



Kamloops School of the Arts

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 OCTOBER 2026

Principal's Message

Dear KSA Families,

Kukwstsetsemc to all of you as we settle into a vibrant and creative fall season! It has been an absolute joy watching our 506 KSA STAR students bring energy, curiosity, and artistic expression into our classrooms, hallways, and pods every single day.

From coming together as a community for our annual Terry Fox Run to exploring creativity and connection through our Pod shares and arts integration, our students are truly exemplifying what it means to be KSA STARS. We are so proud of the way our students encourage one another, celebrate their unique differences, and build a safe, inclusive environment for all.

As we navigate the busy fall months ahead—with upcoming Parent-Teacher Interviews, PAC initiatives, and exciting school activities—we want to express our gratitude for your continued partnership and support. Strong connections between home and school are what make our KSA community so special.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us every day and for being such an integral part of our school family.

Warmest regards,

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.

VERIFICATION REPORTS AND PERMISSION FORMS DUE TO OFFICE

The school district requires parents to update Student Verification Records on a yearly basis. Along with this document, a permission for personal information consent, an Outside Media in Schools and a walking permission form will be sent home. These forms must be signed and returned to the school *as soon as possible*. If you did not receive a package, please contact the office.

Please also inform your child(s) teacher if you do not want your child to be in videos or to be photographed

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS AND EARLY SCHOOL CLOSURE - SECONDARY ONLY

Secondary parents are reminded that October 8th is an Early Closure Day. Please arrange to have your secondary student picked up at **1:24pm**. Should parents want a Parent/Teacher Interview on this day, please register using the PTCFast website. **This year, *only secondary students* will have early closure.**

*****Please note: Elementary families will be given a time/date in the next while to arrange an interview with their child's K-7 teacher.*****

Secondary Parent Interview Bell Schedule

First Bell	8:20 am
Block D	8:30 - 9:30
Long Break	9:30 - 9:45
Block A	9:45 - 10:45
Lunch	10:45 - 11:33
Block C	10:33 - 12:28
Block D	12:28-1:24

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

The first graduation newsletter is linked [HERE](#). Grad Parent Meeting Slideshow available on website and emailed to parents.



Important Dates

Monday, November 16, 2026- Grad Photos (sign up will be at the office)
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

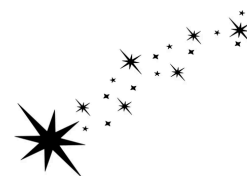
Grad parents can email ksagrad2027@gmail.com for information regarding the parent committee.

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:

- **October 29**
- November 26
- January 28
- February 25
- April 29
- May 27
- June 1



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.

INDOOR SHOES

Students NEED “indoor” shoes at school. For gym classes, athletic shoes are required (Please, no flip flop or open toe shoes). These can also serve as indoor shoes for your child. In the wet weather, the floors get slippery and dangerous, especially on the stairs! Please ensure that your child has shoes here at school for inside wear.

GYM STRIP FOR PE

On days when Intermediate students and secondary students have P.E., they are required to wear a T-shirt, shorts (or other flexible clothing like yoga pants), and non-marking running shoes. Primary class clothing requirements will vary with individual teachers. Parents should check with their child’s teacher for details.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

There is no need for *elementary* students to buy school supplies as the school provides these items at a reduced cost. Fees cover the expense of school supplies as well as a concert series for our students.

Secondary students are responsible for their day to day school supplies. Certain secondary courses require a fee to be paid, fee invoices will be sent home. Teachers will be handing out course outlines to give students and families information about any special school supplies needed (i.e. calculator, compass etc).

All fees (such as enhancement fees, school supply fees, field trips, athletic fees, etc.) will include a processing fee for all payment transactions made through SchoolCash Online. Please note that cash/cheque payments will not be subject to this processing fee.

When you see an item attached to your student, you will notice an amount beside the item name which reflects the amount due if paid by cash or cheque. The "Amount Due" that appears in SchoolCash Online is the amount due if paid online.

