



— February/March 2026 —

Raven's Roost

Parkcrest Elementary School Newsletter



Principal's Message

Happy February! February marks the halfway point of the school year. This year has certainly been a busy one, and the weeks ahead promise to be just as full, with many rich learning experiences for our students. January was filled with the start of basketball season, numerous field trips, guest presenters, and an action-packed Literacy Week.

As I walk around the school each day, I enjoy engaging with students about their learning. I can find students working in small groups with their teachers on reading, writing, math, or other curricular areas. Other students can be found working alone or in pairs on reading, writing, projects, or a variety of meaningful learning tasks.

Looking ahead, February is Kindness Month, Black History Month, and a time we celebrate with a Winter Carnival. We also have kindergarten registration during the first week of February. If you have a child starting kindergarten in the fall, you can come by the school to register during the week, or you may contact the school to have a registration package sent home with an older sibling.

The Government of Canada announced the theme for this year's Black History Month as, "Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations — From Nation Builders to Tomorrow's Visionaries." Throughout the month, we will take time to celebrate the diversity and achievements of many Black Canadians. In mid-February, we will have Valentine's Day where we focus on being extra kind to everyone. To add a little extra fun, PAC's Valentine Cookie Grams will be back again this year.

During the last Wednesday of February, we will honour Pink Shirt Day. Wearing a pink shirt on Pink Shirt Day is a way to show our commitment to take a stand against bullying.

We only have two weeks in March before spring break. For that reason, I will not be sending out a March newsletter. I will give a mid and end month update to keep you informed. In March, there will be basketball playoffs (hosted at our school) and the second set of written learning updates (report cards) will be sent home (electronically).

Have a fabulous February and a marvelous March!

~Deanna Steptoe



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



A Look at January

City of Kamloops: Recycling Presentation



Students learned about the City of Kamloops' recycling program. Some of the information they learned included the following points:

- Metal cans and plastic containers can go into the recycling.
- Soft plastics can't go in the blue bins, but can be recycled at the depot.
- When putting items in the recycling, don't stack them together. Put each thing separately so the machines can sort easily.
- There is an app you can use to find out more.
- Do the best you can!



Blazers Visit



Four members of the Kamloops Blazers visited Parkcrest on January 20th. We gathered in the gym for an assembly to learn about the Blazers (and some of our teachers) and see them in action with some of their skills. Fun was had by all.



Indigenous Education Corner



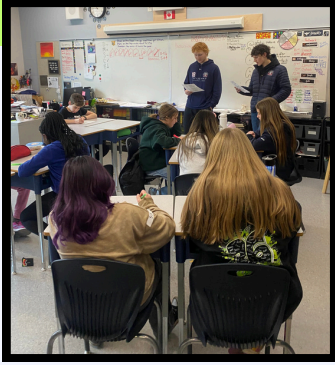
Medicine Wheel Teachings

Indigenous families are invited in to meet with Ms. Boyer on Monday mornings for "Parent Engagement Mornings". If Monday doesn't work, Ms. Boyer can be available anytime at drop off. Stop by Room #160.



On Wednesday at lunch, Ms. Boyer offers primary drumming in the library.

Guest Readers



Kamloops Storm



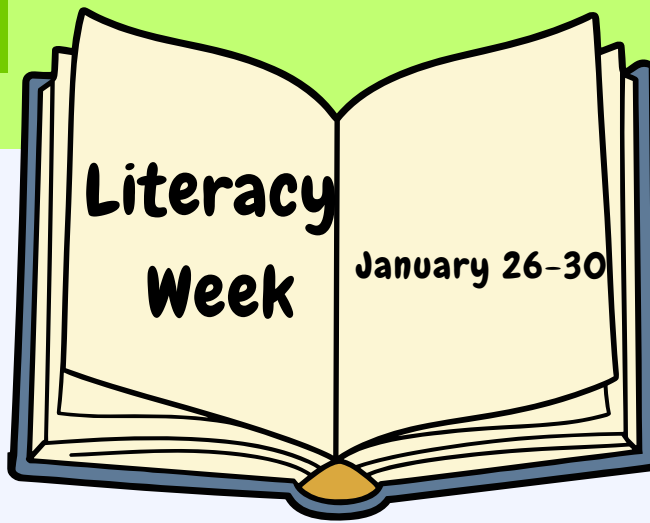
Sheriff



Firefighters



TRU Wolfpack



School & Class Activities



Literacy happens every day in classes, but during Literacy Week, we focused on even more literacy activities. Some of these activities were school wide. We started the week with a Literacy Week kick off assembly with everyone in the gym listening to a read aloud. Students later were given fishy crackers to connect to the story (thank you, PAC, for purchasing the crackers). Classes then engaged in:

