

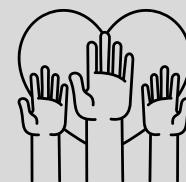


# WHOO'S NEWS

APRIL 10, 2026



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT K.S.S. THIS SUMMER! July 22-26, 2026



The BC Summer Games are coming to Kelowna this July 22 - 26. K.S.S. is an accommodation site for young athletes and we need reliable volunteers to help us create a memorable experience!

For more information and for volunteer registration, please see [HERE](#).

Thank you.



| UPCOMING DATES |  |
|----------------|--|
| Apr 13         | Windscares Choral Festival at St. Michael's Church   |
| Apr 13-17      | DELF Exams   |
| Apr 14         | KSS PAC Zoom Meeting 6:30 p.m.   |
| <b>Apr 16</b>  | <b>Quarter 3 Ends</b>  |
| <b>Apr 17</b>  | <b>Quarter 4 Begins</b>  |
| Apr 20-24      | Ministry Assessments   |
| Apr 22         | Earth Day  |
| Apr 22         | IH Student Wellness Clinics (a.m.)   |
| Apr 22         | Post-Secondary Prep #3 in LLC  |
| Apr 22         | IH Student Wellness Clinics  |
| Apr 24-May 5   | Gr 11-12 in-class Sexual Health Education<br><i>Information will be mailed to parents next week.</i> |
| Apr 27-May 1   | Prom Ticket Sales (see page 3)   |
| Apr 28         | National Day of Mourning   |
| Apr 29         | Air Band Finals at 7:00 p.m.   |
| May 1          | Student Written Learning Updates are published   |
| May 4-15       | AP Exams   |
| May 12         | KSS PAC AGM in LLC at 6:30 p.m.  |
| <b>May 15</b>  | <b>Prom</b>  |
| <b>May 18</b>  | <b>NO SCHOOL - Victoria Day</b>  |

### 2026-2027 Course Requests

Returning students may check their 2026-2027 Course Requests in their MyEd Student Portal as follows:



*If you are having trouble logging in, or you need a password reset, please email: [kss@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:kss@sd23.bc.ca) or call 250-870-5105 extension 0.*

### Be Scent Aware





# PAC UPDATE

## Community Matters

**Come Join Us!**

**April 14th @ 6:30pm**

Zoom: <https://sd23.zoom.us/j/67518347556>

# A G E N D A

### 1 GUEST SPEAKER

*Jordan Long (teacher)*

Learn about an opportunity for KSS to engage in Participatory Budgeting, which is a democratic, bottom-up, inclusive approach to spending community funds. It allows citizens to have a say and more directly decide how funds should be spent in their community, rather than someone deciding on their behalf.

### 2 PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

What is happening at KSS

### 3 CHAIRS UPDATE

What's going on in the school in academics, clubs, sports, and more

### 3 PAC BUDGET UPDATE

### 4 COPAC UPDATE

What is happening at the district level

**NEED HELP WITH MATH & SCIENCE?**  
 COME TO **ROOM 284**  
**TUESDAY MORNINGS 8-9AM**  
 MS. DRESCHER CAN HELP!

SCIENCE MATH

JUST DROP IN!

Grade 12: Class of 2026

# POST-SECONDARY PREPARATION

KSS will be offering grade 12 students **3 optional POST SECONDARY PREPARATION SESSIONS (PSP)** to help prepare for education after high school!

### PSP #1

OCT. 22 & 23  
11:30 am  
KSS LIBRARY



- ✓ Getting Organized
- ✓ Transcripts
- ✓ Entrance Requirements
- ✓ How to apply

### PSP #2

NOV. 25 & 26  
11:30 am  
KSS LIBRARY and



- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Central Okanagan Bursary & Scholarship Society: COBSS
- ✓ Scholarships / Awards

### PSP #3

April 22  
11:30 am  
KSS LIBRARY



- ✓ Post-secondary calendar
- ✓ Updates & deposits
- ✓ Course planning
- ✓ Course registration

**SAVE THE DATE**

The sessions are identical. Please plan to attend during your spare to avoid missing class time.

If you must miss class time, plan ahead with your teacher, early class dismissal required.

