



Kamloops School of the Arts

KSA Community Connection

1390 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops BC V2C 3X5

PHONE: 250-374-3200 FAX: 250-377-2245

Office Hours 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2025

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we step into October, our school community is settling into the rhythm of the new year, with classrooms full of energy, learning, and creativity. For those who are new to KSA, I'd like to share more about the unique approach that shapes our learning community: Arts Integration.

Arts Integration allows students to explore and demonstrate their understanding through music, dance, drama, visual, and media arts. By weaving artistic expression into core subjects, students not only strengthen their creativity but also build deeper connections to what they are learning. This hands-on, immersive approach—where students see, speak, hear, and do—encourages them to make meaningful links across disciplines while developing critical skills for the future.

This year, our school-wide K–12 theme, “Imagine, Innovate, Inspire,” will guide our work. Through classroom learning, special events, and elementary arts rotations, students will be encouraged to imagine new possibilities, innovate through creative problem-solving, and inspire one another with their ideas and artistic expression.

We look forward to a year of creativity, exploration, and growth as our students continue to discover new ways of expressing themselves and deepening their understanding.

Sincerely,

Kukwstsétsemc

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Blair Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Blair Lloyd, Proud Principal of 507 KSA STAR students!

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS AND EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE - SECONDARY ONLY

Secondary parents are reminded that October 9th is an Early Closure Day. Please arrange to have your secondary student picked up at **1:24pm**. Should parents want a Parent/Teacher Interview on this day, please register using the PTCFast website. **This year, only secondary students will have early closure.**

*****Please note: Elementary families will be given a time/date in the next while to arrange an interview with their child’s K-7 teacher.*****

Secondary Parent Interview Bell Schedule

First Bell	8:20 am
Block D	8:30 - 9:30
Long Break	9:30-9:45
Block A	9:45 - 10:45
Lunch	10:45-11:33
Block C	10:33-12:28
Block D	12:28-1:24

VERIFICATION REPORTS AND PERMISSION FORMS DUE TO OFFICE

The school district requires parents to update Student Verification Records on a yearly basis. Along with this document, a permission for personal information consent, an Outside Media in Schools and a walking permission form will be sent home. These forms must be signed and returned to the school *as soon as possible*. If you did not receive a package, please contact the office.

Please also inform your child(s) teacher if you do not want your child to be in videos or to be photographed

CHECK OUT THE KSA WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT’S HAPPENING!

Great information can be found on our [website!](#)
Keep up-to-date by visiting our school [calendar](#).

Please note: events/dates are subject to change - please check with the teacher/organiser to confirm.

Graduation

The first graduation newsletter is linked [HERE](#).

Important Dates

- Thursday, October 16, 2025** - Grad Parent Meeting @ 6:30 pm in Drama Studio
- Monday, January 19, 2026**- Grad Photos (sign up will be at the office)
- Tuesday, February 17, 2026**- Grad Photo Retakes @ SKSS
- Wednesday, February 18, 2026** - Grad Photo Retakes @ SKSS
- Friday, June 12, 2026** - Commencements at TRU Grand Hall

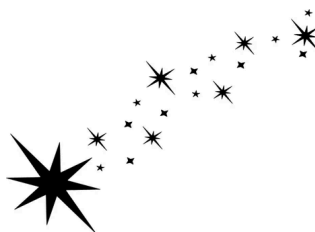


SECONDARY COLLABORATION (STAR) BLOCK

We are excited to inform you about our upcoming Secondary Collaboration Days at Kamloops School of the Arts. These sessions are designed to provide a valuable opportunity for secondary teachers to engage in Collaborative Inquiry, fostering a learning environment where educators can focus on new strategies to support student growth.

Collaboration Days will take place on the following dates:

- September 25
- October 30
- November 27
- January 29
- February 26
- April 23
- May 28
- June 18



During the Collaboration Block (8:30 - 9:45 AM), secondary teachers will work in teams to explore ways to enhance student learning. The focus of this time will be on Collaborative Inquiry, which encourages teachers to engage in reflective discussions and informed action.

Students are invited to come to school at the regular time in the morning (8:30 am) and will be supervised by a selection of secondary teachers and Certified Education Assistants to catch up on school work, participate in a school club or spend time reading a novel. Students who are caught up on their school work have the option to come for the start of D block at 10:00 am. As per the new technology policy, cell phones and any other devices that connect to the internet will not be allowed during the collaboration block.

Please note: This new Collaboration schedule **ONLY** affects *secondary* students, elementary students will continue to follow the regular scheduled day.

INDOOR SHOES

Students **NEED** “indoor” shoes at school. For gym classes, athletic shoes are required (Please, no flip flop or open toe shoes). These can also serve as indoor shoes for your child. In the wet weather, the floors get slippery and dangerous, especially on the stairs! Please ensure that your child has shoes here at school for inside wear.

