



SNÍNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1900 Copperhead Drive, Kamloops, BC V1S 0G6 · Phone: 778.362.4263



WELCOME BACK TO THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

What an incredible honour it is to sit and write the first message to our families in our inaugural year at Sníne Elementary School! I know you have all been patiently waiting for the school to open and it was lovely to see so many of you at the Open House when you had the opportunity to see the inside of this amazing building and what the space looks like.

Hopefully, everyone had a wonderful, relaxing summer. Summer is always an exciting time to kick back with family and friends and enjoy the beauty we have in this area of the province. I hope you were all able to do that, while still managing to get away from the smoke. We are anticipating a wonderful year of learning at Sníne, and we are excited to be working with each of you. Our school community is one that supports and teaches kindness, respect, safety, and inclusion for all.

School begins Tuesday, September 8th from 10:30am until 12:34pm. I know that you will find the staff to be very welcoming and offer you any assistance you may need. Buses are running that day! We are still getting to know one another and all the amazing things about our school, so please be patient if we do not yet have all the answers, they will come in good time. A special welcome to our new Kindergarteners as they embark on their formal schooling! After spending the last five years at Kay Bingham Elementary, I look forward to learning, growing, and building our school community with you. Feel free to introduce yourself if you see me outside if we have not already met. Hopefully, the warm weather will continue into what will hopefully be a warm fall season!

We appreciate your patience as we strive to place students in classes this week. This is always a challenging time and even more so as we open a new school. Our goal is to move

to our new classrooms on Friday; however, we will keep you informed if things change. If we can do this, you will receive an email from your child's 2026-27 teacher by Friday at 4pm to confirm this placement.

Our school warning bell rings at 8:25am and dismissal is at 2:34pm each day. To ensure the safety of your child(ren), please drop off your child(ren) in time to begin school and pick them up promptly once school is over.

Please be patient with us in the office as we navigate the first few weeks when you are contacting the school office to speak to admin. Should you have any concerns, it is best to make an appointment, but I would ask that you give a little space and time to allow us to adjust.

We are looking forward to seeing all our youngsters' happy and smiling faces in the school and ready for a fabulous year of learning together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or for admin issues the school office.

Ms. Rosie Caputo, Principal

STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

Sníne Elementary School has a fantastic staff team who are eager to partner with parents/guardians to meet all our students' needs. Below you will find our staffing assignments for the 2026–2027 year.

<i>Teaching Staff</i> ❖ Ms. Reilly K ❖ Ms. Thomson K/1 ❖ Ms. Kossey 1 ❖ Ms. Nielsen 1/2 ❖ Ms. Isakson 2 ❖ Ms. O'Donovan 2/3 ❖ Ms. Lowrenoff 3 ❖ Ms. Isakson, S 3/4 ❖ Ms. Eacrett 4 ❖ Ms. Nguyen 4/5 ❖ Ms. Scarr 5/6 ❖ Ms. Erichuk 5/6 ❖ Mr. Mueller 6/7 ❖ Mr. Tomalty 6/7	<i>Certified Educational Assistants (CEAs)</i> ❖ Ms. Baker ❖ Ms. Elliot ❖ Ms. Martin ❖ Ms. O'Shea
<i>Support Teachers</i> ❖ Ms. Brunt LART ❖ Ms. Hine LART ❖ Ms. LeBourdais Library ❖ Ms. Kelly Prep ❖ Mr. Repka Health & Physical Education	<i>Indigenous Education Workers (IEWs)</i> ❖ Ms. Bambi
<i>Office</i> ❖ Ms Passmore Secretary ❖ Ms. Caputo Principal	<i>Custodians</i> ❖ Ms. Kinakin ❖ Mr. Lalonde ❖ Ms. Sawa

HANDLE WITH CARE

If your family is experiencing difficulties at home, our team would like to provide additional support at school. It is understandable that you may not always be able to share all the details and that is okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning, or weekend, please message myself or your child's teacher with a simple HANDLE WITH CARE. Nothing else needs to be said or asked. This will let us know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day.

FIRST DAY

The first day of the school year can be a little hectic at all schools. Being a brand-new school, there will be many things we are navigating for the first time, and we appreciate your patience. As mentioned, the first day of school runs from 10:30am-12:34pm for Grades 1-7. Kindergarten students will attend at their 'interview time' and this was communicated via email.