**Presentations will be posted on the KSS website for further information.**

# PROM 2026

**KSS Promenade (Grad Walk), followed by KSS Grad Banquet and Dance, is on Friday, May 15, 2026.**

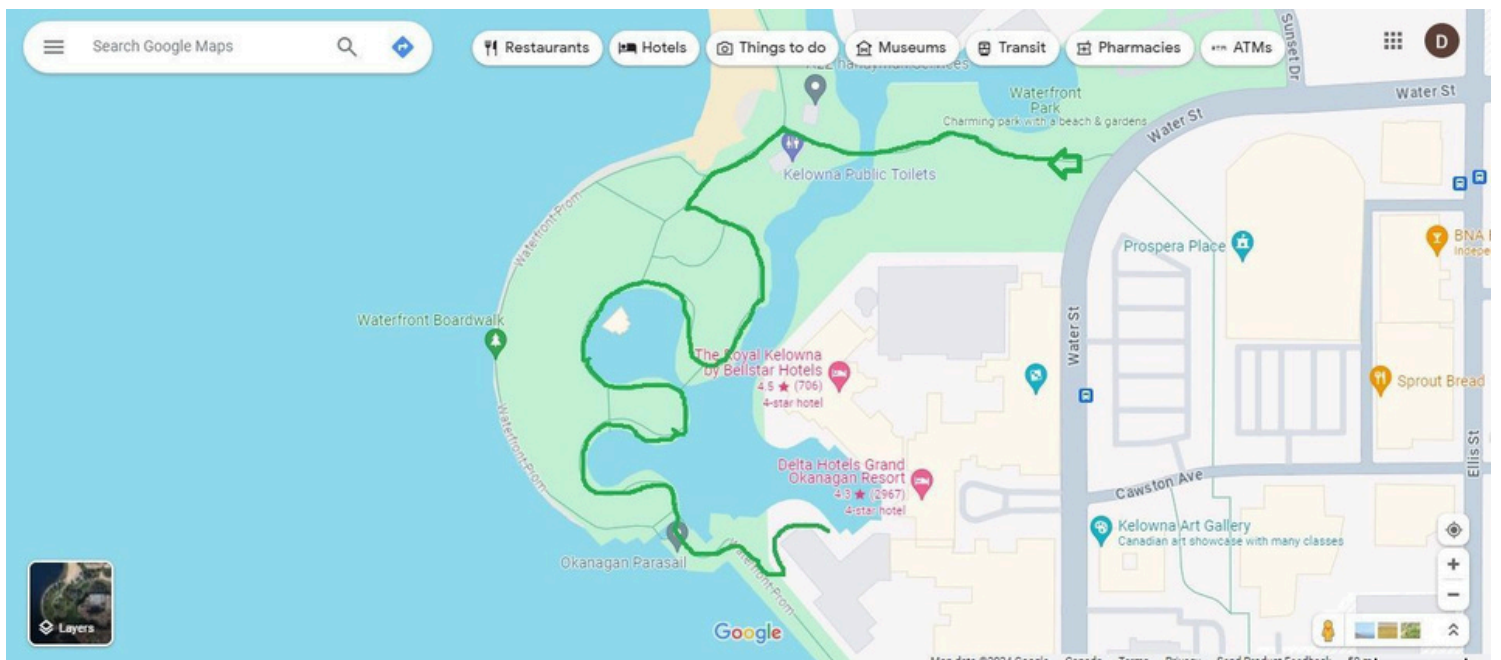
We look forward to seeing all graduates and their loved ones for the traditional graduation promenade beginning at the Dolphins Statue, downtown, at 1200 Water Street. Grads **MUST** be in place at the **Dolphins by 5:00 p.m.** on Friday, May 15. The Promenade Walk will begin at 5:15. The walk will conclude at the pool entrance of The Delta Grand Hotel where the banquet and dance will take place. Grads will be checked in and enter at this location.

*\*\* Grads must show photo ID to enter the banquet/dance. \*\**

**New this year** - as this is a school event, Grads (and guests) are required to submit a **Field Study Permission Form**. Forms will be available outside of the main office, in front of room 147, and at the school store. **You must hand in a signed Parent Permission Form when you come to buy a ticket.**

See following page for Prom Ticket Sales and Eligibility.

## [Grad Walk Map](#)



## PROM TICKET SALES & ELIGIBILITY

KSS Prom tickets will be on sale in **Room 147** *before and after school April 27, 28, 29 as well as April 30 and May 1 before and after school and lunchtime.*

TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AFTER MAY 1st.



Each ticket is **\$110.00** and will be **sold in person only** to **Grade 12 students**.

