

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 MAY 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Members of our School Community,

Spring has arrived, and with it comes a renewed sense of energy, creativity, and connection across our Kamloops School of the Arts community. The warmer weather and blooming surroundings mirror the growth and vibrancy we witness daily in our classrooms, studios, and performance spaces.

As we enter these final, busy months of the school year, KSA is alive with purposeful activity. Students are diligently preparing for final projects, performances, exhibitions, and academic assessments. It is inspiring to see their talents flourish as they channel their passions into both scholarly and artistic pursuits.

Our elementary POD sharings remain a highlight of this season. These events offer a wonderful window into the collaborative, creative learning journeys of our students, showcasing how they express their understanding through music, visual art, dance, and drama. We look forward to upcoming showcases for K POD, POD 1, POD 2 and POD 3 throughout this month.

This season also marks a meaningful time of transitions. We are actively preparing for the 2026/2027 school year, including orientation for our newest KSA family members and preparing to celebrate our graduating class of 2026. We look forward to our upcoming commencement ceremonies on June 12th as a chance to honour our graduates' journeys, achievements, and future aspirations.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your continued partnership and support. It is this shared commitment—between staff, families, and students—that makes KSA such a remarkable place to learn and grow. Together, we ensure each of our 498 KSA STAR Students is seen, supported, and celebrated.

Warm regards, Kukwstsétsemc,

Blair Lloyd, Proud Principal of 498 KSA STAR Students!



ATTENTION

Do not park, drop off, or pick up in the staff parking lot *OR* in front of the school on 9th Avenue.

This is to ensure the safety of all students.

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. 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.

School Safety & Visitor Procedures

As part of our continued commitment to school safety, new signage has been installed at both the front and back entrances of the school. These signs are to remind all visitors to report directly to the office through the front door of the school, where visitor name tags will be issued. This includes parents who are dropping their children off at their lockers in the mornings. As part of our morning routines, we encourage students to carry and organize their own belongings at their lockers. This helps them build independence and confidence as they start their day.

After School Plans

As a reminder, please inform after-school daycares and transportation of any daily changes, especially if your child will not be attending. With so many after-school arrangements in place, it's important to ensure no child is overlooked. If your plans change, please call the school office so staff can notify both the teacher and your child.

To maintain a secure and organized environment during after-school activities, all visiting sports teams and spectators are asked to enter through the gym entrance rather than the main school entrance.

REMINDER THAT DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND.

Graduation Updates

- **May's Graduation Newsletter** linked [HERE](#)
- **FEES WERE DUE FEBRUARY 5th.** If you have not paid Grad fees you will receive email reminders, or follow up phone calls. Students will not receive their cap and gown until fees have been paid.



Graduation Information

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

COMPLETE SHORT SURVEY to help us with planning.

[Grad Banquet and Commencement 2026](#)

Important Dates for Grads

Monday, May 4 - Tickets available for purchase and pickup until May 31

Monday, May 11- Grad Performance Practice at lunch in Drama Studio

Monday, June 8- Grad Parade at KSA for staff and students

Thursday, June 11- District Honours Grad at TRU 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Friday, June 12 - Commencements at TRU Grand Hall

Saturday, June 13 - Grand March and Prom (If you have questions regarding Prom or Grand March, please email ksagrad2026@gmail.com, they will help you out!)

Monday, June 15- Indigenous Grad at Sandman Centre

STUDENT TRANSFERS FOR 2026/2027

We are working hard preparing for the coming year. If you are planning on **moving** your child to another school for the Fall of 2026, please let the **KSA office know ASAP** so that we can make the appropriate arrangements for the student's file. Registrations need to be completed at the receiving school.

KSA Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is returning to the KSA library from Monday to Thursday, **May 11-14**.



In order to provide better space and browsing experience, we are going to reserve certain times for either primary and intermediate/secondary students to purchase books at the book fair. **However, parents and students who are with their parents can come anytime (but not during instructional time, please).** It is also important to note that students will have an opportunity to preview and/or purchase books during their regular book exchange time.

