

École Belgo Elementary



Family Handbook 2026-2027

125 Adventure Road
Kelowna, British Columbia
V1X 1N3

Phone: 250-870-5115

School Website: www.bge.sd23.bc.ca

School Email: bge@sd23.bc.ca

Administrative Secretary: Mrs. Powell

Principal: Ms. Johnston



Welcome/Bienvenue

Welcome to École Belgo Elementary School!

We are delighted to welcome you to Belgo, a strong school built on genuine community support and a real sense of belonging. We are honoured to learn, play, and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) People, and we hold this acknowledgment close as we journey through each day.

At École Belgo Elementary, our bear symbolizes strength, courage, resilience, and community. As Belgo Bears, we strive to care for one another, face challenges with confidence, explore learning with curiosity, and work together to create a welcoming school where everyone belongs.

Our Belgo school family includes approximately 300 students from Kindergarten through Grade 6, and we take great pride in being a friendly and welcoming place for every student and family who joins us. We sincerely appreciate and warmly encourage each family's involvement in the regular school day and in the special events that make our community so vibrant.

We look forward to keeping you informed of important information and upcoming events through newsletters and classroom notices. Our school website (www.bge.sd23.bc.ca) is a wonderful resource.

It is our belief that, in partnership with parents and the community, our school shares in the responsibility of raising our children and equipping them with the tools they need to become effective citizens in today's society. At École Belgo Elementary, we strive each day to provide a safe, supportive, and caring learning environment, one that meets and challenges the academic, social, emotional, creative, and physical needs of each student. In collaboration with Central Okanagan School District #23, we look forward to helping all students grow into thinkers, innovators, collaborators, and contributors.

Our **Student Learning Priority** is:

Students will deepen their numeracy skills by sharing their thinking and engaging in real-world, task-based problem solving, using a variety of strategies.

On behalf of the staff of École Belgo Elementary School, I would like to extend a welcome. I look forward to meeting all our students and families! We look forward to a wonderful year.

Ms. Michelle Johnston
Principal
250.870.5115

School Programs

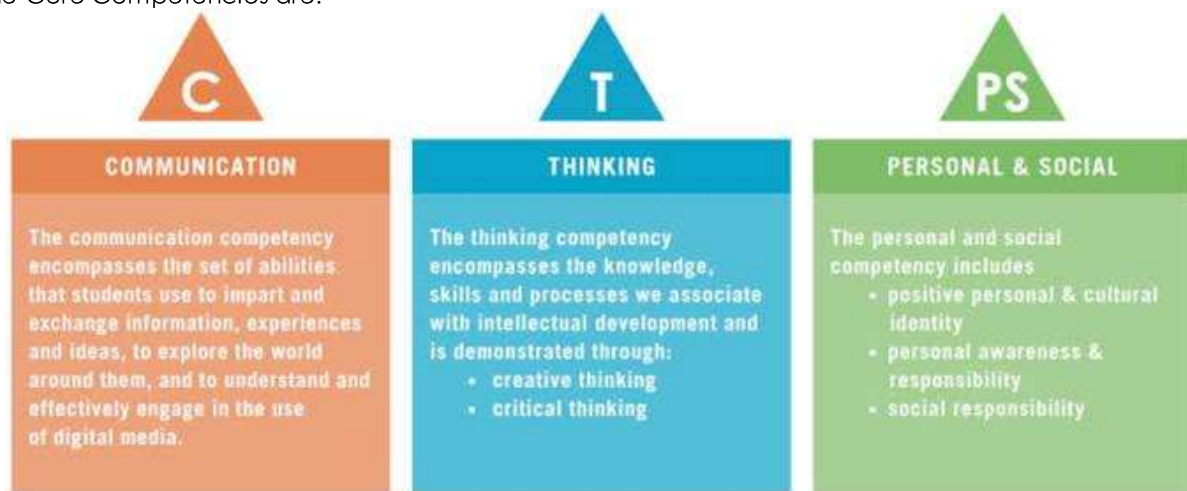
The educational goals at Belgo are consistent with the provincial Ministry of Education's primary and intermediate curriculum, as well as the goals of School District #23.

While the school accepts primary responsibility of enabling students to improve their achievement, we seek the support and commitment of families in order to make significant progress. After students complete their first years at École Belgo Elementary, we hope that they will be confident, eager learners with a solid foundation of basic skills and a strong sense of citizenship.

