



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 DECEMBER 2025

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers,

December is here: time for winter activities, family gatherings, and holiday traditions that make lifelong impressions in children's minds. Joyous and exciting as this season may be, here at Kamloops School of the Arts, it continues to be a period of serious learning and academic focus.

KSA's School Learning Plan focuses on intellectual and social development. Our School Learning Plan can be found [HERE](#). It was developed in collaboration with students, staff, and parents, and specifies two key focus areas congruent with district goals:

Intellectual Development

District Goal: All learners will develop the competencies and skills necessary for academic success. School Goal: Ensure that all KSA students meet or exceed grade-level expectations in numeracy and literacy. We have set specific achievement targets for each grade and developed an action plan to support these goals across all classrooms.

Human and Social Development

District Goal: Every learner will feel welcome, safe, and connected to their environments. School Goal: Develop in all KSA students a strong sense of belonging by focusing on learning that embraces connections, reciprocal relationships, and a rich sense of place.

I would like to extend a huge word of thanks to our amazing PAC, who once again hosted an incredible Halloween Dance. It was a night of music, laughter, and community spirit. It was wonderful to see students, families, and staff come together in celebration in such a fun and inclusive way. Your creativity, organization, and generosity continue to make KSA a special place to learn and grow. The PAC continues to support our school with our upcoming Secondary Choir and Elementary students Christmas Choral evening.

As we head into the holidays, I encourage families to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy moments of joy together—whether that means sharing a meal, spending time outdoors, or simply being present with one another. Our students have earned a well-deserved Winter Break after a season of dedication and growth. Thank you for your continued support as we help KSA

continue to Imagine, Innovate, and Inspire. Warmest wishes for a holiday season filled with joy, happiness, and time with loved ones.

Kukwstsétsemc,

Blair Lloyd, Proud Principal of 501 KSA STAR Students!

BUDDY BENCH

When Grade 5 KSA student Lily Murgatroyd noticed the need for more inclusion on the playground, she decided to take the initiative to create positive change, one bench at a time.

In October, Kamloops School of the Arts (KSA) added a new, welcoming feature to their playground area—a Buddy Bench. The project started with an idea from Lily, who approached KSA Principal Blair Lloyd about installing the bench. Lily remembered how her previous school had a Buddy Bench and how it helped kids feel more included.

With Principal Lloyd's support, and help from her family and friends, Lily then presented to the KSA Parent Advisory Council, and shared how Buddy Benches can make a positive difference for all kids to feel included and welcome:

"A buddy bench is a bench where someone goes to sit on it if they don't have a friend to play with, and another friend can come over and play with them. It lets people know when someone feels lonely and needs extra kindness... Buddy benches make everyone feel included, and like they belong."

For the complete story, please use the link below: [Buddy Bench Story](#)

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!

20 CLASS OF 26

\$30 Rotary Club of Kamloops West

2026 Golf Cards

Use the card up to 4 times at each course

Pineridge Golf Course
Two green fees for \$45 Mon-Thurs anytime. Valid on green fees only, carts not included.

The Dunes at Kamloops
18 holes guest walking rate of \$80 Sunday to Wednesday after 1pm. Power cart extra. Must be booked in advance.

Bighorn Golf & Country Club
2 for 1, Based on our 18 hole prime season rack rate.

Shuswap Lake Golf Course at Blind Bay
25% Off one regular priced peak season prime time 18 hole green fee. Valid Mon-Thurs after 11am and Fri-Sun/Holidays after 1pm.

Chinook Cove Golf & RV Club
2 for 1 green fees only, weekdays after 1:30pm and weekends after 2:30pm. Excludes holidays.

See website and card for details and restrictions. kamloopswestrotary.club

Talk to a KSA Grad 2026 student
Or Email KSAGrad2026@gmail.com
To get yours today!

2026 Great Deals Restaurant Cards

Visit each restaurant up to 4 times!

HOJA MONGOLIAN GRILL
256 Victoria St.
Two for one lunch or dinner ANYTIME.

MOXIES KAMLOOPS RESTAURANT
225 Lorne St.
Half price wine ANYTIME.

