



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 NOVEMBER 2025

Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

As November unfolds, our school continues to shine with creativity, collaboration, and community spirit. The rhythm of the year is well established, and it's inspiring to see our students live out our theme of "Imagine, Innovate, Inspire" through their learning, performances, and daily interactions. From academic projects to artistic endeavors, our students consistently demonstrate curiosity, creativity, and perseverance.

October concluded with our first Grad Parent Meeting, setting the stage for an exciting journey for our graduating class. We look forward to supporting them as they prepare for the milestones ahead. Our elementary and secondary volleyball teams have also represented KSA with pride, teamwork, and determination, reflecting the values we celebrate across our school community.

This month, anticipation is high for the KSA Arts Fair, where students will showcase their talents in music, dance, drama, and visual arts. Many of our students are also preparing to participate in the Kamloops Santa Parade, an opportunity to share their creativity and joy with the wider community. You may also have noticed our new student-designed mural on the side of the building—a vibrant reminder of the talent and dedication within our school.

As we approach Remembrance Day, we pause to honour those who served and sacrificed for peace. This meaningful day reminds us of the importance of gratitude, respect, and compassion in all that we do. Families are also encouraged to monitor their child's progress through MyEdBC, and as Term 1 concludes, secondary report cards will be posted on November 22nd, with elementary reports following on December 13th.

A heartfelt thank you to all families for your continued support, to those who attended parent-teacher interviews, and to our incredible KSA PAC for enriching our student experience. Together, we make KSA a place where every student can express their creativity, grow in character, and thrive.

Kukwstsetsemc,
Blair Lloyd

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Blair Lloyd'.

Proud Principal of **501 KSA STAR Students**

Graduation Newsletter

Graduation Updates

Graduation newsletters (linked above) and Parent Grad Meetings can be found on our [website](#).

Graduation Information

Transcripts can be ordered via the Ministry of Education website. [HERE](#) are directions on how to order them.

Important Graduation Dates

Week of Nov 3-7th - Students can come to the office for measurements prior to grad gown ordering at the office during long breaks and lunch

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

Thursday, February 5, 2026 - [Graduation fees due](#)

Friday, June 12, 2026 - Commencements at TRU Grand Hall



Grade 12 students will be running fundraisers to support their graduation! If you are interested, and you do not know a grade 12 graduate, please email ksagrad2025@gmail.com, they will help you out!

ACCESSING MYEDBC FOR PARENTS/STUDENTS

All learning updates (report cards) will be uploaded to the [MYED portal](#). MyEducationBC (MyEd BC) is a secure student information system set up by the Province of BC. Security is guided by the rules and regulations of the School Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

The [MyEd BC Parent Portal](#) is available for parents to access:

- Attendance information
- Report cards
- GradeBook marks (for those classes using the MyEd BC Gradebook)
- Your current contact information
- Individual Education Plans (and progress reports)
- Verification sheets
- Course schedule
- Course selection
- Student Portfolio



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

MyEducationBC

To learn more about accessing the portal, please click [HERE](#).

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](#).

****We recommend trying to login before the reports are published to ensure any problems are dealt with prior to that****

Learning updates (report cards) and Graduation Status Updates (Grade 12 only) are published to the [MyED BC Parent Portal](#).

To access the portal, please use the information in the email that was sent to you earlier this year or use the following link: <https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspden/logon.do>

An email will be sent to you on the day that any reports are published to the parent portal.

As a reminder, your username is the email address you provided to the school and the password is in the email that was sent to you already (when the account was created). If you have forgotten your password, please click on the "I forgot my password" link and follow the instructions *before* contacting the school.

There is support information on the [school website](#) (under Parents and Students Heading, MyED BC parent and student Portal), the following video also shows how to login to MyED BC.

[Click here for Login Video](#)

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:

- 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.

Secondary 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 regular scheduled day.

VOLUNTEERING OR ATTENDING A FIELD TRIP

If you are interested in volunteering or attending a field trip, a criminal record check must be completed and received at the office prior to your trip. To complete a [Criminal Record Check](#), you will need our organization's **Access Code: E3CUKTBWUW**. We have been notified by the Province of BC that as of August 19, 2024 manual criminal record checks will no longer be accepted. Thank you for your interest in supporting our students and school! For more information, please visit our [website](#).

POD 2 POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER!

Anyone can order!. Proceeds will go to field trips and classroom supplies. Orders are due by Nov.14 and pick up is on Dec. 2nd. Any questions please contact Mrs. Piroddi: spiroddi@sd73.bc.ca or Ms. Covington: ccovington@sd73.bc.ca. Use this link to place an order: <https://kamloopschoolofthearts.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home>
Thank you for your support!



The annual KSA Craft Fair is almost here!
Come and support our biggest PAC fundraiser of the year.
There are over 80 vendors including classroom/club tables.