**Students must have NO outstanding SCHOOL FEES or OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS or TEXTBOOKS in order to purchase Prom tickets!**

**We strongly suggest that ALL FEES ARE PAID (including \$60 Grad Fee) and books are taken care of prior to April 27th to avoid line-ups!**



**See School Cash Online to pay fees.**

If a student must pay with debit/credit/cash, they may come to the office between 8 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

*If your family is experiencing financial difficulties, please reach out to your Alpha VP regarding outstanding fees.*

*Ms. Loveridge-Marks, Vice-Principal for students last names beginning with A-G.*

*Mr. Prasad, Vice-Principal for students last names beginning with H-N.*

*Mr. Kormany, Vice-Principal for students last names beginning with O-Z.*

**NEW THIS YEAR:** We are so excited to announce that we will be inviting a *limited* number of non-KSS grads to join us at prom. If your date is a grade 12 student at another school in the Okanagan, they may purchase a prom ticket on May 4<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:30 a.m. in room 147. We will have 50 tickets available for non-KSS students that are a guest of a KSS Grad. When purchasing their ticket, a guest must be with a KSS Grad student, show their valid student ID, hand in a signed Parent Permission Form and provide the name/email of a staff member at their school that will verify good standing. Guest tickets will be sold on a first come-first served basis as above.

**Prom/Grad information is posted on the Grad page on KSS Website (under “Students” tab). Link is HERE.**



# SAVE *the* DATES

## PROM FUNDRAISERS

**M&M Food Market  
Fundraiser** • April 17-19

**Domino's  
Pizza Day** -  
Friday, April 24

**Pub Night at Railside  
+ Adventure Prize  
Raffle** (online) • April 22

### **Ongoing Bottle Drive Fundraiser**

Donate your bottles toward Prom at any local Return-It Express station.

Use code: **250-826-9523**



Email: [ksspromcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ksspromcommittee@gmail.com)




# PROM 2026 FUNDRAISER ONLINE ADVENTURE RAFFLE

*Win an epic adventure while supporting KSS Prom 2026!*

**RAFFLE DATES:**  
March 23 - April 22



## PRIZES

-  **Grand Prize - Snowmobile Adventure**  
Outback Snowmobile Tours (\$700)
- 2nd Prize - 4 Adventure Passes**  
Revelstoke Mountain Resort (\$316)
- 3rd Prize - Guest Ranch Stay**  
Montana Hill Guest Ranch (\$200)

**TICKETS 1 for \$10 • 3 for \$20**

**Buy Tickets:**  
[rafflebox.ca/raffle/ksspromadventure](https://rafflebox.ca/raffle/ksspromadventure)

**WINNER DRAWN LIVE**

April 22 • 8:00 PM  
at Railside Brewing Pub Night

*Get your tickets and start the adventure!*



# PROM COMMITTEE FUNDRAISERS

*Adventure is calling... and it's for a GREAT cause!*

The KSS Parent Prom Committee 2026 is hosting an Online Adventure Raffle to help make prom night absolutely unforgettable. Grab your tickets, cross those fingers, and get ready—you could be heading off on your next adventure!

## Raffle Dates

### March 23 – April 22

Epic Prizes Up for Grabs!



#### Grand Prize

Snowmobile Adventure with Outback Snowmobile Tours

Value: \$700

#### 2nd Prize

4 Adventure Passes from Revelstoke Mountain Resort

Value: \$316



#### 3rd Prize

Stay at Montana Hill Guest Ranch

Value: \$200

Ticket Prices (aka your chance at adventure!)

1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20 (because one is never enough)



## Snag your tickets HERE!



**Winner Draw:** The lucky winner will be drawn LIVE at 8:00 PM during our 2nd Pub Night at Railside Brewing on April 22!

*Don't wait—this adventure won't wait for you!*

**Every ticket helps support KSS Prom 2026, so you're not just winning... you're making magic happen! Buy your tickets, share with your crew, and let the adventure begin!**

Thanks,  
KSS Parent Prom Committee

To Donate your bottles toward Grad - Use Code: 250-826-9523

Local Return-It Express Stations

Simply bring your containers to the depot in sealed, TRANSPARENT BLUE or CLEAR BAGS, and enter the KSS grad number at the Express kiosk.





## Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

### What is the truth?

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There is a lot of false information about SOGI-inclusive education out there.