Elementary Curriculum

Teachers plan learning experiences based on the curriculum that is prescribed by the Ministry of Education with a focus on the different subject areas for both English and French Immersion Programs. As well, there is a focus on the six core competencies. An in depth and detailed explanation of the curriculum can be found on the Ministry of Education website: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

The Core Competencies are:



The **curriculum** includes the following subjects:

- English/French Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Physical and Health Education (PHE)
- Social Studies
- Career Education
- Science
- Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST)
- Arts Education (Music, Art, Drama, Dance)
- French as a Second Language (for Grades 5 English only)

In French Immersion, the majority of these subjects are taught in French with English Language Arts taught in English beginning in Grade 3. It is expected that the use of technology will be integrated with core subject areas.

Classroom Plans

All public schools in British Columbia follow the curriculum as prescribed by the Ministry of Education. The curriculum contains six core competencies that continue to be developed throughout a student's years in school. The curriculum also contains learning outcomes that are specific to the grade level. The core competencies and the learning outcomes outline the skills, knowledge and attitudes that form the foundation for classroom lessons and activities.

Often, the subject areas are integrated in a classroom 'theme'. For example, a Grade 3 thematic unit may be developed from the provincially prescribed Science learning outcomes on the topic, Space. Subject integration allows for a variety of skills and knowledge to be linked together from many subject areas. Some of the classroom 'Space' activities might include reading, writing, researching a space science project, and/or creating songs, poems and art work.

A parent may request a copy of specific classroom curriculum plans at any time during the term. For further information about classroom curriculum plans, please contact your child's teacher or the school principal.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct has been recently reviewed and sent out to all families in June 2024 to reflect the change regarding devices in schools. This also includes a chart of school expectations that teachers review with the students during the first weeks of school. We ask that parents review school expectations with their children at home as well. The Code of Conduct can also be found on the Belgo website: [Belgo Code of Conduct 2026 - 2027.docx](#)

Counseling and Behavior Intervention

Counseling is available for our students. Our counselor, Ms. Currie, offers counseling assessment, behavior support, limited one-on-one counseling, referrals and consultation. Parents may contact the school counselor by phoning the school at 250-870-5115.

Extra-Curricular, and Community Programs

École Belgo Elementary is fortunate to be able to offer several opportunities to enhance our regular programs including field studies, which extend classroom learning in a variety of alternate environments.

Extra-curricular programs are also offered and change from year to year. These programs are offered to students by staff and/or parents who volunteer their time at the lunch break, before or after school. Activities may include sports teams, clubs, choir, intramurals, or library programs. These activities will be announced in the weekly newsletter and/or during the daily announcements.

Indigenous Education Advocate

Indigenous Education Advocates provide emotional, social, academic and cultural support to students. They work closely with families, teachers, and other personnel to provide services for students.

Leadership / Service Programs for Students

Intermediate students (Grades 4 – 6) are invited to apply for a leadership / service role to the school. We thank students in advance for demonstrating leadership in the following:

- Lunch Leader
- Games Leaders
- Special Event Leaders
- Big Buddies

Learning Assistance

When a Child Needs Extra Help with Learning

While the classroom teacher has the main responsibility and the greatest impact when teaching your child, extra help is available for students who require additional assistance and/or have special learning needs. The Learning Assistance Teacher and other district staff help teachers to plan programs for children who require extra support or enrichment. The Learning Assistance Teacher may also provide support to the classroom teacher by working with a child in class, completing a detailed assessment of the student's abilities, or working with the student individually or in a small group out of the classroom setting. Certified Education Assistants (CEA's) may also be assigned to help students in some classrooms.

At École Belgo Elementary, the Learning Assistance Teacher coordinates the School-Based Team. The School-Based Team includes the school principal, the learning assistance teacher, the school counselor, the inclusion teachers (IT), other district specialists, classroom teachers and may include the parent(s). Together, members meet to plan individualized programs, and support learners.

Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to develop a **Learning Plan** or an **Individualized Education Plan (I.E.P.)** Parents of students who require an I.E.P are important partners in planning a program to meet the child's needs. If necessary, the school also has access to school district and community specialists such as:

- Speech and Language Pathologist
- School Educational Psychologist
- Resource (Special Needs) Teacher
- Deaf / Hard-of-Hearing Teacher
- Vision Resource Teacher
- Specialist for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Support teacher for the visually impaired
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Representatives from the Ministry for Children & Families
- Pediatrician or Family Doctor



Our library holds a large collection of picture books, reference books, magazines, novels and more. Our Teacher-Librarian and Library Clerical Assistant coordinate a schedule so that all classes visit the library each week for a book exchange. Students are expected to read at home

on a daily basis as part of our Home Reading Program. Special library events are held during the school year such as author visits, reading challenges, and book fairs.

Sexual Health Education Program

The Sexual Health Education program is taught to Grades 4-6 students. For the 2026 - 2027 school year, we will welcome two teachers from the School District Sexual Health Education team to deliver the program. Dates will be sent to parents as the school is notified. For more information, please contact either of the Sexual Health Education leader, Jenny Rabinovitch(250-870-5000).