Please be assured that School District 73 remains committed to ensuring no student is excluded from an educational program, activity, or extracurricular opportunity because of financial need, in accordance with the District's Administrative Procedure 506: Student Financial Assistance.

Elementary school fees have been applied. Secondary fees will be applied in October, 2026.

You can access [School Cash Online](https://ksa.sd73.bc.ca/en/parents-students-support-help/cashless-schools.aspx) on our website at <https://ksa.sd73.bc.ca/en/parents-students-support-help/cashless-schools.aspx>.

ATTENDANCE

At KSA the provincial curriculum is taught through an integrated arts program. Consistent attendance is a vital component of the program and absolutely necessary in order for a child to succeed. Significant student absences and lateness will impact your child's ability to do well and achieve success in the educational program we offer at KSA. However, on occasion it is necessary for your child to be away due to illness or other factors. If you know your child will be absent from school please call 1-844-350-2647 to report an absence or download the Safe Arrival app for smartphones. Please do this prior to 8:20am.

SAFE ARRIVAL APP

Parents no longer leave a message on their school's answering machine. Safe Arrival handles the majority of parent/guardian contact (including phone calls) when a student absence needs to be reported. This system allows parents/guardians to interact directly with the system in the following ways:



- by phone when the system calls you or when you want to initiate a call to notify that your child will be absent
- by internet through a login controlled web page interface
- by a Smartphone app (iOS and Android version; both available for free)
- We are improving our communication through SchoolMessenger by offering a text message option for parents. Activate this free service by sending the message 'Y' or 'Yes' to the District's short code number: 978338. You can opt out of these messages at any time by replying to a message with 'Stop.'

In the preferences on the SchoolMessenger App, parents can select the style of message that they wish to receive for certain school messages.

Please report student absences **before 8:20 am**. You can also report absences in advance.

To report an absence you may choose to:

- call the toll free # 1-844-350-2647 or
- access the following website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or
- download app from [Google Play](#) or [Apple's App Store](#)



Click on the phone, text, or email icon to change the type of message you receive.

Please choose the reason for your child's absence from school: sick, family vacation, etc. Don't forget to wait for confirmation # to ensure your child's absence has been recorded. A registration email will be sent to parents in advance. These emails are not spam and will contain specific parent login information for the system, as well as instructions on how to log in as a parent to report your child's absences. If you do not connect with the system by **8:20 am** on the day of your child's absence from school and when the teacher has completed attendance for his/her class, then a report will be dispatched for all.

If you need to sign your student(s) out during the day, please also notify your teachers so they can plan accordingly.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY AT KSA

Students at KSA honoured Orange Shirt Day in many ways. The orange shirt has become a symbol of hope, reconciliation, and commitment to a better future. Students read about Phyllis Webstad's story and engaged in activities that created awareness of the individual, family, and community and the intergenerational impacts of residential schools.

Project of Heart mural created by Pod 3 students:



The original project of heart was created as a way to remember and honor survivors of residential schools. The project was multi-faceted and included not just education, but also artistic endeavors. One of these projects began in 2012 as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Commemoration Project for Indian residential school survivors in BC. Students from over 210 schools in BC worked with artists Derrick George and Una Ann Moyer to create a beautiful Canoe to symbolise healing and reconciliation. George is from the tsleil-waututh nation and is a carver who uses traditional techniques. Moyer is an artist and used her talents to weave together stories from survivors along with the canoe and wooden tiles from students to create a powerful healing piece - The project of Heart Commemoration Canoe.

Since the canoe was completed, many schools have found different ways to commemorate the healing process by making tiles of their own. In Pod 3, students were tasked with creating their own tiles, taking the shape of a heart, to send out messages of hope and healing to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Some students were more abstract, deciding to use colours and texture to convey emotions, while others were more literal with scenes or text in their pieces. Project of Heart

is an ongoing project around the province that takes many different shapes and I'm proud that KSA was able to bring this project to life.