We wanted you to have the truth in one place.

This will help parents and community members understand what the truth is when it comes to SOGI in B.C. schools.

### Why SOGI?

SOGI is about stopping bullying and making schools a welcoming place for everyone. It's about accepting everyone for who they are. We live in a country where everyone can live freely no matter their race, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation. SOGI is about giving teachers the tools (like books and activities) to teach kids not to bully others for being who they are.

We know that students do better in school when they feel accepted and like they belong in their school community. When students feel safe, they're more likely to come to school everyday, to perform their best academically and overall to have a sense of well-being.

**Parents and members of the community may have heard some things about SOGI that just aren't true. Here are some common things you may have heard along with the truth.**

**Not True:** SOGI was snuck into the curriculum in the last few years and is being forced on kids.

**The truth:**

SOGI is a set of resources that teachers can use when they're teaching kids not to bully students for their differences. It has been around and used in schools since 2016.

SOGI-inclusive resources are one of many tools that teachers use to make classrooms welcoming places that reflect the diversity of our province, including race, religion, and sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Teachers also have anti-racism resources that they can use as part of those anti-bullying lessons as well.

**Not True:** SOGI-inclusive education encourages and confuses kids into thinking they should change genders.

**The truth:** SOGI-inclusive education does not encourage any specific identity or orientation over another and is designed to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, or the diversity in their own families.

The goal of a SOGI-inclusive education is to stop discrimination and bullying by making sure that classroom resources show people from all sorts of backgrounds and give teachers opportunities to talk about the experiences and challenges faced by 2SLGBTQ+ people.

**Not True:** SOGI-inclusive resources and books contain pornographic and explicit content.

**The truth:** There is no pornographic or explicit content in B.C.'s K-12 curriculum. All books in classrooms or libraries are approved by schools to ensure they are all age appropriate.

SOGI-inclusive education and resources address topics like different types of families and personal identities, stereotypes, bullying and name-calling.

**Not True:** SOGI-inclusive education takes away the right for parents to know what their kids are being taught.

**The truth:** Parents always have a right to know what their kids are being taught. If a parent has questions, they should talk to the teacher directly to learn about what is being taught. SOGI-inclusive education is meant to support parents' own efforts to teach values of tolerance and respect, as well as acceptance of all people. It does not undermine parental rights but rather contributes to a greater understanding of diversity and inclusion for all students and families.

**Not True:** SOGI-inclusive education is the same thing as sexual health education.

**The truth:** Sexual health education is taught separately and follows specific guidelines. The Physical and Health Education curriculum continues to cover puberty, reproductive health, and sexual education as well as healthy and active living in age-appropriate ways. Parents always have the option to decide whether their kids take part in these lessons if they are uncomfortable.

SOGI resources are a set of tools that teachers can use to ensure their classrooms are accepting and rooted in respect and belonging.

**If you have any questions about your child's education, please talk to their teacher or school principal. We value and encourage open communication with parents and caregivers, and we respect the role parents and caregivers have in raising their children, and as active participants in their student's learning.**

## Sample Scripts for Educators

### What Is SOGI?

**Everyone has a sexual orientation and gender identity. That's SOGI.** Since we all have a sexual orientation and gender identity, this is a conversation that includes all of us. Some students may be figuring out their sexual orientation or gender identity. Others already know where they fit but need to hear and be reminded that they are safe and welcome to share their true self with the world.

SOGI-inclusive education is about understanding and supporting the diversity that already exists in our schools, our communities, and our world.

### What About That Other Acronym?

**You may be familiar with another acronym: 2SLGBTQ+.** This represents more marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities. The letters stand for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer. The plus sign is for other identities that also fit under this umbrella.

### What is SOGI-Inclusive Education?

**Schools are responsible for creating safe, inclusive learning environments for all students.** Unfortunately, homophobia and transphobia are still common in schools. These are harmful to all students, and particularly 2SLGBTQ+ students, families, and staff. SOGI-inclusive education works to change that.

SOGI-inclusive education is about making sure that schools have inclusive policies, welcoming learning environments, and classroom resources that include all students and families. It considers all parts of the education system and makes changes so that students of all sexual orientations and gender identities feel safe and can succeed.

SOGI-inclusive education is delivered in an age-appropriate way, with content that is tailored to each age group and context.