Transportation

Parents are reminded that students must be registered riders with bus passes in order to ride the school bus. Only registered riders are allowed bus service to and from school. Alternate forms of transportation need to be arranged for after school social plans and daycare arrangements. This is a good time to review the safety rules for bus riders. These rules are posted on the transportation website at: <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Online applications for courtesy riders submitted will be confirmed early in the year on a space available basis by our transportation office. The number of courtesy seats will depend on the number of seats remaining on each route after eligible riders have been accommodated. Priority is given to students based on the age and the distance between home and school within the catchment area.

Due to the volume of applications for courtesy rides, it may not be possible to contact each applicant individually. If you believe that there is space available on a school bus passing through your neighborhood; please contact Transportation at (250)870-5151. Phone lines are open between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm Monday through Friday.

For more information about school bus transportation, please visit the website at <http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/transportation/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

School Policies

Absenteeism, Attendance, Arriving on Time, Call Home/Safe Arrival

Regular attendance helps to ensure your child's school success. We expect that students arrive at school on time to school in order to participate in the important morning routines with the class. To assist you with this, the school bell schedule is included with the yearly calendar.

École Belgo Elementary has a Safe Arrival Program for morning arrivals, and we request **EVERY** family's help to make this safety plan work. To do so, we request that you call the school office (250.870.5115) or use [School Messenger](#) to notify the school if your child will be late or away. You can leave a message about your child's absence on our answering service at any time of day or night.

Students who arrive late at school must sign in at the office.

Students who leave the school before the end of the day need to be signed out at the office by the parent/guardian.

First thing in the morning and afternoon, the secretary and teachers complete the class attendance. If a child is marked absent, but we have not heard from the parent, a call is made to the parent to determine the child's whereabouts. (If a child is absent in the morning, we do not do a second "safe arrival check" in the afternoon. Parents, please advise the school office when your phone numbers change.

Accident Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The IA Financial Group offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, click [here](#).

Anaphylaxis/Nut Aware School



Some students have life-threatening allergies to peanut products, bee stings, etc. **ECOLE BELGO ELEMENTARY IS A "NUT AWARE" SCHOOL. WE REQUEST THE COOPERATION OF EVERY FAMILY IN SENDING FOOD TO SCHOOL THAT IS NUT-FREE (PEANUT AND OTHER NUTS).** For the safety of all our children, thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

If your son/daughter is in a classroom with a child who has a serious allergic condition, necessary safety precautions will be implemented.

Bicycles, Roller Blades, Skateboards, e-Scooters, and other "Wheels"

Helmets, of course, are **mandatory**! Students must have a lock to lock up their bike at school. ALL students are to dismount and walk their bike, or carry their roller blades or skateboards on the school grounds. "Wheelies" and other stunts with wheel-like capabilities are not permitted at school. Thank you for reinforcing these safety measures with your children.

Electric scooters and E-Bikes are not permitted to be ridden by anyone under the age of 16 years of age, as mandated by the provincial government.

- Standard E-Bikes: Riders must be at least 16 years old

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/cycling-regulations-restrictions-rules/e-bikes>

- E-Scooters (stand-on-top): Riders must be at least 16 years old

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/electric-kick-scooter-rules>

Responsible Student Use of Personal Digital Devices, School Technology, and District Network Services

Student use of personal digital devices (any device used to communicate and/or access the internet), school technology, and district networks at school is for educational purposes.

Students must abide by the school's Code of Conduct and procedures, as well as Central Okanagan Public Schools Policy 486: Student Use of Network Services and Digital Technologies.

Students will:

- Secure, power off and store personal digital devices during instructional (i.e. class time) and non-instructional time (i.e. breaks/lunch) at elementary schools unless instructed by the Principal or school staff;
- Use personal digital devices during instructional time for instructional purposes and digital literacy skills as instructed by the Principal or school staff;
- Ensure personal digital devices are not used in areas where privacy is expected, such as restrooms and change rooms;
- Be permitted to use personal digital devices to support accessibility, accommodations, medical and health needs;
- Always take precautions to ensure online safety, privacy, and security;
- Treat others with respect and kindness when using digital devices and district network services;
- Always use digital devices and district network services responsibly and with academic integrity.

Schools will ensure that all students have equitable and developmentally appropriate access to technology to meet curricular requirements. Students are not required to have their own personal digital device or cellphone at school.

The use of personal digital devices, school technology, and district networks is a privilege. Staff may revoke a student's access to devices because of inappropriate student conduct.

Violations of the school code of conduct could result in appropriate restorative processes or disciplinary actions including suspension and police intervention.

