

Gordon Terrace News

May 2026

Parent-Teacher Conferences & Early Dismissal

Parent-teacher conferences will take place on **May 12 and 13**. On both days, students will be dismissed early at **12:15 p.m.**

Supervision will be available until the regular end-of-day bell for students who ride the bus and those registered in the after-school program.

Please note that the district hot lunch program will be cancelled on these days.

Thank you for taking note of these important dates.

The URStrong Friendology Program is running in many of the classrooms this Spring, offering age-appropriate strategies and skills to navigate tricky social situations. Look at the flyer included at the end of this newsletter to learn some of the terminology we're using at Gordon Terrace.

Upcoming Indigenous Education Activities:

Friday, May 1st: Lunch and a Legend with Elder Juanita Eugene with Indigenous Kindergarten students

Tuesday, May 5th: Red Dress Gathering 11:00am at Rotary Park for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Wednesday, May 6th: Loom Beading

Thursday, May 7th: Field trip with Grade 1 classes to the Nupku Greenhouse with a playground visit to Aqamnik School

Tuesday May 12th: Indigenous Grade 6 students walk to Parkland Middle School for a Middle School Transition visit from 9:00am to Noon

Thursday, May 14th: Indigenous Grade 6 students travel by bus to Laurie Middle School for a Middle School Transition visit from 9:00am to Noon

Friday, May 22nd: Lunch and a Legend with Elder Juanita Eugene with Indigenous Grade 3 and 4 students

Date and time to be Determined:

Indigenous Education Grade Six students will travel by city bus to the Foundry for a tour



Happy Spring!

The Gathering Place has a few new updates: new matching dishes for Breakfast Club, sturdy shelving for our spare clothing and hygiene supply bins, and fancy new aprons with the Gordon Terrace logo.

ELEMENTARY TRACK & FIELD EVENT



Grade 4–6 Track & Field Practices!

Students in Grades 4 to 6 will participate in practices on select afternoons from **2:00–2:45 p.m.**, April 28, 30, May 4, 6, 8, 11, 14 2-2:45pm. weather permitting.

Please **mark your calendars for May 20.** This is the **only day** students will have the opportunity to try out and qualify for the District Track Meet. Unfortunately, there will be **no additional opportunities if this day is missed.**

To help students stay safe and comfortable, please ensure your child comes prepared with **proper athletic shoes, sunscreen, a hat, and a water bottle** to stay cool and hydrated. Let's get ready to **run, jump, and have fun!**

The **District Track Meet** will take place at the **College of the Rockies on June 2.**

PAC News!

Annual General Meeting: Our next meeting will be on **May 13th at 6 pm** in the library, where we will vote in our new executive team! We are still looking for more nominations for executive positions, so please consider putting your name forward so that PAC can continue to run next year. You do not need to attend the meeting to be voted in.

Track Meet Concession Volunteers: GT PAC is hosting the concession at the **District Track Meet on June 2nd.** We need parent volunteers to help support our student volunteers, with hourly timeslots available. Please reach out to gordonterracepac@gmail.com to sign up!

Shout Out to the Grade 6's! PAC would like to send out a big shout-out to the grade 6's who have put in a lot of work so far this year to fundraise for their Blue Lake trip. Keep up the great work! month!





Did you know that **May 4-10** is Mental Health Week?! This year the focus is on the importance of connection and belonging. One simple but powerful way families can support children's well-being and sense of belonging is through regular family meals.

Family dinners provide a natural opportunity for children to feel connected and supported, share their thoughts and experiences, and build stronger relationships with caregivers. From a mental health perspective, these dinner-centered moments can also help protect against loneliness, stress, overwhelm, and emotional disconnection.

FUN FACT: Dinner conversations can boost children's vocabulary!!

Dinner is a great vocabulary builder because rare words - words that young kids don't usually know - show up frequently in dinner conversation. As grown ups tell stories about their day, they often use more sophisticated language that kids can understand in the context of a story. Young children pick up ten times as many advanced words at dinner as they do when they are read to by an adult. And a bigger vocabulary can lead to stronger reading skills, because kids are more able to recognize and understand challenging words when they try to decode them for the first time.