To keep our front door entry and parking lot safe for all students, I would ask parents to refrain from coming into the school parking lot to drop off at the doors. The parking lot will mostly be full of staff vehicles, added to that we will have multiple buses and daycare vehicles dropping off and picking up at those key times, leaving very little space for drop offs in safe spaces. Please leave the few spots that are left for those with mobility issues and K families coming for interviews. Everyone is encouraged to use 'active transportation' and walk or ride to school. As mentioned at the open house, once riders on bikes or scooters approach the driveway, they must disembark and walk in. Keeping your children safe is our utmost concern. There are racks for both bicycles and push scooters but please ensure they are locked up. The back gate where the path meets the school property will be unlocked to allow families to access from that point. Please keep the gate closed. I hope this 'soft close' of the parking lot works, and I know we can all work together to make sure drop off and pick up times are safe for everyone!

We encourage everyone to meet at the back of the school by 10:30 near the gymnasium doors for the first day of school. There is a paved service path from the front of the school that will lead to the back. From that point, we may move into the gym. Students who arrive early are encouraged to come down to the playground area right away. We will have a short introduction of teachers and quickly assign students to grade level classes for the week. Students will leave parents and caregivers at this time. Students may be with the same teacher after week 1, but that is not a guarantee.

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS

The law is very clear on electric scooters- they are not permitted for children under the age of 16. Since our student community is under this age category, we should not have any electric scooters on the property. After consulting with RCMP, we are very clear that no matter what mode an electric scooter is on, the rider must still be 16 years of age. Should a child show up with an electric scooter, it will be taken and parents will be called to come pick it up. This would be like any other situation where a child is engaging in an illegal

activity. We appreciate every parent's assistance and thank you in advance for seeing we never need to do this.

BUSSING

Please contact the bus garage for any bussing concerns or to register. You can find pertinent information at <https://www.sd73.bc.ca/register-for-busing>. There will be supervision at the school for those students that will arrive early or need to stay late due to bussing.

BELL SCHEDULE

The bell schedule will be as follows:

WARNING BELL (<i>DOORS OPEN</i>)	8:25 AM
START OF DAY (<i>CLASSES BEGIN</i>)	8:30 AM
RECESS BEGINS	10:00 AM
RECESS ENDS	10:15 AM
LUNCH BEGINS	12:15 PM
WARNING BELL	1:05 PM
LUNCH ENDS (<i>CLASSES RESUME</i>)	1:10 PM
DISMISSAL (END OF DAY)	2:34 PM

BEFORE AND AFTERSCHOOL CARE (BASC) ROOM

BCG Kamloops/Wilams Lake will be opening be operating our BASC Room. While I have not been made aware of the opening date, if you are interested in learning more about a space, please contact Megan Campbell at m.campbell@bgckwl.com.

NEWSLETTERS

A newsletter will typically be sent home prior to the beginning of the month to the email address on file. If you have changed your email address or are new to the school, please contact the office. The newsletter will also be posted on the school website. Paper copies will also be available at the front office.

ENTRY AND EXIT TO BUILDING

Any visitors must report and sign in at the front office.

Classrooms on the 1st floor will have their students will enter the building from their exterior classroom doors. Those students on the 2nd floor will enter from the two main staircase doorways at either end of the building. They will be dismissed from these same doors. Kindergarten is the only exception to this, and these students will be dropped off and picked up at their classroom doors facing the parking lot.

SAFE ARRIVAL

Please do not forget to call in your child's absence and late arrivals each day that they are absent from school. The absence reporting telephone number is 1-844-350-2647 and if you have not done so, you may create an account at the following website: go.schoolmessenger.ca or you may also download the app for *School Messenger*.

SCENT SENSITIVE SCHOOL

Sníne Elementary is a scent sensitive school. This means we discourage the use of scents and fragrances because many staff and students have allergy related scents. Please try to use neutral hair products, deodorants, and other personal hygiene products when coming to the school.

CLASS PLACEMENTS

I want to assure all families that we have worked hard to create the best learning and teaching environments for all our students. The process is incredibly involved, including much thoughtful reflection and significant dialogue for each class composition, especially considering we are working with bringing students together from numerous different schools. While the organization of this process begins in the spring with teacher collaboration, consideration of parent educational request, learner and teacher profiles, as well as balancing the number of students in a class with the number of staff assigned, composition requirements, and class size are all factors that are considered. This often results in multilevel classrooms and children may not be in the same class with the teacher that they had hoped for or with their best friend. However, please realize that students will be able to develop new friendships, maintain old friendships, and build a new connection with their new teacher. EVERYONE is new to this school. This is a fantastic opportunity for “positive parent talk” in supporting your child and assuring them they will be successful and flourish in whatever classroom they are placed in. every student will have other peers in their classroom from their originating school. Thank you in advance for your support with this, knowing we are all working hard to create a positive learning environment for all our learners.

