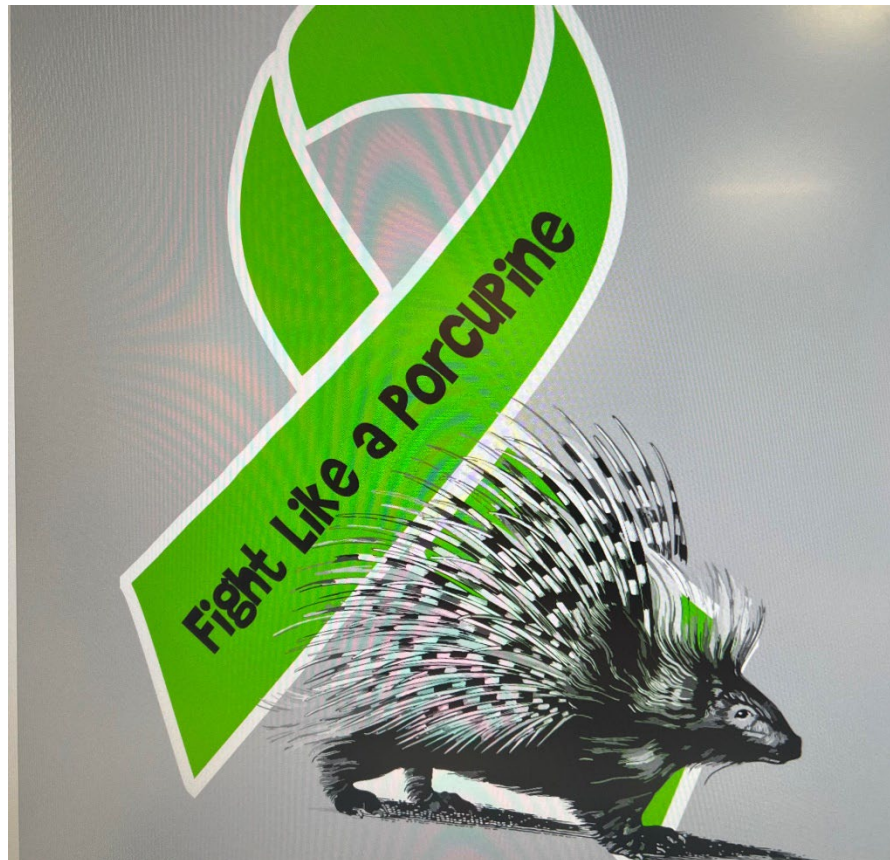
This year, Pink Shirt Day, or Anti-Bullying Day is on February 22. This year's theme, **Lift Each Other Up**, is centred around the ideas of kindness, diversity, inclusion, and acceptance. So what is Pink Shirt Day, exactly? It is a day when people come together by wearing pink shirts to school or work to show they are against bullying. For more information please visit <https://www.cbc.ca/kids/articles/what-is-pink-shirt-day> and <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>

As always, feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, or good news to share. We value your input and always appreciate hearing from you. If parents wish an interview with a teacher, counsellor, or administrator, please phone, and request that the school arrange a convenient time.

Sincerely,

Laura-Lee Phillips & Janet Kuijt  
Admin Team





## **ÉIDES Fight Like a Porcupine FUNDRAISER**

**Mr. Hanson (Grade 5 teacher) is challenging the Panther Community to raise funds to support Fight Like a Porcupine.**

**All proceeds going to the Tolfree family in support of Stephen's fight against Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.**

**Donation bin at the office**

**(Please contact the office if you have any questions)**

- **If we raise \$500 Mr. Hanson will shave his beard....**
- **If we raise \$750 Mr. Hanson will shave off his mustache too!**
- **If we raise \$1000 Mr. Hanson will shave off his beard, mustache & hair!!**

## Change of Seasons

Now that the cooler and wetter winter weather is here, it's a good time to remind students to dress appropriately for the weather as we still embrace the outdoors for mornings, recess and lunch throughout the fall and winter. It is our policy to stay outdoors unless the temperature is -20° Celsius or colder. Rainy days also don't stop us from going outside, so please make sure your child has rain and waterproof boots. Of course, monsoon rains and the wind chill factor will be taken into consideration and keeping students indoors will be at the discretion of the Principal. When cold weather persists for several days, we do allow the children to stay in, but will send them out for 15-20 minutes only, just so they get a little fresh air and exercise. We find that students become very restless if they stay in too often.

**February and March are notorious for having every type of weather event, please ensure your child/ren are dressed appropriately.**

When there is inclement weather, dress warmly on cold weather days as school buses may be delayed and your child may be waiting for the bus longer than usual.

During the winter months, severe weather may cause the disruption of bus transportation and regular school operations. In case of poor weather, the decision to close schools and/or cancel buses is communicated to parents beginning as soon as possible.

