SUMMIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

September has been a wonderful month of connection as we've gotten to know our new students, staff, and community members. We continue to welcome new families to both our school and Canada, and it has been a true joy to see our community come together. This year, we are proud to welcome 276 students across 13 classrooms!

This month, we held a heartfelt gathering for Truth and Reconciliation Day. A special thank you to Elder Stsmélqen, Dr. Ronald E. Ignace, who shared Re Skú7pecen re Stseptékwlls (The Story of Porcupine)—a foundational Secwépemc ancestral teaching about humility, bridging deep divides, and restoring peace and natural order. Elder Ron generously shared this teaching in both English and Secwepemctsín.

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at our Teachers and Tims Welcome Back event. We had a successful Terry Fox Run and together we raised $359 for the Terry Fox Foundation—thank you to everyone who contributed!

Our cross-country runners are having a fantastic season under the guidance of our dedicated coach, Libby Bujas. After-school activities are also in full swing with the launch of our Theatre and Sports Clubs. Fall ball and volleyball practices have begun, with games kicking off in mid-October.

Looking ahead, we will be celebrating World Teachers' Day on October 5th. We are so grateful for our incredible teachers, who work tirelessly to create safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments where every student can reach their full potential. This weekend, I encourage you to take a moment to reach out to your child's teacher with a note of appreciation—or even better, have your child draw a card or write a note to share with them on Monday!

Warm regards,

Jennifer Boyle
Principal, Summit Elementary

Important Events

Oct 5 Lock Down Practice
Oct 6 IEP Meetings Start
Oct 7 Cross Country Run -Eagle Pt.
Oct 12 Thanksgiving (No School)
Oct 13 Whole School at Salmon Run
Oct 14 Cross Country Run Westsyde
Oct 15 Earthquake Drill
Oct 19 Wildsafe Presentations (M/T/W)
Oct 19 Scholastic Book Fair (All week)
Oct 22 Come Read with Me (Gr 1)
Oct 23 Pro-D (No School)
Oct 29 Motivational Magic
Oct 29 Tentative PAC Halloween Dance
Oct 30 Halloween Parade 8:45 am



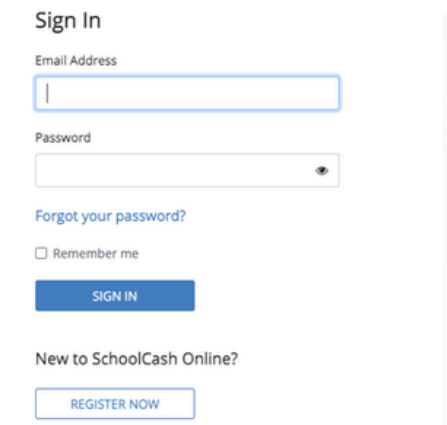
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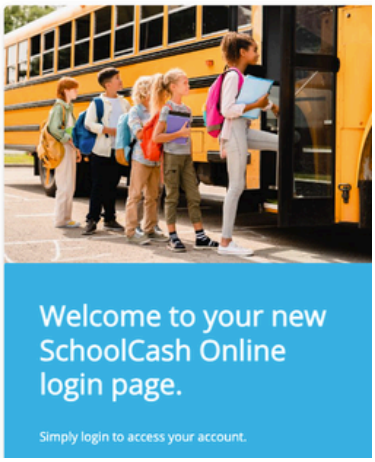
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Reminders

SchoolCash Online





SCHOOL FEES

Payments for student school fees, including field trips, can be completed using School Cash Online. Cash and cheques can also be accepted, however the office does not carry a float, so please send exact change. Thank-you.

If you have not yet registered, go to https://sd73.schoolcashonline.com and click on Register.

