



Arthur Stevenson Elementary

2890 BANK ROAD
KAMLOOPS, B.C.
V2B 6Y7
Principal: Ms. Kirsten Farquhar
Vice Principal: Mrs. Leah Clare

TELEPHONE: (250) 579-9284
FAX: (250) 377-2239
Website: astevenson.sd73.bc.ca
Email: kfarquhar@sd73.bc.ca
Email: lclare@sd73.bc.ca

September 2025 Newsletter

Message from the Principal:

Hello Parents and Guardians,

I hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer break. We are so excited to welcome your children back to our classrooms and hallways, which have been buzzing with preparations for the new school year. As we settle into the routine of drop-offs and pick-ups, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible partnership we share. Your dedication to your child's education and your trust in our staff are what make our school community so special. We have a fantastic year of learning, growth, and fun ahead of us. Many of the initiatives we've found productive for our school in the past will certainly continue as we also strive to continue to improve student learning with new approaches and strategies. We are so thrilled to have your children back and look forward to an amazing year working alongside you. Thank you for being such an important part of the Arthur Stevenson family.

With gratitude,

Your Proud Principal
Kirsten Farquhar (she/her)



Arthur Stevenson Elementary School – **You Belong Here!**

First Day:- September 2nd

A reminder that the first day of school is **10:30am – 12:34pm**. Please send a snack with your child.

New students (Grades 1-7) enter the school through the front doors and go to the library.

Returning students go to their last years' classes and enter the school the same way that they did last year.

Classroom Placement:

Each spring, our teaching staff works collaboratively to begin the process of placing students into classrooms for the next school year. Many things are considered including each student's academic needs, social skills, and learning styles. Parent input is also taken into consideration. Class placements must adhere to class size composition rules and collective agreements. This is a complex process and requires a lot of time and thought. Throughout the first week, we will continue the placement process, and we will do our best to have classes finalized as soon as possible. In the meantime, students will be placed in pseudo-classes so that they can be involved in valuable learning experiences throughout these first few days.

We are asking that you allow students at least a full week in their new classes to become acquainted with their classmates, teachers, and school procedures. Oftentimes, concerns are alleviated once students get to know their new teachers and classmates.

Health and Safety:

Students are encouraged to practice good hand hygiene and to stay home when sick. Our dedicated custodians do a great job of cleaning and disinfecting. Staff and students are also encouraged to tidy up and wipe down as much as possible to keep our school clean.

Allergy-Sensitive and Scent Aware School:

We have students in our school who have severe and life-threatening allergies to nuts and other food products. Teachers will let families know of any allergies in their classes in the coming week. When packing lunches, please be considerate of any allergies in your child's class. Arthur Stevenson is also Scent Aware – please refrain from wearing perfumes while in our building as many staff and students experience adverse reactions to them.

Medical Alerts :

Parents and Guardians of students with potentially life-threatening allergies or health conditions (example diabetes, anaphylaxis, seizures etc) are asked to sign the necessary forms at the school office. These forms **must be updated every school year**. Please send any EpiPens to the school as soon as possible. Students should also carry one with them during recess, lunch, and field trips.

Bell Schedule:

Beginning Wednesday September **3rd**, the bell schedule for the 2025-2026 school year has been slightly adjusted. Please note the following changes (particularly Dismissal times).

8:25 Welcoming Bell
8:30 Classes Begin
9:50 10:05 – Recess
12:05 -1:00 - Lunch
 12:05-12:25 (eating time)
 12:25-1:00 (play time)
1:00 Classes resume
2:34 Dismissal

Picture Day:

Get your smiles ready, picture day is coming very soon! Individual pictures will be taken on Wednesday, **September 17th!**

Noon Hour Supervisors:

If you are interested in supervising during the noon hour (12:00-1:00), please contact the office. Supervisors will be given a \$12 an hour honorarium.

School Supply Fees:

Please look for the school supply form that will be sent home with your child. We highly recommend that parents use this program as it saves families time and money and provides consistency of supplies in the classroom.

School supplies can be purchased online or paid for by cash/cheque at the office. Online purchasing information will be on the school supply form.

Transaction Fees:

Starting September 2025 individual student fees (enhancement fees for school supplies, 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.

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:

1. Phone: 1-844-350-2647
2. Web: go.schoolmessenger.ca
3. App: SchoolMessenger

Please report your children's absences before 8:30 am the day they will be absent. Absences can be reported in advance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for any school day in the term.

If the Safe Arrival program does not allow you to report an absence, please contact the school office so they can fix the problem.