-Mr. Sadik

MyED ACCESS AND INQUIRIES

The Kamloops/Thompson MyEducation BC PARENT PORTAL which will allow access to see grades, attendance and other information on your child(ren). Each parent, guardian or household will have their own separate account.



To complete the setup to access the parent portal you will need to complete the following steps:

To Access the MyEducation BC System:

1. Visit www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen
2. Make sure popups are enabled for your browser.
3. Your user name (LOGIN ID) will be: (the email you gave the school)
4. Should you not remember your password, click on the "I forgot my password" link and follow the instructions.

(NOTE: Both user name and password are case sensitive. New Password requirements: Must be at least 8 characters, including a capital letter, a symbol and a number.)

5. Enter your user name (LOGIN ID) and password then click "Log On" to access the system. You may be prompted to change your password and fill out some information so that in the future you can click "I forgot my password" to receive a new password.

Once inside the MyEducation BC system you can navigate around to view information for your student(s).

Need more information on MyEducation BC?

For a **detailed explanation** on how to login and navigate through the MyEd portal please click on this information page <https://myed73.sd73.bc.ca/mod/folder/view.php?id=12> or watch this video [click here](#).



COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL

If you have any questions that come up during the year, there are a number of ways to get in touch:

1. Send an email. Staff and administration can be reached using the first letter of the staff member's first name's initial, followed by the last name @sd73.bc.ca. (Example: John Smith: jsmith@sd73.bc.ca) There are a few exceptions but staff email addresses are also listed on our [website](#).
2. Call the school at 250-374-3200. Office hours are 8:00 am to 3:30 pm.

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



FRUITS AND VEGGIE PROGRAM

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.

CELL PHONE EXPECTATIONS

KSA is fully committed to aligning its personal digital device expectations/policy with the new language mandated by Ministerial Order M89. This commitment is a result of collaborative efforts involving staff, parents, and students. The aim is to promote online safety and create focused learning environments for all students. As part of this commitment, KSA is in the process of developing new policies that adhere to the updated language set out in AP 350. These policies will further reinforce the school's dedication to the safety and learning of its students.

Guidelines for Personal Electronic Devices - ELEMENTARY

Students who bring devices such as cell phones, iPods or similar items will be instructed to keep them in their backpacks or lockers for the duration of the school day unless requested by the teacher for classwork. As per AP 350.1, the safekeeping of these devices are solely the responsibility of the owners. We ask that students use the office phone when calling parents during the day due to illness or urgent matters. Students may use e-type readers for quiet reading times upon permission of the teacher. Electronic devices may be used for school activities with the teacher's permission, but no other recording/photographic devices may be used at any time. Cell phones or other devices are prohibited during recess and/or lunchtime. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the confiscation of the electronic device which will be retained by the teacher and/or turned in to the office for follow-up with administration.

KSA Phone/Technology Policy - SECONDARY

The KSA Secondary Phone/Technology policy addresses the appropriate use of all electronic devices during our regular school day. To that end, the following expectations must be adhered to with regard to proper and responsible technology use:

- Electronic devices are not allowed at KSA during instructional time. Cell phones/headphone devices may be used for educational/health-related reasons at the discretion of the individual teacher. Failure to

comply with this policy will result in the confiscation of the electronic device which will be retained by the teacher and/or turned in to the office for follow-up with administration.

- Cell phones and other technology may be used at secondary break times.
- Creating or recording photos, videos, sound, or other digital artifacts without consent is prohibited at KSA at any time during the school day unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for educational reasons only. At no time will the use of any personal electronic device invade or infringe upon the personal privacy or safety of any member of the school district community.

Chronic cell phone misuse may result in the ban of the student's cell phone from the school. Students and staff can also refer to the following Administrative Policies for further information: School District #73 AP – 350.1 – Technology: Student Acceptable Use School District #73 AP – 350 – Student Code of Conduct

SCHOOL CLOTHING - KSA DRESS CODE

In accordance with SD73 School District Policies and AP 350.2: Kamloops School of the Arts is committed to providing students with learning environments that are safe, equitable and inclusive. Students and staff must show mutual respect for everyone, and this does not change based on how someone is dressed. 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.