THINKING OF VOLUNTEERING

Don't forget to complete your Criminal Record Check before helping out on field trips or at the school. Here is our link and access code to complete the criminal record check: https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck

ACCESS CODE: 2TE55PW5MD



DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Autumn is definitely upon us and with that comes cooler temperatures. On supervision each day we are still seeing some students dressed for summer weather. Students will need to remember coats, rain jackets, sweaters as they are expected to be outside for recess and lunch breaks. Doors open at 8:25 each morning and students need to wait outside in the morning until the bell goes and teachers let children into the school.







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Orange Shirt Day

On September 28th, students and staff at Summit ELementary wore orange in recognition of the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. We were incredibly grateful and deeply honored to meet Ms. Baker's Stepfather, Elder Stsméĺqen, Dr. Ronald E. Ignace. Ron shared the Story of Porcupine (Re Skú7pecen re Stseptékwlls) is a foundational Secwépemc ancestral teaching (stseptékwll) about humility, overcoming deep divides, and restoring peace and natural order between different peoples. He shared the story in both languages, English and Secwepemctsín.

Ron is member of the Secwepemc Nation, where he served for over 30 years as Chief of the Skeetchestn Indian Band and Chair of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council. A fluent Secwepemctsin speaker with a PhD in Anthropology, he played an instrumental role in shaping Canada's Indigenous Languages Act, co-authored Secwepemc People, Land and Laws, and received the Governor General's Award for Innovation. It was a gift to have him speak to our youth and share his truth, story and history.







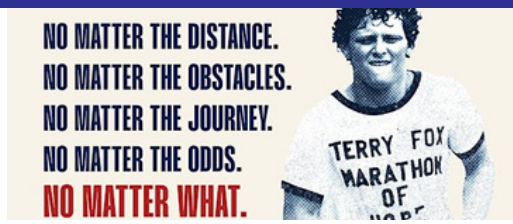


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Terry Fox Run



On September 18th, students and staff participated in the Terry Fox Run. Thanks to your generous donations, we successfully raised $359









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Bringing Terry Fox's Legacy to Life

Our school was honored to welcome guest speaker Andrew Abley and his daughter for a powerful presentation on living with limb loss, personal perseverance, and the enduring legacy of Terry Fox. Students had the extraordinary opportunity to hear Andrew's personal story and get an up-close look at various prosthetics—including Terry Fox's actual artificial leg. Thank you to Andrew and his daughter for sharing such an educational and deeply inspiring morning with our school community!.









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Opening of Elliott's Sandbox

A year and a half ago, our school community experienced the loss of Elliott. Since then, Elliott's mom, Deanna, has continued to look for meaningful ways to honour his memory and keep his joyful spirit connected to our school community. It was through her vision and initiative that the idea for Elliott's Sandbox came to life.

In collaboration with Elliott's family and our school community, we wanted to create something that reflected the joy, imagination, friendship, and sense of play that were such an important part of childhood. A sandbox felt like a beautiful way to create a lasting space where children could simply be children—playing, creating, imagining, and making memories together.

We are honoured to dedicate the sandbox and bench to his memory.









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School Bus Safety

Our Kindergarten and K/1 class were fortunate to participate in our District's School Bus Safety Program where all students learn how to ride the school bus safetly and properly evacuate a bus in case of emergencies. What great learning ahead of our whole school field trip to the Salmon Run on October 13th.









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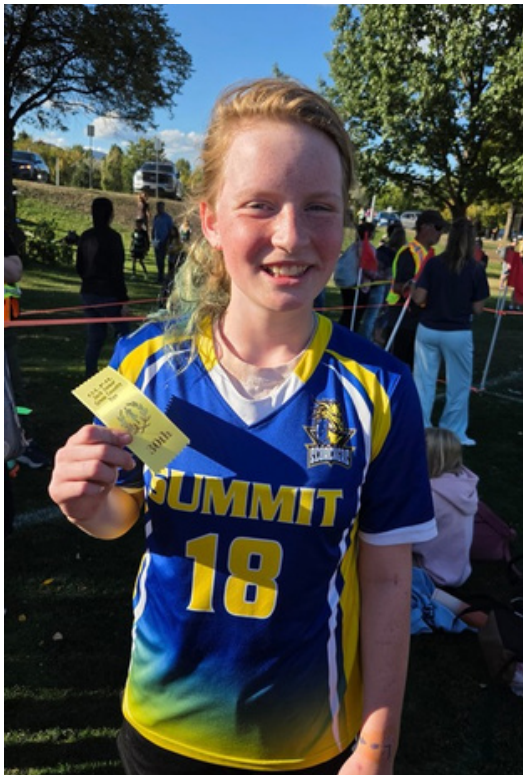
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Cross Country Running