Student Messages:

Except in emergencies, parent messages called into the office for students will be passed on to students twice a day. Messages will be passed on to students at **11:30am** and **2:30pm** to minimize disruptions to classroom learning.

School Sports:

Cross country will kick-off the school year very soon, followed by Volleyball and Basketball in October. ***More information to come – stay tuned!***

Orange Shirt Day:

We will celebrate Orange Shirt Day on Monday, September 29th as National Truth and Reconciliation Day is Tuesday September 30th (no school on the 30th). ASES students will engage in many learning opportunities that week as part of our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Parking:

Parking around the school can become very congested during pick-up and drop off times. To help us keep our students safe, please note that the road in front of the school (Bank Road) is a sidewalk and is designated as a "No Parking" zone by the City of Kamloops. We also ask that parents do not park in the staff parking lot before or after school. Parking is available around the corner along Soldier Road, please make sure to park on the school side of the road to avoid blocking the driveways of the residents living on that street. **Friendly reminder – ***please do not park between the two handicap spaces on Soldier road.*** It is not a parking space.

Picking up/Dropping Off:

If you drive your children to school and pick them up, consider designating a meeting point that is not in front of the school.

PAC (Parent Advisory Council) News:

Our first PAC meeting will be Sept Wednesday 17th at 6:30 in the library, everyone is welcome to attend.

The Welcome Back BBQ will be **Thursday Sept 11th**, more details to follow. PAC is looking for volunteers to help out at the BBQ, contact PAC at ArthurStevenson.PAC@gmail.com for more details.

Hot lunches and fundraiser purchases are done through the hot lunch program at "munchalunch.com"

Our PAC at ASES hosts many great initiatives and fundraisers such as hot lunches. More information will be at our first few PAC meetings.



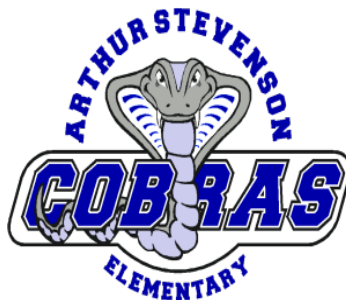
Hot Lunch Ordering:

PAC will be doing online ordering for all orders to ensure accuracy with the orders and to make the process as easy for everyone as possible.

Hot lunch orders are through the Munchalunch: "munchalunch.com/register"
The PAC Hot lunch email is "Arthur.Stevenson.PAC@gmail.com"

Arthur Stevenson ROCKS!

Respect
Ownership
Cooperation
Kindness
Safety



R.O.C.K.S. is our student behavior matrix. Teachers will review expectations with students at the beginning of the year. Students will then have opportunities to earn a "ROCK" throughout the week by demonstrating one the above listed attributes. We end each week with a draw celebrating their successes.

Student Code of Conduct:

Please note that the School District Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Procedure #350) will be reviewed with students in the coming days. The Student Code of Conduct along with the Arthur Stevenson ROCKS Behavior Matrix are intended to encourage acceptable student behavior to establish and maintain a safe, respectful and caring learning environment. These documents will also help to clarify expectations for student behavior while at school, going to and from school, attending any school function or activity at any location, or in other circumstances that may have an impact on the school environment.

For your reference, Administrative Procedures 350: Student Code of Conduct and 350.2: Student Dress Code can be found on the [district website](#)

School Volunteers and Volunteer Drivers

All parents volunteering to drive students other than their own child must have an up to date criminal record check on file with the school. This applies to parents joining on field trips and volunteering as noon hour supervisors.

Personal Digital Devices:

Arthur Stevenson has developed a Personal Digital Device Policy. See attached PDF included in this Newsletter.

Vandalism:

As is the case with many schools and public buildings these days, our school, unfortunately, has been the target of repeated spray paint/sharpie vandalism. Please don't hesitate to call RCMP non emergency line to make reports after hours #250-828-3000.

Upcoming dates:

Sept 2nd: First day of school (10:30 – 12:34)

Sept 17: Picture day

Sept 22nd Pro D – No school

Sept 29th: Orange shirt day

Sept 30: Truth and Reconciliation Day – No school



FASD Awareness Month

Throughout the month of September, events are held across Canada and around the world in recognition of FASD Day. But FASD awareness initiatives deserve more than one day of focus.

The Government of Canada officially recognized September as FASD Awareness Month in 2020. At CanFASD, we celebrate both FASD Day and FASD Month and encourage communities to continue to work towards increased awareness of FASD throughout the whole month of September and beyond.

Bring awareness by wearing red on September 9th.