For more information or to volunteer please email:

Ms. Covington
ccovington@sd73.bc.ca

KSA GRAD CLASS OF 2026

Every can or bottle makes a difference!



Visit either Kamloops location of General Grant's and drop off your empties

• South Shore - 'KSA Grad 2026'

• North Shore - 'KSA Grad 2026' or account #634

• Donate your returns through your Return-It Express account to:

<https://app.return-it.ca/ksagrad2026>

Or take your empties to any Return-It Express location in BC



- - Empties must be in a clear bag
- - Punch in the code 12503197091
- - Print the sticker, then stick it on the bag and place it in the container

For more information:

KSAGrad2026@gmail.com

Let's recycle for a purpose!

The Card Project

To order your child's beautiful artwork on professionally printed products, to go:

www.TheCardProject.ca

Our school's **access code is KL76**

The **FINAL DEADLINE** is Tuesday, November 11.
Orders will be delivered in the week of December 8-12.

Questions? Contact Marcelle at
Marcelle@TheCardProject.com

The Card Project

orders now open



This is a wonderful fundraising initiative for our school. We receive 20% of the sales.

Available products include: greeting cards, mugs, canvas tote bags, mouse pads, tea towels, notebooks, canvas prints, and more.

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



Pod 2 Art

Mrs. Pavluk's class celebrated the colours of fall by creating folk style fall trees. First we drew the trunk and branches of the trees with sharpies, using whimsical lines for the branches. Then we chose fall colours to paint over the branches and trunks to represent the leaves of the trees. The students were able to use their creative licence by selecting the style of their branches and the colours of their leaves.



NEW BUDDY BENCH

On Thursday, October 23rd KSA was fortunate to be able to see the installation of a new Buddy Bench in the playground. This installation was the result of a tremendous effort by our own grade 5 student, Lily Murgatroyd. After months of organizing and fundraising her hard work came to fruition, much to the delight of all of the KSA Students and Staff. Thank you, Lily, and well done!



POD 3 NEWSDESK PRESS RELEASE:

On Tuesday, October 21, KSA visited the Paramount Theater for a screening of the award-winning, closing film for this year's Indigenous Film Festival, ***Saints and Warriors***. Our student reporters on the ground shared the following after attending this special screening which included a visit from Gaffer, the Kamloops Film Society mascot, popcorn, drinks and that vintage theater ambiance one could only get from one of Canada's last truly independent theaters, right in the heart of downtown Kamloops:

Correspondent **Greyson** reported:

This movie is about Indigenous people working together to save their town and their way of life and wild-life. Logging was trying to cut down the trees. The Haida people stood in the road and protected the land. I would recommend this film to others because it shows a lot of things to learn about Haida Gwaii.

Correspondent **Ivy** reported:

This film helps connect and understand Indigenous ways and culture. It teaches about the Haida people, all nation basketball, the Indian Act, Residential Schools and their perspective on all these things. It is eye catching, interesting, heart warming and words I can't explain. You will just have to see it for yourself.

KSA students enjoyed a brisk walk in the autumn sunshine there and back, and distinguished themselves out in their community with beautiful manners and their amazing audience etiquette.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT



Secondary

Soccer season has now wrapped up. Our boys played really hard and did great. Way to go team!

Girls volleyball is midway through the season and on their way to playoffs. Keep up the hard work!

Elementary

Volleyball is in full swing. We have lots of STARS playing and building their skills this year. We have four Volleyball teams and a huge thanks goes out to the parent Coaches Tim Jacometti, Matt Bajkov, and Ditte Williams for volunteering their time and support. The Gr. 6/7 Boys play on Tues., Gr. 4/5 boys and girls play on Wed., and Gr. 6/7 girls play on Thursdays.

For actual locations please visit sd73/sports.

Go STARS!

Thank you to the KSA PAC for the new jerseys!



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 this 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. A second pair of shoes is important as we enter the winter months.



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. Fees can be paid through the ‘[School Cash Online](#)’ account and all school fees are now due. Click [HERE](#) for access to the website.

FEES PAID VIA SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Parents/guardians who have not already logged in to School Cash Online to do so at your *earliest opportunity*. [School Cash Online](#) allows you to pay for your student's fees using a credit card. .

As a reminder, there is now a processing fee for all payment transactions made through SchoolCash Online. Cash/cheque payments will not be subject to this processing fee.

SchoolCash Online

Sign In

Email Address

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

Remember me

[SIGN IN](#)

New to SchoolCash Online?

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Welcome to your new SchoolCash Online login page.

You can access [School Cash Online](#) on our website at

<https://ksa.sd73.bc.ca/en/parents-students-support-help/cashless-schools.aspx>.

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.

