



DAVID THOMPSON ELEMENTARY

1051 Pine springs Road
Kamloops, BC V2B 7W3

<http://dthompson.sd73.bc.ca/>
Phone: (250) 579-9228

Newsletter #1 ~ September 02, 2025

~ Message From The Principal ~

Welcome to the 2025/2026 school year!

We are so excited for another year to partner with you in your child's education! We have a few new faces to our school team this year! We have Mrs. Karlen teaching Grade 7 and we have a new Certified Education Assistant on our team, Mrs. Sudhoff. Mr. Pecuszok replaces Mr. Grigg for our custodial services. As luck would have it . . . we got Mrs. Grigg as our afternoon custodian and Ms. Serown as evening custodian! All will be wonderful new additions to our team. Welcome to all!

As David Thompson Tigers, we follow the Paw Path to help us make the best choices to create a positive place to learn and grow. We teach and encourage our students to be Compassionate, Wise, Brave and Mindful. We are starting the year by focusing on catching students displaying these positive attributes and recognizing their good choices. You will see our wall of recognition grow outside the main office. Once the students reach their goal of 250 recognitions they will earn a school-wide extra recess. Let's go Tigers!

Please note: the office will have student office monitors answering the phone during the lunch break, from 12:15pm-1:10pm. If you happen to call during this time, please be patient as they learn this new skill and settle into helping during a busy time in the office.

Thanks to teachers and support staff for their careful planning and preparation for the school year. And as always, a huge shout out to the amazing Ms. Morris for everything she does for our school!

*Ms. Dyan Gunnlaugson,
Principal*

School Hours & Bell Schedule

Office opens	8:00 am
Doors open for students (bell)	8:20am
Classes begin (bell)	8:30am
Recess (bells)	10:00am- 10:15am
Lunch – eat first! (bells)	12:15pm- 12:30pm
Lunch – outside time (bells)	12:30pm- 1:05pm
Afternoon classes resume (bell)	1:10pm
School Dismissal (bell)	2:34pm
Office closes	3:30pm

MEET THE STAFF

- Principal:** Ms. Dyan Gunnlaugson
- Secretary:** Mrs. Coralee Morris-Harasechuk
- Support Staff:** Mrs. Dianne Hwang
Mrs. Christine Ony
Mrs. Terra McGuire
Mrs. Heather Podovennikoff
Ms. Jennifer Quiring
Mrs. Laurie Siguenza
Ms. Amie Sudhoff
- Aboriginal Education Worker:** Ms. Brittany McCleaf
- Custodial Staff:** Mr. Andrzej Pecuszok
Mrs. Kimberly Grigg
Ms. Mohinder Serown
- Teaching Staff:** Ms. Megan Baker
Mrs. Lauri Bentz
Ms. Franzi Karlen
Mr. Rino Cinel
Mr. Gino Covaceuszach
Mrs. Stacey Gurski
Mrs. Faun Jorgenson
Ms. Tammy Kawa
Mr. Rocco Marchese
Mr. Jacob Mattes
Mrs. Christine McCauley
Mrs. Jasmine Morrison
Mrs. Gurmale Svenson
Mrs. Deanna Webster
- Prep Teachers:** Mr. Jared Chomyc
Ms. Melody Wiebe
- Librarian:** Ms. Melody Steffenson
- LART:** Mr. Matthew Kuroyama
Ms. Rebecca Fulton
Ms. Melody Steffenson



Classes begin at 8:30am in the morning. Doors will open to students in the morning at 8:20 am, allowing sufficient time to be ready for the start of the day. Parents, if you must drop your child off earlier than 8:20 am, be aware that there is **no supervision** available as teachers are preparing for the day's instruction. Students must wait outside until the 8:20 am bell unless weather conditions are extreme.