DENNY'S North Shore
898 Tranquille Rd
Free appy with purchase over \$40.
All week 5pm-9pm.

NOBLE PIG
650 Victoria St.
Buy one appetizer and get the other for half price ANYTIME.

UNDERBELLY
120 5th Ave
Buy one appetizer and get the other for half price ANYTIME!

THE COLUMBIA DINER
555 Columbia St W
Two for one lunch or dinner entrée.
Any day, anytime.
See website and card for details and restrictions.
kamloopswestrotary.club

Rotary Club of Kamloops West

\$30

How To Buy!

Talk to a KSA Grad 2026 student
Or Email KSAGrad2026@gmail.com
To get yours today!

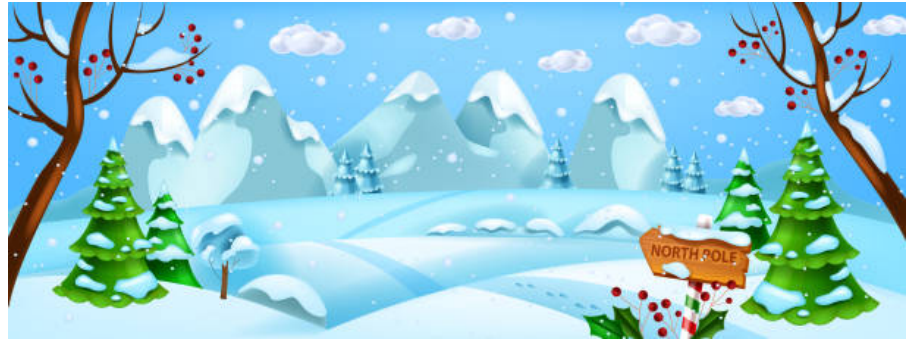
CHRISTMAS CHORAL INFORMATION

“Songs of the Season: Straight from the North Pole ”

The season is almost upon us and the students at KSA are beginning to get prepared for the annual Christmas Choral Concert! This year’s concert will take place on December 11th. This year’s performance is titled, “Songs of the Season: Straight from the North Pole ”!

This year’s afternoon concert will be open seating while the evening performance will be entrance by ticket. Space is limited due to fire regulations so each household has been allotted 2 free tickets for the evening performance. Extra tickets for the evening show will be released on a first-come-first-serve basis starting on Monday, December 9th.

The PAC has planned a few fundraisers for the Christmas concert including a 50/50 draw and preferred seating couch raffle so they encourage everyone to support these initiatives by bringing some money to the show. Food hamper donations are welcome.



1:00pm - Open seating
 6:00pm - Two tickets per household as space is limited
 For the 6:00pm show, student performers are to arrive at 5:15pm.
 K Pod and Pod 1 will enter through the cafeteria doors
 Pod 2 will enter through lower bridge doors
 Pod 3 will enter through upper bridge doors

Families of students with the last names:
 A to L enter through the main doors at 5:30pm
 M to Z enter through the gym doors at 5:30pm

KSA SKATING SCHEDULE 2026

The City of Kamloops has provided our school with ice times for skating! Permission forms will need to be signed and returned to your teacher. Students are asked to bring skates, a CSA-approved helmet, gloves, and warm clothes. Please reach out to your teacher for more information and if you have any questions.



Location	Date	Time Start	Time End	Classes (Teachers)
Memorial Arena	Thur Jan 8, 26	10:45 am	11:45 am	1.Alpaugh 2.Sadik 3.McDaniels
Sandman Center	Tue Jan 13, 26	10:45 am	11:45 am	1Wilson 2.Norman
Sandman Center	Tue Jan 20, 26	10:45 am	11:45 am	1 Wilson 2.Norman
Mac Island OLY Ice	Mon Jan 26, 26	10:15 am	11:15 am	1.Pavluk 2.Nadolny
Mac Island OLY Ice	Mon Feb 2, 26	9:00 am	10:00 am	1.Pavluk 2.Nadolny
Mac Island OLY Ice	Mon Feb 9, 26	9:00 am	10:00 am	1. Covington 2. Piroddi
Mac Island OLY Ice	Wed Feb 18, 26	10:15 am	11:15 am	1. Pavluk 2. Nadolny
Mac Island OLY Ice	Wed Feb 25, 26	9:00 am	10:00 am	1. Covington