By Friday of this week (fingers crossed), students will be moving to the classrooms where they will be for the remainder of this year. If we can do this, you will receive an email by 4pm, indicating your child’s teacher for the 2026-27 school year. Beginning on Monday morning, students will report to their classrooms for the year by way of their regular classroom entrances. Each teacher will have a sign next to the doorway in the window, indicating the teacher’s name and grade level. This will help us ensure that all students, particularly younger ones, get to the classrooms that they need to be at on the following Monday morning. Staff members will be visible and present to help.

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

Criminal record checks (CRC) are necessary for all parents who wish to participate in field trips, as volunteers, and school related supervision. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL YOUR CHILD IS GOING ON A FIELD TRIP TO APPLY.

As per Administrative Policy 490 VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOLS:

3. Principals will require a criminal record check for potential volunteers in any situation or circumstance where the principal deems such checks to be appropriate. Such checks may include the following situations:

3.1 Where volunteers are alone with children without the near company of other adults; and

3.2 Where there is minimal direct supervision by staff members

And as per Administrative Policy 260 FIELD TRIPS

6. Requirement for Field Trip Supervisors

6.5 The Principal will ensure that all volunteers and chaperones provide a current criminal record check. This applies to all non-District employees. A criminal record check within the previous three years may be deemed current.

All volunteers, coaches, chaperones, and supervisors at school events must apply for a CRC. The process has been revised and must be completed via an online portal.

If you wish to complete the online application, the access code provided below is unique to our organization. This code will be required when submitting an online request:

Screening Application Portal <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>
Access Code: FL93K9SQZS

Parents whose Criminal Record Checks are expiring this year will receive an email to complete this process once again. Please complete this as soon as possible to avoid any let downs of not being able to help in school activities.

If you applied during the previous few months and need to have your identification verified, please do so as soon as possible as your application is not completed until this step is done.

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

Once again, we will be using SchoolCash Online as the go-to system to allow parents to pay for fees, field trips, agendas, and other fees online. Each item will be 'loaded' into your account as it becomes available, to allow you to pay. Please ensure your email address is up to date. Please contact Ms. Passmore if you have any questions.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES/AGENDA



A school supply list will be sent out in the next few days. Parents also have the convenient option to participate in the SD73 school supply program. By paying a one-time fee, students will be provided with the supplies that they need for the entire school year. Regardless of which way you choose to participate, fees and supplies are due to the school by September 30th.

School supplies and agenda fees will be loaded to SchoolCash Online next week. Please contact Ms. Passmore, at the office, if you have any questions.

SD73 DRESS CODE

The dress code for SD73 can be found here [AP350.2 Dress Code Policy](#).

CODE OF CONDUCT

The student code of conduct is accessible on this [link](#). It will be reviewed in classrooms over the coming week, and we appreciate it also being reviewed at home.

MEDICAL FORMS

Please let the office know immediately if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication to be administered at school. *Medic Alert Planning* forms and *Request for Administration of Medication at School* forms must be completed, revised, and renewed each school year. Please contact the office if you require more information or need to update the forms.

MyEdBC MESSAGES

One of the platforms that SD73 uses to send out email and other messages to parents is MyEdBC. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that Hotmail email accounts filter out any MyEdBC messages. We would ask that if you have a Hotmail account that you currently use for school and district messaging, that you provide the school with an alternate email address to not miss any important messages. We have been informed that Gmail accounts work fine with this platform.

PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES

Please note our policy on personal digital devices can be found at [Personal Digital Device Guidelines](#)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE YEAR

September

- 08 First Day of School
- 09 FASD Awareness Day: Red Shoes Rock
- 17 Mug 'n Muffin (more details to follow)
- 21 Non-Instructional Day
- 23 GRAND OPENING (more details soon)
- 24 Fire Drill
- 25 Terry Fox Run
- 28 Come Read with Me @ 8:35am
- 29 Orange Shirt Day
- 29 Photo Day
- 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (School Closed)

October

- 12 Thanksgiving Day (School Closed)
- 15 Shake Out BC Earthquake Drill
- 22 Photo Retakes
- 23 Non-Instructional Day (School Closed)
- 31 Halloween

November

- 08 Indigenous Veterans Day
- 11 Remembrance Day (School Closed)
- 30 Non-Instructional Day

December

- 10/11 Christmas Concert
- 19 Start of Winter Break



January	• 04	First Day back after winter break
February	• 05	Non-Instructional Day
	• 15	Family Day (School Closed)
March	• 15	First Day of Spring Break
	• 31	First day back after Spring Break
April	• 26	Non-Instructional Day (School Closed)
May	• 21	Non-Instructional Day (School Closed)
	• 24	Victoria Day (School Closed)
June	• 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
	• 29	Last Day for students; dismissal at 12:34pm
	• 30	Admin Day

WELCOME BACK!