**DROP OFF /
PICK UP, Parking Lot &
Playground Supervision**

The school parking lot remains reserved for staff and visitors, especially now that we have bus students again at David Thompson. The new paved sidewalk area along Pine Springs remains as our 'drop and roll' area. Please use the 'drop and roll' area or the curb parking heading up Pine Springs when dropping off or picking up your child(ren). Other options for drop-off / pick-up some families have been using are: meeting their children at the pool parking lot (children walk across the field), Hargraves Place (children walk across the side field and use the walkway). Also, **please avoid walking through the parking lot.** Instead, please use the designated pedestrian walking spaces provided. It is a busy place (especially at peak times) with staff, School District personnel, buses, day cares and parents that require the use of the reserved accessible parking spots closest to the school's entrance. These reserved parking spaces are for those with legitimate mobility challenges and are not to be used for Kindergarten drop off or because you are simply running late. Thank you for your cooperation.

General playground supervision begins at 8:15; bus students are supervised from the time they arrive. Please talk to your child(ren) about using their designated door to enter the building. Only students arriving with parents, who need to come to the office, should be using the front door. With 300 students, it is important that we have systems to maintain order and safety.

With primary students, it is typical for some parents to come in the building to support their child in that morning transition. As the students settle into routines, please be mindful of working to build independence and resilience in your child and promote them managing these routines on their own (as much as possible). One of our Wellbeing goals focuses this year is to build resilience in our community.

PICTURE DAY



→ Individual Student Photos **September 24th**

→ Retake Photos & Class Photos – date to be determined...stay tuned!

CLASS PLACEMENTS

****EXCERPT FROM MS.
GUNNLAUGSON'S EMAIL SENT
HOME TO FAMILIES ON
AUGUST 25, 2025 ****

You may recall that I collected thoughts from you in the spring about class placement considerations. I then collected feedback from staff and met in grade groups across a number of weeks to look at student learning styles, emotional needs, special considerations, parent/staff input and created the classes from there. These were then reviewed at the end of June and again in the last few days. I have met as many requests as possible and attempted to ensure all students have a social connection in their classroom, even if it isn't their best friend. As we look to build resilience in our community body, please know that I will not be discussing any class placement concerns until after the first week of school has concluded. If you still have concerns about placement on September 8th you can reach out to me at that point. Many children, and their parents, experience fear, anxiety and discomfort with the initial unknowns of a new classroom and require a few days to settle in and build a relationship with their new teacher and classmates; we need to allow that process to happen.

First Day/Possibly First Week -

Students return to their previous classrooms on the first day; best case scenario is that we can get kids into their new classes on Wednesday, but it's not unusual for schools to have students with their previous teacher for the first week while last minute configurations happen due to those summer registrations.

PAC NEWS

The PAC (Parent Advisory Council) is a very important part of the school community. All parents are members of PAC. Your support is needed and can be in many forms: attend meetings, volunteer for activities, fund raising just to name a few. All activities of PAC are in support of ALL students at David Thompson.

★ **DAVISON ORCHARDS APPLE FUNDRAISER:** this will be PAC's first fundraising event for the year. The order form is attached to this newsletter 😊

PAC MEETINGS:

The PAC meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of each month. At September's PAC meeting, the Principal will discuss plans for the upcoming school year, you will be able to meet fellow DT parents and find out how the PAC contributes to our school.

We hope to see you there 😊!

FIRST PAC MEETING:
September 10th @ 6:30pm
in the library

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM:

Hot lunches - The weekly hot lunch program is run by our amazing PAC. They work very hard to source, organize and to attend that day to ensure lunches are distributed effectively. If you have questions or concerns about your child's lunch, you should reach out to the PAC through the hot lunch website. If a child misses their hot lunch, we will save it in the fridge through the next day so please remind them to come to the office at lunch upon their return to pick it up. If they are not returning the next day, you are welcome to come by or send a sibling to pick it up after it has been delivered to the classes; please don't try to pick it up as it is all being sorted and sent to classes. We cannot accommodate heating up missed lunches as we don't have the staffing available to provide this.

