KSA Community Connection
1390 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops BC V2C 3X5
PHONE: 250-374-3200 FAX: 250-377-2245
Office Hours 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2026

Principal's Message

Dear KSA Families,

Welcome to November! As autumn comes to a close and the cooler weather sets in, our school community remains vibrant, active, and filled with creative energy.

After a very busy October, we have an exciting month ahead at Kamloops School of the Arts. October saw us participate in a school wide salmon run field trip, the launch of our elementary volleyball season and our popular Thursday Popcorn and Slushie days. Our students continue into November engaged in fantastic learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom including a trip to the Sagebrush Theatre for a Symphony performance and a dance trip to Vancouver.

As we move into this next season, please take a moment to review a few key updates and reminders in this month's newsletter:

- School Safety & Parking: Please remember that there is no parking, drop-off, or pick-up in the staff parking lot or directly in front of the school on 9th Avenue. Kindly use Fraser Street for drop-offs, follow our crosswalk safety rules, and ensure all visitors report directly to the front office upon arrival.
- Upcoming PAC Events: Mark your calendars for the 13th Annual KSA PAC Craft Fair on Saturday, November 14th, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. It is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we encourage everyone to come out and support local vendors and student tables!.
- Graduation Updates: Grad photo sessions begin November 16th, and our Grad Parent Committee has meetings scheduled for November 12th and December 3rd.
- Remembrance Day: Please note that our school ceremony will take place on November 10th, followed by the Remembrance Day holiday on November 11th (no school). Families are invited to attend the ceremony starting at 10:25 am, **please RSVP** to the office at 250-374-3200.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, volunteer support, and dedication to keeping our school safe, welcoming, and inspiring for all of our STARS.

Warmest regards,

D. Lloyd

Blair Lloyd Proud Principal, Kamloops School of the Arts



ATTENTION

Do not park, drop off, or pick up in the staff parking lot *OR* in front of the school on 9th Avenue.

This is to ensure the safety of all students.

Parents are asked to drop off/pick up their child on Fraser Street. The roadway by the bridge on Fraser street is drop off only. Please do not park in this area. We believe strongly in the safety of our children, therefore, please make sure you are aware of parking and traffic routines at our school. Students are reminded to follow road safety at all times. Students are required to use the crosswalk and look both ways before crossing the street.

School Safety & Visitor Procedures

As part of our continued commitment to school safety, new signage has been installed at both the front and back entrances of the school. These signs are to remind all visitors to report directly to the office through the front door of the school, where visitor name tags will be issued. This includes parents who are dropping their children off at their lockers in the mornings.
As part of our morning routines, we encourage students to carry and organize their own belongings at their lockers. This helps them build independence and confidence as they start their day.

After School Plans
As a reminder, please inform after-school daycares and transportation of any daily changes, especially if your child will not be attending. With so many after-school arrangements in place, it's important to ensure no child is overlooked. If your plans change, please call the school office so staff can notify both the teacher and your child.

To maintain a secure and organized environment during after-school activities, all visiting sports teams and spectators are asked to enter through the gym entrance rather than the main school entrance.

REMINDER THAT DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND.

CHECK OUT THE KSA WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHAT'S HAPPENING!



Great information can be found on our website!
Keep up-to-date by visiting our school calendar.
Please note: events/dates are subject to change - please check with the teacher/organiser to confirm.

Graduation

Grad Parent Meeting Slideshow available on website and emailed to parents.

Important Dates

Week of Nov 2-6 - Student sign up for Grad Photo and Gown Measurements
Monday, November 16, 2026- Grad Photos
January 21 and 22 - Grad Photo Retakes @ SKSS; notify KSA office if you need a retake.
Friday, Feb 12, 2027 - Grad Fees DUE
Friday, June 11, 2027 - Commencements at TRU Grand Hall

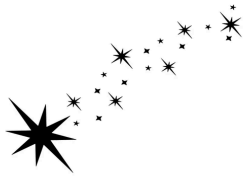
Grad parents can email ksagrad2027@gmail.com for information regarding the parent committee.
The next two Grad Parent Committee meetings will be November 12 and December 3 at 6:30pm in the Drama Room.

Grads are now selling Gary's Deli products! Please connect with a grad or email ksagrad2027@gmail.com if you are interested. Bavarian smokies, sausage rings, and pepperoni are all on the list!
Grads are also selling Big Deal Coupon Books. Please connect by email if you would like to support our grads!