GYM STRIP FOR PE

On days when Intermediate students and secondary students have P.E., they are required to wear a T-shirt, shorts (or other flexible clothing like yoga pants), and non-marking running shoes. Primary class clothing requirements will vary with individual teachers. Parents should check with their child’s teacher for details.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

There is no need for *elementary* students to buy school supplies as the school provides these items at a reduced cost. Fees cover the expense of school supplies as well as a concert series for our students. *Secondary* students are responsible for their day to day school supplies. Certain secondary courses require a fee to be paid, fee invoices will be sent home. Teachers will be handing out course outlines to give students and families information about any special school supplies needed (i.e. calculator, compass etc).

Beginning in September, 2025, all fees (such as enhancement fees, school supply fees, field trips, athletic fees, etc.) will include a processing fee for all payment transactions made through SchoolCash Online. This

processing fee was approved by the SD73 Board following the budget consultation process last spring and reflects the actual costs the District incurs in providing online payment services.

Please note that cash/cheque payments will not be subject to this processing fee.

When you see an item attached to your student, you will notice an amount beside the item name which reflects the amount due if paid by cash or cheque. The "Amount Due" that appears in SchoolCash Online is the amount due if paid online.

For Example:

Item Description: Field Trip Sun Peaks - \$60

\$60 due if paid by cash or cheque

\$63 due if paid online, it will display \$63 as total amount owing

We understand that fee increases can be challenging for families. Please be assured that School District 73 remains committed to ensuring no student is excluded from an educational program, activity, or extracurricular opportunity because of financial need, in accordance with the District's Administrative Procedure 506: Student Financial Assistance.

Elementary school fees will be applied shortly. Secondary fees will be applied in October, 2025.

You can access [School Cash Online](https://ksa.sd73.bc.ca/en/parents-students-support-help/cashless-schools.aspx) on our website at <https://ksa.sd73.bc.ca/en/parents-students-support-help/cashless-schools.aspx>.

SchoolCash Online

Sign In

Email Address

Password

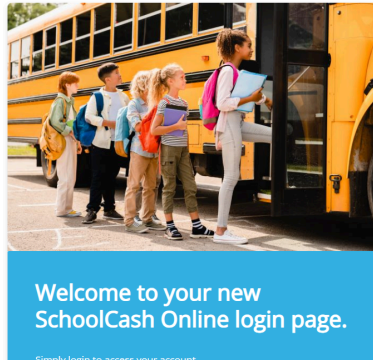
[Forgot your password?](#)

Remember me

SIGN IN

New to SchoolCash Online?

REGISTER NOW



ATTENDANCE

At KSA the provincial curriculum is taught through an integrated arts program. Consistent attendance is a vital component of the program and absolutely necessary in order for a child to succeed. Significant student absences and lateness will impact your child's ability to do well and achieve success in the educational program we offer at KSA. However, on occasion it is necessary for your child to be away due to illness or other factors. If you know your child will be absent from school please call 1-844-350-2647 to report an absence or download the Safe Arrival app for smartphones. Please do this prior to 8:20am.

SAFE ARRIVAL APP

Parents no longer leave a message on their school's answering machine. Safe Arrival handles the majority of parent/guardian contact (including phone calls) when a student absence needs to be reported. This system allows parents/guardians to interact directly with the system in the following ways:



- by phone when the system calls you or when you want to initiate a call to notify that your child will be absent
- by internet through a login controlled web page interface
- by a Smartphone app (iOS and Android version; both available for free)
- We are improving our communication through SchoolMessenger by offering a text message option for parents. Activate this free service by sending the message 'Y' or 'Yes' to the District's short code number: 978338. You can opt out of these messages at any time by replying to a message with 'Stop.'

In the preferences on the SchoolMessenger App, parents can select the style of message that they wish to receive for certain school messages.

Please report student absences **before 8:20 am**. You can also report absences in advance.

To report an absence you may choose to:



Click on the phone, text, or email icon to change the type of message you receive.

- call the toll free # 1-844-350-2647 or
- access the following website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or
- download app from [Google Play](#) or [Apple's App Store](#)

Please choose the reason for your child's absence from school: sick, family vacation, etc. Don't forget to wait for confirmation # to ensure your child's absence has been recorded. A registration email will be sent to parents in advance. These emails are not spam and will contain specific parent login information for the system, as well as instructions on how to log in as a parent to report your child's absences. If you do not connect with the system by **8:20 am** on the day of your child's absence from school and when the teacher has completed attendance for his/her class, then a report will be dispatched for all.

If you need to sign your student(s) out during the day, please also notify your teachers so they can plan accordingly.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

We believe strongly in the safety of our children, therefore, please make sure you are aware of parking and traffic routines at our school. Students are reminded to follow road safety at all times. Students are required to use the crosswalk and look both ways before crossing the street.