Our **hours of operation** during the Book Fair are as follows:

	Lunch (11:30-12:00)	After School (2:40-3:15ish)
May 11	Primary students	Intermediates/Secondary
May 12	Intermediates/Secondary	Primary students
May 13	Primary students	Intermediates/Secondary
May 14	Everyone! 😊	CLOSED

There will be a **debit machine** available for your convenience.

Pod Sharings:

Pod One has just completed their sharing of learning, titled *Imagine, Innovate, Inspire!* Students explored picture books to develop social-emotional skills, problem-solving strategies, and perseverance. They used music, dance, drama, and art to express their ideas and inspirations, weaving these concepts into language arts, social studies, and applied skills.

Upcoming pod sharings include:

K POD: May 6th 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm	POD 3: May 12th 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm	POD 2: May 20th 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm
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What is a pod sharing? This is a showcase of collaborative learning developed in their studio time. Classes come together to present and reflect on their creative work. In the context of learning through the arts, it allows students to express ideas, academics, and understanding through artistic forms like music, visual art, dance, and drama. It highlights how the arts can foster communication, connection, and meaningful learning experiences.

Drama Department

A message from Mrs. Melan:

I would like to take a moment to recognize the incredible job that each and every actor and our tech crew did on the senior theatre production of **Murder at the Dude Ranch**. Putting on a production is a huge undertaking that involves a lot of time, energy, and commitment at every level. These students worked very hard and produced a fabulous show. I am so proud of each and every one of them.



Honour Choir

The Kamloops Thompson Honour Choir performed at six schools in two days last week. It was an exciting couple of days and the students enjoyed performing at and representing their own school. A huge shout out to Ms Alpaugh, Mrs Bouwmeester, and all of the amazing parent volunteers that helped make this event happen.

Athletic Department

Elementary

Spring is here and that means the primary students have been jumping, climbing and rolling in gymnastics while the intermediate classes have been participating in Track and Field events. KSA's Zone track meet is Monday, May 25th. More information will be sent home if your child is selected to go to the Zone Track Meet. -Go Stars, Go ★

Secondary

Ultimate frisbee had a great first season and they got their first ever win at the Kelowna tournament!

Soccer is in full swing with playoffs and Okanagan's happening early May. The girls have their sights on getting back to the Provincials!



Swim Team

Way to go to all the students who represented KSA at the District Swim Meet this past month. Congratulations to Rae, Lily, and Theo who received ribbons, and a big shoutout to Alicia who received a bronze medal! Everyone swam their hearts out.

Learn To Bike

Grades 4/5 will be taking part in the Learn to Bike program May 28 & 29! Students who need them will be provided with a bike and will learn from a certified biking coach about road and bike safety. We look forward to learning more about how to be safe in our community! This program is put on by Adventure Into Life and this program is free of cost. Any questions please see Mrs. Bouwmeester.



Run Club

Congrats to KSA's run club and all the KSA students that participated in Boogie the Bridge last weekend. Our school got an award for Outstanding Community Spirit. What a great way to wrap up this season's Run Club.

Battle of the Books

Our Battle of the Books teams did amazing work at the Zone Championships on April 16, earning themselves a spot at District Championships where both teams placed third! Way to go! ★

Grade 3/4 Team: Tyler, Rose, and Seren.

Grade 5 Team: Lily and Clara

Also, a huge shout out to Mrs. Bouwmeester, our Grade 3/4 coach, and Grade 12 student Clara Foucault, our Grade 5 coach. Your hard work and dedication are very much appreciated.



Coffee House

The Kamloops School of the Arts wrapped up the year with a memorable and heartfelt final Coffee House on April 29th. The evening was filled with creativity and energy as students took to the stage to share their talents. From powerful vocal performances and expressive dance pieces to striking photography, the event showcased the incredible range of artistic ability within the school community.