Arthur Stevenson Elementary 2025-2026 School Year Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday, September 2	First Day of School 10:30am – 12:34pm
Monday, September 22	District Professional Development
Tuesday, September 30	National Truth and Reconciliation No School
Monday, October 13	Thanks Giving – No School
Friday, October 24	District Professional Development
Friday, November 7	Remembrance Day Assembly
Tuesday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No School
Monday, December 1st	District Professional Development
Friday, December 19	Last Day of classes before Winter Break
Monday, January 5	First Day of classes after Winter break
Friday, February 6	District Professional Development
Monday, February 16	Family Day – No School
Friday, March 13	Last Day of classes before Spring Break
Monday, March 30	First Day of classes after Spring Break
Friday, April 3	Good Friday – No School
Monday, April 6	Easter Monday – No School
Monday, April 27	District Professional Development
Friday, May 15	District Professional Development
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day – No School
Thursday, June 25	Last Day of School – Dismissal at 12:34

Arthur Stevenson Staff 2025-2026

Staff	Position	Staff	Position
Ms. K. Farquhar	Principal	Ms. K. Padar	CEA
Mrs. L. Clare	Vice Principal	Ms. J Roach	CEA
Mrs. K. Evans	Secretary	Ms. B. Spooner	Daytime Custodian
Ms. S. Sorensen	Kindergarten/G1	Mr. J. Kelly	Evening Custodian
Mrs. T. Hawkings	Kindergarten/G 1	Ms. Seroun	Evening Custodian
Ms. A. Zelisko	Grade 1		
Ms. A. Patterson	Grade 2		
Ms. T. McLean	Grade 1/2		
Mr. A. Dhaliwal	Grade 2/3		
Mrs. P. McKay	Grade 3/4		
Mrs. K. Cruz	Grade 4/5		
Ms. L. O'Neill	Grade 4/5		
Ms. K. Prosser	Grade 5/6		
Mr. J. Roszmann	Grade 6/7		
Mr. B. Kicia	Grade 6/7		
Mr. B. Bregoliss	Grade 6/7		
Ms. G. Ong	LART		
Ms. T. Petrie	Prep		
Ms. Johannesson	Prep		
Ms. K. Kipp	Teacher Librarian		
Ms. Marinelli	IEW		
Ms. K. Browett	CEA		
Ms. M. Hunter	CEA		
Mrs. S. Cowdell	CEA		
Mrs. L. Miller	CEA		
Ms . S. Mould	CEA		
Ms. L. Nelmes	CEA		

Parent Engagement Session: Partnering for Success

Posted On Wednesday August 27, 2025



Presented by Deanna Brady, District Principal of Inclusive Education, and Lise Hyam, District Coordinator of Inclusive Education.

Are you looking for ways to better understand how schools in BC support students with diverse needs?

Join us for the first SD73 Parent Engagement Session of the 2025-2026 school year to learn how to better understand the education system and your role as a parent. This practical, parent-friendly session is designed to help you feel informed and confident in partnering with your child's school.

In this session, you will:

- Learn how the BC education system supports students with diverse needs
- Understand the roles of teachers, education assistants, case managers, and school teams
- Gain a clear overview of Individual Education Plan (IEPs) —what they are, how they work, and your rights as a parent
- Discover simple strategies to prepare for, participate in, and follow up after IEP meetings
- Take home easy-to-use resources, including checklists, key questions, and a guide to supports available in BC

This session is about empowerment and partnership—helping you become a strong advocate for your child while building positive, collaborative relationships with the school team.

This workshop will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. If you are interested in attending, please register in advance [here](#). Following your registration, you will receive the link to the meeting.

Summer 2025 Welcome Back Newsletter

Dearest parents and guardians,

I trust that everyone enjoyed a relaxing summer filled with special family moments. The staff and I are excited to welcome you and your children back to school as we are looking forward to a positive school year ahead filled with valuable learning. As we look ahead, our staff are very proud of the gains we have made with many aspects of the school's learning plan over the past three years. We have worked hard towards bringing our new school motto "You Belong Here" to life by using it to guide our practice each and every day. In fact, according to district surveys for grades 4-7, we've made great gains in our students' overall sense of belonging, feeling welcome and safe at school, and students identifying many adults around them they feel care about them.

I believe these gains have strengthened a foundation from which we now aim to make further strides regarding the intellectual development of our students (specifically in literacy and numeracy). Stay tuned for future updates!

Although you will receive more information in the September Newsletter Friday afternoon, I did want to confirm for all families the following in advance of our first day back on Tuesday, September 2nd.

