



Families as Partners in Learning
2026 COPAC Parent & Caregiver Conference

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2026

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration & Coffee (Hollywood Road Educational building: 1040 Hollywood Road S)
9:00 AM – 9:20 AM	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">Land Acknowledgement & Welcome by local Westbank First Nation Elders Wilfred (Grouse) Barnes and Pamela Barnes
9:20 AM - 9:45 AM	Parents and Caregivers as Partners in Learning SD23 Superintendent Jon Rever & COPAC President Nicola Baker
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Breakout Session #1 (Choose from 5 sessions – sign up during registration)
10:45 AM – 11:15AM	Coffee Break & Community Partners Networking in the Lobby
11:15 AM – 12:15 PM	Breakout Session #2 (Choose from 5 sessions - Sign up during registration)
12:15 PM – 1:15 PM	Lunch, networking and Table Talk with Central Okanagan Public Schools Trustees
1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	PAC Breakout Session (Choose from 3 sessions)
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Snack Break
2:15 PM – 2:45 PM	PAC Round tables – Engaging Your Community & Strengthen your PAC, Family of Schools & Collaboration Within communities, Parent Voice in School Community Learning Plans
2:45 PM – 3:00 PM	Closing Remarks

Presentation Themes

Morning Breakouts (pick 2):

- **Raising Learners in the Age of AI: Preparing Children to Thrive in a Changing World**
AI and other global changes are transforming the world our children are growing into. Join this interactive session to explore what this means for learning today and how developing key competencies helps prepare young people to thrive in an ever-changing world.
- **Belonging in Action: Everyday Practices for Inclusion and Anti-Racism**
This morning breakout supports guardians in strengthening inclusive practices that build belonging for every human, younger to older. Participants will explore what anti racism and DEI look like in everyday school interactions—language, assumptions, and moments that matter—along with practical ways to support dignity, respect, and inclusion in daily routines and communication.
- **Local Syilx (Okanagan) history with Westbank First Nation Elders**
- **Youth Vaping & Parent Resources** – a brief presentation by arc programs Substance Use counsellors on the current trends around youth, nicotine use and the available supports for parents & families.
- **Partnering for Safety: Key Resources to Support Safe, Inclusive, and Connected School Communities**
This session introduces parents to the provincial, school-based, and community resources that help promote student safety and well-being. We will explore the tools available through *erase BC*, highlight parent learning opportunities from *Safer Schools Together*, and demonstrate how the *erase Report It Tool* provides a quick and confidential way to raise concerns. In addition, parents will be introduced to local community supports—such as mental health services, crisis lines, and youth-focused agencies—that work alongside schools to ensure students are cared for at home, online, and in the community.

Afternoon Breakouts (pick 1):

- **PAC 101 – Foundations and Parent Voice**
Learn the purpose and role of PACs in BC public education, how they support student success, and where they fit within the school system. This session will explore why parent engagement matters and how families can get involved in meaningful and manageable ways.
- **Treasurer 101 – Financial Basics and Best Practices**
Designed for current and future PAC treasurers and executive teams, this session will cover key financial responsibilities, budgeting, reporting, and transparency. Gain practical tips, tools, and confidence to support strong and accountable PAC finances.
- **School Meal Program Guidance** – Whether you currently support a hot lunch program or are interested in getting involved, this discussion is for you.

Several community partners will be set up in the lobby during morning coffee break to share how their organizations support families in our region.