A big thank you to Ms. Bujas for committing her time and energy to supporting our cross country running team! Our first meet at McArthur Island Park was a huge success, and we couldn't be prouder of the determination and sportsmanship shown by everyone. Congratulations to all of our runners who participated and represented our school so well!









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Earth Rangers

Our school recently hosted an unforgettable visit from Earth Rangers, led by our fantastic presenters Tyler and Cole! They taught us all about the importance of taking care of our planet and protecting the environment.
The presentation was full of energy and friendly competition—students loved going head-to-head in Earth Rangers games and challenges! The absolute highlight of the event was meeting two extraordinary live animal ambassadors: Jazz, a striking black and white tegu, and Nacho, a colorful curl-crested aracari.
It was an engaging, action-packed assembly that left our students inspired, empowered, and excited to make a positive impact on the Earth!









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Information for Parents

STUDENT PROGRESS

Research shows that strong communication between home and school is vital for student success. Regular updates on progress and ongoing dialogue throughout the year help keep parents and educators engaged in the student's learning.

1. Points of Progress Reporting Timeline:
   - Oct/Nov: Flexible sharing of student learning
   - December 11: First Formal Learning Update
   - March 10: Second Formal Learning Update
   - Spring: Interim Report / Celebration of Learning (End of April/early May)
   - June 28: Final Formal Learning Update

During the end of October/early November, we will have our first point of progress. Teachers will communicate about how they will share student learning with families.

FSA

The Foundation Skills Assessment is an annual province-wide assessment of all B.C. students' academic skills in grades 4 and 7 and provides parents, teachers, schools, school districts, and the MinistryofEducation with important information on how well students are progressing in the foundation skills of Literacy and Numeracy.

More information about the FSA can be found by clicking on the link here.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

We've had great participation in the cross country events this year. Way to go Scorchers! The final two cross-country races are just around the corner! Congratulations to all our runners for their hard work so far, and a big thank you to Mrs. Bujas for her coaching and support.
Next run Oct 7th at Eagle Point

Last run of the year, October 14 - Westsyde Cross Country Run @ Westsyde Centennial Park 705 Franklin Rd



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Information for Parents

BEAR AWARE REMINDER

With bears preparing for winter, one has been spotted in our neighborhood. We want to keep you and the bears safe. Please review these safety tips with your child:

- Keep a Safe Distance: Never approach a bear. Give it space to leave.
- Do Not Run: Back away slowly if you see a bear.
- Make Noise: Bears avoid humans—make noise outdoors to avoid surprising them.
- Secure Food and Garbage: Store food and trash securely to prevent attracting bears.
- Travel in Groups: Bears are less likely to approach groups.
-

If you encounter a bear, stay calm, talk softly, and back away slowly.
Stay safe!



PICK UPS & DROP OFF'S

Our school is in a busy cul-de-sac, and drop-off/pick-up times can be hectic for both the school and our neighbors. Things are going to get more complicated with the construction. Please help us keep things safe and respectful by following these guidelines:

- Respect Neighboring Homes: Do not drive on lawns, block driveways, or park in staff parking areas.
- Encourage Walking: If your family lives nearby, please have your child walk to school.
- Drop Off Further Away: Consider dropping your child off farther down the block to reduce congestion.
- **Use Gleneagles Drive: Whenever possible, park on Gleneagles Dr. and walk through the lower field.**

Thank you for your cooperation in making our school environment safe and considerate for everyone!