Writing continuous stories - As a school, classes participated in writing of one of three continuous stories. One class started a story and then passed it onto the next class who added a section to the story before passing it onto the next class. Stories were read to the whole school throughout the week.

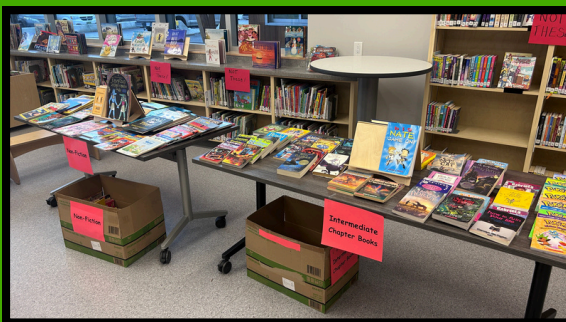
Dress Up Days - On Monday, students were given a word to wear as their name for the day, on Tuesday, students and staff wore shirts with words, and on Friday, we dressed as our favourite storybook character.

Every day, book trivia was read on the announcements. Prizes were given out each day - one for primary and one for intermediate.

Whole school Drop Everything and Read and Buddy Reading took place during the week.

Students made their own bookmarks (thank you PAC for funding the crafty supplies).

We ended the week with a Book Swap. Students went home with new books to read.





February and March News

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2026–2027 school year starts this week. Check out the [District Website](#) for key dates and information on how to register your child for Kindergarten starting in September 2026.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

With the increase in vehicle traffic in our area, here are some tips from the RCMP for pedestrians:

- Walk on the inside edge of the sidewalk so you are further away from traffic.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic so you can see oncoming vehicles.
- Cross only at intersections or marked crosswalks. Never jay walk.
- Dress to be seen especially at night and on dark/overcast days.
- Make sure you can hear and see oncoming cars. Remove your headphones and your hood when crossing the street.
- Make eye contact with drivers. Keep your head up and look where you're walking. Never assume that drivers see you.
- Always look for signs that a vehicle is about to move (rear lights, exhaust smoke, sound of motor, wheels turning).

Source: <https://rcmp.ca/en/bc/safety-tips/road-safety/pedestrian-safety>

Community Supports for Children and Youth

Empower Your Family with Community Connections

February 24, 2026 from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (Drop-in) at Henry Grube Education Centre

This annual event hosts numerous community agencies to help families learn about local programs and services, designed to support your child's unique journey.

- 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?

Visit this [District Webpage](#) to find links to information about community supports, intervention, leisure activities, employment, post-secondary opportunities, and transition services.

Upcoming Dates

Mon., Feb. 2	Kindergarten Registration Begins
Fri., Feb. 6	Non Instructional Day - No School
Tues., Mar. 10	PAC Meeting (6:00pm)
Mon., Feb. 16	Family Day - No School
Wed., Feb. 18	Winter Carnival Day
Wed., Feb. 25	Pink Shirt Day
Tues., Mar. 10	PAC Meeting (6:00pm)
Wed., Mar. 11	Learning Updates (Report Cards) to be sent home electronically
Fri., Mar. 13	Last Day of School Before Spring Break
Mon., Mar. 30	First Day of School After Spring Break
Fri., Apr. 3	Good Friday - No School
Mon., Apr. 6	Easter Monday - No School
Tues., Apr. 7	Day of Suwentywécw
Wed., Apr. 8	Kindergarten SPARK Session (3:30)
Tues., Apr. 14	Class Photos
Wed., Apr. 22	Kindergarten SPARK
Mon., Apr. 27	Non Instructional Day - No School



Fundraising

Upcoming Fundraisers

Valentine COOKIE GRAMS

Parkcrest's sweetest fundraiser is back! Valentine Cookie Grams! Students can send cookie grams to their friends. See the attached sheet for all the details. Information and cookie gram order forms will be sent home on February 1st, but if you want to get started early, print out the attached form. Cookie Grams are \$2 each. We are accepting cash or cheque only. Orders are due Tuesday, February 10th.