				2. Piroddi
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KSA SECONDARY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Senior Girls

Date	Day	Location	Time		Home	Away
Dec.5/6	Fri/Sat	Barriere	6:30	Tournament		
Dec.15	Mon	KCS	5:00	G	KSA	Desert Sands
Jan.7	Wed	KSA	6:45	G	KSA	Barriere
Jan 9/10	Fri/Sat	Ashcroft	6:30	Tournament		
Jan.21	Wed	KSA	6:45	G	KSA	KCS
Jan.26	Mon	St. Ann's	6:45	G	St. Ann's	KSA
Feb.2	Mon	@ 4th				
Feb.5	Thur	@ 1st				
Feb.6	Fri	@ 1st				
Okangans:	Date:	Girls - Feb.13/14 - Kelowna				
Provincials:	Date:	Girls - Feb.25-28 LEC				

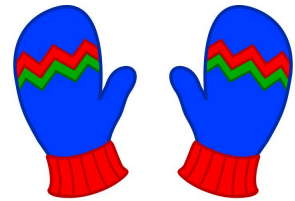
Jr. Girls and Boys (same schedule except for tournaments)

Date	Day	Location	Time		Home	Away
Dec. 12/13	Fri/Sat	Ashcroft	6:30	Tournament	(just Girls)	
Dec.16	Tue	Clearwater	5:00/6:30	G/B	Clearwater	KSA
Jan.8	Thur	KSA	5:00/6:30	G/B	KSA	Desert Sands
Jan.15	Thur	Barriere	5:00/6:30	G/B	Barriere	KSA
Jan.29	Thur	KSA	5:00/6:30	G/B	KSA	KCS
Jan 30/31	Fri/Sat	Barriere	6:30	Tournament	(just Girls)	
Feb.9	Mon	Playoff				
Feb.11	Wed	Playoff				
Feb.12	Thur	Playoff				



INDOOR SHOES & WINTER GEAR

Students need “indoor” shoes at school. For gym classes, athletic shoes are required, which can also work as indoor shoes. In the wet weather, the floors get slippery and dangerous, especially on the stairs! Please also ensure that your child has warm mitts, hats, boots and jackets for the colder weather. A change of clothes is recommended as well.



KSA CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Join our Christmas Food Drive event and help ensure that every family has a festive and nourishing meal to share. Send in a non-perishable item and optional donation (\$5) before December 12th. You can also send an EMT to payments@ksapac.ca and please note Christmas Hampers in the comments.

Bring your donations to your classroom. All donations will go towards KSA families and the Foodbank.

If your family needs a little Christmas help, please email blloyd@sd73.bc.ca



Snacks and Lunches

We have seen an increase in students requesting food at the office. Please ensure you have sent enough snacks and lunch for your student(s). If your child attends after school care, they may need extra food for their time at daycare. Growing minds need a lot of food!



SENIOR ART

English First Peoples 12, Senior Visual Arts, Mrs. Richmond’s class, and Junior Secondary Art students collaborated on a mural for our school courtyard that reflects local First Peoples’ perspectives, knowledge, and protocols. Former KSA student Shay Paul, a community organizer, artist, and facilitator based in Tk’emlupste Secwepemc, served as our resident artist. Shay, a contemporary artist and graphic designer, designed the mural and worked closely with students throughout the project. Inspired by the FNEC Place-Conscious Learning framework, the project engaged students with the local landscape, helped them understand territory and relationships, and encouraged respectful engagement with cultural knowledge. Over the course of the project, the mural has helped indigenize our courtyard, strengthening students’ sense of belonging and supporting our school goal of fostering connectedness and place-based learning. This project also honoured the retirement of Ms. Leonard, whose advocacy has long supported equality through art-based learning.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Our school community came together for a meaningful Remembrance Day assembly that honoured the day through the arts. Students expressed their respect and gratitude using dance, drama, choir, visual art, and instrumental music. Through movement, song, and creative expression, students reflected on themes of peace, courage, and remembrance, creating a powerful and heartfelt tribute to those who have served and continue to serve.