SECONDARY COLLABORATION (STAR) BLOCK

We are excited to inform you about our upcoming Secondary Collaboration Days at Kamloops School of the Arts. These sessions are designed to provide a valuable opportunity for secondary teachers to engage in Collaborative Inquiry, fostering a learning environment where educators can focus on new strategies to support student growth.

Collaboration Days will take place on the following dates:



- **November 26**
- January 28
- February 25
- April 29
- May 27
- June

During the Collaboration Block (8:30 - 9:45 AM), secondary teachers will work in teams to explore ways to enhance student learning. The focus of this time will be on Collaborative Inquiry, which encourages teachers to engage in reflective discussions and informed action.

Students are invited to come to school at the regular time in the morning (8:30 am) and will be supervised by a selection of secondary teachers and Certified Education Assistants to catch up on school work, participate in a school club or spend time reading a novel. Students who are caught up on their school work have the option

to come for the start of D block at 10:00 am. As per the new technology policy, cell phones and any other devices that connect to the internet will not be allowed during the collaboration block.

Please note: This new Collaboration schedule ONLY affects *secondary* students, elementary students will continue to follow the regular scheduled day.

Thank you to all of the amazing volunteers that joined Kamloops School of the Arts to the Salmon Run on October 22. A wonderful time was had by all. It was definitely a day to remember.

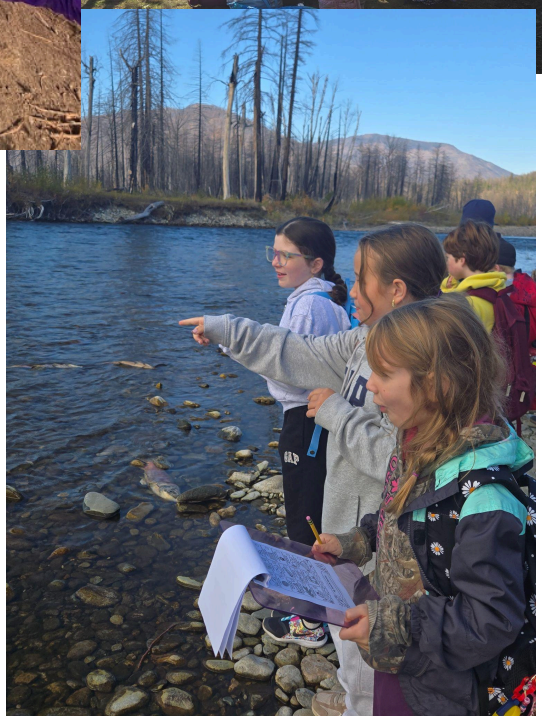












KSA Scholastic Book Fair is Coming Back!

The Scholastic Book Fair is returning to the KSA library from **Monday to Thursday, Nov. 16-19.**



In order to provide a better space and browsing experience, we are going to reserve certain times for either primary or intermediate/secondary students to purchase books at the book fair. **However, parents and students who are with their parents can come anytime (but not during instructional time, please).** It is also important to note that students will have an opportunity to preview and/or purchase books during their regular book exchange time.

Our **hours of operation** during the Book Fair are as follows:

	Lunch (11:30-12:00)	**After School (2:40-3:15ish)**
Nov 16	Primaries	Intermediates/Secondary
Nov 17	Intermediates/Secondary	Primaries
Nov 18	Primaries	Intermediates/Secondary
Nov 19	Everyone! 😊	CLOSED

There will be a **debit machine** available for your convenience.

READING DETECTIVES - Grades one to three

We would like to invite parents and children in grades one, two, and three to attend a short, in person workshop and learn some proven strategies for helping your child read at home. This session is free and you will receive a bag of resources to take home!

When: Thursday, November 5, from 6:00-7:00 pm
Where: KSA Room 115
To register: please email Mrs. Coates jcoates@sd73.bc.ca



If you need any further information, please contact:
Mrs. Coates jcoates@sd73.bc.ca
Mrs. Woods cwoods@sd73.bc.ca
Mrs. Richmond mrichmond@sd73.bc.ca

POD 2 UPDATE

Mrs. Coates' and Ms. Covington's classes learned the art of food preservation today by pickling carrots. Students worked at stations where they peeled, chopped, par-boiled, made brine, and processed the carrots. A huge thank you to our parent helpers for all their support in the kitchen and to Mrs. Melan for lending us the Foods room. Our delicious carrots will be for sale at the KSA craft fair on Nov.14.





