



January 2026

# Raven's Roost

Parkcrest Elementary School Newsletter



## Principal's Message

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and joyful holiday season filled with special moments with family and friends. As we head into the new year, we are excited to see our students continue to learn and grow.

Looking back on December, there were many activities and events that brought our school community together. From the winter concert performances to the festive fun of our theme days planned by our leadership students, and other special in-class events, December was filled with joy and creativity. We ended the week before the break with the singing of Christmas carols all together in the gym.

As we turn the page to January, the focus is back on academics as we delve deep into curriculum. Students and staff are refreshed and ready to take learning to new heights. We are also excited to offer students opportunities to experience the best of winter through field trips, including skating and skiing, and special guests, such as a visit from the Kamloops Blazers. We will also have a week packed full of literacy fun from January 26 to 30 as we celebrate Literacy Week.

Please remember to send your child to school with appropriate outdoor clothing. We had many warm days before the break, but we will likely experience colder weather over the next two months.

The winter season is also the time of year when we do see more seasonal colds and flus. Please be mindful that when you send your child to school sick, they may spread their germs making other students sick. I've attached guidelines from Interior Health about when to keep your children home from school.

January looks to be a very busy month. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support. Wishing you all a fantastic start to 2026!

~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](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)
- App: SchoolMessenger

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



# A Look at December

# Winter Concert



Ms. Whitmore's & Mrs. Lee/Mrs. Blais' Classes



Mrs. Trestain's & Ms. Ellingsen's Classes



Mrs. Stuckey's Class



Mrs. Tondevold's & Mrs. Kicia's Classes



Mrs. Quast's & Ms. Girodat's Classes



Mrs. McDaniel's Class



Mrs. Erichuk's Class



Mr. Fuzzen's Class

# Winter Concert



**Mrs. McCrea's Class**



**Mrs. Sarrasin's and Mrs. Whalen's Classes**



**Mrs. Beeds' and Mrs. Dhaliwal's Classes**



**Concert Emcees**



**Mrs. Shantz's Class**

Thank you to our students who worked behind the scenes on props, stage support, lighting, and sound.



**Primary Choir**



# January News

## Literacy Week - January 26-30

To align with Literacy in Kamloops' Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week, Parkcrest will be participating in a school-wide Literacy Week. Here are the details about Literacy Week.

**Book Exchange** - From January 19th to January 27th, we will be collecting books for the Parkcrest Book Exchange. Students are asked to bring in used books in good condition that they have outgrown to donate. They will get book tickets to "shop" for books on Friday, January 30th. Students may bring as many books as they want, but there will be a maximum of 2 tickets given to each student.

**Book Trivia** - Students will listen for a quote from a book read aloud on the morning announcements.

### Monday, January 26

- Literacy Week Kick Off Assembly
- Sight Word/Thematic Word Names Day - Teachers will give each student a unique word on a name tag to wear it as their "name" for the day.
- Continuous Stories where stories will be created across classes throughout the day.

### Tuesday, January 27

- Shirts with Words - students are invited to wear shirts with words on them.
- Whole School D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read)

### Wednesday, January 28

- Author Visit

### Thursday, January 29

- Create a Bookmark

### Friday, January 30

- Dress as a Storybook Character
- Book Exchange



## Important Dates

Mon., Jan. 5	First Day Back After Winter Break
Mon., Jan. 12	Waste Reduction Presentations for Students
Tues., Jan. 13	PAC Meeting (6:00)
Mon., Jan. 26 - Fri., Jan. 30	Literacy Week
Tues., Jan. 20	Blazers' Visit
Fri., Feb. 6	Non-Instructional Day - No School
Tues., Feb. 10	PAC Meeting (6:00)
Mon., Feb. 16	Family Day - No School
Tues., Mar. 10	PAC Meeting (6:00)
Fri., Mar. 13	Last Day of Classes Before Spring Break
Mon., Mar. 30	First Day Back After Spring Break
Fri., Apr. 3	Good Friday - No School
Mon., Apr. 6	Easter Monday - No School
Mon., Apr. 27	Non-Instructional Day - No School
Fri., May 15	Non-Instructional Day - No School
Mon., May 18	Victoria Day - No School
Thurs., Jun. 25	Last Day of School for Students

Please note that you may see School Cash refunds on your credit card statement. These are from the transaction fees that were overpaid. Information was sent out about this in December.



## More January News

## Student Pick Up

Just a friendly reminder to please check-in at the office when coming during the day to pick up your child(ren). Once you have checked-in at the office, we will call into the classroom and have them meet you at the office. This ensures the least amount of disruption to learning to our classes.

## Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the 2026–2027 school year starts in January and February. Parents are strongly encouraged to register their kindergarten aged children for school during Kindergarten Registration Week (February 2-6, 2026).

Below are key dates for kindergarten registration:

### **Schools of Choice Information Night:**

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 - 6:30 PM (virtual session)

### **Schools of Choice Registration Week:**

January 19-23, 2026

### **SD73 Kindergarten Information Night:**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 - 6:30 PM (virtual session)

### **Catchment Schools Registration Week:**

February 2-6, 2026

### **Registration Process:**

- Find your catchment school using the [School Locator](#) and [School Boundaries Map](#) tools.
- Complete [Student Enrolment Form](#) and provide it to your school or pick up a registration package from your catchment school.
- Parents will be required to provide child's BC Services Card, proof of address, child's birth certificate, and custody agreement if applicable.
- Registration packages for students with an older sibling can be sent home (by request).

*If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at school or visit the School District website [here](#).*

## District Family Event - Digital Safety

In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Childcare, through the erase strategy, join this free online session: ***Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities***.

This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sexortion. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.

The course is intended for: Parents, Caregivers, Grandparents, and youth aged 10 and up.

Upcoming Family Engagement Sessions:

- January 21, 2026
- March 11, 2026
- May 13, 2026

Register [HERE](#)

## Fundraising

## 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](mailto:pacparkcrest@gmail.com)

Thank you, Parkcrest families, for your support with the Christmas Concert Raffle Baskets.

Each class had a theme and we had a tremendous turnout of items for these baskets. Thank you, thank you, thank you for sending in items and purchasing tickets at the winter concerts.



This year, PAC has supported our school by paying for busing for many field trips and purchasing items for our school including chromebooks, a chromebook cart, outdoor play equipment, iPads, crafts and so much more!

Thank you from Parkcrest students and staff.

## Upcoming Fundraiser: West Coast Seeds

January 26 to February 13.



West Coast Seeds™

Your voice matters!

Please join us for our monthly PAC meetings.

Upcoming PAC Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, January 13

Tuesday, February 10

Tuesday, March 10

Tuesday, April 14

Tuesday, May 12

June - TBD

Parents meet in the library while children get supervised playtime in the gym.



## Next PAC Meeting

**What:** January PAC Meeting

**When:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ 6:00pm

**Where:** Parkcrest Library



# Is it an Emergency?

Having a sick child can be stressful, but not all illnesses require a visit to the emergency department. Find the right place to go for care.

## Emergency Department

- Difficulty breathing
- Fever in infants younger than 3 months
- Broken bone
- Serious or severe burn
- Vomiting or diarrhea with dehydration
- Sudden change in mental state
- Complicated or deep cut



## Urgent Care, Walk-in Clinic or Doctor's Office

- Fever or flu
- Cough, cold, sore throat
- Earache
- Rash
- Pink eye
- Sprain or strain
- Referral to specialist



[Information on when to bring your child to the Emergency Department](#)

### **Information on Taking a temperature:**

HealthLinkBC [Fever or chills age 11 or younger](#) (has a symptom checker link)

HealthLinkBC [How to take a temperature: Children and Adults](#)

Canadian Paediatrician Society [Fever and temperature taking](#)

Canadian Pharmacist Association [Information for families on children's fever and pain medication](#)

# Help Kids Post, Comment, and Upload Responsibly

As soon as you share the first photo of your kid, you're establishing their digital footprint. As kids get older and start creating their own content or engaging with others online, it's important for them to understand the tracks they're leaving behind and what those tracks might reveal. Parents can help guide kids toward creating the kind of footprint they can be proud of.

*Check out these 4 tips* 

1

## ***Be a role model.***

Before you post a photo of your kid on social media, ask if it's OK to share. Not only will you give them control over their own digital footprint, you'll also be showing them what you expect them to do with others' photos.

2

## ***Use privacy settings.***

Together, go through all the settings on new apps to make sure you both know what information your kids are sharing. Especially in the beginning, it's better to share very little.

3

## ***Question everything.***

Before you sign school forms or register for a new online service for your kid, check the privacy policy to see what kind of information you're giving the school or company and who they're sharing it with. Sharing some data might be required, but you may be able to opt out of others. Talk with your kid about why it's important to protect your personal data.

4

## ***Use a celebrity as an example.***

With older kids, choose a celebrity or another famous person and look through their Twitter or Instagram posts with your kid. Discuss your impressions of them based on what they post. Ask your kid what kind of image they'd like to project online.