There is no drop off, pick up, or parking available in the staff parking lot OR in front of the school on 9th Avenue.

Parents are asked to drop off/pick up their child on Fraser Street.
The roadway by the bridge on Fraser street is drop off only.
Please do not park in this area.

AFTER SCHOOL PLANS

Please ensure you have made after school care plans for your child(ren) and your child(ren) are aware of that plan. If you have made after school arrangements and the plans have changed please notify the school directly, prior to the end of the day.

When elementary students leave during the day due to illness or an appointment, a parent, guardian or pre-approved adult must come *into the office* to pick them up. The staff cannot let elementary students leave unless they are accompanied by a supervising adult. Our staff must speak directly to the child's parent or legal guardian before they will be permitted to leave. If you know your child will be leaving early, please *also* inform your teacher prior to the date.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY AT KSA

In the days leading up to Orange Shirt Day, Vice Principal Mrs. Traudt and Indigenous Education Worker Coco guided the elementary pods through the history and meaning of Orange Shirt Day and Truth & Reconciliation. Together, they shared why this day is important, who it has impacted, and how it continues to shape our communities today. As part of the learning, each student received a small heart to colour and decorate with a message or symbol that reflected what the story of Orange Shirt Day meant to them—creating a heartfelt display of understanding, empathy, and hope.

The grade ones and the grade 4/5 class created unique orange shirt artwork to honour Orange Shirt Day, a day that reminds us that every child matters. Each section of the shirt was designed by a student, with patterns and images that celebrate their individuality and creativity. Together, the artwork symbolizes the importance of valuing and respecting differences while standing in unity to acknowledge the past and build a more inclusive future.



MyED ACCESS AND INQUIRIES

The Kamloops/Thompson MyEducation BC PARENT PORTAL which will allow access to see grades, attendance and other information on your child(ren). Each parent, guardian or household will have their own separate account.



To complete the setup to access the parent portal you will need to complete the following steps:

To Access the MyEducation BC System:

1. Visit www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen
2. Make sure popups are enabled for your browser.
3. Your user name (LOGIN ID) will be: (the email you gave the school)
4. Should you not remember your password, click on the "I forgot my password" link and follow the instructions.

(NOTE: Both user name and password are case sensitive. New Password requirements: Must be at least 8 characters, including a capital letter, a symbol and a number.)

5. Enter your user name (LOGIN ID) and password then click "Log On" to access the system. You may be prompted to change your password and fill out some information so that in the future you can click "I forgot my password" to receive a new password.

Once inside the MyEducation BC system you can navigate around to view information for your student(s).

Need more information on MyEducation BC?

For a **detailed explanation** on how to login and navigate through the MyEd portal please click on this information page <https://myed73.sd73.bc.ca/mod/folder/view.php?id=12> or watch this video [click here](#).

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

If you have any questions that come up during the year, there are a number of ways to get in touch:

1. Send an email. Staff and administration can be reached using the first letter of the staff member's first name's initial, followed by the last name @sd73.bc.ca. (Example: John Smith: jsmith@sd73.bc.ca) There are a few exceptions but staff email addresses are also listed on our [website](#).
2. Call the school at 250-374-3200. Office hours are 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.



READING DETECTIVES - Grades one to three

We would like to invite parents and children in grades one, two, and three to attend a short, in person workshop and learn some proven strategies for helping your child read at home. This session is free and you will receive a bag of resources to take home!

When: Thursday, November 6, from 6:00-7:00 pm

Where: KSA Room 115

To register: please email Mrs. Coates jcoates@sd73.bc.ca

If you need any further information, please contact:

Mrs. Coates jcoates@sd73.bc.ca

Mrs. Woods cwoods@sd73.bc.ca

Mrs. Richmond mrichmond@sd73.bc.ca



MEDICAL POLICY

Please contact the school if your child has any health issues or potentially life-threatening conditions that we need to be made aware of. No medications (prescription or non-prescription) are to be administered by school district employees without prior written consent of the parent/guardian and doctors must sign a Request for Administration of Medication at School form which includes written medical advice from a physician. This form must be renewed/resigned each school year.

FRUITS AND VEGGIE PROGRAM

KSA runs the Fruit and Vegetable program. If you would like more information about the program, please check out <https://www.bcaitc.ca/>. Please note: If you do not want your child receiving fruit and vegetables and/or milk programs please call the office.

CELL PHONE EXPECTATIONS

KSA is fully committed to aligning its personal digital device expectations/policy with the new language mandated by Ministerial Order M89. This commitment is a result of collaborative efforts involving staff, parents, and students. The aim is to promote online safety and create focused learning environments for all students. As part of this commitment, KSA is in the process of developing new policies that adhere to the updated language set out in AP 350. These policies will further reinforce the school's dedication to the safety and learning of its students.