It is always a parent's decision whether to send their child to school on inclement weather days.

Since communication is key in alerting families to the status of school operations and busing, we use a variety of methods to communicate this important information including:

### Primary Methods of Communication

- School Messenger
- School District #5 Southeast Kootenay Website  
<http://www.sd5.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>
- EIDES Website [École Isabella Dicken Elementary School \(sd5.bc.ca\)](http://www.sd5.bc.ca/École_Isabella_Dicken_Elementary_School)
- School Facebook Page
- Local radio station, as they are notified when the decision to close schools and/or cancel buses is made.

## Reminders From the Office

### ABSENCES

If you know your child will be absent or late from school, please use the School-Messenger app to report, you may also call the office at **250-423-4651** and leave a message or email [ides.mailing@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:ides.mailing@sd5.bc.ca) preferably **before 9:00 am**. Your help with this will save our secretaries a lot of time as a call goes home for every unreported absence to ensure the child is safe.

**PLEASE have your child sign in/out at the office when you arrive late or leave early, even when you've used the School Messenger app to report it. Thank you.**

### COURTESY BUS RIDERS

Due to a bus overloading situation, **we are no longer able to allow courtesy bus riders** to be transported on school buses from ÉIDES. Safety for our students is our utmost concern and an accurate passenger list is essential. Only students registered with the bus department will be allowed to ride our buses. If you have any questions, you can call the bus department at:250-423-5885 EXT 1.

## Canadian Parents for French

Our next Canadian Parents for French Cranbrook-Fernie meeting will be the evening of March 8, 2023 over Zoom - please join us if you are interested! You can become a CPF member anytime at [cpf.ca](http://cpf.ca) and help support local French programs.

Self-guided French for Parents courses, levels 1, 2 and 3, are available online at low cost for CPF members, as well as resources to support your child's learning. Virtual French tutoring is also available for students, and volunteers for this are always appreciated.

Email [CPFCranbrookFernie@gmail.com](mailto:CPFCranbrookFernie@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions, we look forward to hearing from you




## RENE The MAPLE MAN was here on January 23<sup>rd</sup>!


A wonderful time was had by all. This was the sweet note he sent to us:

*I could not miss the opportunity to say to you  
how I enjoyed my day at your school,  
Probably the best one so far this year,  
there is something special at your school that I really enjoyed !  
I think the community is well supported by parents and more,  
thank you very much  
au plaisir  
Rene the maple man*





# Is your child too sick for school?



**Deciding when your child is too sick for school is not always an easy decision.**

Children should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. If you have questions and concerns about your child's health, talk with a qualified healthcare professional.

**Keep children at home if they have:**

- a fever, and keep them home for **24** hours after the fever is gone away without the help of medication.
- vomiting or diarrhea, and keep them home for **24** hours after the last episode.
- a severe sore throat.
- a rash with no known cause.
- a severe cough especially with other symptoms like a runny nose and headache.
- redness, swelling or discharge of the eyes, ears or skin, unless treated.
- been acting unwell and have little energy to join in school activities.

**For questions about your child's health you can:**

1. Dial 811 or go to [HealthLinkBC.ca](https://www.healthlinkbc.ca) to speak with a:
  - Registered Nurse 24 hours a day, every day of the year.
  - Registered Dietitian every weekday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST.
  - Pharmacist every night from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. PST every day of the year.
2. Contact an Urgent Care, Walk-in Clinic or Doctor's Office.
  - See the reverse page on when to go to the emergency department.



**Seasonal Respiratory Illness**

As we continue through the fall and winter, we can expect to see more respiratory illness. This is an annual occurrence, but there are measures we all can take to prevent illness and manage symptoms while at home. The most important measures are to get vaccinated, staying home when sick and follow general hygiene measures like hand washing. Here is some information that may be helpful: [it's respiratory illness season](#).

**For more information on specific illnesses see:** [A Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases](#)



# Is it an Emergency?

Having a sick child can be stressful, but not all illnesses require a visit to the emergency department. Find the right place to go for care.

Emergency Department	Urgent Care, Walk-in Clinic or Doctor's Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty breathing</li> <li>• Fever in infants younger than 3 months</li> <li>• Broken bone</li> <li>• Serious or severe burn</li> <li>• Vomiting or diarrhea with dehydration</li> <li>• Sudden change in mental state</li> <li>• Complicated or deep cut</li> </ul>   	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fever or flu</li> <li>• Cough, cold, sore throat</li> <li>• Earache</li> <li>• Rash</li> <li>• Pink eye</li> <li>• Sprain or strain</li> <li>• Referral to specialist</li> </ul>   

[Information on when to bring your child to the Emergency Department](#)



**Indigenous Life Sport  
Academy/  
EIDES Gr. 6 Students  
Cross Country Ski Club**



**PAINTING WITH A METIS ELDER**





Coding Club is a very exciting this year.... More than 100 students signed up!