Students in grade one and three created a mural for Sahali Mall to display at their Remembrance Day ceremony. 200 people were in attendance and we were proud to have been a part of this ceremony.





KSA PAC NEWS

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>

DECEMBER PAC UPDATE

Full steam ahead to that winter break! We

know there are a lot of requests put on our KSA Families, especially this time of year. We hope that you can join us in some way to continue our amazing KSA Spirit for the students through the Holidays.

IMPORTANT PAC DATES: *helpers needed*

- Wed, Dec 3 4pm - Kids Market set up
- Thurs, Dec 4 - Dec 10th: 9-3 KSA Kids Christmas Shop
- Fri, Dec 5th afternoon - Chorale Concert set up
- Mon, Dec 8th morning - Chorale Concert set up
- Wed, Dec 10 – Moon Wok PAC Hot Lunch
- Thurs, Dec 11 1pm + 6pm - PAC hosts *50/50 Draws & Couch Auctions* at Holiday Chorale Concerts
- Fri, Dec 12 morning - Chorale Concert take down
- Wed, Jan 14 - PAC Meeting 6pm
- Wed, Jan 21 – Red Robin

KSA KIDS CHRISTMAS SHOP

This year the PAC is hosting a *Kids Christmas Shop*, allowing the children to shop for their family in the comfort of their own school! Much like a Book Fair, this will be exciting and empowering for our students giving them independence to surprise their loved ones with gifts picked out just for them! ALL the money raised goes right back to the school!

Needed: Donations accepted until Dec 3rd in the box at the office.

New or very gently used items that will be categorized and sold for \$1-\$5.

Needed: Volunteers to run the shop 9-3pm on Dec 4-10.

Sign up through this link: volunteersignup.org/FC43P

And/or text 250-572-0099 Amanda for more info.

GIANT RAFFLE BASKET WORTH OVER \$1500!

Tickets: \$10 each or 3 for \$20 – available Saturdays at Sahali Mall. Nov 28; Dec 6, Dec 13

All proceeds support the KSA Christmas Hampers.

Huge thanks to R. Wayne Martel and Sahali Mall for their generosity!

KSA HOLIDAY CHORALE NIGHT

The school has asked PAC to recruit parents/guardians that are able to help set up and take down for the chorale concert.

The KSA Holiday Chorale Night - *Songs of the Season: Straight From the North Pole* - will be held on Thursday, December 11th in the KSA Gym, featuring all four Elementary Choirs and the Secondary Choir.

Tasks include: set-up the stage behind the risers, moving decorations, and decorating, as including stringing lights and securing props.

Set-up Dates: Fri, Dec 5th afternoon, Mon Dec 8th morning

Take Down: Fri, Dec 12 Morning

Please contact Mrs. Piroddi ASAP if you can help! spiroddi@sd73.bc.ca

Also - Volunteers needed to run the PAC's 50/50 Draw and Couch Auctions for both 1pm and 6pm shows. Great seats will be reserved for those volunteers! Contact Holly Therrien hitherrien@gmail.com 250-319-4722 if you can help with this.

PAC HOT LUNCH

The KSA PAC is excited to offer fun hot lunches once a month! Dec 10th is from Moon Wok, and the order deadline is Nov 30th. The next one on Jan 21st will be Red Robin. 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!

POPCORN THURSDAYS \$1 & SLUSHIE DAYS \$2!

Slushie Purchases - Pod 1 Dec 4th, Pod 2 Dec 12, Pod 3 Dec 18th.

Please note: Dec 11th popcorn and slushies will be moved to Dec 12th. The next round of convenient popcorn pre-orders (for the second half of the year) will start in December and will be open until the end of January. Students can always buy popcorn on Thursdays without pre-ordering.

CRAFT FAIR - Was a HUGE success! Incredible Team Work, led by the incredible Ms. Covington! Thank you to the many families that were able to help out here and there, our

highest number of volunteers, ever! Thank you, also, to our amazing KSA staff - we appreciate the support, it really makes this event memorable for the public. We estimated over 2,000 shoppers went through the gym, and PAC raised a record of \$9,500!! Well done!

SANTA PARADE - Start thinking for next year...we'll need a lead volunteer to make it a go.

