



April 2026

Raven's Roost

Parkcrest Elementary School Newsletter



SAFE ARRIVAL

School District #73 uses the SafeArrival student absence reporting system to record student absences. Please report your child's absence in one of the following convenient methods:

- Phone: 1-844-350-2647
- Web: go.schoolmessenger.ca
- App: SchoolMessenger

Principal's Message

Happy April! As we return from spring break and head into the final three months of the school year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the learning opportunities and experiences that engaged our students throughout February and March.

February had two themes: Kindness Month and Black History Month. In addition to the regular curriculum, we focused on spreading kindness throughout our school, and individual classes engaged in learning about famous Black Canadians. During the second week of February, many of our primary classes celebrated the one hundredth day of school where the day was filled with 100s learning. We ended that week with Pink and Red Day. Later in February, we celebrated Pink Shirt Day where we gathered together in the gym for an assembly focused on standing together against bullying, and promoting kindness and inclusion. It was wonderful to see our students and staff wearing pink shirts.

Basketball season came to an end in March. Thank you to our coaches and volunteer drivers for supporting our students in basketball this year. Sports are important for developing physical health, mental well-being, and social skills. In March, several classes hosted celebrations of learning. Learning updates (report cards) were sent home just before the break.

Coming up on April 7th, we will be celebrating and honouring the Day of Suwéntwécw (Acknowledging One Another). The Day of Suwéntwécw is an annual event in School District 73 that allows us to celebrate and honour the Secwépemc People and the unceded territory where the district is located. This year's theme is: **Speaking Your Truth**. We will gather together as a school on April 7th for some collaborative learning and then individual classes will celebrate the day in a variety of ways.

I'm looking forward to the learning that April will bring.

~Deanna Steptoe

Principal: Deanna Steptoe ~ Vice-Principal: Jason Nesci
2170 Parkcrest Ave, Kamloops BC, V2B 4Y1
Website: www.parkcrest.sd73.bc.ca



A Look at February and March

Winter Carnival

On February 18th, Parkcrest and Westmount students and staff gathered for a Bonhomme Winter Carnival. The carnival was inspired by the famous Carnaval de Québec. Students participated in eight different winter activities that took place inside and outside. The weather was cold and we had no snow, but everyone made the most out of the day!



The mascot for the carnival is Bonhomme. Bonhomme kicked off our winter carnival in the gym.



Basketball



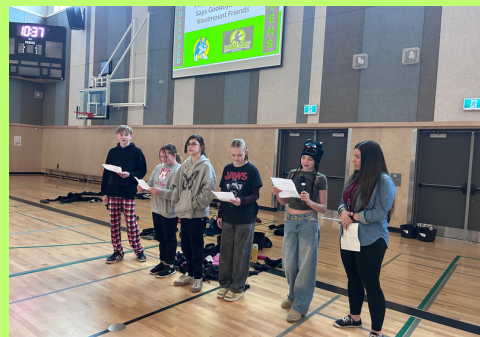
We had three basketball teams this year. Thank you to our coaches and parent volunteers for your dedication to our teams.



Good-Bye to Our Westmount Friends

We had three classes from Westmount join us in October and were with us for the past several months. They are now back in their own school.

During the time they were with us, they became an important part of our school community. Their curiosity, kindness, and friendliness brightened our classrooms, hallways, and school grounds. It was a pleasure getting to know them and watching them grow with us. We will miss them and hope that our paths will cross again someday.



Indigenous Education Corner

Ms. Boyer is pleased to let you know that she will be back in Room 102. She will have her door open at the front of school and invites parents to stop in and see her in the mornings.



**Day of
Sucwentwécw:
April 7th**



Spring Events

Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books is a Reading Motivation Program that encourages and recognizes students who enjoy reading and helps them to broaden their reading interests.

The zone Battle will be held Thursday, April 16th starting at 12:30 at Aberdeen Elementary School. Districts will follow on Thursday, April 23rd for the top two teams from each zone.

Young Artists' Conference

The Young Artists' Conference is an annual event for aspiring young artists in elementary school to showcase their artwork and take part in a series of workshops.

This year, we have three students in grades 4 through 7 that have been selected to participate in the event on April 29.

Young Authors' Conference

The Young Authors' Conference brings together committed young writers from grades 4 - 12 to work with professional authors.

This year's Young Authors' Conference will take place at Thompson Rivers University on Friday, May 1st.



April News

Parking

Please be reminded that the parking lot in front of the school is for staff parking. Parents can park in the church parking lot or use the drop off area if dropping off students.

No Dogs Allowed

Please remember, according to bylaws, dogs are not permitted on school grounds. Let's work as a community to keep our fields clean and free of dog feces. We have had many reports of dog feces on our field and playground. It is embarrassing and uncomfortable for students if they run through a pile of dog feces. Keeping our fields clean makes them more enjoyable for everyone. Thanks in advance for your help with this.

