

# The 2026 Pirate Loppet

**When & Where?** Friday, January 30, 2026 at 10:30. Sign-in and bib pickup begins at 9:30 at the Larch Hills X-Country Ski Area.

**Who?** Student from grades 3-8. Younger students may participate if accompanied by a parent. Parents are welcome to ski with their kids. There is a **new** 5km course for all skiers – intermediate students should be prepared to do this course. There is also a 2km (or 1km) course for younger skiers as needed.

**Ski Ability:** *Participants MUST be able to control their speed on the occasional downhill sections with a strong snow plough or wedge.*

**How Much?** \$5.00. This is collected by the sponsoring school and brought to Larch Hills on the day of the loppet. Please make cheques payable to “Larch Hills Elementary Loppet.”

**Registration:** Loppet registration information will be emailed to each school. Registration forms must be completed by **Friday, January 23**. School Board field trip (permission/waiver) forms must also be completed by each school for their student participants along with all volunteer documentation. Students not registered by January 23<sup>th</sup> will need to register on the day of the loppet at the registration tables and will need to ensure they have their signed permission form with them.

**Food:** Hot dogs (including veggie dogs) and hot beverages will be served to young skiers and event volunteers, hosted by an awesome group of Shuswap Lady Striders at the chalet. Hot dogs and hot beverages will be available to others by donation. Donations go to “Skis for Schools” grants to SD No 83 elementary school classes to purchase X-C ski equipment. ***New: Please bring your own mug/thermos for the hot beverages served. Mugs won't be available at the event.***

**Theme:** Loppeteers are encouraged to dress up as pirates. Prizes will be given for the best costumes.

**Prizes & Photos:** The official Pirate Loppet flag will be awarded to the school with the largest proportional representation. There will also be some draw prizes. Larch Hills is a public venue and the media will be in attendance. Also, that **there will be photos taken and shared with the participating schools, and possibly with the media, Larch Hills Nordic Society or the school district for publicity purposes. If parents are concerned about their child's photo being taken, please notify your child's school.**

**Rentals:** Limited ski rentals are available at Skookum & John's Ski Shack. Check for availability as soon as possible.

**Contact Person:** Megan Weir– [mweir@sd83.bc.ca](mailto:mweir@sd83.bc.ca)

**Transportation:** Schools arrange their own student transportation using busses or parents.

**First Aid:** Available in the chalet (upstairs).

**Skis For Schools Grants:** Every year, the Pirate Loppet Committee awards grants to schools for the purchase of ski equipment. Information about the grants will be emailed to schools in January. Since 2011, \$43,100 has been distributed to 16 local schools based on the registration fee and generous donations (cash and in kind) from:

Askew's Foods, Black Powder Group – Mike Brown, Canada Bread, Grimm's, H2O4U, Home Hardware, HUB International Insurance Brokers, Hudson Dental Clinic, John's Ski Shack, Larch Hills Nordic Society Volunteers & Ski Hosts, Craig McBride, SASCU, Sarah Grassroots photography, Sarah Lauzé, School District No 83, Shuswap Community Foundation, Shuswap Lady Striders, Skookum Cycle & Ski, Stella Jones, Tim Horton's Downtown, Tolliver Advertising & Design.