NEXT PAC MEETING: Wed Jan 14, 2026, 6pm. In *The Commons* (by the Elementary/Large Dance Studio), everyone is welcome! Park in the staff lot and come in through the parking lot doors.

STAY UP TO DATE

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ksapac>. We recommend that you turn on your notifications for this group so you don't miss anything.

December popcorn and slushie dates:



Popcorn for all PODs!

Slushies for mentioned POD

Thursday, December 4th - POD 1

Friday, December 12th - POD 2

(date changed due to Christmas concert day!)

Thursday, December 18th - POD 3

Popcorn \$1 / Slushie \$2

KSA Kids Christmas Shop

This year the PAC is putting on a Kids Christmas Shop, allowing the children to shop for their family in the comfort of their own school!

Why: This will be exciting and empowering for our students giving them independence to surprise their loved ones with gifts picked out just for them!
ALL the money raised goes right back to the school!



Where: The seniors lounge/common area



When: December 4th - 10th (5 days total)

Donations Needed!

We are asking for donations of new or very gently used items to be sold. Donations will be sorted into categories and priced between \$1 - \$5

Gift donation ideas: Gently used toys, books, puzzles, board games, art supplies, colouring books, fidgets, room décor items, knickknacks, costume jewelry, unused candles, handmade art or jewelry, unused cosmetics, kitchen gadgets, coffee mugs, ornaments, etc!

Gift bag/box donations for our younger shoppers would also be appreciated!

PLEASE no clothing (unused silly socks, mittens, or handmade scarves are okay), food items (exception to unopened boxes of chocolate, teas, hot chocolate), stained, dirty, or broken items.

Donations can be dropped off November 15th - December 3rd in the box Labeled Christmas Shop at the front of the school.

Teachers:

We will also schedule a time to bring your students through (much like a book fair). Please remind your students about donations and to bring money on their shopping day.

SECONDARY COLLABORATION (STAR) BLOCK 2025/2026

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:

- 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.

ACCESSING MYEDBC FOR PARENTS/STUDENTS

Upcoming 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

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](#).

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>
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) and the following video also shows how to login to MyED BC.

[Click here for Login Video](#)

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 are due to the office. 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 video's or to be photographed

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.

FEES PAID VIA SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Starting September 2025 individual student fees (enhancement fees for field trips and athletics for example) will include a processing fee for all payment transactions using online payment options. This processing fee, which was approved by the Board after the budget consultation process last spring, represents actual costs the Board incurs for using online fee payment services. Cash and cheque payments will not incur this processing fee. We recognize that fee increases can be challenging for families. School District 73 is committed to ensuring that no student is excluded from an educational program or activity or extracurricular activity because of financial need as outlined in the District's Administrative Procedure 506: Student Financial Assistance.

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

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 8:20 am**.

SAFE ARRIVAL APP & REPORTING ATTENDANCE

Parents/guardians are to report absences on Safe Arrival. 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:



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

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. 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 the class, then a report will be dispatched for all and the system will issue a call.

If you need to sign your student(s) out during the day, please also notify your teacher(s) in advance when possible, 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 have communicated this plan with your child(ren) prior to the start of the day. If your plans have changed throughout the day, please notify the school office and the teacher when possible. Elementary students are dismissed at 2:39pm. High school students are dismissed at 2:54pm.

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. 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.

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.



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.

Sent on behalf of Deanna Brady, District Principal of Inclusive Education

Good afternoon,

We are happy to present the following parent engagement session for December:
Presented by Child and Youth Mental Health Eating Disorder Clinicians

Join Interior Health's Eating Disorder clinicians as they examine eating disorders, what they are and what you can do.

In this session, you will:

- Examine what an eating disorder is
- Review the signs and symptoms to watch for
- Explore what to do and how to respond
- Identify supports available in the community

This workshop will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. If you are interested in attending, please register in advance [here](#). Following your registration, you will receive the link to the meeting.

Content for Parent Newsletters: HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

November 2025

HEALTHY EATING & FOOD SECURITY

Sharing Stories

Check out our Stories@IH [Fire Fridays at Senpaq'cin School](#) to see how students in Oliver are participating in a land-based learning program that connects them to syilx language, culture, and food sovereignty.