We recognize that some students use cell phones to communicate with family and care providers. This can be helpful. Cell phones can also present inherent risks to the safety and well-being of learners if the technology is used inappropriately.

We require learners to leave their **cell phones, smart watches, and other devices in their back packs throughout the school day**. Students can be asked to turn over their cell phones in cases where they are being used during the school day or on the school bus. Schools will not be held responsible for any misplaced, lost, stolen, or broken items, including cell phones and devices. When necessary, cell phones will be safely stored at the office and released to students or parents at the end of the school day.

Communication and Concerns

If you have a concern regarding a classroom practice or policy, you should first talk to your child's teacher. Unresolved concerns may then be supported by the principal or other district personnel. At Belgo, we value open, honest, and respectful communication between families and staff. Working together in a positive way helps us best support every child. While we understand that

conversations can sometimes involve strong feelings, abusive or disrespectful language toward staff will not be tolerated. If a discussion becomes unproductive or disrespectful, staff may ask to pause the conversation and reschedule for another time when everyone can engage calmly and constructively. Our goal is to always work in partnership with families to find solutions that support student success. You are encouraged to follow the above steps when dealing with any school related concerns.

Dogs and Pets



While we do love pets, pets are NOT ALLOWED on school property for safety and health reasons.

Schools within School District #23 have a policy where dogs are not permitted on school property at any time (even on a leash).

This is a health and safety issue where the School District must comply with Division 1, Part 107 of the Workers Compensation Act (WCB). By bringing dogs onto school grounds, the health and safety issue is exposing students and staff to the hazards of dog bites, dog fights, and dog feces which has to be cleaned up by school staff. Even if dog owners clean up messes, the residue can still be left on the grass where children play. Therefore, in order to stay in compliance with the Regulation and our own School Policy, dogs are not permitted on school grounds at any time.

Dogs are also regulated by our Regional District Bylaw which states that "no Owner shall cause or permit his or her dog to be within a public area to include: park, playground, sports fields, school ground, swimming area or public beach where dogs are prohibited unless otherwise designated by the Regional District or another local government authority." [RDCO Bylaw No. 1343, Part 6, #26].

Exception: dogs that assist the visually impaired and pets that are brought to school for special classroom events and pre-approved by the teacher and principal.

Dress Code

The way we dress can communicate the respect we show to others and to the school as a place for working and learning. The purpose of the École Belgo Elementary dress code is to clarify what clothing is reasonable for learners and staff to provide a positive and comfortable school climate. If clothing is determined by staff to be inappropriate, parents may be contacted. This expectation applies to all learners. Footwear must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons. "Wheelies" (shoes with wheels) are not permitted at school.



In addition, it is very important to provide children with clothing that is suitable for the weather: umbrellas, hats/hoods, boots, and rain coats for rainy days, hats and sunscreen for sunny days, and coats, hats, mittens, and boots for cold/snowy days. Snow pants are optional, but, if your child is planning to slide or kneel in the snow we ask that snow pants are worn.

Emergencies

Parents MUST provide a current emergency phone number to the school office. The phone

number that is provided should be the parent or someone the school can contact if we cannot reach the parent(s) at home or at work.

In case of illness, serious accident, or head injury, parents are contacted. If your child is ill, we will phone the parent to make arrangements for your child to go home. We have a first aid room in the event of immediate illness. In the case of serious injury or emergency at school, we will make every effort to contact the parents. If emergency treatment for a serious injury is needed and a parent or emergency contact cannot be reached, the student will be transported by ambulance to the hospital.

In the event of a fire, earthquake, lock-down, or bomb threat at the school, we will follow procedures outlined in school and district manuals which are practiced with students during drills carried out throughout the year. During such emergencies, School District officials will be contacted to assist in making decisions related to students' safety. All parents will be contacted if a decision is made to send children home.

Extended Absences

From time to time, but rarely, and for various reasons, we have students who miss school for extended periods of time. Sometimes this is for reasons associated with family plans, family business, or family vacations. Sometimes, it is due to illness, and sometimes parents/caregivers choose to keep their children at home.

Regardless of the reason, we do not have a procedure for granting students a "leave of absence". Rather, it is assumed that parents/caregivers will make decisions in the best interests of their own child.

In cases where students are away ill, students will be expected to "catch-up" after their return, as it is not realistic for teachers to prepare materials to send home for all their students who may be away. Also, activities missed in the classroom cannot be duplicated with learning activities sent home. We also know that regular attendance is an important part of each student's success at school. We recognize that students who are ill need to be at home; however, we encourage parents/caregivers to plan for special appointments or family activities outside of school hours whenever possible. We appreciate that this is not always easy to do. For family vacations, we are respectful of the fact that many of our families have family members far away, and spending time with them is important.