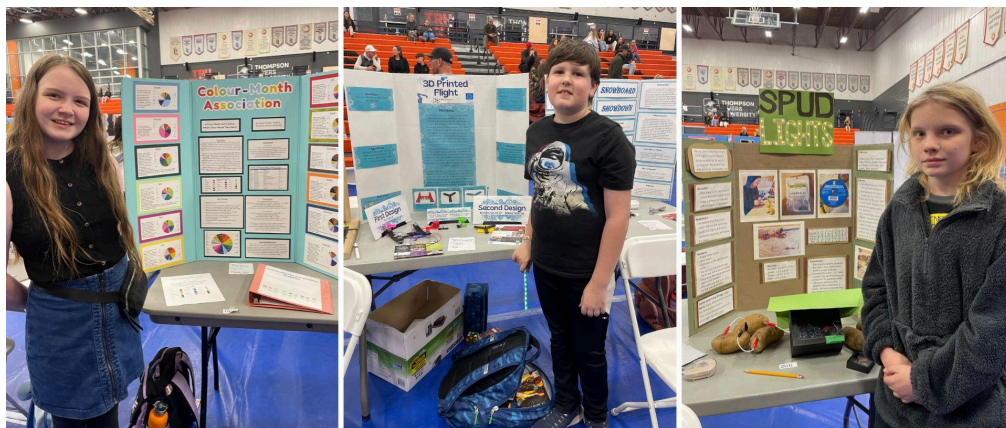
This Coffee House carried special meaning as it marked the final one for our Grade 12 students. Throughout the night, their growth, passion, and dedication to the arts were on full display, leaving a lasting impression on everyone in attendance. It was both a celebration and a farewell—honouring the contributions of our graduating students while recognizing the vibrant artistic spirit that continues to thrive at KSA.

A big thank you to all the performers, organizers, and supporters who made the evening such a success. It was a fitting and inspiring way to close out the year.



District Science Fair

Kamloops School of the Arts proudly celebrated many students who earned Merit Medals for advancing to the District Science Fair. Congratulations to our Grade 5 students Henry, Levi, and Arlo; our Grade 6 students Brynn, Hazel, Zendaya, and Audrey; and our Grade 7 students Myla, Asher, Ryan, Naia, Avalon, Sora, and Rylan. Our Grade 7 students also earned a Bronze Medal in their grade category. A special shoutout goes to Hazel in Grade 6, who received one of only four 'TRU Science Faculty's Choice' Awards—an outstanding achievement!



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!

Please pack cutlery for your child(ren).

Kindergarten Loose with MOTHER GOOSE



SPARK
Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten

PLEASE REGISTER AT
www.eventbrite.ca

KSA-SPARK - <https://ksakonl.eventbrite.ca/>

For any questions, email Crystal:
crystal.murgatroyd@bc.ymca.ca



SPECIAL invite for KSA'S new Kindergarten Families!

You are invited to attend KSA's Mother Goose on the Loose – Kindergarten Orientation Nights!

Tuesdays: **Cohort 1** : April 28-May 12 **OR Cohort 2** : May 19-June 2

Through song, rhyme, stories, and action, families will:

- Build healthy early learning experiences with language
- Build relationships with other parents
- Gain information about the Kindergarten program and school

Program Structure:

Families will register for one 3-week cohort within the series. This allows us to keep groups small and interactive while giving every family the chance to participate. Please choose only one cohort when registering.

Note: Due to space limitations, this invitation is especially for one caregiver and your new Kindergartener. Your soon-to-be Kindergartener will get the most out of this experience with special one-on-one, undivided attention with you. (Exceptions may be made in the event of childcare challenges.)

We look forward to playing with you!

KSA PAC NEWS

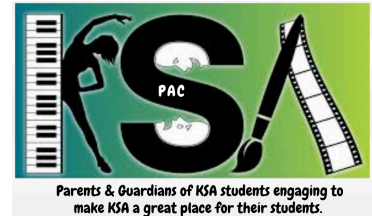
There are several ways in which you can be an active parent at Kamloops School of the Arts. Our Parent Advisory Council meets on a regular basis, and the meeting dates are published in the school newsletters and on the PAC KSA Facebook page

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

MAY PAC UPDATE

IMPORTANT PAC DATES:

- **May 20- Mexican PAC Hot Lunch** Senor Froggy (order by Sunday May 10)
- **Wed May 27 - PAC AGM & Last Meeting*** - volunteer as a new exec member!
- **Thur, Jun 18 - PAC Family BBQ**



NEXT PAC MEETING & AGM: Wed, May 27 6pm, Elementary Dance Studio

This is the one to show up for! And, it will *likely* be the last meeting of the school year, sets up the new exec for September.

