

BARRIERE SECONDARY COUGAR NEWS



What's Happening This Week

MONDAY, February 2

-

TUESDAY, February 3

- Semester 1 Learning Updates Published

WEDNESDAY, February 4

-

THURSDAY, February 5

-

FRIDAY, February 6

- Pro-D Day (No School for Students)

Upcoming Dates

- February 3 Learning Updates Published
- February 6 Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students)
- February 16 Family Day (School Closed)
- March 3 Simpcw Career Fair
- March 11 Grad Photo Retakes
- March 16-27 Spring Break

Basketball Tournament Dates

- Tier 2 Jr. Boys Tournament - Jan 23/24
- Jr. Girls Tournament - Jan 30/31

February 2 – February 6

Pellkweṭmín
stay at home month

**Secwepemcúl'ecw yi7élye
ell, re tmicws re Simpcw
n7élye.**

**Acknowledge that we are on
the territory of the
Secwepemc Nation,
specifically the territory of
the Simpcw People.**

Cafeteria Menu

Monday

- Pizza Baguettes or Pork Chop Dinner w Gravey & Mash

Tuesday

- BLT w Veg or Tuscan Chicken w Penne & Garlic Toast

Wednesday

- Loaded Broccoli Soup w Bun or Mac & Cheese w Wieners

Thursday

- Greek Salad or Lasagna w Garlic Toast

Friday

- Pro-D Day (No School for Students)

Course Selection Will Begin Next Week

Course selection will begin next week. Parents and students should refer to the course selection booklet to discuss available options for next year.

<https://barrsec.sd73.bc.ca/en/parents-students-support-help/course-selection-booklet.aspx>

Ministry of Education 2025/2026 Student Learning Survey

The Provincial Student Learning Survey collects feedback from parents, teachers, and students on topics like school environment, safety, and achievement. This helps schools plan and gives a broader district and provincial perspective.

In early 2026, students in grades 7, 10, 11, and 12, along with their parents/guardians and school staff, will take the survey. Participation is encouraged, as the results help highlight strengths and areas for improvement.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name (Barriere Elementary-Secondary).

The e-survey site will be open until May 1, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at (250) 672-9943.

Trades and Tech news:

Are you interested in discovering what a day in Health Care would look like? Sign up to join the School of Nursing and the Faculty of Science at Thompson Rivers University for a discovery day. You'll get to experience hands-on simulation labs, speak with employees from Interior Health, and familiarize yourself with what a career in Health Care entails.

Open to students in Grades 10-12, see Mrs. Peterson for an application!

From the Main Office

- Please use the automated system/app from Safe Arrival (see below for more information) to mark students late or absent in the morning. Cut off is around 9:00 am when the call out is usually sent.

FEES and SchoolCash

School fees and athletic fees are now posted and can be paid through Schoolcash. If you are looking to stop by the school and pay fees using cash, exact change would be appreciated.

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.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria will be open on Thursday, September 4. Cash is accepted or you may purchase your child(ren) lunch cards through the [SchoolCash](#) Online system.

Breakfast Program

The **Free** Breakfast Program has started. For those new to BSS, every weekday from 8:00 am – 8:25 am all students can enjoy a free breakfast.

Course Change Requests

If a course change is needed for Graduation or Post-Secondary requirements, or due to incorrect course assignment, please request an appointment. Continue attending your original classes until you have completed the processes the change. Please contact MS. Domingo edomingo@sd73.bc.ca if you have any questions.

Barriere Secondary School - Schedule of School Fees 2025-2026

**School Fee invoices are distributed to students
September 2025 for Semester 1 and February 2026 for Semester 2**

Please note that paying online has a processing fee (on average 5%) incorporated in the cost to be paid online, which was approved by the Board after the budget consultation process last spring. These represent true transaction fees charged by the District's processing platform.

**Payments made to the school by cash or cheque should be submitted at the lower amount specified below.
Kindly ensure payments are made in the exact amount, as no change can be provided.**

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE - \$10.75 online / \$10.00 cash or cheque

Charged to ALL students for supplies to support general school activities over the school year.

LOCK RENTAL - \$6.50 online / \$6.00 cash or cheque

Charged to ALL students. Students will be assigned a lock by the school at the beginning of the year and will be expected to return the lock at the end of each year until they leave the school. Students are required to use the lock provided by the school.