The club runs from 3:15-4:15 Thursdays.

**School clothing is great for school sports events, spirit days**  
**And month-end assemblies!**

Pac has arranged to have our new logo Youth sized t-shirts, and socks available this year. The deadline for order is Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please see email sent out separately for all the details. This is the order link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14oNB0U0Vfsc-gTx8pJtwy089MQ2jEw2FCBPQOAAAYdkk>

**EIDES Marathon Running Club**

Great job Runners! We are in full swing and looking forward to spring running. Please ensure that your child comes dressed for the weather with a toque, mitts and running shoes (no boots). Parents who are joining us, please check the school Facebook page for cancellations due to adverse weather conditions. We run most days regardless of weather, so please remember to run with care.



Keep up the great running Panthers!

The Running Club Team



**To all of our volunteers in the Panther's Pantry, we give you so many thanks for all your time, energy, and work that you're doing for the school!**

**We REALLY appreciate your help and couldn't do it without you!**

**As always big thanks from your EIDES Family in the Panther's Den!**

École Isabella Dicken Elementary School

# Daily Bell Schedule

8:20 - 8:50 am Morning Supervision #1  
 8:50 am Welcome Bell / Students Enter  
 8:55 am Classes in Session

## Recess

10:15 - 10:30 am Kindergarten & Gr. 1 on the primary playground  
 Grade 5 – 6 on the intermediate playground

10:30 - 10:45 am Grade 1/2 – 2 on the primary playground  
 Grade 3 – primary or intermediate  
 Grade 3/4 -4/5 on the intermediate playground

12:15 - 1:05 pm Lunch

## Lunch Schedule

Gr K- 1 and 1/2	12:15-12:40 pm	Outside primary playground
	12:40-1:05 pm	Lunch
Gr 2 - 3	12:15-12:40 pm	Lunch
	12:40-1:05 pm	Outside primary playground <b>3s allowed on intermediate</b>
Gr 3/4 and 4/5	12:15-12:40 pm	Lunch
	12:40-1:05 pm	Outside intermediate playground
Gr 5 - 6	12:15-12:40 pm	Outside
	12:40-1:05 pm	Lunch

1:00 pm Welcome Bell  
 1:05 - 3:05 pm Classes in Session

Our Home Reading Incentive Program is looking for books! If you have any gently used books, please drop them off at the office.



Check out the **lost and found wall** near the gym if your child is missing anything. As the weather gets nicer the wall gets fuller!







**DATES TO REMEMBER 2023**

**February - 2023**

Friday, February 17 No School- School break  
 Monday, February 20 No School-Stat Holiday  
 Wednesday, February 22 Pink Shirt Day and assembly

**March - 2023**

Thursday, March 2 Primary Pizza Day for Red Cross fundraiser  
 Friday, March 3 Portable Pizza Day for Red Cross fundraiser  
 Monday, March 6 Drama production dress rehearsal-school performance  
 Thursday, March 9 Drama production performance- Aladdin  
 Friday, March 10 Grade 6 Basketball tournament in Sparwood  
 Friday, March 17 Last day of school before spring break  
 March 20 – 31, 2023 – NO SCHOOL

**April - 2023**

Monday, April 3 First day back after spring break  
 Friday, April 7 No School – Good Friday  
 Monday, April 10 No School – Easter Monday  
 Wednesday, April 19 Primary Pizza Day- Blue Lake Fundraiser  
 Thursday, April 20 Portable Pizza Day- Blue Lake Fundraiser  
 Friday, April 21 No School – School break  
 Monday, April 24 No School – Pro D Day  
 April 25, 26, 27, 28 Early Dismissal – 2:05 pm

**May -2023**

Friday, May 5 No school-Professional Development Day  
 Friday May 19 No School- School Break  
 Monday May 22 No School-Victoria Day Stat

**\*\*Please note the changes that were made to the school Calendar\*\*  
 April 2023  
 (Approved- December 13, 2022)**

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			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				

March 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			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 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						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 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	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 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				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	

- School Breaks
- Professional Development Days
- Stat Holidays
- Administrative Day
- Second Semester



# YOUTH SOCCER REGISTRATION

OPEN NOW  
UNTIL  
APRIL 6/23

Boys & Girls  
3-17 Years Old  
House &  
Development

Registration Link

[www.ferniesoccer.com](http://www.ferniesoccer.com)

More info email [ferniesoccer@gmail.com](mailto:ferniesoccer@gmail.com)



Fernie youth soccer



@Fernieyouthsoccer



FYSA Gear Swap





## SchoolMessenger SafeArrival

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) is introducing a new, more efficient student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, making it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unreported student absences.