LEGAL SUBSTANCES AND YOUTH HARM REDUCTION

CONTEST ALERT: Seeking youth artists' views on tobacco, cannabis, vaping and alcohol!

Students 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 poster contest.

The contest is now accepting submissions up until Dec. 15, 2025.

The winning posters are selected by a panel of peer judges from IH's [YOUTHWISE Advisory Group](#). The winning artists will receive a prize of a \$150 gift card of their choice! Plus, their artwork will be shared on social media and displayed at schools and health care centres across the region.

Find out more at: [Beyond the Buzz 2.0 Youth Poster Contest](#)

You can also promote the contest in many ways:

- Share this information with educators and other professionals working with youth
- Display the [contest flyer](#) where youth can see it
- Encourage youth in your personal and professional circles to participate

Additional Resources:

[Youth Information on Tobacco, Cannabis, Vaping and Alcohol](#)

[Get to know more about drugs – honest drug information for youth](#)

The Youth Harm Reduction and Legal Substances teams are excited to share our new youth-focused webpage: [Get to Know More About Drugs](#).

This page provides accurate, honest, and non-judgmental information about various substances. It covers topics such as the benefits of abstinence and delaying use, the effects and risks of substances, strategies to reduce harm, and how to access support services, including treatment.

MENTAL HEALTH

BC Children's Health Bridge and BC Children's Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre have partnered with Our Kids' Health to create culturally relevant, accessible mental health resources in multiple languages to support diverse families, including Arabic, Cantonese, English, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Ukrainian, and for Black communities.

New topic:

[How to Talk to Your Child About Cannabis.](#)

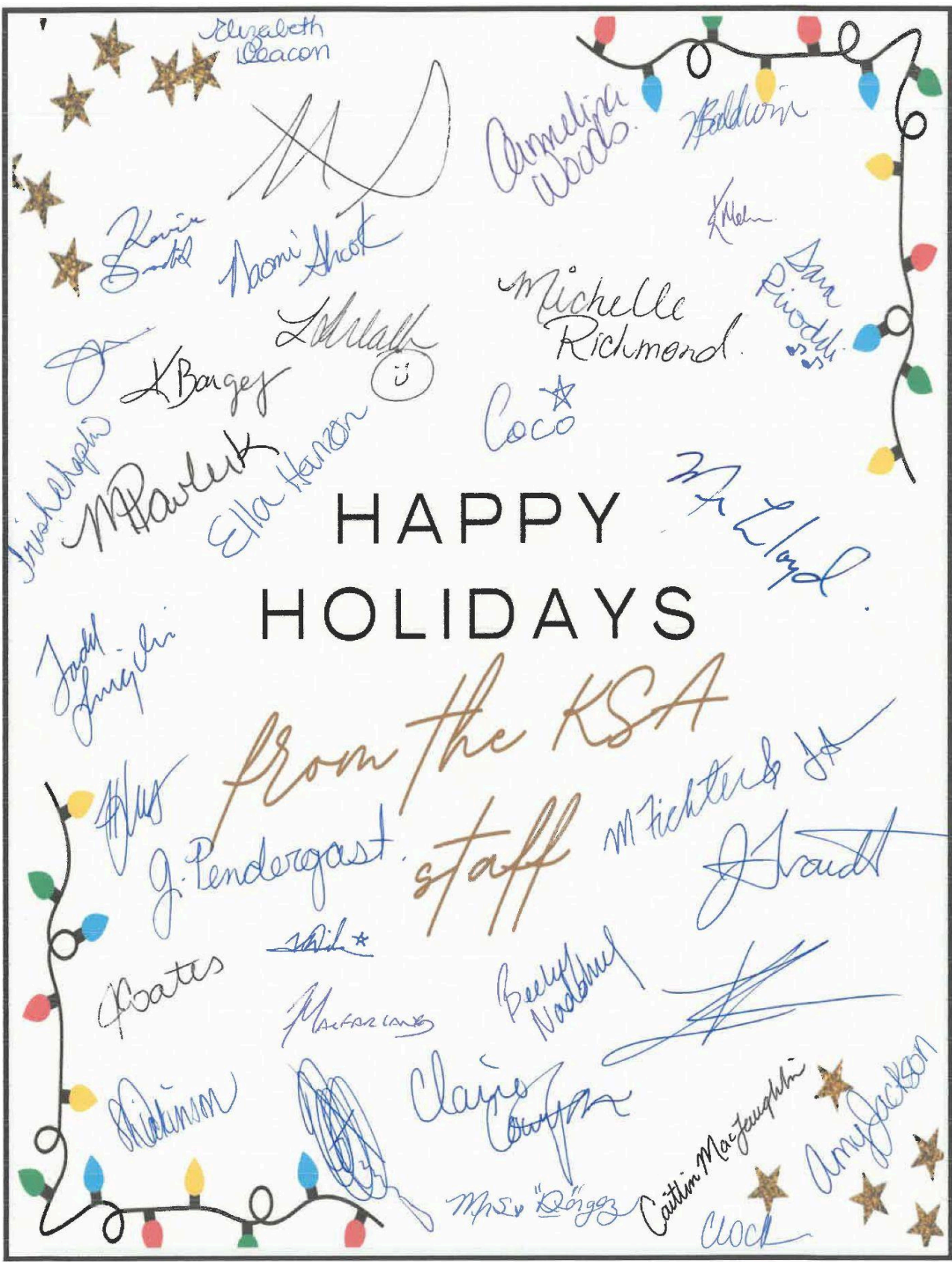
As your child grows, they may be exposed to cannabis. By having an open and curious conversation, you can help guide your child to make informed, safer decisions. Check out these new resources to explore some tips to help talk about it.