- Kindergarten students do not report to school on Tuesday as they follow their Gradual Entry plans that were mailed out to families previously this summer.
- All grade 1 - 7 students report to their last year's teacher from 10:30-12:34 for Homeroom on Tuesday.
- All new students (except for those in Kindergarten) report to the library for Homeroom on Tuesday.
- Please provide a healthy snack for your child and know there will be some outside playing time scheduled into this shortened day.

In the meantime, please check your emails by the end of Friday for more information regarding the school year ahead, including next week's start-up process.

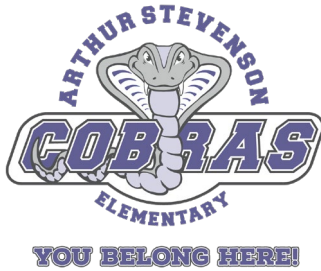
With gratitude for your continued support and partnership,

Kirsten Farquhar (she/her)

Proud Principal

Arthur Stevenson Elementary

Home of the COB



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Arthur Stevenson Personal Digital Device Policy and Expectations

Here at Arthur Stevenson Elementary, we realize that many of our students walk to school and that they may use cell phones to communicate with parents before or after the school day. We wanted to take this time to remind students that personal digital device use of any kind is not permitted during school hours (as per details outlined in the following).

In keeping with the School District 73 Administrative Policy, AP 350.1 and the Ministry of Education's recent ministerial order M89, all students at Arthur Stevenson Elementary are expected to adhere to the following guidelines with regards to Personal digital devices.

A personal digital device is any form of technology that a student brings from home cell phone iPad, iPod, laptop, Chromebook, tablet, smart watch etc).

It is expected that all students:

- Will not use their personal digital device to invade or infringe upon the personal privacy or safety of any member of the school community.
- Will keep their personal digital devices turned off and in their lockers during school hours (8:30 AM - 2:34 PM) and while participating in school sponsored activities before and after school (such as sports games and practices and field trips), unless given permission by their teacher for:
 - Instructional purposes and digital literacy development, led by their teacher:
 - Use that is appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage;
 - Accessibility and accommodation needs, including medical and health needs;
 - Supporting equitable access to learning outcomes.
- Understand that the school administration reserves the right to access all files and content on personal digital devices connected to district networks to check for inappropriate use.
- Administration reserves the right to confiscate any personal digital device that is being misused. Staff are also permitted to confiscate any personal digital device that is being misused with the purpose of bringing them to the administration. Parents/guardians will be informed and then parents/guardians will be able to pick up the device at the school office.
- Understand that SD73 and Arthur Stevenson Elementary accept no responsibility for the theft or damage that may occur if a personal digital device is brought to school.

These expectations are created to ensure the safety and privacy of each member of our school community. Should a child need the use of a phone during school time or if parents need to have a message conveyed to their child, the school office is available for both.

Arthur Stevenson Elementary School – You Belong Here!

SCHOOL CODES OF CONDUCT

Background

The District believes that a code of conduct for students with broad support of the students, parents, teachers and administrative personnel greatly contributes to a safe and effective learning environment in schools. It also believes that there must be ongoing communication and consultation regarding behavioral expectations of students within the school community.

Procedures

1. Principals shall establish, consistent with [Administrative Procedure 350 – Student Code of Conduct](#) with the involvement of students, parents, and staff, a school code of conduct with the accompanying rules, procedures and range of consequences for inappropriate behaviour. The school code of conduct is in effect:
 - 1.1. Within the school facility in all school programs and activities;
 - 1.2. Outside the school facility in all school programs and activities; and,
 - 1.3. Going to and from school.
2. Principals have the overall responsibility to see that codes of conduct are enforced and have paramount authority for the discipline of students.
3. All school staff members are expected to be vigilant and to act thoughtfully and responsibly in ensuring the safety and security of the students and the building.
4. The code of conduct will clearly state a range of consequences for inappropriate behaviour.
5. The principal shall communicate the school code of conduct annually to students, staff members and parents.
6. The school code of conduct is to be communicated on a regular basis through a variety of methods to staff members, students and parents and published both on the school website and in the student handbook.
7. Each school's code of conduct shall be filed with the respective assistant superintendent annually by September 1.

Legal references: *School Act*, ss 6, 7, 8, 17, 20, 22, 26, 65, 79, 85

Other references: Administrative Procedure 350

Adopted: August 26, 2019

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Background

The District recognizes that a student's choice of dress can form an important part of self-identity and that students should be free to dress in a manner of their choosing, subject to the terms of this Administrative Procedure.