GRAD FEES - \$89.00 online / \$85.00 cash or cheque

Charged to Grade 12 graduating students includes: Lifetouch grad photo sitting fee, grad gown rental, souvenir hat & tassel, souvenir grad photo composite in folder and other grad incidentals.

YEARBOOK-OPTIONAL FEE - \$42.00 online / \$40.00 cash or cheque

Optional fee to pre-order the school yearbook and keep those GREAT school memories!

FEE SCHEDULE FOR COURSE ENHANCEMENTS

The following Fee Schedule represents maximum amounts that would be charged in each of the classes. The items listed are descriptions of consumables for courses, with more specific details to be given within the course outline from the classroom teacher.

Mosaic	online	Cash Cheque	Technology Education	online	Cash Cheque
Mosaic 7 and 8 Supplies for ADST (Applied Design, Skills and Technology) activities including wood, art supplies and groceries	\$31.50	\$30	Art Metal 10-12 Metal, casting, supplies, gas, solvents, fasteners, welding/brazing consumables, abrasives and jewelry supplies	\$47.25	\$45
Visual Arts			Metalwork 9-12 Metal stock, sheet metal, gasses, solvents, fasteners, welding/brazing consumables, abrasives, and hearing protection	\$47.25	\$45
Art Studio 9	\$26.25	\$25	Woodwork 9-12 Wood, adhesives, fasteners, abrasives, blades, finishing products, and other consumables	\$42	\$40
Art Studio 10-12	\$26.25	\$25	Skills Exploration 10-12 Building materials: lumber, plywood, fasteners, electrical supplies, and plumbing supplies	\$52.50	\$50
Photography 11	\$36.75	\$35	Information Technology 9-12	10.75	\$10
Media Design	\$21.25	\$20	Entrepreneurship and Marketing	\$5.50	\$5
Media Arts	\$10.75	\$10	Fitness and Conditioning 11-12	\$47.25	\$45
Home Economics			Human Performance 9-12	\$31.25	\$30
Food Studies 9-12 Groceries and supplies for labs	\$52.50	\$50.00			
Textiles 8/9 For materials and associated costs	\$31.50	\$30.00			
Textiles 10-12	\$31.50	\$30.00			



Welcome to the Cougar Pride Grad Newsletter—
Our Post-Secondary, Scholarship & Awards
Newsletter!

This will be your go-to source for Post-
Secondary, Scholarship, and Awards information.
A new edition will be released at the beginning of
each month, with regular updates as new

opportunities arise — so check back often!

Be sure to explore the Resources section at the end of the newsletter for important information on post-secondary registration, transcript requests, and reference letters to support your next steps after graduation.

For more information reach out to Ms. Domingo and checkout the latest edition here:
<https://app.smore.com/n/4p3b8>

BSS Personal Device Policy

Please speak with your child prior to them coming on Tuesday about the [BSS Digital Device Usage Policy](#). While the official language is below, what it means is that personal devices, such as cell phones are not to be used during class time. Phones must be stored in their lockers during class time.

At Barriere Secondary School we believe that the foundations of a safe, caring, and welcoming school environment are fostered and maintained through a focus on inclusivity and equity-focused education implemented and supported through a progressive continuum of supports.

Lost and Found Items

If students have misplaced clothing or personal items, they will be placed on the table at the entrance to the school where students and families can collect the items. If you happen to be in the school, please have a look. Unfortunately, we do not have space to store these items for long periods of time. We will periodically be packaging unclaimed items and donating them to charity.

Leaving Early or Reporting Absences

Under "Safe Arrival": Did you know there is a safe arrival app? This makes reporting absences that much easier! You can find more information [HERE](#).
A reminder to parents that ALL absences/ lates /early dismissals should be recorded on our Safe Arrival system prior to 8:30 am on the day of the absence/ late / dismissal (you can also report absences in advance, if they are known). Please review [THIS](#) link for more information and instructions.

BSS Bell Schedule for the 2025/2026 School Year

The [bell schedule](#) for the 2025/2026 school year will be changed slightly from this year. The start end times for the day will remain the same but there will now be two blocks before lunch and two after lunch. This change will allow for lunch to take place earlier in the day, hopefully helping to ensure students have better access to food throughout the day.

TIME	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
8:25 A.M.	Warning Bell		
8:30 - 9:48	A	C	D
9:48 - 10:04	16 Min LONG BREAK		
10:04 - 11:22	B	B	B
11:22 - 12:19 (warning 12:14)	LUNCH		
12:19 - 1:37	C	D	A
1:37 - 1:43	BREAK		
1:43 - 3:01	D	A	C
3:01	DISMISSAL		

Community Supports for Children & Youth

Empower Your Family with
Community Connections!