You can access all mental health videos and written posts [here](#).

SCREEN TIME

The [Centre for Healthy Screen Use](#) at the Canadian Paediatric Society is a great resource that provides guidance for parents, policymakers, and health professionals when it comes to screen use for children and youth.

Explore the latest including webinars, parent guides, and more!



Elizabeth
Beacon
Karin
Smith
Naomi
Shook

Amelina
Woods
Kaldwin
K. Nolen
Michelle
Richmond
Coco
Sam
Pivoddi

Mr. Bargey
Mr. Hall
Mrs. Chapman
M. Pawlet
Ella
Hanson

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

M. Lloyd

Jodi
Amiglini

From the KSA

staff
J. Pendergast
M. Fichter & J.
Stradt

Boates
Dickinson

Smith
Masterson

Beryl
Nadburn

Clayton
Coffey

Mrs. Dörger

Caitlin
McLaughlin
Cloc

Amy
Jackson

IMPORTANT KSA DATES

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

DECEMBER	10	PAC Lunch
	12	Elementary Learning Updates published on MyEd
	19	Last day of classes before winter break
	22	Winter Break begins
JANUARY 2026	5	Return to classes
	19	Grad Photos
	26	Secondary Project Completion
	27	End of semester 1 for secondary students
	27	Secondary Project Completion
	28	Semester 2 starts for secondary students
	29	STAR Collaboration session for secondary students
FEBRUARY	2	Semester 2 begins
	5	Grad fees due
	6	Pro-D Day (no school)
	13	Secondary Learning Updates published on MyEd
	16	Family Day (no school)
	17	Grad photo retakes at SKSS
	18	Grad photo retakes at SKSS
	25	Pink Shirt Day
	26	STAR Collaboration session for secondary students
MARCH	13	Elementary Learning Updates published on MyEd
	16	Spring Break begins
	30	Return from Spring Break
APRIL	3	Good Friday (no school)
	6	Easter Monday (no school)
	20	End of term 3

	21	Term 4 begins
	23	STAR Collaboration session for secondary students
	27	Pro-D Day (no school)
MAY	1	Secondary Learning Updates published on MyEd
	15	Pro-D Day (no school)
	18	Victoria Day (no school)
	28	STAR Collaboration session for secondary students
JUNE	12	KSA Graduation Commencement
	18	STAR Collaboration session for secondary students
	24	Secondary project completion
	25	Last day of elementary classes
	26	Administration day (no school)
JULY	1	Canada Day
	2	Secondary Learning Updates published on MyEd

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