LOCKS & LOCKERS



Classroom teachers will assign their students lockers. Parents/Caregivers can provide a lock for their child to use on their locker. The combination must be given to their teacher. The school does have locks for sale at the office for a cost of \$7 each. Please note: Kindergarten students and some primary classes use coat hooks and cubbies and will not be using the lockers.

BICYCLES, SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDS & ROLLERBLADES

For the safety of all, students must dismount bikes, scooters, and skateboards while on school property and should never ride through or across the parking lot. Also, if your child is riding an electric scooter, you may want to review the City of Kamloops Bylaw associated with it:

<https://www.kamloops.ca/city-services/transportation-roads/active-transportation/electric-kick-scooter-pilot-project>

Cyclists should be using the bike racks provided and are encouraged to lock bikes while they are in the racks. Scooters are to be placed in the scooter racks. Rollerblades and "Heel Rollers" must be removed before entering the school. Thank you 😊



NUT AWARENESS

This year at David Thompson we have several students who have anaphylactic allergies to peanuts and other types of nuts.



Because of this, our school is a 'peanut aware' school. It is nearly impossible to keep our school peanut free, therefore, only certain classes will be deemed 'nut free'. Once classes are set, please ask your child's teacher if his or her class is 'nut free'. Also, please remind your child to thoroughly wash their hands with warm soapy water after eating any nut products prior to coming to school. This will help reduce cross contamination and hopefully reduce the risk of an anaphylactic reaction to those children at risk. Thank you for your cooperation.

SCENT CONSIDERATE SCHOOL:

Please note that DT is also a 'scent considerate school'. Below is an excerpt from SD73 Policy 1006.5

"The Board of Education recognizes the need for a safe working environment for all employees and students. This includes the provision of a scent considerate environment. Scented products may cause severe and/or life threatening allergic reactions in some individuals."

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

****NEW****

SCHOOLCASH ONLINE

School District#73 offers a Pupil Supply Program that will provide students with all the needed notebooks, paper, pens and pencils etc for the school year. A paper copy of the school supply notice is attached to this newsletter; however, our School District has implemented a new online payment program for parents/guardians to use called, 'SchoolCash'. We encourage all families to pay for their child's school supplies online. Cash and cheque will continue to be accepted methods of payment; however, SchoolCash Online is our District's preferred method of payment. Parents/Guardians will be able to pay for their child(s) school fees, spirit wear, field trips, lost library books all online rather than sending cash or cheque to the school.



www.sd73.schoolcashionline.com

STUDENT AGENDAS

Student agendas are an important means of communication between parents/caregivers, students and teachers. Agendas also help parents/caregivers monitor any homework their child may have as well as upcoming school/class events. Students are responsible for their agendas and for bringing them to/from school each day.

PERFORMING ARTS

We will be able to have several performing arts groups come and perform for our students in the school gym. These performances are enjoyed by our students and staff.

PERMISSION FORMS

All permission/consent forms must be returned to the school by the due date indicated on the form. Please note: we are unable to accept phone calls as verbal consent.



SEPTEMBER AT GLANCE

- ★ **Sept 2nd** Welcome Back! First day of school 10:30am-12:34pm
- ★ **Sept 3/4th** Kindergarten interviews with parents
- ★ **Sept 5-9th** Kindergarten students attend in small groups
- ★ **Sept 8th** Grade 1 - 7 Welcome back Assembly
- ★ **Sept 10th** First full day for Kindergarten
- ★ **Sept 10th** PAC meeting 6:30PM
- ★ **Sept 15th** Fire Drill
- ★ **Sept 15th** Motivational Magic Assembly
- ★ **Sept 18th** PAC Welcome Back BBQ 4-7PM
- ★ **Sept 19th** Fire Drill
- ★ **Sept 19th** Terry Fox Run
- ★ **Sept 22nd** Pro-D Day – NO SCHOOL
- ★ **Sept 24th** Individual Photo Day
- ★ **Sept 24th** Apple Orders Due
- ★ **Sept 25th** Bike Rodeo for K - Grade 4
- ★ **Sept 26th** Bus Safety for Kindergarten Students
- ★ **Sept 29th** Orange Shirt Day
- ★ **Sept 30th** National Day of Recognition for Truth and Reconciliation - School Closed