Guidelines for Personal Electronic Devices - ELEMENTARY

Students who bring devices such as cell phones, iPods or similar items will be instructed to keep them in their backpacks or lockers for the duration of the school day unless requested by the teacher for classwork. As per AP 350.1, the safekeeping of these devices are solely the responsibility of the owners. We ask that students use the office phone when calling parents during the day due to illness or urgent matters. Students may use e-type readers for quiet reading times upon permission of the teacher. Electronic devices may be used for school activities with the teacher's permission, but no other recording/photographic devices may be used at any time. Cell phones or other devices are prohibited during recess and/or lunchtime. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the confiscation of the electronic device which will be retained by the teacher and/or turned in to the office for follow-up with administration.

KSA Phone/Technology Policy - SECONDARY

The KSA Secondary Phone/Technology policy addresses the appropriate use of all electronic devices during our regular school day. To that end, the following expectations must be adhered to with regard to proper and responsible technology use:

- Electronic devices are not allowed at KSA during instructional time. Cell phones/headphone devices may be used for educational/health-related reasons at the discretion of the individual teacher. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the confiscation of the electronic device which will be retained by the teacher and/or turned in to the office for follow-up with administration.
- Cell phones and other technology may be used at secondary break times.
- Creating or recording photos, videos, sound, or other digital artifacts without consent is prohibited at KSA at any time during the school day unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for educational reasons only. At no time will the use of any personal electronic device invade or infringe upon the personal privacy or safety of any member of the school district community.

Chronic cell phone misuse may result in the ban of the student's cell phone from the school. Students and staff can also refer to the following Administrative Policies for further information: School District #73 AP – 350.1 – Technology: Student Acceptable Use School District #73 AP – 350 – Student Code of Conduct

SCHOOL CLOTHING - KSA DRESS CODE

In accordance with SD73 School District Policies and AP 350.2: Kamloops School of the Arts is committed to providing students with learning environments that are safe, equitable and inclusive. Students and staff must show mutual respect for everyone, and this does not change based on how someone is dressed. KSA believes that judgements on the appropriateness of student attire are best made by students and their families, because clothing choices reflect individual identity, cultural norms and socio-economic factors that are intensely personal. Students may attend school and school related functions in clothing of their choice that respects our school community, provided that it meets the following conditions:

1. Conforms with the Health & safety requirements for the intended activity.
2. Does not promote drugs or alcohol.
3. Does not display profanity or violence.
4. Does not display discriminatory language or images.

Hat Policy: Individual teachers will discuss the wearing of headwear (Hats with brims/Toques/Hoodies etc.) in their classes and use this opportunity to discuss specific times when headwear may not be appropriate (exams/tests/student presentations etc....) Please Note: In any of these violations, school administration will work with the student and family to review the dress code AP.

TERRY FOX RUN

The KSA community came together on September 25 to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Terry Fox run. The students ran, walked, and enjoyed their time participating in the event, which was organized and led by the KSA leadership class. The school raised over \$500 to help fund cancer research. Students were entertained by a student-led band and soloist and enjoyed snacks provided by the PAC. Thanks to everyone who helped organize and took part in this year's Terry Fox to honour such an amazing cause. Way to go, KSA!



SPIRIT WEAR

There is a wide variety of KSA gear! Find house team colours and jerseys, sweaters, and t-shirts.

Order here: <https://ksaarts25-26.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Orders must be made by **October 24th**..



POD 1 UPDATE

In Pod One, Mrs. Coates and Mrs. Woods combined their classes to create artwork for the Art Card project. This experience highlighted how our school not only learns through the arts but also through collaboration. Students explored a variety of materials—tissue paper, glue, and chalk—while developing techniques such as collaging and layering. Working together on shared pieces encouraged creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving. Just as importantly, this project built stronger connections between both Grade One classes, showing the power of the arts to unite, inspire, and deepen learning.



POD 3 UPDATE

Pod 3 started the year by exploring the STAR Matrix through the arts. Students rotated through Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts, discussing what each letter in STAR looked like in their classrooms, rotations and the KSA halls. They then participated in an arts based collaborative activity to demonstrate their understanding. At the end of the week, students performed for each other in a mini sharing

LOCKERS

All students (elementary and secondary) are allowed access to school lockers. Students will be assigned lockers by their teacher for students to store their school belongings.

Secondary students, please ensure that your homeroom teacher has a copy of the locker combination to prevent any locks needing to be cut off.

SKIP THE DISHES

A reminder that students are to refrain from ordering from food delivery services such as Skip the Dishes or pizza establishments due to the large disruption to classes when deliveries are arriving during class time. We have a great selection of food options available at the school canteen.