Pod 2 has kicked off our Monday morning walks! As we explore the neighbourhood, we love discovering new routes through local paths, streets, and alleys. These walks are a wonderful opportunity to connect as a Pod, get some fresh air, and enjoy some morning exercise—it really is the perfect way to start the week.

Alongside our walks, Pod 2 has been diving into a study of salmon through the arts. We are bringing our learning to life by dancing, singing, playing instruments, choral reading, and creating beautiful art pieces. Through these creative projects, we are exploring the salmon's life cycle, anatomy, unique adaptations, and environment.





ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Elementary Volleyball is in full swing and we have lots of STARS playing and building their skills this year. We have four Volleyball teams and a huge thank you goes out to the parent volunteers and drivers for their time and support. The Gr. 6/7 Boys play on Tuesday, Gr. 4/5 Boys and Girls play on Wednesday, and Gr. 6/7 Girls play on Thursdays. For actual locations please visit sd73/sports. **Go STARS!**

Gr 6/7 Girls Volleyball	Nov 5	At Ralph Bell
	Nov 12	At BEST
	Nov 19	At David Thompson 1
Gr 6/7 Boys Volleyball	Nov 3	At Arthur Stevenson
	Nov 10	At KSA
	Nov 17	At Westsyde

Jr Girls Volleyball	Nov 2	At Clearwater
	Nov 9	At Desert Sands
Sr Girls Volleyball	Nov 3	At KSA

The Best of the Best: The Great Pet Election Results Are In!

On Thursday Oct. 22nd 2026 people at Kamloops School of the Arts held a pet election for best pet in costume. Over 226 students voted and one pet won the whole thing. In this election we had some great pet candidates. But we narrowed it down to five. Poppy, Lola, Kinko Charley, and George. The votes have been uncovered and the popular candidate George won the hearts of fifty-six!! In second we have Charley, a cat dressed as a vampire, with seventeen votes. In third we have Kinko, a gecko dressed as a dragon, with nine votes. In fourth we have Poppy/Popcorn, a cat dressed as a princess, with eight votes. And in fifth we have Lola, a chihuahua dressed as Stich, with seven votes. With George as the leader all his promises and ideas will happen and change the world in a fantastic way!! That's all for now! But stay tuned to find out how and when you can meet George in person! For more information on the pet election please talk to a Division 11 student. They will be happy to tell you all about it.



Reported by: Iyla, Tyler, Addy, and Willow in Ms. Wilson's Grade 5,6 class.

KSA PAC NEWS



****The next PAC meeting is set for November 18th at 6 pm in the big dance studio at KSA.****

IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

- **Sat Nov 14 -** KSA PAC's Annual **Craft Fair 10-3pm**
- **Wed Nov 18** - **PAC MEETING,** 6pm, in The Commons Room
- **Sun Nov 22** - **Santa Parade** 5 pm start, call time TBA
- **Dec 2, 3, 4 - Kids Christmas Shop**
- **Dec 4, 6, 11 - Winter Choral Concert** set up & take down
- **Sat Dec 19** - **First Day of Winter Break!!**

HOT TIP: On each visit to the Facebook Page (facebook.com/groups/ksapac), click on *New Posts* and/or *Recent Activity* to sort the posts, instead of the default *Most Relevant.* -KSA PAC executive, board@ksapac.ca

PAC's Holiday Hustle is HAPPENING!
Hold onto your Hats - we will need YOU!

CRAFT FAIR - **Nov 14th, 10-3** - By Donation This is our BIGGEST Fundraiser of the Year, especially because it rings in a significant amount of money from the community, not just KSA Families! This is our *Lucky 13th Year* hosting one of Kamloops largest Craft Fairs, and it's definitely one of THE most popular!! With over 100 tables, including KSA Student's tables, you can shop local and find something for everyone on your list, and have a chance to win hourly 50:50 draws! Our Volunteers make this happen, thanks to the organization by Ms. Covington (ccovington@sd73.bc.ca) Opportunities to help start the week before, Friday 13th, and Saturday 14th. Especially love having some strong folks (ahem, Dads) help with the clean up starting at 3pm. Volunteer Sign up sheet is live, please share an hour or two of your time!
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oaas8_qk9ssO0hQ33SJEgb4CbgCfuEPCHg6e-ruWLYE/edit?usp=sharing
And, please SHARE the event page on your socials, tell everyone you know to come!
https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1EJgmXHgta/