Difficulties arise, however, when parents/caregivers wish to have some sort of reassurance that their child will not be "behind" in their work when they return from an extended absence. Unfortunately, if your child misses school for extended periods of time, he/she will be "behind" in classroom work. Students may well have other cultural and travel experiences that contribute to their overall development, but the many varied daily classroom activities they will miss cannot be duplicated through worksheets or workbooks.

In the cases where parent/caregivers plan family holidays during the school year, please note that teachers are not able to prepare materials ahead of time to accommodate student absences. Students will be expected to "catch-up" after their return. It is important to note that some learning activities cannot be duplicated and may affect a student's overall achievement.

Field Studies

Each year, teachers organize curricular field studies for their classes. These trips reflect our school

programs and are an important part of learning.

For each field trip, it is school district policy that a PARENT/GUARDIAN GIVE CONSENT FOR THE CHILD TO PARTICIPATE AND TRAVEL FOR FIELD STUDIES. A form must be completed and signed by the parent prior to the field trip day(s). **Students who do not return this signed form to the school cannot go on the field studies.**

Parent volunteers are often needed to help with a field trip. **When volunteering, parents are required to have a completed and current the Volunteer Declaration Form and Criminal Record Check well in advance of the planned Field Trip day.**

At times there will be costs involved with a field study. We would appreciate you paying using the School Cash Online. When this is the case, a letter will come home in advance from the classroom teacher. We do not want any student to miss out on a field trip experience due to financial hardship. School has funds to support learners who are not in a position to cover the cost. If you would like assistance with one or more field trips, please contact the office. Student safety is of utmost importance to us. Any sites we visit must carry adequate insurance.

Head Lice

Parents of students with head lice are contacted by the school office, so that students can be treated at home. A letter is also sent home to all families of students in the class in which a case of head lice has been identified. This letter does NOT contain the name of the student with head lice. Please contact the school, if you have discovered your child has head lice to help us prevent the spread of lice in the classroom and the school.

After treatment, students are welcome to return to school, but parents need to check that the child is 'nit-free' before returning to class. Otherwise, the condition spreads or worsens. Advice regarding prevention and treatment of lice is available from the Health Unit, a doctor/pharmacist or at: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/Pages/default.aspx>

Lunch

For consistency and safety, it is our practice that students remain at school for lunch. There are rare circumstances where prior arrangements allow for students to go home for lunch. Parents, please let your child's teacher and the office know if, for any reason, your son/daughter will go home for lunch. If parents are picking your child up from school for lunch, please sign him/her out at the office.

This year, our students play at the first part of the lunch hour (11:10am). When the bell rings, they come inside to eat their lunch. There are supervisors inside as well as outside for the duration of the lunch hour. The afternoon bell rings at 12:07pm and school is back in session.

The School District hires *Noon Hour Supervisors* who monitor our students during the lunch hour. These trained employees circulate outdoors during the play time, and then supervise from classroom to classroom during the eating time. Their role is to ensure students' safety and to reinforce appropriate behavior. Our supervisors assist if a student needs help or is injured. Students are encouraged to sit down and focus on eating first, before socializing. In addition, our Primary classrooms have Lunch Leaders (students from Grades 4 – 6) who may assist the younger ones with finding their belongings, opening containers, etc.

“Hot Lunch” Fridays- This will be revisited by the PAC at the September meeting.

The Hot Lunch program is offered by the PAC. A menu is available online and includes a variety of healthy hot and cold foods which can be ordered and paid for on-line through our school website: [PAC Information - École Belgo Elementary](#) and clicking on “Hot Lunch”. The food served follows the Healthy Foods Guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education. Families who choose to participate must order online and pay by the deadline. The organization of this special lunch offer is done by parent volunteers who have a “Food Safe” certificate. This lunch program is entirely optional.

Medical Concerns and Public Health Nurse

A public health nurse from the Rutland Health Unit is assigned to our school and will come to the school if called. The regular involvement of the Health Unit includes dealing with student immunization and medical alert records for students with life-threatening health concerns.

Please ensure that the school is aware of ALL medical conditions affecting your child at school.

The public health nurse provides a yearly anaphylaxis/epipen training for all staff.

Medication at School

The School District has established a process for providing medication at school, and for having a plan in place for students with medical alerts. If your child must take medication during the school day, the school must be informed and appropriate forms need to be completed by the parent and doctor. Please contact the school directly if your child requires medication or special medical attention. The following procedure outlined below must be adhered to:

1. Parents must fill out/update a Medical Alert Planning Form, available at the office.
2. Parents must complete a “Request for Administration of Medication at School” form that must be signed and approved by the physician and parent(s).
3. The school maintains a record of administering the medication.
4. Medications are stored in the school office or kept in the student's backpack or fanny pack. These medications must be taken along on school field trips.
5. The medication cannot be expired.
6. The medication must be in its original container.
7. All forms are updated each year. Forms are reviewed annually by our Public Health Nurse.

For further information or clarification, please contact our school's head secretary, Mrs. Powell.

Parent Drop Off and Pick Up

The parking lot is for staff ONLY. At no time are parents permitted to drop off, pick up or park in the staff parking lot. This is for safety reasons. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

For kindergarten students, it is required that children are dropped off and picked up directly from their classroom door. Please stay with your child until you have handed them off to their classroom teacher.

Poor Weather

Fresh air and exercise are healthy, so students will almost always play outdoors every day. Please

ensure your child is dressed for the weather. If your child has a cold or flu that requires staying indoors, it is best for them to stay at home until they are feeling better. In general, if a child is well enough to come to school, we will assume that they are well enough to go outside. Furthermore, we do not have the ability to supervise students inside during outside play time. The children play outdoors during the lunch hour and afternoon recess, as well, teachers often take children outside during a morning snack time.

In severe weather conditions (torrential rain or extremely cold weather where the temperature (or wind chill factor) is lower than -20 degrees Celsius), an 'in-day' may be scheduled.

Students become used to staff reminding them to "bundle up" on chilly days, and to be proud to be Canadian, and embrace all types of weather!

To keep everyone safe and having fun, students are reminded of the following rules and expectations of snow:

- No throwing snow.
- No breaking snow creations on purpose.
- Remember: Snow does not belong to anyone. We share all forts and creations.

Scent Free Environment

Ecole Belgo Elementary is committed to providing a healthy and comfortable school environment for our students, staff, and parents. Using or wearing scented products while in the building is prohibited throughout the school.

School Supplies



We encourage parents to buy school supplies through the School District. One payment of \$40.00 in September will provide your child with all necessary school supplies for the year, including exercise books, paper, pencils, erasers, glue sticks, felt pens and much more! It is very economical, as well as practical in terms of ensuring that all students have the needed materials.

Payment is due by September 25th. In cases when payment of the fee is impossible, please contact the school principal to make alternate arrangements. Unfortunately, the school cannot bear the burden of unpaid supplies.

Please contact your child's teacher for a list of needed supplies, if you choose not to participate in the school's Supply Purchase Program.

Cultural Fee

Throughout the school year, every school hosts several performances and concerts in our school gyms. A cultural fee of \$10.00, paid at the beginning of each year, entitles each child to see outstanding, professional performances selected by a committee of staff and parents from the school district. The performances may include live theatre, professional musicians, and other performing groups. New families who arrive during the school year are asked to pay this fee (pro-rated) at the time of registration.

TOTAL COST for 2026 - 2027 is \$50.00 for School Supplies and Cultural Fees, due Sept. 25, 2026, payable through online payment on our school website.

Search and Seizure Policy

Student searches may be made by staff based on reasonable suspicions of a violation of school rules and/or law. The search shall be made pursuant to reasonableness, and based on the age and sex of the student. A search of a backpack, desk, or pockets is generally the extent of the search. In most cases, the student will be asked to show the staff member the contents of the backpack, desk, or pocket. Items retrieved during the search may be confiscated if the item is in violation of the school code of conduct. Contraband and other property unauthorized to be on school property or brought to school sponsored activities will be seized for evidentiary purposes in the event of a school hearing and/or legal hearing. Return of the property may be made to the parents/guardians of the student. Illegal contraband or other property will be turned over to the proper law enforcement.

Snowballs

Like all schools in the district, Belgo is “**snowball-free**”. This rule is consistently enforced to ensure the safety of all students and to prevent damage to property. We encourage students to play in the snow, to make snow forts, snow sculptures, snowmen and snow angels; however, we ask for NO throwing of snow. Should students choose to break this rule, a series of consequences will follow.

Supervision of Students

Staff members supervise students on the playground in the morning from 8:15 - 8:30, during the afternoon recess, and from 2:30 - 2:45 each day. Parents are asked to arrange their children's school arrival and departure to coincide with these times. **Students who arrive before 8:15 am and leave after 2:45 pm ARE NOT supervised.** After school, supervision is limited to the larger playground next to the parking lot. Students who are still outdoors waiting for a parent/care-giver to arrive at 2:45 p.m. will be brought in to the office until the parent/guardian arrives. If you are running late to pick up your child, you can help us assure that your child is brought in by calling the office to advise us.

Staff supervise all official organized activities (school sports team practices, field studies, sports events, and library). Please arrange school arrival and departure to fit your children's special activities and events, as well as the scheduled supervision times.

Technology: Responsible Student Use of Personal Technology Devices, School Technology, and District Networks

The purpose of using network services and digital technologies while in educational settings is to engage in responsible educational activities. Therefore, the use of personal technology devices, school technologies, and district network services requires students to abide by the school's Code of Conduct and procedures, as well as Central Okanagan Public Schools Policy 486: Student Use of Network Services and Digital Technologies.

Some examples of responsible use with district and personal devices include the following:

- **Act responsibly** when accessing technology and district networks, including the Internet in their school.
- Use technology equipment and property according to all applicable rules and with **care and respect**.
- Engage in **appropriate use** as directed by school staff.
- Respect the **safety and privacy of self and others** and do not provide personal contact information about themselves or other students.
- Treat others with **respect and kindness** when using digital devices and network services.
- Respect **resource limits** of the network services and do not engage in activities that jeopardize the integrity, security or performance of the network.
- Understand the importance of **privacy and security** and take all reasonable precautions when accessing network services and digital technologies.

The use of Personal Technology Devices, School Technology, and District Networks is a privilege and usage may be revoked at any time for inappropriate conduct. Schools will not be held responsible for any misplaced, lost, stolen, or broken items brought to school by students. Use of network services and digital technologies which violate the terms outlined in policy and/or the School's Code of Conduct may result in serious consequences including definite or indefinite suspensions and/or police intervention.

Home and School

Freedom of Information, Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP)

In order to protect our students, private information is not released to the public regarding any of our students. A form needs to be signed early in the school year if parents do not wish to grant the school permission to take their child's photo or publish their child's name in our school newsletter, yearbook or the local newspaper. This information is kept on record in the office.

Lost and Found

Lost & Found items may be retrieved from the hallway near the Library. Parents and students are welcome to come and look through these items at any time. During holiday breaks, any unclaimed articles are donated to a local charitable organization.

Small items (coins, keys, eyeglasses, etc.) are often found and brought to our school office. These are stored inside the office. Check with Mrs. Powell, our secretary, if small or more costly items have been misplaced. Due to the possibility of theft, damage or loss, we ask that electronic devices are NOT brought to school, especially since they are not permitted during class time.

Newsletter

Our weekly school newsletter and calendar are updated and made available to parents, with updates posted regularly on our website and via email.

Other school publications available on our website include:

- [École Belgo Elementary Code of Conduct](#)
- Family Handbook

- [2026 -2027 School Calendar](#)

P.A.C./ Parent Volunteers

Congratulations! Every parent of a Belgo student is part of the Belgo Parent Advisory Council (PAC). At Belgo, we need and value parent volunteers!

Belgo relies on parent volunteers to run many of its events and programs such as Hot Lunch, Family Fun Dances, Pancake Breakfasts, and more! The PAC meets each month to share information about school programs, gather ideas from other parents and listen to updates about special projects. These meetings are fun, interesting, and open to ALL parents. Please come and bring along a friend. Our PAC elects its executive in May of each year. The 2026 - 2027 PAC Executive looks forward to working with all parents to make this a terrific year! Please watch for additional communications from the PAC in the Belgo Weekly eNews.

President: Krystal Brown

Treasurer: Laura Naputi

Vice President: **Open**

Fundraising: Anna Crosland

Fun Coordinator: Laura Bensler

Secretary: Jenny MacDonald

COPAC Representative: **Open**

Communications: Sophie Miranda

Hot Lunch Coordinators: Sophie Miranda & Krystal Brown

Written Learning Updates (Report Cards) and Conferences

Information about students' progress is shared at least five times during the school year. Conferences and Written Learning Updates are designed for this purpose. Dates for conferences are sent home in the annual school calendar and in newsletters throughout the year. This year, conferences will be held on October 7th and 8th and on February 4th and 5th.

Written Learning Updates are sent home three times during the school year. In addition to having the school contact the parents regarding a child's progress, parents are welcome to contact their child's teacher at any time.

School Photos

In the Fall, individual photos are taken by a professional photographer. Dates for these photos are advertised well in advance of photo day. Photo package costs vary slightly from year to year. Retakes, if needed, are also taken in the Fall. The photo packages are usually ready for Christmas gift giving.

All students at our school receive a free "class photo" in the spring, when class photographs, group/club photos, and the school panorama photo are taken. Parents will be notified of 'Class Picture Day' in the school newsletter and via email. Photo Day is currently scheduled for Thursday, October 13th. Retakes will be held on November 10th.