Parent Engagement Session: Technology, Sleep, and Children

Presented by The White Hatter, Specializing in Digital Literacy and Internet Safety

Anecdotally, and from a peer-reviewed research perspective, we know that technology can have a less than desirable effect on sleep patterns. Research has also provided evidence that there is a correlation between sleep deprivation, inhibited learning, and being able to self-regulate emotions. In this webinar we will be looking at the correlation between technology, sleep challenges, inhibited learning, and emotional self-regulation and what parents can do to overcome these challenges.

This program addresses:

- How technology is affecting sleep
- Sleep deprivation concerns
- Inhibited learning challenges
- What parents can do to overcome these challenges

This workshop will be live-streamed on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. If you are interested in attending, please register in advance [here](#). Following your registration, you will receive an email with a link and password to the presentation. Presented by SD73.

KSA PAC NEWS

The next PAC meeting is set for October 8th at 6 pm in the big dance studio at KSA.



PAC Volunteer Page

<https://volunteersignup.org/99DPP>



PAC EXECUTIVE

- a. Chair: Theo Williams**
- b. Vice Chair: Kevin Klassen**
- c. Treasurer: Stefan Schweizer**
- d. Secretary: Stephanie Drake**
- e. DPAC Representative 1 *Vacant***
- f. Director at Large 1 Mallery Hewins**
- g. Director at Large 2 Samantha Gidora**
- h. Director at Large 3 Sarah Krausert**

PAC HOT LUNCH

The [KSA PAC](#) is excited to offer hot lunches once a month! Ordering for our monthly lunches is ongoing, with deadlines typically two weeks before each lunch date. To place your order, please visit:

<https://munchalunch.com/schools/ksa>

**Remember to select the "Kamloops School of the Arts (PAC)" button at the bottom!*

The next hot lunch is **Panago** on **Wednesday, October 29**. Order by October 14th.

A Message From KSA PAC

KSA PAC's Popcorn pre-order closed Sept. 17th! If you missed this date, you can send \$1 with your student every Thursday, to give to their teacher. SECONDARY STUDENTS can also buy on Thursdays at the PAC Kitchen (by the gym).

PAC's Parent Volunteers make all sorts of events and initiatives happen for the school through fundraisers like Popcorn and hot lunch sales. These include STEM and Tech equipment, clubs and sports teams, POD shares, Grads, teacher appreciations and more!

Thanks for your support!

KSA PAC

board@ksapac.ca

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Join us for the 2025 KSA Halloween Dance! All KSA families are invited to celebrate with us.

Date: Thursday October 23

Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Who: All students welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Admission: By Donation to PAC

Details: Enjoy pizza, snacks, refreshments, games, a haunted hallway, and fortune telling! Tickets will be just \$1 each or 15 for \$10. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event!

STAY UP TO DATE

For the latest news and updates, follow the KSA PAC Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ksapac>

IMPORTANT PAC DATES:

October 8: PAC Meeting @ 6 pm
October 23: Halloween Dance
October 29: Panago Hot Lunch
November 19: White Spot Hot Lunch
December 10: Moon Wok Hot Lunch

PARENT INVOLVEMENT AND PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

There are several ways in which you can be an active parent at Kamloops School of the Arts. Our Parent Advisory Council meets on a regular basis, and the meeting dates are published in the school newsletters and on the PAC KSA Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ksapac>

Counselling Corner

October brings many changes, the beauty of fall, the excitement of Halloween, a switch to more indoor activities for some, the colder weather, and darker nights, to mention but a few.

Many of our children and youth embrace these changes, but for some changes/transitions are challenging.

Our job is to help prepare our children and youth, to ensure they know we are here for them, to support and guide, to help them feel safe.

We need to ensure that Halloween is experienced as a fun, silly, spooky time not a scary time that could overwhelm our more vulnerable.

Have fun together, in a safe and inclusive way, play is good for everyone 😊



FAIR NOTICE FOR PARENTS

The safety of our children is a top priority for us all. As a school system, we have been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners – the police, Child & Youth Mental Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Together we have developed a district plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others. School District No. 73 has a policy in place that requires principals to activate a multidisciplinary “threat assessment” protocol in all cases of students making significant high level threats to harm themselves or others. Administrative Procedure 167 is available on the school district website at www.sd73.bc.ca Please see the letter from the superintendent at the end of this newsletter for more information.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

We have started the year off with a bang! This year we have Jr. and Sr. Girls Volleyball teams that are looking to repeat the success they had last year. This year our Sr. Girls are competing in the AA division! We have tournaments in Enderby and Osoyoos.

And some very exciting news, we have a boys soccer team back in fold this year! They are a hard working, passionate, and competitive group looking to put another banner on the gym walls of KSA!