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BREAKFAST PROGRAM

We have a few spots available in our Morning Breakfast Club, starting at 8:10 a.m. This program provides a healthy and friendly start to the day. Families who may need extra support are encouraged to join. For more information or to sign up, please call the school office. We're here to help!



DOGS AT SCHOOL

We all adore dogs, but we recognize that some children are anxious around them. To help ensure a safe environment for everyone on school grounds, please keep your dogs outside the school perimiter during drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. As per City of Kamloops BYLAW 34-42 (Division 7) Dog Responsibility and Control – no dogs are permitted at public schools, with the exception of service dogs. Unfortunately we've had a lot of dog poop on our school field lately. Please keep our school field clean by picking up after your dog.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

As Halloween approaches, we want all our Summit Scorchers to have a safe and fun experience! Here are some important safety tips to keep in mind:

- Stick to well-lit areas and always trick-or-treat with a trusted adult or in a group.
- Make sure costumes are safe—avoid tripping hazards and ensure masks allow for clear vision.
- Wear reflective gear or carry a flashlight to stay visible.
- Only visit familiar homes and never enter a stranger's house.
- Check all treats with an adult before eating.

Let's make this Halloween a safe and exciting night for all!



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Sports and Clubs

Volleyball - Tier 1 Boys

School volleyball is officially underway! Tier 1 Boys Recreational Team (Grade 6/7 Boys) will play on Tuesdays from 3:00 -4:30. Thank you to our parent Volunteers Coach Megan Prins and Andrea Bailey and our teacher sponsors Ms. Yakura & Ms. Boyle. Practice is after school on Thursdays from 2:40-4:30. Games start mid October.



Sport Club - Tuesdays

Sport Club(5-7)takes place on Mondays from 2:35 to 4:30 PM in our gym. You should have received an email confirming your child's participation next Monday. We had space for all students to participate.

Volleyball - Girls 6/7

School volleyball is officially underway! Mr. Lam will be be holding practices in the morning and at lunch for girls eager to learn about volleyball. We are excited to have a recreational team this season. Thanks to Mr. Lam for coaching. The games will be on Wednesdays.

Theatre Club - Mondays

Theatre Club (Grade 5-7) meets on Mondays from 2:35 to 4:30 PM in the Prep Room portable. Students involved were notified via email, and a list of participants is posted on the office window. The program is now full and all interested students were registered!



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PHOTO RETAKES

A QR code was sent home from Mountainwest to order your child's photos. Photo Retakes are on November 3rd, be sure to read the email sent home to sign up for retakes by Nov 1st.



VOLUNTEER COACHES

Summit Elementary is seeking volunteers to coach team sports, including volleyball, basketball, and cross-country running. If you have a passion for sports and want to help support our students, we would love to hear from you! Whether you're interested in coaching or assisting in any capacity, please contact dlam@sd73.bc.ca for more information. All volunteer coaches are required to complete a criminal record check and review the necessary concussion protocols to ensure the safety and well-being of our athletes. Join us in fostering a positive and active environment for our students!



CALL OUT FOR SUPERVISORS

Thank-you to our new lunch volunteers. Are you interested in coming to the school over the lunchtimes to provide extra supervision? It's a great way to get involved with the school community, get to know your child's school and staff, and give back. There is a small honorarium, and a criminal record check is required. If you are interested, please email me at jboyle@sd73.bc.ca to let me know.

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Fall Summit PAC

Supporting Students. Engaging Parents. Building Community

Join us on Facebook!

NEXT PAC MEETING
October 19 @ 9:30am





NEXT PAC EVENT
Halloween Dance Oct 29

Meet Your New PAC Executive

We're excited to introduce your PAC Executive for the 2026–2027 school year!

Chair: Alysha Olson

Secretary: Kali Newman

Treasurer: Sarah Ellsworth White

We're excited to serve our Summit community this year!

A heartfelt thank you to last year's PAC Executive for their dedication and for continuing to support us as we step into our new roles. We look forward to a fun year of supporting our students, staff and school community.