Are you curious
about community
supports as your
child enters
kindergarten?

Would you like more
information from
organizations that
can help support
your family or
school-aged child?

Are you wondering
about services that
may be available as
your youth
approaches
adulthood?

Snacks and
Doorprizes!!

February 24, 2026
4-6pm (drop-in)

Henry Grube Education Centre
(245 Kitchener Crescent)



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73
(Kamloops-Thompson)

Learn about local programs and services designed to
support your child's unique journey. Together, we can
build a stronger, more inclusive community!

Questions?



Henry Grube Education Centre (250) 376-2266

YOUTH INTENSIVE DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM

---- Support that meets you where you're at

PROGRAM DATES:

📅 March – April 10

Schedule: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

SNACKS & GOOD VIBES INCLUDED.

*Change doesn't have to be rushed.
Sometimes it starts with connection.*

WHAT YOU'LL FIND HERE:

- A supportive group environment
- Space to talk about substance use and mental health
- Practical tools for coping and daily life
- Engaging activities that build connection and confidence

ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE

- Bowling
- Horseback riding
- Creative activities like paint & sip
- Group outings and hands-on activities

LOCATION:

235 Lansdowne Street,
Kamloops, BC

Hours:
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

To learn more or join:
310-MHSU (6478) or 250-377-6500
Ask for ACCESS





Member of
JA Canada



JA Company Program

Build Your Own Start-up!

Career Education, ADST

Grades 9-12

Program Options: Facilitated by volunteers from the Barriere Lions Club

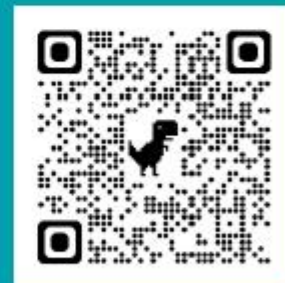
Join us to gain the tools and resources to launch your start-up! Collaborate with like-minded peers in a dynamic, hands-on program that builds teamwork, decision-making, and critical thinking skills while teaching the essentials of starting a business.

Program Details

- Date & Time: 16 weeks afterschool program- exact dates and times to be determined.
- Location: Barriere Secondary School
- Capacity: 15 students (minimum 6 to operate)
- Mentorship Opportunities: Students will collaborate with business leaders and entrepreneurs from the local community

Visit jabc.org/companyprogram to learn more or contact Craig Lovell, at c.lovell@jabc.org.

Learn More



About JA British Columbia

JA British Columbia (JABC) is a not-for-profit impact organization that delivers free hands-on, immersive education in 97% of the school districts in British Columbia.



Barriere Secondary School Learning Goals 2025-2026



Engagement Foster student connection and care by engaging all educational community members.

Mental Health Create a school environment that supports positive mental health.

Culture Foster a safe, caring, welcoming, and inclusive school culture.

For more information please check out the Barriere Secondary School Learning Plan at the following [LINK](#).

Welcome to ROMI



RURAL OUTREACH & MENTORSHIP INITIATIVE

WHO ARE WE?

We are a diverse team of medical students from all around Canada who have come together with a single purpose: to support youth living in rural and remote communities!



WHAT DO WE DO?



- Connect you with a mentor in medical school to answer your questions
- Introduce you to careers in medicine and healthcare Provide you with insight into the application process for medicine and give you an idea of what a day looks like for a medical student
- Host group workshops to help with academic skills and career advice
- Share experiences about the transition from high school to university

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Meet with your mentor 1-2 times per month (approximately 30 minutes) on a platform that you and your mentor agree on (zoom, google meet, phone)
- Meet with your mentor for 7 months until the end of the year. You will have an opportunity to continue the program after this if you are interested.
- Attend scheduled group activities