Regular Season:		Sr. Girls Vball	
Date:	Venue:	Teams:	Bus Pick up:
SEPT.23	Norkam	KSA vs. Norkam	
SEPT.29	KSA	Bye	
OCT.1	KSA	KCS	3:30 game
OCT.7	KSA	KSA vs. Merrit	
Oct 10th	AL Fortune	Kings Christian	Parent Drivers
		Vernon Christian	
OCT.15	KSA	Chase	Parent Drivers
OCT.21	KSA	Bye	
OCT.24/25	KSA	KSA Tournament	

Regular Season:		Jr. Girls Vball	
Date:	Venue:	Teams:	Bus Pick up:
Sept. 22	@ Clearwater	Bus	8:30
Sept. 29	@ KCS	No	8:00
Oct. 6	@ KSA	No	8:00
Oct.17/18	KSA	KSA Tournament	
Oct. 20	@ Clearwater	Bus	8:30
Oct. 27	@ KSA	No	8:00
Nov. 3	@ Ashcroft	Bus	9:00

KSA Boys Soccer Schedule			
Date	VS	Location	Time
September 16th	Ashcroft	Singh	4:00
September 23rd	Barriere	Singh	4:00
October 2nd	Clearwater	Singh	4:00
October 7th	KCS	Cottonwood	4:00
October 9th	St. Anns	Singh	4:00

ONE TO ONE READING

Do you love reading with children? Or know someone who may enjoy teaching a child how to read? Kamloops One To One Literacy Program is looking for volunteers to read with students at Kamloops School of the Arts. Volunteers spend 2 hours per week reading with students. See the attached following poster for more information:



Come Read with Me

BECOME A VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Do you have **2 HOURS
A WEEK** during school
hours to read one-on-one
with young students?

- No experience is necessary, but you must have good English language skills
- We provide free training and ongoing support
- Tutors read with 3 elementary students for 30 minutes each, once a week for 12 weeks

Volunteer Training

Monday
September 29, 2025
5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday
October 7th, 2025
9 am - 12 noon

*Henry Grube Education Centre
245 Kitchener Crescent*



Please register by contacting Cami at
cami.literacyinkamloops@gmail.com or 250-573-1785



KAMLOOPS
IMMIGRANT SERVICES
TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

Contact us:

✉ swis@kcris.ca

☎ 250 682 8198

🌐 immigrantservices.ca



The SWIS program supports newcomer school-age students across School District 73 as they transition into the Canadian school system.

SWIS assists newcomers with the following:

- School registration and orientation for elementary and secondary students across School District 73
- Understanding school policies and procedures
- Communicating with teachers and administrators
- Parent-teacher interview support
- Access to interpretation and translation services
- Referrals to community services and resources, including extracurricular activities
- Consultation on school transitions
- Mentoring and tutoring services

Funded by / Financé par

BRITISH COLUMBIA | WelcomeBC

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
(Kamloops-Thompson)



Grade Placement and Curriculum

- Students are placed in grades based on their birth year.
- Classroom learning follows the BC Ministry of Education curriculum guide.
- Schools are noncompetitive; all levels and abilities are supported.

Learning Updates and Summaries

- Updates (reports) are provided for all students at the end of each term.
- Proficiency scales are used from Kindergarten to Grade 9.
- Letter grades and percentages are used in Grades 10-12.

English Language Learner Services

- Support is provided for students of other languages to acquire English proficiency.
- Students connect with peers and participate in language development activities.
- Cultural and language diversity is encouraged and celebrated.





YMCA - Fall Programming Mental Wellness groups

Our GLOW (Girls' Life of Wellness) group helps support young women and non-binary youth ages 8 – 12 in all five dimensions of wellness: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and environmental. Participants meet in groups to have healthy skill-building discussions (e.g. body image, healthy relationships, setting boundaries, puberty, morals/values, etc.) and participate in wellness activities.

Growing Mindfully is a physical and mental wellness program for youth ages 8-12 that helps support youth to be more active and learn healthy coping strategies.

YMCA PROGRAMS

Free 8-week group that will be focused on general wellness for those 8-12-year-old boys and nonbinary children. The group will be 2 hours per session and will include physical activity along with mental, social, and emotional learning. Participants will learn about healthy expression of emotions, self-care, the benefits of physical activity, friendship, stress and worries.