SCHOOL WEBSITE & FACEBOOK GROUP

David Thompson Elementary has a website! On the website you will be able to find a lot of great school information, including newsletters, our bell schedule, a calendar of events, School Board Meeting minutes (Board Notes) and various District Policies. The website can be found at: <http://dthompson.sd73.bc.ca/>

DT FACEBOOK GROUP: Did you know DT has a Facebook group? Search: 'DAVID THOMPSON ELEMENTARY PAC' on Facebook and answer a few simple questions to join! This is an excellent resource to seek answers to questions and obtain valuable information pertaining to the school and school-wide events.

MEDICAL ALERTS

Medical Alerts A special note to parents to remind you that it is your responsibility to let the school know if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication at school. **Medical Alert Planning Forms and Request for Administration of Medication at School forms must be completed, revised and re-newed each year.** Please contact the school office if you require more information, need to update the record we have on file, or fill out a Medical Alert form. **It is important to note that both parents must sign the forms.**



Medical Alert – No Child Left Without Program

This program offers a free Medic Alert membership to students who attend David Thompson Elementary and are between 4-14 years old. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medications on a regular basis then you should consider a Medic Alert membership. Medic Alert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information visit www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office. If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information call Medic Alert at 1-800-668-1507 <https://www.medicalert.ca/>

STUDENTS SIGNING OUT AT LUNCH TIME

If a student is going home for lunch, they must provide a note, have their classroom teacher sign it and give it to the office before they sign out. If students are leaving the school grounds during the school day for any reason, (an appointment, sporting event, etc.) a note or a phone call from a parent/guardian is also required and the same procedure is followed: have their classroom teacher sign it and give it to the office while signing out. Blanket notes for the year are not accepted. Notes must be dated and only valid for that particular day. We want to ensure that students from David Thompson Elementary are safe. Alternatively, parents / caregivers can also use School Messenger to sign their students in / out.

SAFE ARRIVAL

REMINDER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

If your child is going to be late or absent please remember to call the **Safe Arrival # 1-844-350-2647** prior to 8:30am. If your child is absent and we have not received a call from you, the automated system will call your home number and other contact numbers until contact has been made, up to five times. Calling us first saves a lot of time and helps the safe arrival program be more efficient and effective.



THANK YOU!!! 😊

What is Safe Arrival?

SafeArrival is an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let the school know about your child's absence. Please use one of the following three methods to report your child's absence or late arrival:

1. SchoolMessenger app (free)

- If you haven't already provided your email address to the school, please do so
- Get the app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links atgo.schoolmessenger.ca)
- Tap **Sign Up** to create your account
- Select **Attendance** from the menu, and then select **Report an Absence**.

2. Web and Mobile Web: go.schoolmessenger.ca

- If you haven't already provided your email address to the school, please do so
- Go to the website.
- Click **Sign Up** to create your account.
- Select **Attendance** from the menu, then select **Report an Absence**

3. Interactive Toll-free Phone (1-844-350-2647)

- Call the toll-free, interactive telephone system.
- Follow the instructions to report an absence.
- Absences can be reported in advance:
 - 24 hours/day
 - 7 days a week
 - For any school day in the school term
 - Up to the cut-off time on the day of the absence
 - Including multiple day absences

➤Whenever an absence is reported or updated, you will receive a confirmation notice by email and/or text message (assuming you have provided your contact information to the school).

➤If you don't report your child's absence in advance, the automated notification system will try to contact you (using the communication preferences if you have set them up in the SchoolMessenger app). This may include push notifications to the app, email, SMS text message, phone calls. You will be asked to provide the reason for your child's absence immediately. You may do so using the phone line, website or mobile app. If you try to explain an absence using SafeArrival, but are then told that it is past the cut-off time. Please contact the school directly.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Background

The District endorses a set of desirable personal character traits that incorporate universal values and that promote a climate of understanding and mutual respect where all are equal in dignity and rights, including demonstrating respect, integrity, empathy, compassion, independence, cooperation and responsibility.