Here are some fun conversation starters for dinner:

- Would you rather wear clown makeup or a silly wig everyday? Why?
- Would you rather sneeze cheese or cry chocolate tears? Why?
- If a genie granted you three wishes, what would they be?
- If you could invent something new, what would it be?
- If you got to plan everyone's day tomorrow, what would you do?
- Pick new names for everyone at the table and only refer to them by their new name for the rest of dinner.
- Give each person at the table an award for something they are good at

Kids can help, too! Provide simple tasks for your children to help out around dinner time and support their sense of responsibility and care for their home:

Set the table

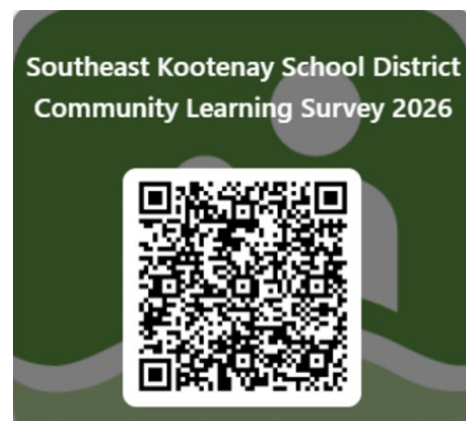
Put dishes in the dishwasher or next to the sink

Wash dishes

Wipe the table and counters

Sweep the floors

If you are looking to connect with the school counsellor, please feel free to email Mrs. Doll (karley.doll@sd5.bc.ca) or Mrs. Dueck (Sharon.dueck@sd5.bc.ca)



YOU'RE INVITED TO:

READY, SET, LEARN

CRANBROOK

INTENDED FOR FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN, BIRTH TO FIVE-YEARS-OLD. THIS EVENT PROVIDES A FUN, FAMILY-ORIENTED ATMOSPHERE WITH THE INTENT OF SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S TRANSITIONS INTO SCHOOL.

TAKE PART IN PLAY-BASED ACTIVITIES WHILE LEARNING ABOUT THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED BY YOUR LOCAL EARLY LEARNING PARTNERS, ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AND OUR COMMUNITY. IT IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CONNECTIONS AND HAVE SOME FUN!

There will be music, treats, bubble machine, activity stations, and more!

WHERE: Rotary Park (134 - 10th Avenue S.)
DATE: Wednesday, May 27
TIME: 10:00 - 11:30am

REGISTER WITH YOUR CATCHMENT SCHOOL AND RECEIVE A CHILD'S GIFT BAG WHEN YOU ATTEND.

SCHOOL BUS ON SITE!

Mark your calendars!!!

May	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten Grad Photos Dilly Bar Day (last one) District Hot Lunch
	12-13	Parent-Teacher Conferences. School ends at 12:15
	15	School Break – No School
	18	Victoria Day- No School
	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Track Meet Grades 4-6 District Hot Lunch
	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spirit Day District Hot Lunch Ready Set Learn (Rotary Park)
	29	School Break – No School
June	2	District Track Meet
	3-4	Blue Lake Camp – Grade 6
	3	District Hot Lunch
	5	Parkland and Laurie Transition Day – Grade 6
	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate District Track Meet Date Kindergarten Orientation
	10	District Hot Lunch
	12	Administrative Day – No School
	18	District Hot Lunch
	21	National Indigenous Day
	23	Kindergarten Graduation
	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAC BBQ Water Day!
	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day of School! In session 9:00-11:00 am Learning Updates Home

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NIGHTS

Talk Openly, Share Opinions and Ask Questions

ELKFORD
MAY 19, 2026
 6:00-7:00 p.m.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY
CRANBROOK
MAY 26, 2026
 6:00-7:00 p.m.

MOUNT BAKER SECONDARY

Reflect • What will we do differently?

Develop • What is our focus?

Act • How will we implement?

Evaluate • Review, Assess and Update

TOPICS

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning for the District and the Community

School Growth Plans

Strategic Plan



WE ARE PROUD TO BE A

URSTRONG SCHOOL

Creating a kinder world by
empowering kids with friendship skills.

URSTRONG's whole-school friendship strategy has improved the social climate in schools around the world, connecting over a million kids, parents, and teachers with a common language of friendship.

URSTRONG teaches kids what's normal in a friendship and the difference between healthy and unhealthy friendships. In short, we teach kids how to become Friendship Ninjas.

Friendship Ninjas know how to put out common Friendship Fires® and how to combat Mean-on-Purpose behaviour by using their Quick Comebacks. Friendship Ninjas can get their friendships back into the Green Zone by taking steps to Talk-it-Out and they also understand that friendships can change and that's okay too.