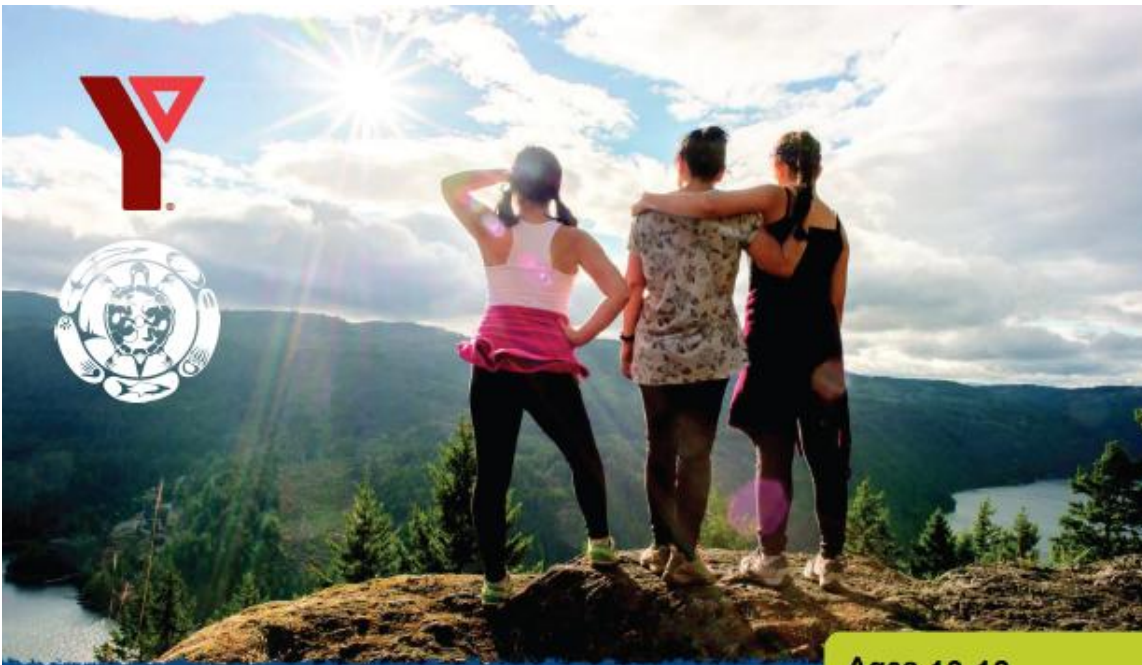
WHAT KIND OF GROUP ACTIVITIES CAN YOU EXPECT?

- Interprofessional Healthcare Professionals Panel
- Careers within Medicine Panel
- Panel of students from different post-secondary institutions
- Information session on scholarships and bursaries

REACH OUT TO US!

Please email romi.mentorship@srpc.ca with any questions or scan the QR code to sign up for the program if you are interested!





Ages 13-18

* No cost to participate!

Learn to Manage Stress Mind Medicine Groups

Everyone experiences worries and stress. Mind Medicine Groups are here to help young people develop coping strategies and build social connections.

To register, contact:

Arpuneet Kaur

Arpuneet.kaur@secwepemcfamilies.org

250-320-7608

Ruben Ferrero

Ruben.ferrero@secwepemcfamilies.org

778-694-4979

Mind Medicine - 7 Weeks

Wednesdays – 3pm to 4.30pm

Starting date: January 28th

153 Kootenay Way, Kamloops

This free program is run by caring, trained staff,
in a safe supportive environment.

Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Secwépemc Child and Family Services:

153 Kootenay Way, Kamloops, BC

Ph: 250-314-9669 Fax: 250-314-9609



Admin Message

Dear Barriere Secondary Cougar Families,

We are off to a wonderful start to Semester 2, and I want to take a moment to celebrate the positive energy, focus, and momentum we are seeing across our school. It has been a pleasure welcoming students back into learning spaces filled with curiosity, connection, and a shared commitment to growth.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our parent volunteers and the Barriere Secondary PAC for the time, care, and leadership you contribute to our school. Your ongoing support and engagement make a meaningful difference in the experiences we can provide for students. Thank you as well to all families for your continued commitment to our learning community. Your partnership, encouragement, and belief in our students are essential to their success.

I am also incredibly proud of the staff at Barriere Secondary. Their dedication to student learning, safety, well-being, and rich learning opportunities is evident every day. Through their professionalism, care, and commitment, our students are supported to take risks, build confidence, and grow as learners and as people.

As we look ahead, I invite families to join us in celebrating the Junior Girls Tier 2 Cougar Classic Tournament starting today. We welcome families and community members to come cheer on our athletes and be part of the excitement.

Thank you for being such a supportive school community. Together, we continue to foster a culture of care, collaboration, and high expectations for all learners. I look forward to a semester filled with growth, connection, and shared success.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

Andres Ruberg
Vice-Principal

Derek Markides
Principal