Hat Policy: Individual teachers will discuss the wearing of headwear (Hats with brims/Toques/Hoodies etc.) in their classes and use this opportunity to discuss specific times when headwear may not be appropriate (exams/tests/student presentations etc....) Please Note: In any of these violations, school administration will work with the student and family to review the dress code AP.

TERRY FOX RUN

Even in the pouring rain, the KSA community came together on September 25 to participate in the Terry Fox run. The students ran, walked, and enjoyed their time participating in the event, which was organized and led by the KSA leadership class. The school raised money to help fund cancer research. Students were entertained by music and enjoyed snacks provided by the PAC. Thanks to everyone who helped organize and took part in this year's Terry Fox to honour such an amazing cause. Way to go, KSA!

POD 1 UPDATE

Pod One celebrated International Dot Day! This special day celebrates creativity, courage, and collaboration. Mrs. Woods' and Mrs. Coates' classes explored these themes through arts integration by creating a collaborative class mural and using writing as a tool to showcase their ideas.



SPIRIT WEAR

There is a wide variety of KSA gear! Find house team colours and jerseys, sweaters, and t-shirts.



KSA 2026/27

Get Your KSA Gear Today! ONLY Available for a Limited Time!

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://ksafall26.itemorder.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: Thursday October 15th, 2026 (2:59pm PDT)

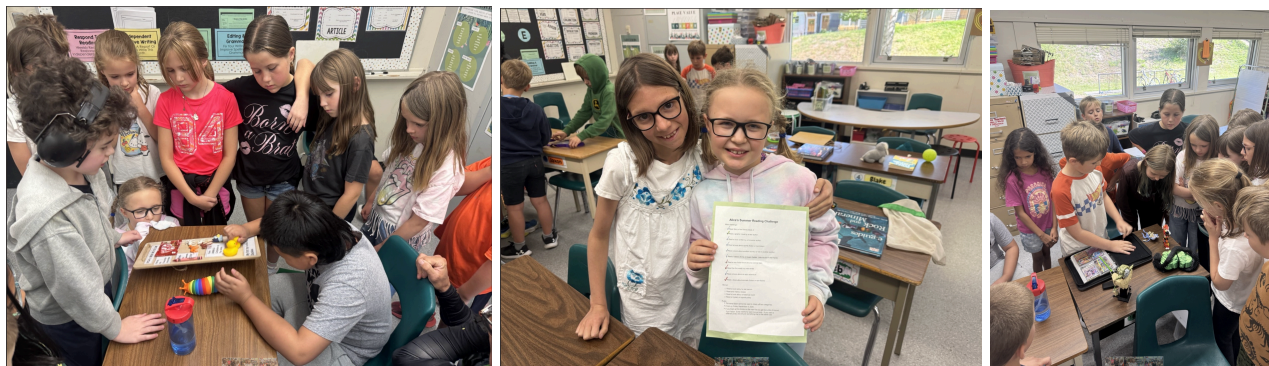
ATC Youth Everyday Fleece Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt  3 Colors \$36.00	ATC Youth Everyday Fleece Hoodie  10 Colors \$34.00	ATC Everyday Fleece Youth Crewneck  4 Colors \$27.00	ATC Youth Everyday Cotton Long Sleeve Tee  5 Colors \$22.00	ATC Youth Everyday Cotton Tee  10 Colors \$16.00	GIRLS Custom Sublimated House Tee  6 Colors \$41.00
YOUTH Custom Sublimated House Tee  6 Colors \$41.00	ATC Youth Everyday Fleece Hoodie  2 Colors 4 Logos \$34.00	ATC Everyday Fleece Youth Crewneck  2 Colors 4 Logos \$27.00	Atc™ Pro Team Long Sleeve Youth Tee  2 Colors 4 Logos \$25.00	Atc™ Pro Team Short Sleeve Youth Tee  2 Colors 4 Logos \$22.00	ATC Youth Everyday Cotton Tee  2 Colors 4 Logos \$16.00
ATC Adult Everyday Fleece Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt  3 Colors \$43.00	ATC Adult Everyday Fleece Hoodie  10 Colors \$37.00	ATC Adult Everyday Fleece Crewneck  4 Colors \$30.00	ATC Adult Everyday Cotton Long Sleeve Tee  5 Colors \$23.00	ATC Adult Everyday Cotton Tee  10 Colors \$18.00	ADULT Custom Sublimated House Tee  6 Colors \$45.00

