



Khowhemun

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

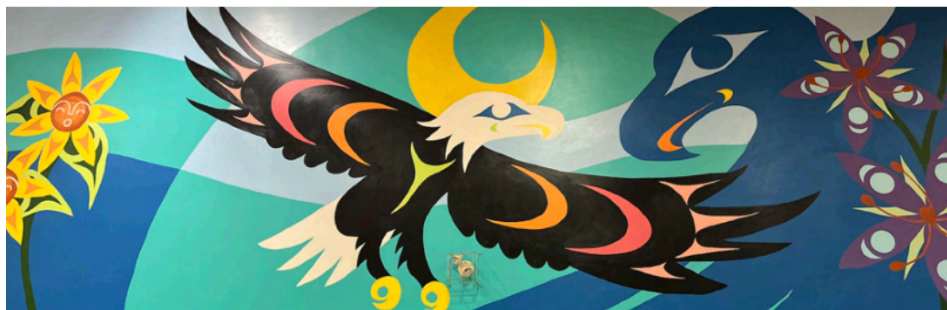
Together, we grow what matters most.

BELONG • LEARN • SOAR

SEPTEMBER 2026
NEWSLETTER

*Khowhemun
Knows...*

*Our school.
Our community.
Our future.*



Upcoming Dates & Events 🍓

Wed S	Paddling
	Paddling
Fri Sept 25	Terry Fox Run
Mon Sept. 28	PAC Meeting 6:00 pm
Sept 29	Truth and Reconciliation Walk Students and staff wear orange Welcome Back BBQ 4:00–6:00 pm Meet the teacher
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation No school for students
Oct 2	1-Hour Early Dismissal
Oct 12	Thanksgiving (STAT) No school for students
Oct 15	Picture Day

Welcome Back, Khowhemun Eagles! 🍓

Message from the Principal – Ms. Bhandari

Welcome back to a new school year! On behalf of our staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our returning and new students and families. I am so happy to be returning to Khowhemun Elementary this year, now in the role of Principal. It feels especially meaningful to return and continue the relationships and work we have built together. My hope is that every student feels a strong sense of belonging, is encouraged to challenge themselves, and knows they are valued for who they are.

This year, we will continue to encourage all of our Eagles to SOAR by being Self-Aware, On Task, Achieving, and Respectful, while living our Code of Conduct by being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe.

We are excited for a wonderful year filled with learning, growth, and connection. Thank you for partnering with us—we can't wait to see what we will accomplish together this year!





STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED.



At Khowhemun Elementary, strong communication helps *our school community* **BELONG, LEARN, and SOAR!**

3 WAYS WE KEEP YOU IN THE KNOW!

1. WEEKLY REMINDERS:

Sent by email and social media to give you a preview of the upcoming week.



2. MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

Emailed on the first Monday of each month. Printed copies are available at the office.



3. SOCIAL MEDIA:

Follow us for school news, celebrations, activities, and important reminders.



STAY CONNECTED!



THANK YOU for being a part of our school community!



When we stay informed, we can work together to support every Eagle to **BELONG, LEARN, and SOAR!**

Our SOAR Values

S Self-Aware
O On Task
A Achieving
R Respectful

Our Code of Conduct

Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Safe

School Start-Up

2026/2027 Classes

Students have moved into temporary classes, with the potential for changes to be made to placements throughout the month of September. To foster connection, engagement, and a sense of belonging, students will participate in a variety of temporary grade-level groupings and collaborative learning experiences the month. During this time, we are actively reviewing enrollment and carefully considering and planning for long term classes. We will keep families informed as we move through the month of September and appreciate your patience as we navigate this year's start-up. Please contact the school if you have any questions about your child.

Truth & Reconciliation

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: September 30, 2026

On September 30th, Canadians will observe the federal statutory holiday, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day is dedicated to reflecting on the history of residential schools. School will not be in session on the 30th.

At Khowhemun Elementary, on Monday September 29th we will be wearing orange shirts to recognize and raise awareness about the histories and legacies of the residential school system in Canada. We will also be participating in our own Truth and Reconciliation walk to honour and remember.



Visitors • Pick-Up • Drop-Off

Visitors to the School

At Khowhemun Elementary, we value our strong partnerships with families and warmly welcome visitors to our school. To help maintain a safe and focused learning environment, we ask that all visitors check in at the front office upon arrival. Unless you have been invited further into the school, please remain in the front entrance area. We also ask that families say goodbye to or greet their children outside or in the front entrance during drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you for helping us minimize interruptions to learning while supporting the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

Our Code of Conduct

Be Respectful

We care for ourselves, others, our school and community.