Procedures

1. All principals will publish the dress code in a manner that will ensure parents and students are aware of its contents, by September 30th each year.
2. All principals will review the procedures of this dress code with all staff prior to September 30th annually.
3. This administrative procedure will be reviewed at the District level every three years to ensure it remains current.
4. Students must not wear clothing which undermines the District's commitment to a safe and inclusive learning environment. This includes:
 - 4.1. Clothing that promotes the use of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol;
 - 4.2. Clothing that advocates illegal activity;
 - 4.3. The wearing of clothing, insignias, symbols or adornments that denigrate or promote hatred of a person or persons, including, but not limited to, clothing that denigrates or promotes hate based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, or age;
 - 4.4. Clothing which contains profanity, pornography or obscene images.
5. Student clothing must conform to health or safety requirements, including requirements arising from participation in specialized programs and events.
6. Other than for religious purposes, health and safety requirements, or where required to accommodate a disability, students must not wear clothing which obscures their face.
7. Staff shall respond to Student Dress Code violations in a manner that:
 - 7.1. Is discreet, respectful and clearly references the specifics of the dress code concern;
 - 7.2. Does not require the student to wear clothing provided by the school and instead requires the student to wear additional clothing of their own to obscure the violating dress choice;
 - 7.3. Is consultative with the school administration prior to addressing a dress code concern with a student.
 - 7.4. Includes school administration contacting parents and or guardians of any student that has violated this Administrative Procedure.
8. The District will consider the approval of a school uniform for a specific school when the following criteria have been met:

- 8.1. The Superintendent receives a letter from the principal that outlines the consultation process involving the school parents' advisory council (PAC) and leading to the recommendation of a school uniform, as well as a description of the proposed school uniform;
- 8.2. Evidence that at least eighty percent (80%), with one (1) vote per family, of the school community voted by secret ballot to approve a school uniform;
- 8.3. Evidence of a plan to provide school uniforms to any student who is disadvantaged;
- 8.4. Provisions for exceptions that may be necessary for religious reasons; and,
- 8.5. Provisions for a process for individual families to opt out of a school uniform requirement.

Legal references: *School Act*, ss 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85
Regulation 265/89
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), RSBC 1996
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982
Criminal Code of Canada, RSC 1985
Copyright Act, RSC 1985

Other references: Administrative procedures 350, 355
Introduction to British Columbia's Redesigned Curriculum, 2015

Adopted: September 22, 2008

Revised: December 12, 2016; August 26, 2019, June 18, 2021



September 2, 2025

Notice to Parents and Students: Student Safety

Dear Parents and Students,

Student safety is a top priority in the Kamloops-Thompson School District. To keep students and staff safe, we have engaged in intensive safety training with our community partners—the RCMP, Secwépemc Child & Family Service, Lii Michif Otipemisiwak Family and Community Services, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. As a result of our collective efforts, we have developed a district plan for responding to all situations where we believe students may be posing a threat to themselves or others.

District policy requires principals to activate a multidisciplinary “threat assessment” protocol whenever we have information that indicates students have made significant, high-level threats to harm themselves or others. Please review [Behavioural and Digital Threat Assessment](#) procedure on the school district website at sd73.bc.ca (under Admirative Procedures).

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet, or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated, and responded to.

Duty to report:

To keep school communities safe and caring, each of us—staff, parents, guardians, caregivers, students, and community members—must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal.

What is a Site-Specific Threat Assessment Team?

The school has a site-specific threat assessment team that includes school administrators, counsellors, teachers, and a police officer.

The threat assessment process is designed to promote:

- the emotional and physical safety of students, staff, parents, the student making the threat, and others
- a full understanding of the context of the threat
- a greater understanding of the factors underlying the behaviours of the threat maker
- proactive development of an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker
- increased emotional and physical safety of all

A student threat assessment will be initiated for behaviours including, but not limited to:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- online threats to harm/kill others
- possession of weapons (including replicas)
- gang-related intimidation and violence
- verbal/written threats to harm/kill self or others (clear, direct, plausible)
- bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devises)
- fire starting
- sexual intimidation and violence



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

1383 - 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC V2C 3X7 | Tel: 250-374-0679 | Fax: 250-372-1183 | www.sd73.bc.ca

What parents and students need to know:

- any threat must be reported to the school principal
- investigations may involve a school or district counsellor, the police, and/or other community agencies
- investigations may involve locker or personal property searches
- interviews will be held with the threat maker and other students or adults who may have information about the threat
- parents of students who are directly involved with a threat will be notified and, depending on the circumstances, may attend the interview to provide support
- threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action and/or change in school placement
- an intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats

Collection Notice

The District is subject to personal information privacy laws and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including limiting collection of information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from online open-source sites. The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

Sincerely,

Mike McKay
Superintendent of Schools