WE NEED YOU!!!! All positions will be open for KSA parents/guardians to be a part of the executive. Be part of the behind-the-scenes, and help make decisions where we need it most. The number of hours spent helping KSA varies per month and position, somewhere between 2-10. We are especially interested in **finding a Treasurer!** PAC has positions for: Chair, Vice Chair (2), Secretary, Treasurer, DPAC Representative (2), Directors at Large (3). Positions descriptions can be found in KSA PAC's Constitution & Bylaws, or contact Loni (lonihorsley@gmail.com) or board@ksapa.ca for more info.

PLEASE recruit your parent friends to come out and join us!

From April 15th PAC MEETING: The PAC thanks parents for their interest and attendance. Discussion was lively, particularly around the news of the reallocation of the elementary art studio. Parents are encouraged to review the minutes of that meeting, and to reach out with questions. An advocacy group separate from the PAC has been formed, with the goal of raising this issue with the school district.

FAMILY BBQ! June 18 2026

Get ready to celebrate! We'll need volunteers for that day, sign up to come. If you already know you can help, send a quick email to board@ksapac.ca.

PAC is happy to see the successes with our support for KSA recently in **Boogie the Bridge, Elementary Dance Squad, Battle of the Books, Festival of Performing Arts, and athletics clubs**, to name a few.

PAC Welcoming Committee is busy creating pamphlets for new students, new Kindergarteners, looking ahead to September's first day of school, finding ways to promote the school, especially for enrollment in Secondary grades. This year, we had permission to invite the new Kindergarten families to the Elementary Pod Shares, and the Family BBQ! If you have any other ideas, please email board@ksapac.ca

POD Shares! April and May Presentations of Learnings at our Elementary Pod Shares are going to be incredible! Our KSA Community is proud to support each others' students in these amazing days, and we can't wait to hear and see the new sound board and monitors PAC has purchased this year in action! Thanks to Mr. Fichter and all the students and staff (and volunteers!) that set up, take down, and make our STARS sparkle!

PAC HOT LUNCH

May lunch is from **Senor Froggy**, please order by end of day on Sunday, May 10th 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!

Prepaid popcorn will be delivered every Thursday for K-7 classrooms. Students can always buy popcorn on Thursdays without pre-ordering.

Since there is a limit of how many Slushies can be served each week, PAC has organized the following groups to purchase on Slushie Days, and leftovers can be purchased by secondary students.

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.

KSA PAC NEEDS YOU!

Are you an accountant or just great with numbers?
Do you love staying organized and want to be involved in the heart of our school community?

KSA PAC is seeking a new Treasurer for next year!

You don't need to be an expert—just someone comfortable with basic bookkeeping and able to attend monthly PAC meetings. The books are already well maintained, making for an easy transition!

Time commitment is approx. 6-10 hours per month; sometimes more, sometimes less

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:

- **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 the regular scheduled day.



COUNSELLING CORNER

Spring is the season of new beginnings... animals awaken, baby animals are born, plants and trees begin to grow and bloom, more sun and warmer weather. The earth seems to come to life again.

There are times our children and youth need new beginnings, a fresh start, new growth in a different direction. Unconditional love, support and gentle guidance, forgiveness and encouragement provide the stability and nourishment they need to flourish and grow as individuals and in their relationships. It's our job to help them.


Because of you,
 I laugh a little harder,
 cry a little less, and
 smile a lot more.
 -UNKNOWN



