



# Westsyde Elementary School

School District No. 73  
3550 Westsyde Rd.  
Kamloops, BC V2B 7H4  
Ph# 778-696-2265 Fax# 250-377-2268



## April 2026 Newsletter

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I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the students, staff, and families of Westsyde Elementary for the warm welcome as I join the school community over the next few months

I am also pleased to share that Mr. Scott's surgery was successful, and he is now resting and focusing on his recovery at home. We recently learned that he will not be returning for the remainder of the school year, and we continue to wish him all the best during his recovery.

I look forward to getting to know our students, families, and staff more in the coming weeks and to supporting the excellent work already taking place throughout the school.

*Joanne Leggett - Acting Principal*

### **Mindfulness/Emotional Schools**

Our current Mindfulness focus is on our "Blue" Poster with a focus on Wisdom. "Emotion-fueled choices feel right in the moment but often prove wrong in the long run. True wisdom breathes and waits for the storm to pass". We are encouraging students to ask themselves if the decisions they are making are helping or hurting them. Students will be recognized at the April 10 Assembly.

### **Great Kindness Challenge**

During the last week of February our school participated in the Great Kindness Challenge led by Mrs. Kristjanson. Staff spent time identifying acts of kindness from our students and rewarding them with "Kindness Slips" that were displayed on our wall. We exceeded our goal of 500 slips and students received a bonus recess on the last day before Spring

Break.

### **Sports**

Flag Football will be starting up soon for interested students in Grades 6 and 7. Thank you to Mr. Berezowski for coaching the team again this year.

Students in Grades 4-7 will soon begin practices for the upcoming Track and Field Season. WSE Track and Field Meet will be on Tuesday, May 12.

### **No School**

Just a reminder, there is no school on Friday, April 3 or Monday April 6, 2026.

### **Day of Suwewtwécw - April 7**

The Day of Suwewtwécw, held annually on April 7, is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the Secwépemc People and their culture. Meaning "acknowledging one another" in Secwepemctsin, the day promotes, acknowledges, and fosters understanding of Indigenous history and local Secwépemc culture. Thank you to Indigenous Education Worker Ms. McCleaf and Indigenous Education lead teacher Ms. Chretien for planning some events for the day. All classes will participate in grade appropriate activity stations (Pow Wow dancing, Key Chain Beading, Pit House Craft, Ribbon Skirts, or Sky Battles) led by our IEW, Indigenous Education teacher lead, and Grade 7 student helpers.

### **Used Book Sale**

The Used Book Sale was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who donated their used books and supported our school by

purchasing books. The library raised \$824.50 in sales from this event and any books not sold are being donated to Barb's Used Bookstore to help in their fundraising efforts for the Kamloops Symphony and KSO Music School.

### **Spring Weather:**

With the warmer weather we tend to find students removing layers during recess and lunch. Please make sure to label your student's jackets and hoodies so we are better able to reunite them with your child when left outside. It is also a good idea to send an extra set of socks and pants to keep in your student's locker this time of year.

Please also be aware it is TICK season already. We have had ticks in the past on our field and should one end up on your student, a call home is required as we are unable to remove them at the school.

### **Parking Lot/Pick Up:**

We continue to have extreme congestion in the parking lot before and after school. To ensure the safety of students and staff, please use care when entering and exiting the parking lot. If there are no parking spaces available, please find a side street to park on as we do not want vehicles left in the middle of the lot during these times.

### **District Parent Resource Page**

Our district has a [Parent Resource Page](#) that includes a lot of valuable information for families. This includes links to past Parent Engagement Sessions and information about a variety of Community Support Programs.

### **Scent Free School**

Please do your best to not wear perfumes, colognes or strong smelling shampoos/deodorants into our school. We have students and staff with strong sensitivities to these scents. Thank you for understanding.

### **Volunteers**

All parent volunteers that wish to be involved in school based activities are now required to submit a criminal record check. The process can be found on the [Westsyde Elementary Website](#).

### **Crossing Guards and Lunch Supervisors**

We are always in need of crossing guards and lunch supervisors. These positions come with a small honorarium and volunteers are able to help out based on a schedule that works for them. Please contact the school if you are interested in helping us in these areas this year.

### **Newsletters**

Monthly School Newsletters will be emailed to student contacts and made available on our [school website](#). Paper copies can be made available upon request. Mrs. Leggett will send out other updates via email as the need arises.

### **PAC News:**

The next PAC meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 29th at 6:30** in our library.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- April 1 - Edo Japan hot lunch
- April 2 - World Autism Day - [wear blue](#)
- April 3 - Good Friday (No School)
- April 6 - Easter Monday (No School)
- April 7 - Day of Suwentwecw
- April 8 - Subway hot lunch
- April 15 - Hot Dog hot lunch
- April 16 - Sprint into Action Day - wear nature theme or [bright](#) clothing
- April 22 - Moon Wok hot lunch
- April 27 - Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students)
- April 29 - Pita Pit hot lunch
- April 29 - Spark Session #1
- April 29 - PAC Meeting