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## Supporting Conversations About SOGI

### Conversations at School

**No one is too young for topics of diversity and acceptance.** Human diversity already exists in the world around your children, and it is something that children are observing and wondering about from a very young age. Themes of romance, identity, gender, and belonging are already in many kids' books, movies, and games. Avoiding these subjects or hiding the existence of sexual orientation and gender identity can lead to confusion.

There are appropriate ways to explore these topics at every age. For example, in a grade one classroom, an age-appropriate way to talk about sexual orientation is to read the book *A Family is a Family is a Family*. Students learn that every family is different: one family has kids who live with

their grandmother, and another has step-siblings from past relationships, and yet another has two gay dads.

Educators use evidence-based approaches that align with human rights standards. SOGI inclusion in schools is not a new or untested concept. It is an evidence-based approach that has been researched, debated, and integrated into our legislation and human rights codes slowly across decades.

Confidentiality is important for building a sense of trust and safety. In 1989, the United Nations recognized the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It outlines 42 universal rights of children worldwide, including the right to privacy. We know that children's wellbeing improves when they have safe adults who they can talk to, including parents as well as school staff. We also know that children thrive when

parents as well as school staff. We also know that children thrive when schools and families work together. Educators can support the parent-child relationship by working with students to share information about their identities at home when they are ready.

### Conversations at Home

**You can create a safe space for open dialogue about SOGI topics in your home.** Talking about SOGI is important for all parents to do with their children, for two reasons. First, these conversations will help your child better understand the world around them. Second, if your child has an identity that fits within the 2SLGBTQ+ community, it will create a sense of safety for them, and they will be more likely to share that information with you sooner rather than later.

Creating a sense of trust and openness is important, especially if you think your child is questioning their identity. If you're not sure where to start, try saying something like, "I want you to know that I love you no matter what. You can always tell me anything or ask about anything you need help understanding."

Check the family resources list at the end of this document for more ideas or reach out to your child's school counsellor.

Families are often the most important people in children's lives. Supportive adults can make a world of difference to a kid who is coming out and leads to better mental health. Supportive and accepting parents are especially important and lead to positive outcomes for their children.

There is a lot of stigma around coming out, and your child may fear being judged, even if you would be completely supportive of them. Because of this, children may feel that first talking to another trusted adult such as an educator is easier than starting off with the most important people in their life - you!

You might experience many different emotions if your child shares this sort of news with you, including grief, loss, frustration, or even guilt. All of this is valid. While you need to process your own emotions, remember that your child likely feels vulnerable. Prioritize compassion over comprehension, and trust that you'll be able to learn more over time.

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## Addressing Common Myths

**Myth: There is a special 'SOGI curriculum' that contains sexually explicit material.**

**Fact: The only curriculum being taught in your child's classroom is the standard government curriculum, which is publicly available online.** Every teacher decides how to approach curriculum requirements in their own way, based on thorough professional training - creating lesson plans and identifying teaching resources that they know to be informative, engaging, accurate, current, and age-appropriate. SOGI 123 offers resources that help teachers meet curriculum requirements in a SOGI-inclusive way. These resources focus on representation and inclusion and are different than sexual health education.

**Myth: SOGI-inclusive education pushes children to become gay or transgender.**

**Fact: Sexual orientation and gender identity are parts of who a person is.** Nobody can change that, and nobody is trying to. The goal of SOGI-inclusive education is to create a school environment where every child can be their authentic self, without fear of harassment, discrimination, or being left out by others. Positive representation of the diversity that already exists all around us improves mental health outcomes for all students.

**Myth: Gender ideology' is a fad, and we don't know the long-term consequences of supporting transgender youth.**

**Fact: Transgender people have always existed.** Many know their true gender identity from a very young age. Studies across decades consistently show that supporting students in their identities leads to better emotional, social, health, and academic outcomes.

**What about other myths?**

**New myths pop up all the time—some easily believable, and others much more far-fetched.** If you ever hear something concerning, reach out to your school's administration for clarification, or check out the additional resources at the end of this document.

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## Quick Responses for Talking About 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion With Parents and Community Members

***"This goes against our rights to teach our children our own set of family values."***

- Public schools are a place where students learn about all kinds of different value systems.
- Your family's personal values are very important to your child, regardless of what is being learned in school.
- Individual families will always have a range of values. Schools have a duty to teach the societal value of respect for all.