Students strive to learn, practice and develop such personal character traits and work to contribute to the development of welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments. Students are further to respect diversity and refrain from demonstrating any form of discrimination as set out in the British Columbia *Human Rights Code*, including gender identity and gender expression. Students are to foster a sense of belonging amongst all students.

Within the aforementioned context, students are to pursue their personal goals to develop through educational opportunities that maximize their individual potential in becoming educated citizens, demonstrating themselves as:

- Thoughtful and able to learn, think critically and communicate information from a broad knowledge base;
- Creative, flexible, self-motivated and in possession of a positive self-image;
- Capable of making independent decisions;
- Skilled and able to contribute to society generally, including to the world of work, and contribute to the development of the core value commitments identified in the District Strategic Plan;
- Productive and able to gain satisfaction through achievement and through striving for well-being;
- Co-operative, principled and respectful of others, regardless of differences; and,
- Aware of the rights and prepared to exercise the responsibilities of an individual within the family, the community, Canada and the world; and
- Capable of acceptable use of personal digital devices at school within established guidelines for the purpose of promoting online safety, positive workspaces and personal safety, and focused learning environments.

Definitions

- **Personal digital device:** may be used to communicate or to access the internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet. Additional examples of devices that may fall into this definition are smart watches, gaming devices, and electronic toys;
- **Instructional purposes:** includes the use of devices as determined by school policy and directed by teachers during class time;
- **Digital literacy purposes:** includes designated computer or cell phone time that serves to promote digital literacy by providing opportunities for students to use devices while under the supervision of a teacher, which may include critical dialogue regarding responsible, creative, and pedagogically appropriate use of devices.

- **Accessibility and accommodation needs:** involves the use of personal digital devices to support students with disabilities or diverse abilities as outlined in students' support plans and Individual Education Plans. Examples: assistive technologies or programs that support students with hearing loss or voice, speech or language disorders, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices, text to speech and speech to text programs or devices, translators, timers, calendars, and reminder software to promote accessibility and to facilitate participation. Accommodations appropriate to support academic needs will be determined by school administration through consultation with student support services (counselors, Learning Assistance Resource Teachers, and parents/caregivers, where appropriate).
- **Medical and health needs:** includes approved use of personal digital devices to support medical necessities, such as monitoring blood glucose levels for a student with diabetes, as provided in medical documentation.
- **Equitable access to learning outcomes:** ensure personal digital device restrictions do not disproportionately impact some students more than others. Examples: computer or cell phone access to support students who do not have access to the internet outside of school and who therefore might use technology at school to complete schoolwork.

Procedures

1. In displaying acceptable behaviour, students are to strive to continually:
 - 1.1. Use their abilities and talents to gain maximum learning benefits from their school experiences;
 - 1.2. Contribute to a climate of mutual trust and respect conducive to effective learning, personal development and social living;
 - 1.3. Co-operate fully with those authorized by the District to provide education programs and other services;
 - 1.4. Comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws, and the rules of the District and school;
 - 1.5. Comply with restrictions on personal digital device use at school to promote online safety and focused on creative learning environments by demonstrating:
 - 1.5.1 use of personal digital devices for instructional purposes and digital literacy development;
 - 1.5.2 use of personal digital devices that is appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage;
 - 1.5.3 use personal digital devices for accessibility and accommodation needs, including medical and health needs;
 - 1.5.4 use personal digital devices to support equitable access to learning outcomes.
 - 1.6. Account to their teachers and school staff for their conduct;
 - 1.7. Attend school regularly and punctually.
 - 1.8. Use non-violent means to resolve conflict;
 - 1.9. Treat all other students and staff with dignity, respect and fairness at all times;
 - 1.10. Contribute to a learning environment that is free from physical, emotional and social abuse and from discrimination;

- 1.11. Take appropriate measures to help those in need; and,
- 1.12. Demonstrate honesty and integrity.