There's a Friendship Ninja in all of us and URSTRONG helps kids discover theirs!

Discover everything URSTRONG has to offer and sign up to your included Parent Membership at urstrong.com



PSST!
GET THAT GLOSSARY ON
YOUR FRIDGE. THEN YOU CAN
USE OUR LANGUAGE OF
FRIENDSHIP TOO!

THE URSTRONG GLOSSARY

KIDS' LANGUAGE FOR KIDS' PROBLEMS

AT URSTRONG, WE BELIEVE IT'S IMPORTANT TO USE KIDS' LANGUAGE FOR KIDS' PROBLEMS. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE OUR VERY OWN, UNIQUE LANGUAGE OF FRIENDSHIP. HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT TERMS THAT CHILDREN, PARENTS, & TEACHERS LEARN IN OUR PROGRAM.



FRIENDSHIP NINJA

A Friendship Ninja is someone who surrounds themselves with friends in the healthy zone of the Friend-o-Meter. A Friendship Ninja is kind and friendly to everyone.

A Friendship Ninja understands the 4 Friendship Facts and puts out their Friendship Fires® when they ignite.

A Friendship Ninja stands up for themselves and their friends. A Friendship Ninja makes new friends and understands that friendships change, and that's okay.

Above all else, a Friendship Ninja is someone you want to be friends with because they're true to who they are!



FRIEND-O-CYCLE

The normal cycle of conflict in a friendship.

The phases of the Friend-o-Cycle are:

- Healthy Friendship
- Friendship Fire®
- Confront the Issue
- Talk-it-Out
- Forgive & Forget
- Closer & Stronger
- Healthy Friendship!



FRIENDSHIP FIRE®

Normal conflicts like hurt feelings, disagreements, and misunderstandings.



FRIEND-O-METER

A visual tool that helps assess how we are feeling in our friendships.



MEAN-ON-PURPOSE

Intentionally cruel, rude, malicious behaviour that is designed to hurt someone.



4 FRIENDSHIP FACTS

A set of four facts that help us have realistic expectations in our friendships so we understand what is normal.

1. No friendship (relationship) is perfect.
2. Every friendship is different.
3. Trust & Respect are the two most important qualities of a friendship.
4. Friendships change... and that's okay!



QUICK COMEBACK

A very short word or phrase that is used when someone is Mean-on-Purpose.

Quick Comebacks are designed to let the other person know that you heard/saw what they did and you're not okay with it.

LEARN MORE AT URSTRONG.COM

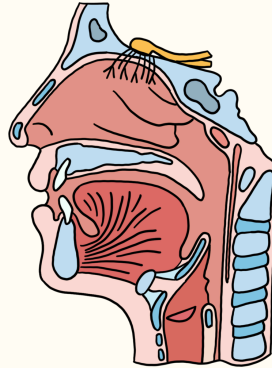


Speech & Hearing Month

May is about communication health

LANGUAGE

Language is the system that people use to communicate. It can be spoken, signed, and written. Language skills are the combined understanding and use.

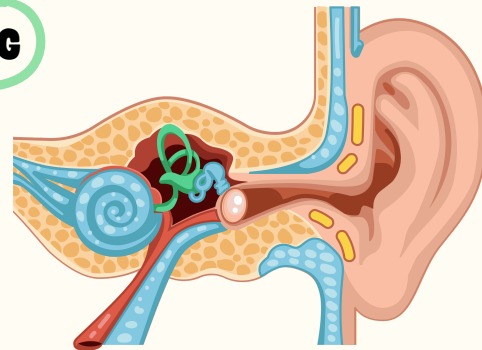


SPEECH

Speech production is the way a person uses the air in their lungs, vocal folds, and mouth to make sounds.

Hearing is a complex process of perceiving sound. Audiologists diagnose hearing loss. SLPs can help manage communication issues related to hearing loss.

HEARING



FLUENCY

Fluency is the flow of speaking. Flow is impacted in disorders like stuttering. It can sound like repeated words/sounds, or like stretched out sounds.



AAC

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) are ways of communicating besides speaking. This can be low or high-tech.

There are foundational skills that will help a child read and write, such as blending and segmenting sounds, or rhyming.

LITERACY

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

Executive function skills are the mental processes of attention, focus, memory, self-control, and mental flexibility.

PRAGMATICS

Pragmatics (social communication) is how people share experiences, make requests, greet others, and follow social patterns.

If you have concerns about your child's communication, contact your school's Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP).