

BVE DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

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DEAR BVE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES,

December, here we come! This is always such a fun and busy time of year in our school. Each day brings new moments of growth and accomplishment, and it's wonderful to see students' learning progress unfold. Teachers are wrapping up assessments and learning updates, and students are taking time to reflect on their own goals and achievements. Alongside our regular communication about student learning, the first written learning updates offer families a snapshot of your child's progress so far. Please watch for these reports to come home around **December 12th**.



We also recognize that while this season is filled with joy and anticipation, it can also be challenging for some families. Our district's **Affordability Fund** is available to help offset increased costs due to inflation. This support can be used for warm winter clothing, assistance with special trips, or providing spending money for school events. If your family would benefit from this support, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher.

As we move toward the holidays and all the excitement they bring, all of us here at BVE wish you and your family the very best!

Sincerely,

Ariel McDowell

Principal, BVE

Upcoming Dates:

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| Dec. 1 | December PAC meeting (6:30-7:30pm) |
| Dec. 10 | Whole school FREE Hot lunch (turkey, mashed potatoes and veggies) |
| Dec. 8-12 | First written learning updates sent home |
| Dec. 12 | Assembly @ 8:40 |

Dec. 16 BVE Christmas Concert in the BVE Gym 10:30 matinée,
6:30 evening performance
Dec. 18 PAC Green Christmas (detail in this newsletter)
Dec. 19 Last day before Winter Break, Pajama and Stuffie Day
Jan. 5th School resumes
Jan 9th Assembly @ 8:40

BVE School Learning Plan Goals

This year we continue to work on three goals to ensure our school is a healthy, effective and engaging place to learn. To see the full Plan, have a look on our website. The over-arching goals are:



1. Positive School Climate: Maintaining a thriving community of learners in a safe, welcoming and engaging environment;
2. Building on our successes in Literacy and Numeracy ;
3. Working toward Reconciliation, namely equity in student outcomes, enhancing opportunities for staff, student and family learning about the history and ongoing impact of colonialism, and getting to know the stories, languages, and peoples Indigenous to this place.

Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child born in 2021? It's time to register for Kindergarten in Revelstoke!

We are excited to welcome parents, guardians, and caregivers to register all children born in 2021 and turning five years old in 2026 for

Kindergarten starting this September! Revelstoke School District wants to ensure that staff and resources are in place at our neighbourhood schools to meet the needs of all Kindergarten students in our community. Registering new Kindergarten students during October 2025 helps us to be ready for our new young learners!

Leadership around BVE

- The BVE Spirit Squad group organized a very successful Jersey Day recently. Thank you to everyone who dressed up (and to everyone who dressed someone up) to make the day such fun! Ms. Johnson and Ms. Bafaro volunteer their time to plan these events with students. The next Spirt Day will be Pajama and Stuffie day on Dec. 19th
- Every day two students read the announcements on the school PA system. This job can be a little nerve-wracking, but such good practice for speaking publicly. If you're ever around the school right before morning recess (around 9:55), you may hear some brave Grade 6 or 7s doing the announcements for the day.
- Similarly, at our twice monthly assembly, senior students are the MCs. It takes such confidence, and also trust in the audience, to lead the whole school!
- Students in Mr. Uremovich's Grade 6 class have organized a BVE Cow Ball tournament season. Cow Ball is a game shared with us by EDG, and is a dodge ball variant that is high energy and fun! The Grade 6s referee the games, with the help of Mr. Weddell and Mr. Uremovich.

Seasonal Food Bank Drive

The Revelstoke Food Bank is again experiencing very high need for their services. Here at the school we are collecting **non-perishable food items** in each classroom and in the foyer, to be taken to the Food Bank before Winter Break. Canned fruit and vegetables, high protein items like almond and peanut butter are always a need, as are seasonal items like boxes of crackers and preserves, soup bases and dried ingredients. **Cash donations or gift cards are also welcome.** Admission to our winter concert will also be by donation, with all proceeds going to the Food Bank.



BVE Concert is December 16th!

The hallways are filled with the sounds of the season as classes prepare for the big day! Please join us for either the **Matinée performance at 10:30** or the **evening performance at 6:30**. For the evening performance, **students are to be dropped off in their classrooms between 6:00 and 6:15 pm** so they can do one more practice and get costumes on.

BVE Drop Off and Pick Up

THANK YOU to everyone who continues to drop off and pick up on Ninth Street. If you have gotten out of the habit of dropping off on Ninth, please remember: only families with children in Cornerstones childcare, Kindergarten or Grade One may enter the BVE cul-de-sac by car for drop off AND pick up.

RESPs and Saving for your child's education

Your child may be able to receive a \$1,200 training and education savings grant. Children are eligible if you and your child, are BC residents. Once you open an account, known as a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP), the Government of British Columbia will deposit a \$1,200 BC Training and Education Savings Grant into the RESP for your child. Students can use the money to pay for their education expenses (e.g., books, tools, rent or transportation) in an apprenticeship program, a trade school, CEGEP, college, or university. You don't actually have to put any money into the RESP for your child to receive the \$1,200.

Step 1: Get Social Insurance Numbers (SINs) for you and your child. Go to <http://www.canada.ca/social-insurance-number> or call **1-800-622-6232** to find out how.

Step 2: Make an appointment with a financial organization that offers RESPs. Bring the **SINs for you and your child**. Learn more: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/BCTESG> Contact: BCTESG@gov.bc.ca

Gaga Ball



Thank you to the PAC who has helped us purchase the materials for an addition to the BVE play areas: a gaga ball pit! What is this, you ask? Well, it is a game that our older students have gotten to try at Sunnybrae, and they always come back WISHING we could build one here. So, we're working on it! The lumber has been milled by Greenslide, and the brackets have arrived from the manufacturer. Now, we just need to cut the pieces, prepare the spot, and put it all together! Watch for a message in the weeks ahead – we may need a work party! (Note: the picture is from the hardware manufacturer. Our pit is not built yet, but will look similar).

School District No. 19 - Middle-years Development Index (MDI) and Early-years Development Index (EDI)

For two decades Revelstoke Kindergarten teachers have completed the EDI. The foundational goal of the EDI is to promote “equity from the start.” Over time, EDI data have highlighted that there is great disparity in the rates of children’s developmental vulnerability across different geographic areas in BC – children’s development is impacted by where they live in the province. Revelstoke’s children continue to show low rates of vulnerability, which is a testament to the strong community we are fortunate to call home. Decades of research, informed by the observations of Kindergarten teachers, reinforces the value of investing more robustly in early childhood development – it is society’s collective responsibility to provide the best possible start for all children. This year again, Kindergarten teachers will complete the EDI to continue the research that helps our community prioritize quality early years programs and collaboration.

The Middle-years Development Index (MDI) gives children in Grade 5 and 8 the chance to tell researchers (and parents and teachers), about their experiences inside and outside the school. The MDI is not used to assess a child individually, but to understand how groups of children are doing in areas of their life related to social and emotional well-being, health and academic achievement. The information collected helps schools, communities and governments understand children’s health and well-being during middle childhood. For more information, there is an [MDI Info Sheet](#). Grade 5s will complete the MDI in January or February. Both of these measures help BVE, the School District, and our community and families understand the strengths and needs of the children of Revelstoke. You can see past reports for both the EDI and MDI for Revelstoke [here](#).

Grade 7 Christmas Fundraiser

The Grade Sevens will be making Christmas centerpieces again this year! The money made from this fundraiser will go towards their year-end field trip to Sunnybrae. We will be making our Christmas creations on December 9th and 11th, and they will be ready for pickup in the little stairwell area of BVE (facing RSS and the BVE playground) on December 12th. Centerpieces will be priced at \$35 each. If you have a preference of colour theme, please include this in your email. Typical colours would be silver, gold, green, red or blue and this would apply to candles and/or ribbons.



Please email Kim Floyd @ kfloydsd19.bc.ca if you would like to pre-order. A limited amount will be available, and the cut-off will be December 5th, so we have time to get the appropriate materials.

If you are interested in purchasing one and supporting our Grade 7s, payment can be made via cash, cheque (payable to 'Begbie View Elementary School'), or debit/credit card at the office. If you would like to pay via the SchoolCash Online portal, please email Ms. Johnson at bjohnson@sd19.bc.ca



Photos are some examples of centerpieces students have made in the past.

La Grande Coulee, The Maple Man

On the final Wednesday of November, our school was so fortunate to have a visit from "La Grande Coulee, The Maple Man", M. René Turmel. M. Turmel is a third generation maple farmer in Sainte-Marie, Beauce, Quebec. M. Turmel taught us how he taps the 2000 trees on his farm, and how he makes approximately 8000 litres of maple syrup

each year from those trees. He taught us that the Abenaki originally discovered the sweet sap of the maple trees by watching the animals in the forest. He shared traditional music that fills the *Cabane a Sucre* at harvest time, including playing spoons to the accordion. Best of all? René prepared maple taffy for everyone to try! Nous vous remercions, M. Turmel! As well, a huge thank you to our BVE PAC who made this cultural performance possible!



Winter Clothing Swap Success!

The Green Team helped organize a very successful Winter Clothing Swap recently. A huge thank you to all the families who passed along winter clothing items. We hope everyone found a few things that they can use this Winter to stay warm!



Peaceful Problem Solving focus at BVE: Using our W.I.T.S.

Recently we have been learning about some tools that each of us can use to help us solve problems in a way that is effective and also peaceful. The acronym we're using helps us remember some of the tools we might use in a heated moment. [WITS®](#) is a BC-developed program for schools to teach children strategies that

W I T S stands for...

Walk away
Ignore
Talk it out
Seek help

promote kindness and reduce victimization including bullying.
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Staying Healthy over the Holidays

Handwashing is one way to reduce your risk of getting or spreading respiratory and stomach illnesses. This holiday season, follow these hand hygiene tips from Interior Health:

1. Wash hands:
 - when they are visibly dirty, before, during and after cooking or baking,
 - after handling raw or uncooked meat,
 - after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose,
 - after touching animals,
 - after going to the washroom, and
 - after touching garbage.
2. Have alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) available at holiday gatherings.
3. Encourage family and friends to wash hands before dishing up food and sitting down to eat.

And remember, if your child is feeling sick, please keep them home from school to prevent spreading illness.



BVE PAC Updates:

The next PAC meeting will be this Monday, Dec.1st at 6:30pm in the BVE Library. Childcare is available for FREE, provided by two Intermediate students, so come on out ☺ The Begbie View Elementary Parent Advisory Council (BVE PAC) supports BVE events, activities, equipment and more throughout the year....and you might not be aware that every BVE parent is a member of the PAC. There are many opportunities throughout the year



to contribute – you can help as much or as little as you are able. There are two ongoing fundraisers that your family can benefit from, and which also benefit our PAC: Lovable Labels and TrueEarth.



A message from the BVE PAC about Green Christmas:

A reminder that Thursday, Dec 18th is Green Christmas! Families are asked to donate handmade crafts or items that can make nice little gifts, and our students get to “shop” for Christmas. Each

class comes through the fair, and students can purchase gifts at a *very reasonable* price and have them gift wrapped for free. All items will cost between 25 cents, up to a few dollars. Please start thinking about what items your family would like to donate. These items can be homemade crafts or recycled items that you would like to receive yourself. Please do not donate broken items – and if there are volunteers willing to help check and sort donations, we would appreciate the help! Ideas are kitchen utensils, dish towels, jewelry, magazines, mugs, sunglasses, books, etc! The possibilities are endless! We ask that each family donate about 10 items per child if possible. You are also welcome to donate more than that! We kindly ask that donated items are not too large, as children will be transporting them home. Donations of wrapping paper or gift bags are also appreciated.

You can start dropping off items on Monday, Dec 15th, just inside the BVE entry doors on one of the carts provided. We will also be looking for volunteers to help sell the items and wrap them - sign up by calling the BVE office or on the BVE Parents Facebook page. Please send a small amount of money with your children the morning of December 18th so they may go Christmas Shopping! Items are tailored to your child's budget. Also please send along a bag so that your child can take home their gifts. Merry Green Christmas, Everyone!



District Grade Activities:



Each year the School District supports a variety of activities within the community for each grade to participate in. **Grade 3** and **6** students will head to Revelstoke Mountain Resort for **Alpine skiing/snowboarding** instruction with the RMR ski school. The Grade Ones will be going skating at the Forum, and the Grade 4's will be heading to Mt. MacPherson for **Nordic ski** lessons with the Revelstoke Nordic club coaches. Please watch for notices sent home for these events which will be occurring early in January.



As the year progresses, each grade will again be offered a different sports exploration opportunity in the community. Kindergartens have done Gymnastics, Grade 2s and 5s will swim, and Grade 7s will curl and golf. The school district provides financial support for the programs and therefore there is no fee for students for any of these activities.

SD 19 Indigenous Education focus for December

There will hopefully soon be snow on the ground and that means it is the time for storytelling! The Indigenous Education Department is excited to offer classes the opportunity to share stories with Secwepemc “Knowledge



Sharer” (as he likes to be called), Kenthen Thomas. Kenthen shared the power of oral storytelling with our school staff in August, including the lessons, science and survival information embedded in traditional stories.

We are grateful to welcome Kenthen back to share, this time with BVE students.



STAY CONNECTED!

Please visit our website begbieview.sd19.bc.ca