Volunteer Sign up Shifts for KSA Craft Fair, Nov 14, 2026

Putting sign up Around Kamloops Week before	Fri Night Set up	Saturday Morning Set Up	50/50 ticket sales must be 19	Door	Runners	Clean up
At least 10 people needed to put up a couple each	*4 per shift*	*4 per shift*	*2 per shift*	*3 per shift*	*2 per shift*	*6 per shift*
	4-5pm	8-9am	10-11am	10-11am	10-11am	3-4pm
	5-6pm	9-10am	11-12pm	11-12pm	11-12pm	4-5pm
Decorating School Week before	6-7pm		1-2pm	1-2pm	1-2pm	5-6pm
Various times	7-8pm		2-3pm	2-3pm	2-3pm	

Sign up here

SANTA PARADE - Nov 22, Starts at 5pm, Call time TBA *We're so excited to announce KSA will get to be part of the Downtown Santa Parade this year!* In addition to our Secondary Leadership class, staff, and PAC organizers, we will need some volunteers to create the magic: **float construction (Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun), tear down (Sunday evening), and managing students during the event.** There will be spots available to ride on or walk with the Parade Float, there is always high interest from students! Parade float participants preference will be given to students whose caregivers volunteer for these tasks, and on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up for Volunteers and Participants are coming soon. Contact:Jessica Jorimann-mclaughlinj85@gmail.com

KIDS CHRISTMAS SHOP - Dec 2, 3, 4 After a successful inaugural event last year, PAC is bringing back the Kids Christmas Shop! Similar to a Book Fair, gift donations will be displayed so students can come through to purchase for 1 –5. This is a magical opportunity for them to experience the joy of giving, generosity, independence, and thoughtfulness as they choose special little gifts for the people they love. We will need: gift donations, gift bag donations, and some volunteers to set up, host, and take down. Watch for more details, and contact Amanda with questions (amandahamoline@hotmail.com)

WINTER CHORAL CONCERT SUPPORT - DEC 4, 6, 11th *The Winter Choral Concert is an annual showcase of all five of the Elementary and Secondary Choirs, with an afternoon performance welcome to all, and evening performance requiring (free) tickets to attend. This concert is a school event, created and organized entirely by the KSA staff. KSA PAC supports this event with the sets, and the equipment, and uses the opportunity to fundraise to cover costs for the event.* **Calling All Pod 3 Parents! (Sadik, Zettergreen, Wilson, Aplaugh/Murray Classes)** It's Pod 3's turn to set up/take down the Winter Concert (but holiday enthusiasts of any Pod are welcome and encouraged to pitch in!) We're looking for volunteers to set up the pipe & drape for the concert (Friday Dec 4th 2:30-3/3:30pm), set up all the concert sets Sunday Dec 6th 10-4pm, and take down the sets Friday Dec 11 8:30-noon. Volunteers can pitch in for as little as 30min to the full décor set up shift of 6 hours! We'll also be looking for 50-50 sellers for both the afternoon and evening concerts. Please watch for posts on the KSA FB page for more details to sign up or email Nicole Collins (nicole_c_clark@hotmail.com) to reserve your preferred volunteer role and time slot!



PAC's POPCORN THURSDAYS $1 & SLUSHIE DAYS $2!
Popcorn is available every Thursday to every student for $1, and Slushies are also available on a rotating basis to Grades 1-7 by their Pod for $2. Secondary students can buy Popcorn and Slushies at the PAC Kitchen during break, every Thursday.

PAC FUN LUNCH via MUNCH-A-LUNCH!
KSA PAC volunteers are excited to offer a hot, *Fun Lunch* once a month. **Nov 18** is from **Moon Walk**, order by midnight Nov 11th. Ordering for future monthly lunches is ongoing, and we encourage you to purchase all at once if possible to reduce processing fees. Use https://munchalunch.com/schools/ksa to order.
The school has daily hot lunches offered to K-7 through meals.canuelcaterers.ca - any questions about daily lunches can be directed to the office.

LAST MEETING - October 14th
PAC welcomed Krystal Lund as DPAC Representative, Justin Bourke as Director at Large, and Sam Goodwin as Hot Lunch Coordinator. The PAC approved up to $10,000 toward new performance risers for music and choir, plus $2,000 toward a new Mac computer for the Secondary Media Arts Program. Our Santa Parade application was accepted. Kids Christmas Shop Market planning is underway. We will be seeking volunteers for many events before Winter Break (see above!) and also will need volunteers for - ***Christmas Hamper raffle ticket sales, 1-to-1 Reading Program, and a Grant Writer for technology funding***. Please reach out if you can help!