Spring Activity Calendar

DAY 1 Create a journal with your child or use the last one to record each days activity. They can decorate the front page.	DAY 2 Make pine cone flowers. https://www.born-tobeadventurous.com/2020/04/12/pine-cone-flower-craft/	DAY 3 Go outside and draw something outdoors. Examples including drawing the trees, your house, or a flower you find!	DAY 4 Make five cards. Send them to five different people to let them know your thinking of them.	DAY 5 Have a picnic in your backyard, park, or on your living room floor.	DAY 6 Build a fort.	DAY 7 Bring the books outside and read outdoors on a blanket.
DAY 8 Build your own seek and find page.	DAY 9 Bake something with your kids that you have never before baked.	DAY 10 Go for a hike. If your stuck indoors then stay active with Cosmic Kids Yoga, Kidz Bop, or the Learning Station	DAY 11 Go on a bug hunt. Collect leaves into a jar. Find some bugs and put them in a jar to observe. After, set them free.	DAY 12 Make a treasure map.	DAY 13 Make Animal Rocks. Paint rocks to look like animals or glue on small rock ears, stick tails and paint eyes and a nose!	DAY 14 Pick flowers, leaves, and sticks. Then paint with them.
DAY 15 Set up a sprinkler, paddling pool, or water table!	DAY 16 Play with Bubbles.	DAY 17 Go on a walk or a longer hike!	DAY 18 Be creative and build a craft out of your recycling.	DAY 19 Play hide in seek.	DAY 20 Make a collage using old magazines.	DAY 21 Make a giant snakes and ladders game out of chalk.
DAY 22 Decorate your bike or your parents bike!	DAY 23 Collect flowers and leaves. Put them in a book and press them for 24 hours. Take them out on Day 24 for the craft!	DAY 24 Make bookmarks using the pressed flowers and leaves.	DAY 25 Wash the car!	DAY 26 Make nature designs and pictures with leaves, rocks, flowers, and sticks.	DAY 27 Collect flowers and leaves outdoors. Then, put them in a large book. Close the book and let them dry for tomorrow's craft!	DAY 28 Paint outside like the famous painter Monet!

Since 1993

Soccer Day Camps

...more than just a soccer camp!



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Until June 1



- ✓ July & August weeks
- ✓ Morning & Full Day sessions
- ✓ Ages 5 to 13
- ✓ Before & After Care available

For more
information:

 royalsoccerclub.com

 800-427-0536

For location & registration details visit our website.

Mornings Starting from **\$165***/week

Full Days Starting from **\$249***/week

* Limited time, discounts vary, see website
Additional discounts for week 1 & 6 (4 day weeks)

IMPORTANT KSA DATES

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

MAY	1	Secondary Learning Updates published on MyEd
	1	Young Authors
	6	Young Artist
	6	K POD Performance 1:00pm and 6:00pm
	11-14	Book Fair
	11-14	Band/Choir Trip
	12	POD 3 Performance 6pm
	13-14	Heritage Fair
	15	Pro-D Day (no school)
	18	Victoria Day (no school)
	19	Class Photos
	20	POD 2 Performance 6pm
	25	Zone Track Meet
	27	PAC AGM
	28	STAR Collaboration session for secondary students
JUNE	8	Sports Banquet
	12	KSA Graduation Commencement
	17	The Lion King/New Horizons at the Sagebrush Theatre
	18	STAR Collaboration session for secondary students
	18	PAC Family BBQ
	22	Fun Day
	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](#)

Click to read more information or learn how to use the following resources		
MyEd BC for Parents	SchoolCash Online	Attendance and Safe Arrival
Cell Phone Expectations	Personal Digital Device Guidelines	Grad Information

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.

Head Lice (From Interior Health, Recommended Head Lice Management document)

Head lice can affect anyone, and are most common in the 3-11 year old age group. Head lice are annoying and may cause itching, but they do not cause disease. Reactions to head lice can subject children to teasing, bullying and isolation. For these reasons, head lice infestations should be treated.

Current research shows that school exclusion, early dismissal and no-nit policies do not prevent or control head lice infestations. In fact, these practices further stigmatize children, erode their self-esteem and interfere with learning. No-nit policies in schools and daycares are discouraged by both the Canadian Pediatric Society and American Academy of Pediatrics.

If there are economic reasons that a student’s parents cannot purchase treatment supplies, the school will obtain the recommended products on the parents’ and student’s behalf.

What can Parents do to help the prevention of head lice?

Take a proactive approach in understanding lice facts and myths:

- Check the heads of all family members on a weekly basis.
- Increase this to daily head checks when a case of head lice has occurred in your child’s classroom or one of the family members has been in contact with head lice.
- Treat only when live lice or live nits are found.
- Learn what these look like as it is easy to misdiagnose. Use a recommended treatment.
- Teach your child about prevention of head lice (avoiding head to head contact, not sharing hats, brushes, helmets, etc.).
- Tie long hair back.
- Refer to the Interior Health School Health Website for more information
<http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/HeadLice/Pages/default.aspx>