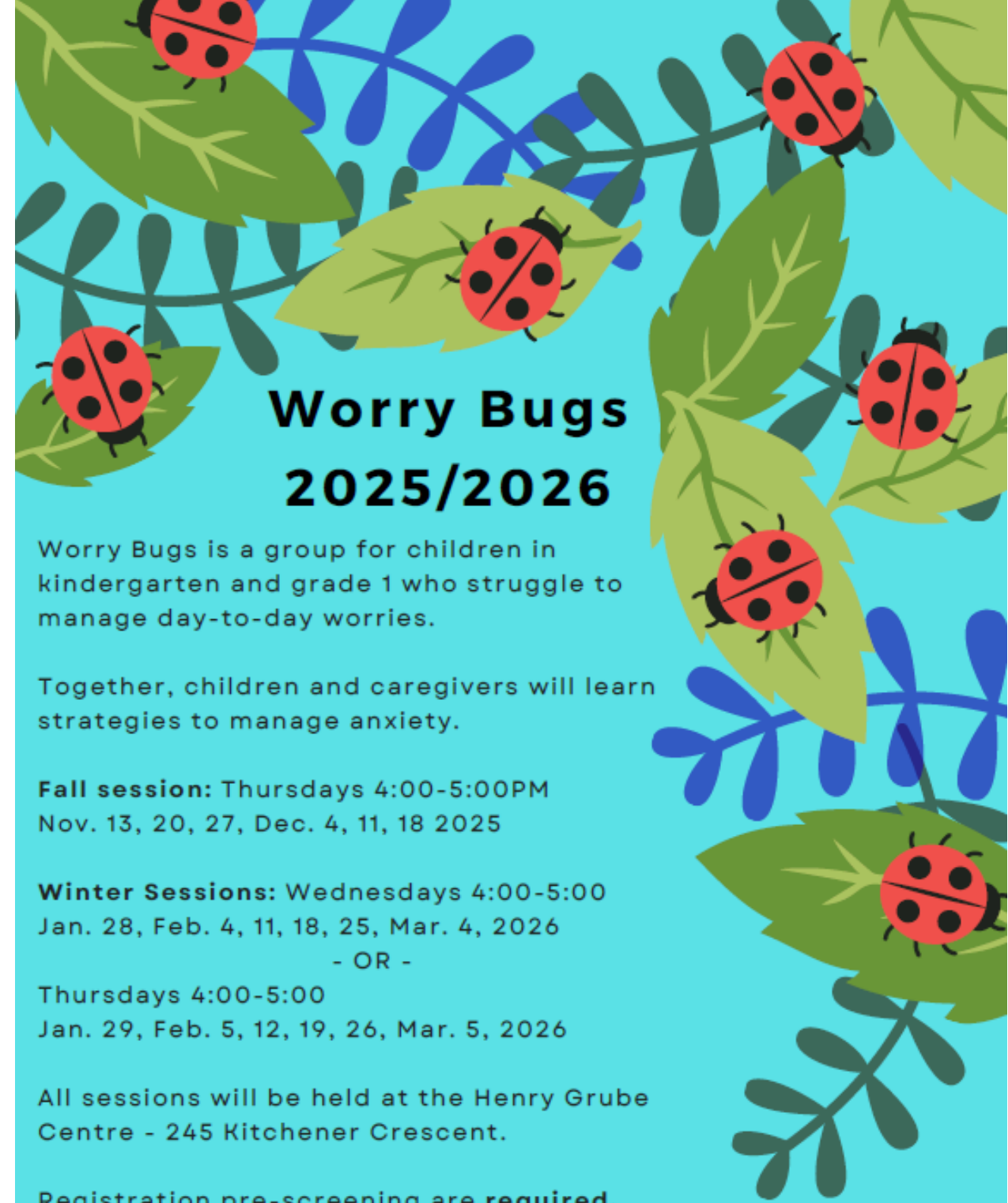
Y YMCA BC
Shine On

B.R.A.V.E

A free 8-week wellness group for 8-12 year-old boys.

The program combines physical activity along with mental, social, and emotional learning.

For more information:
mentalwellness@bc.ymca.ca
250-276-4771
ext 122



Worry Bugs 2025/2026

Worry Bugs is a group for children in kindergarten and grade 1 who struggle to manage day-to-day worries.

Together, children and caregivers will learn strategies to manage anxiety.

Fall session: Thursdays 4:00-5:00PM
Nov. 13, 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18 2025

Winter Sessions: Wednesdays 4:00-5:00
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4, 2026

- OR -

Thursdays 4:00-5:00
Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, Mar. 5, 2026

All sessions will be held at the Henry Grube Centre - 245 Kitchener Crescent.

Registration pre-screening are **required**.

For more information contact Ian Reedman at:

email: ireedman@sd73.bc.ca

phone: (778) 694-7620





Is your child too sick for school?



Deciding when your child is too sick for school is not always an easy decision.

Children should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. If you have questions and concerns about your child's health, talk with a qualified healthcare professional.