NEXT PAC MEETING - Nov 18 2026, 6pm Please let us know if you would be interested in having a childminder so you can enjoy the meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us in The Commons (by the Elementary Dance Studio) - park in the staff lot and enter through the parking lot doors, or the Elem Dance Studio field doors. There won't be a meeting again until January.



KSA Kids Christmas Shop

PAC will be bringing back the Kids Christmas Shop again this year! This allows your children to shop for their family in the comfort of their own school!

Where: The Elementary Art Room

When: December 2nd (K-primary)
December 3rd (intermediate - high school)
December 4th (makeup day)

Donations Needed!

We are asking for donations of new or very gently used items to be sold. Donations will be sorted into categories and priced between $1 - $5.

Gift donation ideas:
Gently used toys, books, puzzles, board games, art supplies, colouring books, fidgets, room décor items, knickknacks, costume jewelry, handmade art or jewelry, unused cosmetics, kitchen gadgets, coffee mugs, ornaments, etc!

Gift bag/box donations for our younger shoppers would also be appreciated!

Please no
clothing (unused silly socks, mittens, or handmade scarves are okay), food items (exception to unopened boxes of chocolate, teas, hot chocolate), stained, dirty, or broken items.

Donations can be dropped off November 3rd - December 1st in a box labeled Kids Christmas Shop in front of the KSA office.

Teachers:
We will also schedule a time to bring your students through (much like a book fair). Please remind your students about donations and to bring money on their shopping day.

HOUSE TEAMS

A few years ago we introduced the house system. This helps increase a sense of belonging and create a school wide culture. Students and staff are organized into six houses. Throughout the year, houses will compete for points and participate in challenges and events, such as spirit days. Points will be awarded daily as staff notice positive behaviour (from our Matrix) or when a student has reached a personal academic goal. A celebration at the end of the year will be given to the house with the most points. Points will never be taken away.

Please ask your student what House they belong to. It could be the **Red Wolves, Black Ravens, Blue Coyotes, Orange Rattlesnakes, Purple Orcas or Pink Moose**. This house will stay with them for their whole KSA school career. Please make sure you have a **shirt of this colour** every year for your student to wear. The first Tuesday of every month is spirit day, wear your house colour!
Nov 18- Meme Day Dress like your favourite meme.

FAIR NOTICE FOR PARENTS

The safety of our children is a top priority for us all. As a school system, we have been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners – the police, Child & Youth Mental Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Together we have developed a district plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others. School District No. 73 has a policy in place that requires principals to activate a multidisciplinary "threat assessment" protocol in all cases of students making significant high level threats to harm themselves or others. Administrative Procedure 167 is available on the school district website at www.sd73.bc.ca Please see the letter from the superintendent at the end of this newsletter for more information.

REMINDERS

INDOOR SHOES are required for students. The wet season is upon us and the floors get slippery when wet. Please help keep our students safe by providing appropriate footwear.

Intermediate and Secondary students are required to have Gym Strip for PE (flexible clothing such as Tshirt and shorts) and non-marking running shoes.

There is no need for elementary students to buy school supplies as the school provides these items at a reduced price. School fees have been added to your students account and are now over due. These fees can be paid in cash or cheque, or online via SchoolCash Online.
Please contact the office for more information.

KSA believes that judgements on the appropriateness of student attire are best made by students and their families, because clothing choices reflect individual identity, cultural norms and socio-economic factors that are intensely personal. Students may attend school and school related functions in clothing of their choice that respects our school community, provided that it meets the following conditions:

1. Conforms with the health & safety requirements for the intended activity.
2. Does not promote drugs or alcohol.
3. Does not display profanity or violence.
4. Does not display discriminatory language or images

Students are to refrain from ordering **SKIP THE DISHES** and other food delivery services due to the large disruption to classes when deliveries are made during classtime. We have a great selection of food options available at the school canteen.

KSA runs the **Fruit and Vegetable** program. If you would like more information about the program, please check out https://www.bcaitc.ca/. Please note: If you do not want your child receiving fruit and vegetables and/or milk programs please call the office.