Grow your garden, feed your family and support Parkcrest Elementary with a 40% profit from your orders. Please use the link or QR code to order. Be sure to include your child's name and teacher's name for easy delivery. Orders are open until February 16 with aiming for delivery prior to spring break.

[Link for Westcoast Seeds](#)



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/>

Contact us anytime at:
pacparkcrest@gmail.com

Here are a few updates from PAC:

Please join us in the library on Tuesday, February 10th at 6pm for the PAC meeting. If you are available earlier we will be packaging Valentine Cookie Grams at 5pm. There is supervision in the gym at that time, so please bring your kids to burn off some energy.

Please RSVP at pacparkrest@gmail.com or on the Facebook post. RSVP is important so that enough babysitters can be booked for supervision. Come to the meeting to learn about the school, hear from Mrs. Steptoe, and vote on teacher requests so fundraised money is spent on supporting students activities. Please reach out if you have any questions.

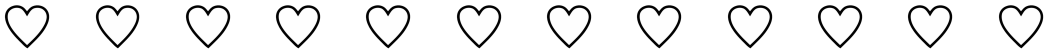


Next PAC Meeting

What: February PAC Meeting

When: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 @ 6:00pm

Where: Parkcrest Library



Valentine's Cookie Grams

Parkcrest PAC presents our Annual Valentine's Day Cookie Gram Fundraiser!

Fill out the cookie gram below and our volunteers will attach your personalized message to an individually wrapped iced sugar cookie. **Cookie Grams are \$2 each, cash or cheque only.** Makes for a perfect Valentine's Day treat!

Please be sure to fill out the form completely including the **first and last name of the student and the teacher's name** to ensure we can deliver each cookie to the right recipient. Order as many as you like but please fill out one form for each cookie (1 cookie gram = 1 student). Photocopy or pick up more cookie gram sheets at the office.

Deadline for orders is Wednesday February 10th at 5pm (bring to PAC meeting)

✂-----

Deliver Cookie to: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

From: _____

Valentine's Day Message: _____

✂-----

Deliver Cookie to: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

From: _____

Valentine's Day Message: _____

✂-----

Deliver Cookie to: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____

From: _____

Valentine's Day Message: _____

Help Kids Fight Cyberbullying and Online Harms

Most kids will encounter mean behavior at some point in their digital lives. For some kids, this experience is a blip that's easily forgotten, while for others it can have deep, long-lasting effects. For parents, the key is staying involved in kids' lives -- both online and off -- so they can step in and offer help if necessary. With guidance from parents and educators, kids can learn how to dodge the drama and stand up for others.

Check out these 6 tips



Define your terms.

Make sure kids understand what cyberbullying is: repeated and unwanted mean or hurtful words or behavior that occur online (through texts, social media posts, online chat, etc.).



Check in about online life.

Just like you'd ask your kid about their sleep, exercise, and eating, stay on top of their online life. Who are they chatting with? How do people treat each other in the games and on the sites they're using?



Role-play.

If kids feel like they might have trouble removing themselves from digital drama, experiment with some different ways they can make a graceful exit. Talk through words they can use, ways they can steer conversations in positive directions, etc.



Encourage upstanding.

Let kids know that supporting a friend or acquaintance who is being bullied can make a big difference. If they feel safe confronting the bully, they should. If not, a private message to the victim can be enough to help someone through a tough time. Speaking up against hate speech is important, too.



Help Kids Fight Cyberbullying and Online Harms

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Take breaks.

If you notice your kid getting pulled into digital drama, help them take a break. It's great if they can determine for themselves when they need to step back, but they might need some help setting limits. Putting devices to bed at a specific time, plus breaks for mealtimes and face-to-face connection, can help kids recharge.

6

Review worst-case steps.

Walkthrough what to do if your kid is being bullied online. First, step away. Ignoring a bully can be very effective. If the bullying continues, take screenshots or print out evidence. Then block the person. If it gets worse, report the behavior to a trusted adult. Talk about who those people are and make sure your kid has their contact information.