Keep children at home if they have:

- a fever, and keep them home for **24** hours after the fever is gone away without the help of medication (see reverse page on how to take a temperature).
- vomiting or diarrhea, and keep them home for **48** hours after the last episode.
- a severe sore throat.
- a rash with no known cause.
- a severe cough especially with other symptoms like a runny nose and headache.
- redness, swelling or discharge of the eyes, ears or skin, unless treated.
- been acting unwell and have little energy to join in school activities.

For questions about your child's health you can:

1. Dial 811 or go to HealthLinkBC.ca to speak with a:

- Registered Nurse 24 hours a day, every day of the year.
- Registered Dietitian every weekday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST.
- Pharmacist every night from 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. PST every day of the year.

2. Contact an Urgent Care, Walk-in Clinic or Doctor's Office.

- See the reverse page on when to go to the emergency department.



Seasonal Respiratory Illness

In the fall and winter, we can expect to see more respiratory illness. This is an annual occurrence, but there are measures we can all take to prevent illness and manage symptoms while at home. Here is some information that may be helpful: [It's respiratory illness season](#).

For more information on specific illnesses see: [A Quick Guide to Common Childhood Diseases](#)

IMPORTANT KSA DATES

Please note: events/dates are *subject to change*- please check with the teacher/organiser to confirm.

2025	Date	Event
October	9	Parent Teacher Interviews
	10	Elementary School fees due
	13	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
	24	Professional Development Day
November	6	Photo Re-Takes
	10	Remembrance Day school ceremony
	11	Remembrance Day
	10	Secondary - Start of Q2
December	1	Professional Development Day
	11	Christmas Concert- To be confirmed
	12	Elementary- Report cards sent home
	19	Last Day before Winter Break
2026		
January	5	School Returns from Winter Break
	27	Secondary- Last day of S1/Q2
	19	Grad Photos (Retakes at SKSS February 17/18)
February	6	Professional Development Day
	16	BC Family Day Holiday
March	5	Parent/Teacher Interviews
	13	Elementary reports out to students
	13	Last Day before Spring Break
	30	School Returns from Spring Break
April	3	Good Friday Holiday
	6	Easter Monday Holiday
	20	End of Q3
	27	Professional Development Day
May	15	Professional Development Day
	18	Victoria Day
June	12	KSA GRAD
	23	SECONDARY- Final day of School
	24/25	Project Completion Days- Secondary

	25	ELEMENTARY- Final day of School-Early Closure 12:30
	26	Administration Day- no school

SD73 Important dates can be found [HERE](#)



SD73 and KIS
invite you to a



**ESSENTIAL SCHOOL
INFORMATION FOR ELL &
NEWCOMER FAMILIES**

VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION



OCTOBER

8

6-7:00PM

Please join us as we share information with parents about schools in Kamloops. Presenters will include SD73 staff and SWIS workers. Topics of discussion will be:

- ✓ School expectations
- ✓ Learning Updates
- ✓ Communication with your school
- ✓ Answering your questions



**Please register in advance.
A zoom link will be provided
upon registration.**

**Registration QR
Code:**



For more information email :

Clara Kong - clara@kcris.ca
Anna Ediger- swis@kcris.ca



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SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

1383 - 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC V2C 3X7 | Tel: 250-374-0679 | Fax: 250-372-1183 | www.sd73.bc.ca

Fair Notice for Parents and Students 2025-2026

Dear Parents and Students:

The safety of our students is a top priority for us all. As a school system, we have been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners – the police, Child & Youth Mental Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Together we have developed a district plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others. School District No. 73 has a policy in place that requires principals to activate a multidisciplinary “threat assessment” protocol in all cases of students making significant high level threats to harm themselves or others. The procedure is available on the school district website at www.sd73.bc.ca

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

Duty to report

In order to keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal.

What is a Site-Specific Threat Assessment Team?

The school has a site-specific threat assessment team that includes the principal(s), counsellor(s), teachers and a member of the police.

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- to ensure and promote the emotional and physical safety of students, staff, parents, the student making the threat, and others
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- to understand the factors underlying the behaviours of the threat maker
- to be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker
- to promote the emotional and physical safety of all

A student threat assessment will be initiated for behaviours including, but not limited to:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- online threats to harm/kill others
- possession of weapons (including replicas)
- gang related intimidation and violence
- verbal/written threats to harm/kill others (clear, direct, plausible)
- bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)
- fire starting
- sexual intimidation and violence

What parents and students need to know:

- any threat must be reported to the school principal
- investigations may involve the student services counsellor, the police or other community agencies
- investigations may involve locker or personal property searches
- interviews will be held with the threat maker and other students or adults who may have information about the threat
- parents of students who are directly involved with a threat will be notified
- threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action and/or change in school placement
- an intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats

Collection Notice

The School District is subject to personal information privacy laws, and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including limiting collection of information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from online open source sites. The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Nixon, Ph.D, Superintendent of Schools