Elementary students are dismissed at 2:39pm. 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.

ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance is a vital component to our curriculum 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 8:20 am**.

SAFE ARRIVAL APP

To report an absence you may choose to:

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



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.

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.



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.



LOST AND FOUND

We have accumulated items in our lost and found. Please visit the lost and found located outside of the gym prior to the winter break. Smaller items can be found at the office.

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.

KSA PAC NEWS

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!*



PAC HALLOWEEN DANCE

A huge thank-you to our amazing KSA PAC for organizing another fantastic Halloween Dance! The students had a blast showing off their costumes, enjoying treats, and spending time with friends after school — creating wonderful memories together.

This event was a true team effort, and we're so grateful to everyone who helped make it happen. Whether you signed up ahead of time or just jumped in to lend a hand, every contribution made a difference.

Special thanks to:

- Loni Horsley for all the behind-the-scenes organization and promotion.
- Taqueesha Lightfoot for her dedication and countless hours.
- Stefan Schweizer, Holly Therrien, Theo Williams, Kevin Klassen, and Ramsey Lightfoot for staying late to clean up after an already long day.
- And a big shout-out to Lucas (Grade 12) for helping the DJ pack up at the end of the night!

PAC would also like to recognize everyone who helped make the evening so special — Ms. Traudt, Mr. Stella's Leadership class, school clubs and teams, Ms. Melan's and Mr. Crummy's Senior Foods classes (for those amazing homemade cupcakes!), and all the parents who donated, baked, or volunteered.

A special thanks to Stefan and Holly for leading this event — your teamwork and organization have set the stage for future dances! Remember, you don't have to be on the PAC executive to help lead an event — there's always lots of support and community spirit.

Let's keep the momentum going and make our upcoming Craft Fair the best in the city! 🌟

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:

November 12: PAC meeting

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>



CHECK OUT THE KSA WEBSITE FOR SCHOOL INFORMATION!

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.



Poster Contest

Poster Contest Youth in grades 6-12 across the Interior Health region are invited to submit an original form of artwork that shares their views on the impacts of tobacco, cannabis, vaping and alcohol use in this year's Beyond the Buzz 2.0 – Youth's Voices on Substance Use. The contest opens on October 15th and will have prizes for the winning posters that are judged by our YOUTHWISE peer advisory group. Find out more at: [Beyond the Buzz Youth Poster Contest](#)



New! Mental health resources for families

New videos and information are available by mental health experts at BC Children's Hospital who share your culture and language. • Resources are available in many languages to support diverse families, including Arabic, Cantonese, English, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Ukrainian, and for Black communities. • Topics include anxiety, substance use, family transitions, and more. When it comes to your child's mental health, you are not alone. Check out these multi-language mental health resources [here](#). New content will roll out until late Fall 2025. This campaign is a partnership between BC Children's Health Bridge, BC Children's Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre, and Our Kids' Health.



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](#)

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

IMPORTANT KSA DATES

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

NOVEMBER	6	Photo Re-takes
	7	Term 1 end
	10	Term 2 begins
	11	Remembrance Day (no school)
	12	PAC Meeting
	15	KSA Craft Fair
	17	Grade 6 & 9 immunizations
	21	Secondary report cards published on MyEd
	23	Santa Parade
	27	STAR Collaboration Session for Secondary
DECEMBER	1	Pro-D Day (no school)
	11	Christmas Concert
	12	Elementary report cards published on MyEd
	22	Winter Break begins
JANUARY 2026	5	Return to classes
	19	Grad Photos
	27	Term 2 ends
	27	Secondary Project Completion
	28	Secondary Project Completion
	29	Semester 2 starts for secondary students
	29	STAR Collaboration Session for Secondary
FEBRUARY	5	Grad fees due
	6	Pro-D Day (no school)
	16	Family Day (no school)
	17	Grad Photo Retakes @ SKSS
	18	Grad Photo Retakes @ SKSS
	27	STAR Collaboration Session for Secondary
MARCH	5	Parent teacher interviews-Early dismissal

	13	Elementary report cards going home and published on MyEd
	16	Spring Break begins
	30	Return from Spring Break
April	3	Good Friday (no school)
	6	Easter Monday (no school)
	20	Term 3 ends
	23	STAR Collaboration Session for Secondary
	27	Pro-D Day (no school)
May	1	Secondary reports published on MyEd
	15	Pro-D Day (no school)
	18	Victoria Day (no school)
	28	STAR Collaboration Session for Secondary
JUNE	12	KSA Graduation Commencement
	18	STAR Collaboration Session for Secondary
	24	Secondary project completion
	25	Last day of elementary classes
	25	Elementary reports published to MyEd
	26	Administration day (no school)
JULY	1	Canada Day
	2	Secondary reports published on MyEd