BELGO STAFF 2026 - 2027

Principal: Michelle Johnston

Administrative Secretary: Rhonda Powell



	English Program	Teachers
2001	Kindergarten	Ms. Charlotte Cornel
2002	Grade 1 & 2	Mrs. Gillian Hayward
2003	Grade 3 & 4	Ms. Deb Gray
2004	Grade 3 & 4	Mr. Sam Goodwin
2005	Grade 5	Ms. Michelle Redman Simren Panghli (Teacher Intern)
	French Immersion	Teachers
1001	Maternelle	Mme Chloe Latendresse
1002	Maternelle & 1	Mme Tasha Gregorie
1003	1 & 2	Mme Adrienne Milnes
1004	2	Mme Lynn Harshenin
1005	3	Mme Solana Wyatt
1006	4	Mme Daisy Valentino
1007	5	Mme Victoria Mackenzie
1008	6	M David Paquette
Support Staff		
Administrative Secretary		Mrs. Rhonda Powell
Teacher-Librarian/Prep		Mrs. Joanne Gorjanc
Prep/ELL		Mrs. Alicia Kudryk
Counsellor		Ms. Barbara Currie

BELGO STAFF 2026 - 2027



Principal: Michelle Johnston

Administrative Secretary: Rhonda Powell

Support Staff (continued)	
Learning Assistance/ELL	Mme Pam Rice
Inclusion Teacher	Ms. Charolotte Woods
Inclusion Teacher	Mrs. Becki Jaworski
Inclusion Teacher	
Day Custodian	Mr. Jim Jasper
Night Custodian	Mr. Paul Clarke
Head Custodian	Mr. Randy Anderson
Library Assistant	Mrs. Melissa Wiebe
C.E.A.s	Mme Michelle Chell Mrs. Laura Wray Mrs. Laura Bensler Ms. Christa Kalinczuk Mrs. Kezia Wickenheiser Ms. Kate Do
Indigenous Advocate	Ms. Amie Edwards
Speech Pathologist	Ms. Giselle Maier
First Aid	Mrs. Melissa Wiebe



ÉCOLE BELGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2026-27

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan Public Schools)

125 Adventure Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1X 1N3

Phone: (250) 870-5115 www.bge.sd23.bc.ca



Days in session	190
Number of days of instruction	183
Number of non-instructional days	7
Schools open – Tuesday only, 8:30-11:00	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (schools closed)	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Early Dismissal at 12:00 for Parent-Teacher Conferences	Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Early Dismissal at 12:00 for Parent-Teacher Conferences	Thursday, October 8, 2026
Administrative Implementation Day	Friday, October 9, 2026
Thanksgiving Day (schools closed)	Monday, October 12, 2026
Teacher Professional Day	Friday, October 23, 2026
Remembrance Day (schools closed)	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
First Written Learning Update	Wednesday, December 17, 2025
School closes for Winter vacation at 2:30	Friday, December 18, 2026
Winter vacation period (schools closed)	Monday, December 21 – Friday, January 1, 2027
Statutory Holiday New Years Day (schools closed)	Friday, January 1, 2027
School reopens after Winter vacation	Monday, January 4, 2027
Early Dismissal at 12:00 for Parent-Teacher Conferences	Thursday, February 4, 2027
Early Dismissal at 12:00 for Parent-Teacher Conferences	Friday, February 5, 2027
Teacher Professional Day (Support Staff In-Service Day)	Friday, February 12, 2027
Family Day (schools closed)	Monday, February 15, 2027
Second Written Learning Update	Wednesday, March 11, 2026
School closes for Spring vacation at 2:30	Friday, March 12, 2027
Spring vacation period (schools closed)	March 15 – March 26, 2027
School reopens after Spring vacation	Tuesday, March 30, 2027
Good Friday (schools closed)	Friday, March 26, 2027
Easter Monday (schools closed)	Monday, March 29, 2027
Victoria Day (schools closed)	Monday, May 24, 2027
Last Day of School and Third Written Learning Update	Tuesday, June 29, 2027
Administrative Day (students do not attend)	Wednesday, June 30, 2027
Schools close	Wednesday, June 30, 2027

Bell Schedule for 2026-27

8:30-11:10 Instructional Time
 11:10-11:40 Lunch/Outdoor Recess
 11:40-12:05 Lunch/Outdoor Recess
 12:05-1:30 Instructional Time
 1:30-1:45 Recess
 1:45-2:30 Instructional Time
 2:30 Dismissal

Early Dismissal Days for 2026-27

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 (dismissal at 12:00)
 Thursday, October 8, 2026 (dismissal at 12:00)
 Thursday, February 4, 2027 (dismissal at 12:00)
 Friday, February 5, 2027 (dismissal at 12:00)

Staff In-Service Days for 2026-27

Friday, October 9, 2026
 Friday, October 23, 2026
 Friday, February 12, 2027

Statutory Holidays are highlighted in the above calendar.