Be Responsible

We make safe, thoughtful choices and take responsibility for our actions.

Be Safe

We help create a safe and caring place for everyone.

Meet Our Khowhemun Team

Administration

Principal – Ms. Camila Bhandari

Vice Principal – Ms. Taylor Hellberg

Classroom Teachers

Div. 1 — Ms. McCallan

Div. 2 — Mr. Gill

Div. 3 — Mr. Rea

Div. 4 — Ms. Brooks

Div. 5 — Mr. Williams

Div. 6 — Ms. Burns

Div. 7 — Ms. Stott

Div. 8 — Ms. Green

Div. 9 — Ms. Guterson

Div. 10 — Ms. Geiger

Div. 11 — Ms. Baker

Div. 12 — Ms. Carlson

Div. 13 — Ms. Tarasoff

Div. 14 — Ms. Wadsworth

Div. 15 — Ms. Cochrane

Div. 16 — Ms. Parkin

Specialists & Supports

Arts Education — Mr. Pelletier / Ms. Day

Library Learning Commons / ADST — Mr. Dryden

Learning Support — Ms. McGeachy / Ms. Crockett / Ms. Hellberg

Indigenous Education — Ms. Julie / Ms. Sonja / Mr. Dwayne / Mr. Braeden

Counsellor — Ms. Heather Oosten

SLP — Ms. Rankin

ELL — Ms. Hillbrecht

Food Program — Ms. Smith

Before & After School Care — Ms. Desiree / Ms. Shandi

Educational Assistants

Nancy Walker • Janice Comeau • Kate Christian • Kim Cornett • Dennies Santiago • Sally Brown • Candice McLean • Desiree Catacutan • Shandi Evans • Jennifer Hicks • Amber Eddy • Kyla Gould • Gabrielle Lee

Family Essentials

Attendance & Lates

At Khowhemun, we know that regular attendance and arriving on time help students get the most out of their school experience. Every school day provides valuable opportunities for learning, building relationships, and participating in our school community. If your child will be absent or arriving late, please report the absence through SchoolMessenger or contact the school office.

Medical Alerts

Should your child have any allergies or medical concerns, please be sure to update your child's teacher or call the school office. Having this information on file helps us to assist your child with any medical needs they may have and to contact you quickly in the event of an emergency.

Safe Arrival, Dismissal & Parking

Use Crosswalks

Remind your child to use the crosswalks when crossing to the parking lots or to Cliffs Road.

Use Sidewalks

Walk behind the fence or along sidewalks, not through the parking lot or behind/in front of school buses.

30 km/h

Please follow the school-zone speed limit of 30 km/h.

Parking Lot

Keeping Arrival & Dismissal Safe

We know that arrival and dismissal are busy times of the day, with many families arriving and leaving within a short period of time. To help keep things safe and running as smoothly as possible, we kindly ask everyone to be mindful of where they stop and park around the school. Our staff parking lot is reserved for staff only and is not available for student drop-off or pick-up. Keeping this area clear allows staff to enter and exit safely and helps prevent congestion. Please also keep bus lanes clear at all times so buses can safely enter, load, and leave the school grounds. We also appreciate families being considerate of our neighbours by ensuring that driveways are never blocked, even for a short time. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.

Community Connections

Message from the District Indigenous Education Department

‘Uy’skweyul! Tansi!

Welcome to a fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous Education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success.

If your child has Indigenous ancestry - First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class. If you have self-identified with the school in previous years, you do NOT need to do a new form each year.

You can opt out of Indigenous Education services at any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250 748 0321 ext 235, or email at ined@sd79.bc.ca.

We are looking forward to a positive school year together!

Khowhemun Parent Advisory Committee

From Our PAC

On behalf of the PAC, we hope you all had a wonderful summer break. Welcome back to our returning families, and a very warm welcome to all new students, parents, and caregivers joining our school community this year!

As we kick off the new school year, we want to remind everyone that the PAC is here to support our students, teachers, and school community.

Every parent or guardian is automatically a member of the PAC, able to vote and help us make decisions on how we support and enrich our school community. We host monthly meetings to share updates, plan fun events, and discuss school support - Our first meeting of the year is September 28th, in the School Library at 6pm. We'd love to see you there!

We look forward to a wonderful school year together. Please feel free to reach out at khowhemunpac@gmail.com or on our Khowhemun School PAC Facebook page if you have any questions!

~Colleen Neville, PAC Chair

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