It is also used to contact parents and guardians when a child is absent (if the absence was not reported in advance). The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents/guardians at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the SafeArrival [toll-free number](#), [website](#) or [mobile app](#), you will NOT receive these notifications.

With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these **3 convenient methods**:

-  Using your mobile device, download and install the [SchoolMessenger app](#) from the [Apple App Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#). The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
-  Use the [SafeArrival website](#). The first time you use the website, select [Sign Up](#) to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
-  Call the toll-free number **1-(833) 566-1225** to report an absence using the automated phone system.
-  Contact your child's school directly to report an absence.

The SafeArrival options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time up to a maximum of 10 consecutive days. It is important to note that when setting up your account, **you must register using the email address and phone number associated with your child's MyEducation BC account.**

## SchoolMessenger SMS

### Opt In





*\*if your number is Canada-based.*

You will receive a text message requesting you to opt into your school or School District 5 text message alert service. This number was provided through your contact information in MyEducation BC.

If you would like to continue receiving messages from your school or district you must reply affirmatively with one of the opt-in key words. Simply reply to the original message (or send a text message to 978338 in Canada) with either the words "opt in" or "subscribe".

If you do not receive a text message, you still can participate in SchoolMessenger SMS (Short Message Service), known as "text messages" from your cell phone by texting "Y" or "Yes" to 978338. Standard message and data rates may apply.

-  For help information, text HELP, INFO, AIDE to 978338.
-  To opt out at any time, text STOP, END, CANCEL, QUIT, UNSUBSCRIBE, ARRET to 978338.

**Participating carriers:** Rogers Wireless, MTS, Bell, Sasktel Mobility, Telus Mobility



**TO** Staff and Parents of Elementary Schools in Interior Health Region

**FROM** Interior Health

**DATE** February 6, 2023

**RE:** Interior Health Vision Screening Program for Kindergarten Students

The Interior Health Vision Screening Program for Kindergarten students remains on hold while the province reviews the program. Considering the importance of vision in daily life, undiagnosed vision concerns can seriously affect children's ability, success, behaviour and confidence at school.

The Canadian Pediatric Society recommends vision screening for all children by Kindergarten entry. The Doctors of Optometry [website](#) suggests a first visit should occur between 6-9 months of age and then annually between ages 2-18 years of age.

In B.C., children 0-18 years of age are eligible for one basic eye exam per year. MSP will help contribute to all or a portion of the examination cost, depending on the clinic visited. The [Healthy Kids Program](#) may be able to support eligible low income families with financial assistance for their child's prescription glasses. To find an optometrist in your area see this section of the BC Doctors of Optometry [website](#).

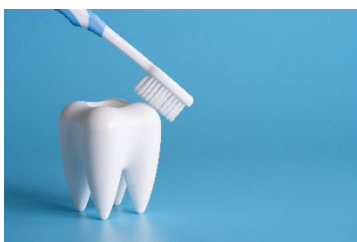
More information can be found here:

- [Elementary School Age Children and Their Vision](#) | HealthLink BC
- [Vision Screening and Eye Exams for Children and Teens](#) | HealthLink BC

The following resources on the Interior Health Website provide additional messaging:

- [School Health Care | Infant & Youth Health | IH](#) (interiorhealth.ca): On the IH School Health page, the "Vision" section includes general information and highlights the [BC Healthy Kids Program](#) (dental and vision program for low-income families).
- [Kindergarten Parent Letter](#): A letter sent out each year by IH's Healthy Schools team to parents of new Kindergarten children.
- [Kindergarten Health Hints](#): A resource shared at Kindergarten clinics ("Healthy Eyes" information on page 2).

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



## Dental coverage

If you receive income or disability assistance, you may be able to have basic dental costs covered. Everyone who receives assistance can access emergency dental services to relieve pain.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/on-assistance/supplements/dental>

www2.gov.bc.ca



**"A safe place to truly belong is vital to every child. Providing that as families heal and hopefully reunite is the most rewarding part of being a foster caregiver to a child who needs it."**

**MEGHAN, FOSTER CAREGIVER**

If becoming a foster caregiver has been on your mind, please reach out to Halina Wloka at 250-423-9718.



# We're Hiring!



Join us at the East Kootenay Career & Job Fair  
**March 1 10:00am-3:00pm**  
COTR Cranbrook Campus

- ▶ Journeyman Mechanics
- ▶ School Secretaries
- ▶ Custodians
- ▶ Bus Drivers
- ▶ Education Assistants
- ▶ *Many other opportunities*



**SCHOOL DISTRICT 5**  
S O U T H E A S T K O O T E N A Y

**Visit our website at [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca)**