



# Helen Gorman Elementary | *Where Kindness Grows*

3230 Salmon Road, West Kelowna, BC V4T 1A7 | <https://hge.sd23.bc.ca> | 250-870-5116 | [hge@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:hge@sd23.bc.ca)

Wednesday, August 28, 2025

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! We hope everyone enjoyed the sunshine and beauty of all that our home in the Okanagan has to offer. We look forward to hearing about the summer adventures your children have had. Our staff is excited to welcome our new and returning students to Helen Gorman Elementary.

## **THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025:**

The first day of school will be a half day with students in grades 1-5 in session from **8:30-11:00am**. Please be sure to send your child to school with a snack and a water bottle.

Helen Gorman Elementary is nearly at capacity and as such we have a handful of spaces for new in-catchment students. If you have moved over the summer, please reach out to our office to share this information.

I am delighted to share that your children are able to begin their first day of school with their new teacher! An email will be sent to you from me from the email address: [sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca](mailto:sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca) on **Sunday, August 30** in the afternoon with the name of your child's teacher and map of the school. Please check your junk box in case it lands there.

We ask that students access their new class from the outside classroom doors. Any new students are welcome to meet Ms. McGlinchey, our Indigenous Learning Support Teacher, and Mrs. Hardman, our Librarian, at the front of the school where they can assist you in locating your child's classroom.

## **THE REST OF THE FIRST WEEK:**

Wednesday, September 3 will be a full day of school from 8:30am-2:30pm for students in grades 1-5. Please be sure to send your child with a lunch, snack and water bottle each day moving forward along with a pair of inside running shoes to be kept at school. Pizza Wednesdays and Hot Lunch begins later into the Fall. Kindergarten mini-sessions begin Wednesday, September 3 too! All kindergarten families received scheduling information at the beginning of July.

## **HGE COUGAR PAW is the FAMILY NEWSLETTER:**

As a school, we will communicate with families weekly on Fridays with upcoming information. Please find a link to the HGE Cougar Paw [HERE](#) for our first week of school.



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## **FAMILY HANDBOOK:**

As well, for those families new to HGE and those returning, you can locate valuable information about our school procedures and protocols in our **Family Handbook** including our Code of Conduct. Please note there is new language regarding the use of cell phones and personal digital devices in schools. It is critical that you take the time to review the updated restrictions that are relevant to the elementary setting. You can find a one pager of the updates **HERE**. We appreciate your support.

## **STAFF UPDATE:**

Please join us in welcoming the following new and returning staff members to Helen Gorman Elementary this year:

- Carlyn McLaren | Primary Teacher
- Louisa McGlinchey | Indigenous Support Teacher
- Tom Lewis | Additional Counsellor
- Barb Haldane | Indigenous Advocate
- Timothy Corrigan | Head Custodian for Glenrosa Area Schools

Please reach out to the office if you have any questions. We look forward to meeting new faces and seeing our returning families next week!

Warmly,

**Jessica Anjos (she | her)**

Principal of Helen Gorman Elementary

Phone | 250-870-5116

*I regard it an honour to live, learn, and connect on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the Syilx Okanagan People.*