powered by  ORDERMYGEAR

Questions?
Parker Hansen
(250) 376-2111
parker@hansport.com

POD 2 UPDATE

Our grade 3/4 classroom has been community by getting to know one another, making connections, and learning about kindness, fairness, equity, and social justice. Through our "Me Museum," students shared special items and stories that helped us discover our similarities, celebrate our differences, and appreciate what makes each of us unique. We are also beginning to explore how our actions can make a difference and how we can be the change we want to see in the world: our way of connecting to the "Reflections" theme.



POD 3 UPDATE

Pod 3 started the year by exploring the STAR Matrix through the arts. Students rotated through Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts, discussing what each letter in STAR looked like in their classrooms, rotations and the KSA halls. They then participated in an arts based collaborative activity to demonstrate their understanding.

SKIP THE DISHES

A reminder that students are to refrain from ordering from food delivery services such as Skip the Dishes or pizza establishments due to the large disruption to classes when deliveries are arriving during class time. We have a great selection of food options available at the school canteen.

KSA PAC NEWS

****The next PAC meeting is set for October 14th at 6 pm in the big dance studio at KSA.****

IMPORTANT DATES CONFIRMED:

Wed Oct 14 - PAC MEETING, 6pm, in The Commons room

Thur Oct 29 - Halloween Family Dance

Sat Nov 14 - KSA PAC's Annual Craft Fair



Please reach out any time to the KSA PAC executive at board@ksapac.ca The Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/ksapac) is the primary way PAC sends out communication, please ask if you'd like help to turn on notifications that suit your social media usage. We also share updates through the school newsletter, occasional emails, and our monthly meetings.

Most of our fundraising and events happen during the first four months of school, which means there will be plenty of requests for volunteers. Please help out when you can! Grandparents, aunts & uncles, etc, can help, too!

NEXT PAC MEETING - Oct 14 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.

LAST MEETING - September had a large turnout of new KSA families and a number of returning parents. Welcome to Jacquie Mathus, appointed as Vice Chair to complete the mandatory PAC Executive Committee; there are two remaining positions open, tabled until the next meeting to give interested volunteers time to consider. The 26-27 Budget was unanimously approved, which included a School-Wide field trip to the Salmon Run on Oct 21st, and refreshments for after the Terry Fox Run. Funding was also approved for snacks for all students and parent volunteers for the Salmon Run and for the Sip Into September supply costs. PAC's Legacy Committee was approved funding to commission a student-created KSA Legacy Art installation celebrating 10 years of KSA as a K-12 school in one building, alongside a District Legacy Grant application. PAC will be working on a formal policy regarding the use of AI-generated art in PAC communications out of respect for KSA's student artists.

PAC's fall events were discussed and all had lead volunteers sign up! There are enough volunteers to run our recurring events - Popcorn and Slushies, Monthly Fun Hot Lunch, and Breakfast Club. If anyone is interested in being a spare when an extra is needed, please email PAC.

Meeting minutes get published on the PAC Facebook Page and are also available via email by request.



POPCORN THURSDAYS \$1 & SLUSHIE DAYS \$2!

We have a great group of new and old volunteers volunteering to make Popcorn and Slushies! Popcorn is available every Thursday to every student for \$1- each elementary teacher has a different way of helping their students purchase popcorn and slushies.