***"It's trans recruitment!" or "They're teaching about sex!"***

- People do not become gay, bi, trans, or anything in between simply because they know these identities exist. SOGI-inclusive education does not encourage students to identify in any specific way, rather provides an environment where students can express themselves safely and authentically.
- SOGI-inclusive education is rooted in non-discrimination and anti-bullying policies schools already have. It is not about sex.

***"This goes against my faith/culture"***

- 2SLGBTQ+ people are from every ethnicity, religion/faith, age, demographic, are found all over the world and throughout history.
- Many religious/faith-based organizations and followers are supportive of 2SLGBTQ+ people and many 2SLGBTQ+ people are religious/practice faith.

***"My child is too young for this topic!"***

- Diversity itself is always age appropriate. SOGI is one of many topics about diversity and inclusion that may come up at school.
- Classroom content should be a mirror and a window: it reflects the experiences of students and families, while providing opportunities for students to see what diversity exists in the world.
- Students of all ages have self-determination and will always be able to freely discuss their families and themselves – that includes families with two moms, two dads, foster families, adoptive families, biracial families, and everything in between.

### Relevant Research:

- [Still In Every Class In Every School](#)  
Published by Egale Canada, 2021
  - [National Inventory of School System Interventions for LGBTQ Student Well-being and School Connectedness](#)  
Published by SARAVYC, 2018
  - [Being Safe, Being Me 2019: Results of the Canadian Trans and Non-binary Youth Health Survey](#)  
Published by SARAVYC, 2019
  - [“Students feel safer here, and more included:” Evaluation of SOGI 123 in BC](#)  
Published by SARAVYC, 2024
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### Family Resources:

- [SOGI 123 Resources](#)  
[Commonly Asked Questions](#) and [Parent Resources](#)
- [Helpful Resources](#)  
Published by PFLAG Canada
- [Adults Supporting 2SLGBTQI Youth](#)  
Published by Egale Canada
- [Gender Identity Development from ages 2 and up](#)  
Published by the Canadian Paediatric Society
- [What to Do When Your Child Comes Out to You](#)  
Published by Egale Canada
- [Parents: Quick Tips for Supporting Your LGBTQ Kids—and YOURSELF—During the Coming-Out Process](#)  
Published by PFLAG
- [Common Myths and Misconceptions About Trans Youth](#)  
Published by Egale Canada
- [Rainbow Action Hub: Understanding and Combatting Mis/Dis/Malinformation](#)  
Published by Egale Canada
- [Building Bridges: 2SLGBTQI & Affirming Faith Workbooks](#)  
Published by Egale Canada



# We Don't Want You to Sell Anything!

But we still need your help

Dear Parents/guardians.

Each year the KSS PAC provides bursaries and scholarships to KSS graduates who will be attending post-secondary education in the Fall of their graduating year. The bursaries/scholarships are awarded to students based on financial need, academic achievement, and a desire to pursue post-secondary education in Canada.

Previously, these were funded through KSS's annual provincial community gaming grant, however, gaming funds are no longer allowed to be used for bursaries and scholarships. Hence, the PAC must fundraise in order to continue to provide these funds to support KSS students in their future education.

**This is where YOU come in!**

Please consider donating! Any amount, no matter how large or small, makes a difference!

Our fundraising goal is \$4,000 to cover the awards for 2026 & 2027 graduates as well as for teacher appreciation, and on-going PAC operating expenses.

## How to donate

We have decided to use the school district donation option this year for our fundraiser. It allows us to keep all of the money that you donate, rather than having to pay platform fees, and gives you a tax receipt. **WIN-WIN!**

### Steps:

1. Go to [www.schoolcashonline.com](http://www.schoolcashonline.com) and sign-in using your credentials that you pay your school fees with
2. Click *Make a Donation* to open the donation form
3. Choose *Kelowna Secondary*
4. In the message box write *KSS PAC Fund*
5. *Add to Cart* to go to the payment page

A screenshot of a web form titled "Give To Central Okanagan School District". The form is divided into several sections: "Gift Information" with a dropdown for "Fund Destination" set to "Kelowna Secondary"; "Taxable Information" with a dropdown for "Type of gift" set to "Non-refundable gift" and a field for "Name of Recipient"; "Message to School Board" with a text area containing "KSS PAC Fund"; and "Tax Receipt" with a note that a receipt will be emailed upon completion. At the bottom, there are "Back" and "Add To Cart" buttons.

**With your support, we can empower the next generation of leaders, thinkers, and changemakers.**