District Event: Budget Consultation 2026-2027



Please join us for the upcoming budget consultation online information sessions to learn more about the budget, ask questions, and share your feedback.

Public Budget Consultation – 2026-2027 Budget Preview:

- Date: Monday, April 20, 2026
- Time: 6:30 – 8:00 PM
- Online Access: Zoom link will be shared closer to the date
- What to Expect: An overview of the 2026-2027 budget priorities that will go before the Board for initial approval on April 27, 2026, followed by information on how to provide further feedback.

Upcoming Dates

Fri., Apr. 3	Good Friday - No School
Mon., Apr. 6	Easter Monday - No School
Tues., Apr. 7	Day of Sucwentwécw
Wed., Apr. 8	Kindergarten SPARK - Session 1 (3:30)
Thurs., Apr. 9	Grade 4 Cultural Day at Arthur Hatton
Tues., Apr. 14	Class Photos
Tues., Apr. 14	PAC Meeting (6:00 pm)
Thurs., Apr. 16	Zone Battle of the Books
Wed., April 22	Earth Day
Wed., Apr. 22	Kindergarten SPARK - Session 2 (3:30)
Thurs., Apr. 23	District Battle of the Books
Mon., Apr. 27	Non Instructional Day - No School
Wed., Apr. 29	Young Artists' Conference
Thurs., Apr. 30	Math Day at Parkcrest
Fri., May 1	Young Authors' Conference
Mon., May 4	Parkcrest Track and Field
Wed., May 6	Kindergarten SPARK - Session 3 (3:30)
Tues., May 12	PAC Meeting (6:00 pm)
Fri., May 15	Non Instructional Day - No School
Mon., May 18	Victoria Day - No School
Wed., May 20	Zone Track and Field
Wed., May 20	Kindergarten SPARK - Session 3 (3:15 or 4:15)
Thurs., May 28	District Track and Field

More Information

PAC Update

Get the latest on school news, events, reminders, hot lunch updates, and PAC meetings — all in one place!

Join our Facebook Group:

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

Or search: Parkcrest Parent Advisory Council

Contact us anytime at:
pacparkcrest@gmail.com

So far this school year, our PAC has been able to fund over \$37,000 in much needed school supplies and hands-on field trip experiences for our students.

This includes:

- 35 new Chromebooks
- 5 new iPads
- Document cameras for classrooms
- Alternate seating options for every classroom (wobble cushions, wobble stools, scoop chairs, fidget rollers, desk bands, and more)
- Outside play equipment (skipping ropes, basketballs, soccer balls, sidewalk chalk, frisbees, etc)
- Winter Carnival and Math Day supplies
- Crafting and sewing supplies
- Scooter stands
- 18 pairs of skates for students use
- Over \$6000 contributed to field trip and bussing costs to keep fees as low as possible for Parkcrest families

Hot Lunch

Spring orders for hot lunches are open. Visit:
munchalunch.com
to place your child's hot lunch order.



Thank you Parkcrest families for your continued support—whether through participating in fundraisers, volunteering at PAC events, or attending meetings— it makes this all possible! And every dollar goes directly back to enriching our students' experiences.

THANK
YOU



Next PAC Meeting

What: April PAC Meeting

When: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Where: Parkcrest Library

Help Kids Spot Fake News and Decode Media Messages

With so much media and information coming at us through the television, phones, social media, and more, it's more important than ever for kids to understand the basics of media literacy. When kids can identify different types of news and media and the methods and meanings behind them, they're on their way to being critical thinkers and smart consumers.

Check out these 5 tips 

1

Encourage healthy skepticism.

Help them analyze the messages around them -- from toy packaging to news headlines -- and question the purpose of the words and images they see.

2

Play "spot the ad."

When you see advertising on TV or on a billboard, ask kids to figure out what the ad is selling. Sometimes it's obvious, and sometimes it's not. Help them explore why certain pictures, sounds, or words are used to sell certain products.

3

Explore different sides of a story.

Use real-life examples to help kids understand how people can view the same situation with totally different perspectives. One child might experience a game on the playground as fun, while another might feel like the rules are unfair. When appropriate, tie this example to a news story.

4

Discuss fact vs. opinion.

Play around with ideas and decide which are facts and which are opinions. Ask: How tall are you? What's the best food in the world? Do rocks sink or float? Do you like dogs? Point out that both facts and opinions show up in the news, but opinion is usually labeled.

5

Choose a variety of sources.

Show kids how you get news and information from different places, and explain how you make your choices. Use words like "credible," "trustworthy," "respected," and "fair." As kids get older, introduce the ideas of bias, satire, and clickbait.



KAMLOOPS BMX

Join The Fun!



★ Monday Practices \$2
6-7pm Open Gates
7-8pm Coaching

★ Thursday Races \$7
5:45-6:30 Registration
Racing to Follow



Weekly Rider Prizes From
Red Tomato Pies

★ Local season runs from mid April to mid October- Watch our Facebook & Instagram for up to date information!

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