2. Students are accountable for demonstrating respect for:
 - 2.1. Authority;
 - 2.2. Others and their property;
 - 2.3. School property, equipment and textbooks; and,
 - 2.4. Differences in ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.
3. Students are prohibited from engaging in unacceptable behaviour, whether it occurs within the school building, during the school day, during school related activities or by electronic means or with school community members outside of these environments.

Examples of such behaviours include, but are not limited to:

 - 3.1. Publication of any item that discriminates against a person or a group or class of persons because of race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and/or age;
 - 3.2. Denial of accommodation, service or facility customarily available to the public because of race, color, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and/or age;
 - 3.3. Use, possession of, sale, distribution of or active contact with, a weapon on a student's person, in a student's locker or desk, on Board property, or in a vehicle on Board property used by a student or occupied by a student as a passenger;
 - 3.4. Threats;
 - 3.5. Willful Conduct that endangers others;
 - 3.6. Encouraging conduct that endangers or may endanger others;
 - 3.7. Encouraging unacceptable conduct;
 - 3.8. Use or display of improper, obscene or abusive language;
 - 3.9. Distribution or display of offensive messages or pictures;
 - 3.10. Theft, including identity theft;
 - 3.11. Assault;
 - 3.12. Willful damage to school or others' property;
 - 3.13. Use, possession of, distribution of or active contact with, or collection of, money for controlled drugs, alcohol or inhalants in school, on Board property or in the context of any school-related activity;
 - 3.14. Attending school or any school-related activity under the influence of controlled drugs, alcohol or inhalants; (Request to revise by one group).
 - 3.15. Personal or sexual harassment;
 - 3.16. Hazing, initiation activities, the formation or the operation of sororities, fraternities, gangs

- and secret organizations;
- 3.17. Extortion;
 - 3.18. Disruptive behaviour, willful disobedience and/or defiance of authority;
 - 3.19. Interfering with the orderly conduct of classes or the school;
 - 3.20. Tampering with fire alarms and safety equipment;
 - 3.21. Criminal activity;
 - 3.22. Contravention of the school's code of conduct;
 - 3.23. Workplace violence;
 - 3.24. Bullying, including cyberbullying; and,
 - 3.25. Inappropriate information technology use.
4. Unacceptable student behaviour:
 - 4.1. May be grounds for investigation, violence threat-risk assessment or disciplinary action; and,
 - 4.2. Provides an opportunity for critical learning in the areas of:
 - 4.2.1 Personal accountability and responsibility;
 - 4.2.2 The development of empathy;
 - 4.2.3 Conflict resolution;
 - 4.2.4 Communication; and,
 - 4.2.5 Social skills development.
 5. When responding to unacceptable student behaviour, the following are to be considered:
 - 5.1. The effect of the student's behaviour upon other students, the staff, the school and the community;
 - 5.2. The nature of the action or incident that calls for disciplinary or alternative measures;
 - 5.3. The student's previous conduct and previous interventions;
 - 5.4. The student's age, maturity and abilities;
 - 5.5. The impact of proposed action on the student's future behaviour;
 - 5.6. The student's learning needs; and,
 - 5.7. Any other information considered appropriate or relevant.
 6. The consequences of unacceptable behaviour may be:
 - 6.1. Assignment of a student whose behaviour is unacceptable, disruptive or destructive to an alternate supervised location;
 - 6.2. Short-term removal of privileges;
 - 6.3. Confiscation of digital devices and notification of parents;
 - 6.4. Detention;
 - 6.5. Use of reasonable force as required by way of correction to restrain a student from carrying out a violent or destructive act that could harm the student or others;

- 6.6. Alternative interventions, such as community conferencing or other forms of restorative justice;
 - 6.7. Corrective student transfer;
 - 6.8. Suspension; and,
 - 6.9. Recommendation for expulsion.
7. Students will contribute, to the greatest extent possible, to a learning environment that is well-ordered, peaceful, safe, non-threatening and conducive to learning and optimal growth.