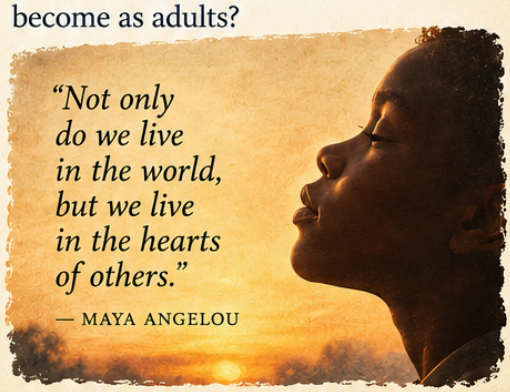
Counselling Corner



November can be a time of reflection, to look back and appreciate the sacrifices others have made for us. We want our children and teens to remember, to appreciate, to value our freedom, choices, and opportunities.

But what do our children and teens remember, what is stored, what is contributing to who they will become as adults?

Often it is how we make them feel in our presence. A kind word, a smile, a gentle gesture, a peaceful moment, a true connection. Non-verbal communication can be 70% or more, so what are we communicating and what will be remembered?



Evidence Based

Responsive, caring relationships help children and teens build strong brains, healthy emotions, and positive social skills. Research shows that warmth, attention and consistent support create a sense of safety, which leads to better mental health, stronger self-esteem and greater resilience.

— Harvard University, Center on the Developing Child

Ways to Build Connection

- Be present — listen, really listen.
- Use kind words and a warm tone.
- Show affection through your actions and body language.
- Create peaceful moments, even if it's just a few minutes.
- Make time for what matters to them.

IMPORTANT KSA DATES

Please note: events/dates are *subject to change*- please check with the teacher/organiser to confirm.

2026	Date	Event
November	10	Remembrance Day school ceremony
	11	Remembrance Day
	16	Secondary - Start of Q2/Grad Photos
	26	Secondary STAR Day
December	10	Christmas Concert
	18	Last Day before Winter Break
2027		
January	4	First Day back from Winter Break
	28	Secondary STAR Day
February	3	Start of Semester 2
	5	Professional Development Day
	12	Grad Fees Due
	15	BC Family Day Holiday
	25	Secondary STAR Day
March	4	Parent/Teacher Interviews
	12	Last Day before Spring Break
	31	First Day back from Spring Break
April	26	Professional Development Day
	29	Secondary STAR Day
May	21	Professional Development Day
	24	Victoria Day
June	11	KSA GRADUATION COMMENCEMENT
	17	Secondary STAR Day
	28/29	Project Completion Days- Secondary
	29	ELEMENTARY- Final day of School-Early Closure 12:39
	30	Administration Day- no school

SD73 Important dates can be found HERE

Click to read more information or learn how to use the following resources		
MyEd BC for Parents	SchoolCash Online	Attendance and Safe Arrival
Cell Phone Expectations	Personal Digital Device Guidelines	Grad Information

MEDICAL POLICY

Please contact the school if your child has any health issues or potentially life-threatening conditions that we need to be made aware of. No medications (prescription or non-prescription) are to be administered by school district employees without prior written consent of the parent/guardian and doctors must sign a Request for Administration of Medication at School form which includes written medical advice from a physician. This form must be renewed/resigned each school year.

Head Lice (*From Interior Health, Recommended Head Lice Management document)*

Head lice can affect anyone, and are most common in the 3-11 year old age group. Head lice are annoying and may cause itching, but they do not cause disease. Reactions to head lice can subject children to teasing, bullying and isolation. For these reasons, head lice infestations should be treated.

Current research shows that school exclusion, early dismissal and no-nit policies do not prevent or control head lice infestations. In fact, these practices further stigmatize children, erode their self-esteem and interfere with learning. No-nit policies in schools and daycares are discouraged by both the Canadian Pediatric Society and American Academy of Pediatrics.

If there are economic reasons that a student's parents cannot purchase treatment supplies, the school will obtain the recommended products on the parents' and student's behalf.

What can Parents do to help the prevention of head lice?

Take a proactive approach in understanding lice facts and myths:

- Check the heads of all family members on a weekly basis.
- Increase this to daily head checks when a case of head lice has occurred in your child's classroom or one of the family members has been in contact with head lice.
- Treat only when live lice or live nits are found.
- Learn what these look like as it is easy to misdiagnose. Use a recommended treatment.
- Teach your child about prevention of head lice (avoiding head to head contact, not sharing hats, brushes, helmets, etc.).
- Tie long hair back.

Refer to the Interior Health School Health Website for more information
http://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourHealth/SchoolHealth/HeadLice/Pages/default.aspx