Interested in representing Summit at DPAC? We'd love to hear from you!

Upcoming Fundraisers

- Oct 29 — **Halloween Dance!** Details coming soon!
- Nov — **Poinsettia & Christmas Wreaths** Date to be confirmed
- Nov — **Gary's Deli** Date to be confirmed
- Dec 10 — **Green Christmas** Donations needed

Get Involved

All Summit parents and guardians are members of PAC and are welcome at our meetings. Come share your ideas, volunteer when you can, or simply see what we're up to! Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month

PAC NEEDS

Volunteers for events + new or gently used household items

Connect with us: Summitpacexec@gmail.com | Facebook: Summit Elementary PAC 2026/27

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From our PAC

PAC HALLOWEEN DANCE

PAC is hopeful to host a family Halloween Dance October 29th from 5:00-7:00. PAC needs volunteers to help make these events happen. Please contact PAC at summitpacexec@gmail.com if you can help out. More information to come. A parent must be in attendance for children to attend.



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Stay up to date on what is going on around the school, connect with community, ask questions and get involved!

Summit Elementary PAC 2026/27

PAC IS RECRUITING

A huge thank-you to our Outgoing PAC and a welcome to our new PAC. We are still looking for talented individuals to join our Executive Team. Positions we are looking to fill are DPAC and members at large. Please contact PAC at summitpacexec@gmail.com for more info.

PAC MEETING

Our next PAC Meeting is on Monday, October 19th at 9:30 AM. All parents are a part of our PAC. Please feel free to join us by zoom here: https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/5150222584

PAC NEEDS YOU!

Our PAC needs more parent volunteers to help our amazing school run events and fundraise for school opportunities. Please join us to learn about our PAC.

MUNCHALUNCH ACCOUNTS

Everyone will need to update your munchalunch accounts, so that you can order PAC hot lunches participate in fundraisers and attend pre-pay events.
If you don't have a munchalunch account, please register for Summit Elementary.

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Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Schools

PEER CONFLICT:

Conflict between and among peers is a natural part of growing up. Children will have times when they disagree and can't solve their own problems. They may even become so frustrated that they say mean things or act out physically. If it's peer conflict you will be aware that these children:

★ usually choose to play or hang out together;
★ have equal power (similar age, size, social status, etc.);
★ are equally upset;
★ are both interested in the outcome;
★ will be able to work things out with adult help (after calming down).

Adults respond by helping the children talk it out, and see each other's perspective. This may be done through peacemaking circles

MEAN BEHAVIOUR:

Children may try out behaviours to assert themselves - sometimes saying or doing mean things – such as making fun of others, using a hurtful name, taking something without permission, or leaving a child out. If it is mean behavior, usually:

★ it is not planned and seems to happen spontaneously or by chance;
★ it may be aimed at any child nearby;
★ the child being mean may feel badly when an adult points out the harm they've caused

When adults see mean behavior they do not ignore it. Adults respond quickly to stop the behavior, to let kids know that their actions are hurtful and to redirect children to more positive behaviour.

BULLYING:

Bullying is serious behavior that has three key features – all three must be present for the situation to be considered bullying:

★ Power imbalance - One child clearly has power over the other(s), which may be due to age, size, social status, and so on.
★ Intention to harm - The purpose of the bullying behaviour is to harm or hurt – it's intended to be mean and is clearly not accidental.
★ Repeated over time - Bullying behaviour continues over time, and gets worse with repetition.

When the school responds to bullying, staff will also help the child who has been bullying others to take responsibility for their actions, and change their behaviour. They will monitor the situation to ensure the bullying stops, and will support the child who has been bullied to regain confidence and a sense of safety. Staff may follow up with the students who observed the behaviour to help them learn what to do when they see bullying.

The school deals with every reported case. At Summit Elementary we investigate and deal with every case individually. It does not, however, mean that we deal with every case the same.

For More information click here to be directed to School District #73 Inclusive Education Services Handbook 607.1



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Parent Resources