Slushies are also available on a rotating basis by 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 fun hot lunch once a month. **Oct 14** is from **Panago**, order by midnight Oct 9th. 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 through meals.canuelcaterers.ca - any questions about daily lunches can be directed to the office.

HALLOWEEN DANCE- OCT 29, 5:30-8:30

A huge thank you to Courtney for stepping up as event lead! Supported by other PAC members, this event is officially moving forward...

The KSA PAC is proud to announce another spooktacular family event at the 2026 Halloween Family Dance!

Enjoy a ghoulishly good time while supporting PAC and our school—all proceeds go to benefit our students.

Donations needed: prizes & candy are greatly appreciated (labeled 'PAC' and drop off at the office anytime)

Cake & baked goods for cake walk (drop off Oct 29)

Volunteers needed for hourly shifts for concession, doors & ticket sales, etc.

Please text *Courtney Motzek* 236-597-7999, comment on FB, or email board@ksapac.ca

2026 Halloween Family Dance Details:

Thursday October 29, 5:30pm - 8:30pm
KSA Gymnasium & Halls (enter through Front Main entrance)

Admission: by donation to PAC

K-12 Family Event: each child MUST be accompanied by an adult for the night. One adult may be responsible for multiple children.

Pizza: available to order soon on PAC's Munch a Lunch

Refreshments & Snacks: available at event

Games: tickets will be \$1 each or \$10 for 15 - available at the door and will benefit various PAC initiatives, KSA clubs, and teams

Prizes: Costume, dance and other contests to be announced

Payment: tap, cash, and e-transfers accepted

We cannot wait to Scream, snack and do the Monster Mash with you!

FB Event Page: <https://facebook.com/events/s/ksa-pac-halloween-dance/1668801334949043/>

GET READY FOR THE KSA CRAFT FAIR!

Nov 14: 10-3 KSA GYM

This is THE biggest fundraiser for KSA - and it is the most important because it brings in funds from outside of the school family. All of the vendor tables are sold out! Now, we need parents to advertise and share the event to the community, and we will need many volunteers on Craft Fair day to make this successful. Sign up for shifts will be forthcoming, thanks to Ms. Covington for making this happen again!

FINGERS CROSSED FOR THE SANTA PARADE!

Sunday Nov 22 - 5pm

KSA is arranging to participate once again. With other PAC members' support, Jessica and Courtney are taking charge of event coordination, alongside school staff. The application is in, and we are working on finding a truck and trailer to use for the parade entry that can be set up on Friday and returned Sunday night. If you have connections...let us know!

PAC will announce a sign-up for any K-12 students for the limited spots available to ride on or walk with the Parade Float, and there is always high interest from students. In addition, we are looking for volunteers to help with float construction, tear down, and managing students during the event. Parade float participants preference will be given to students whose caregivers volunteer for these tasks, and on a first-come, first-served basis.

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.

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 their six houses and will have their first house meeting in the coming weeks. At this meeting, we will play team building games and review their cheer. Over the coming months, houses will present their cheers at assemblies, wear house colours on the first Tuesday of every month, and participate in schoolwide and classroom activities.

Over the year, houses will be competing for points and participating in challenges and events. Points will be given out everyday when a staff member notices positive behaviour (from our Matrix) or has reached a personal academic goal. Points will also be given when houses meet for challenges and events and, on spirit days. 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.

IMPORTANT KSA DATES

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

2026	Date	Event
October	8	Parent/Teacher Interviews
	12	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
	23	Professional Development Day/Elementary Fees Due
	26	Photo Re-Takes
	29	Secondary STAR Day
November	10	Remembrance Day school ceremony
	11	Remembrance Day
	16	Secondary - Start of Q2/Grad Photos
	26	Secondary STAR Day
December		Christmas Concert- To be confirmed
	18	Last Day before Winter Break
2027		
January	4	School Returns 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	School Returns 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>