Legal references: [School Act, ss 20, 22, 23, 65, 85](#)
[Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(FIPPA\), RSBC 1996](#)
[Human Rights Code, RSBC 1996](#)
[Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982](#)
[Canadian Human Rights Act, RSC 1985](#)
[Criminal Code, RSC 1985](#)
[Administrative Procedure 351 - Student Conduct on School Buses](#)

Adopted: July 6, 2015, June 24, 2024

Reviewed/Revised: December 12, 2016; August 26, 2019; May 14-23, 2024; June 20, 2024



Come Read with Me

BECOME A VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Do you have **2 HOURS A WEEK** during school hours to read one-on-one with young students?

- No experience is necessary, but you must have good English language skills
- We provide free training and ongoing support
- Tutors read with 3 elementary students for 30 minutes each, once a week for 12 weeks

Volunteer Training

Thursday, Sept 28 5:30pm-8:30pm Room 6
Tuesday, Oct 3rd 9am-12pm Room 6

Henry Grube Education Centre
245 Kitchener Crescent

Please register by contacting Cami at cami.literacyinkamloops@gmail.com or 250-573-1785



STUDENT DRESS CODE

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

Students must not wear clothing which undermines the District's commitment to a safe and inclusive learning environment. This includes:

- Clothing that promotes the use of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol;
- Clothing that advocates illegal activity;
- 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.
- Clothing which contains profanity, pornography or obscene images.
- Student clothing must conform to health or safety requirements, including requirements arising from participation in specialized programs and events.
- 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.

Staff shall respond to Student Dress Code violations in a manner that:

- Is discreet, respectful and clearly references the specifics of the dress code concern.
- 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.
- Is consultative with the school administration prior to addressing a dress code concern with a student.
- Includes school administration contacting parents and or guardians of any student that has violated this Administrative Procedure.

BIKE RODEO



We are partnering with RCMP and City of Kamloops again this year to run a Bike Rodeo to help keep our community safe. Children can bring human powered bikes, scooters or striders, as long as they bring a helmet to wear along with it. Based on feedback from last year, I am adjusting the grades involved to Kindergarten through Grade 4.

The bike rodeo will run on September 25th from 8:45 - 12:15. Bikes can be dropped to the school on September 24th from 12:00 - 5:00 or the morning of the 25th. On the 24th, bikes will be taken into the gym and on the 25th they will be brought to the front field. Again, based on feedback from last year, I learned there were some families that live in Bachelor Heights that had a hard time getting bikes to school. Please reach out if this is the case for you and I will organize picking them up on the evening of the 24th to deliver to the school.

We will need support from 7 - 10 parent volunteers to run the rodeo. If you can volunteer please reach out and let me know.

We are grateful for our partnership with the City of Kamloops, RCMP and ICBC to help us put together events like this! Just a reminder that students should be dismounting and walking bikes and scooters on school grounds; for their own safety students should never ride through or across the parking lot. If your child is riding an electric scooter, please review the City of Kamloops bylaws:

<https://www.kamloops.ca/city-services/transportation-roads/active-transportation/electric-kick-scooter-pilot-project>

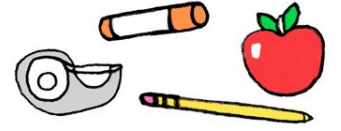
DAVID THOMPSON ELEMENTARY - SCHOOL CALENDAR - 2025 - 2026

Tuesday, September 2 nd	10:30am – 12:34pm - First Day – Welcome Back
Wednesday, September 10 th	First FULL day of school for our 2025 Kindergarten students 8:30 am-2:34 pm
Monday, September 22 nd	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, September 24 th	PHOTO DAY – Individual student photos
Tuesday, September 30 th	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation NO SCHOOL
Monday, October 13 th	Thanksgiving Day – NO SCHOOL
To be determined	PHOTO RE-TAKE DAY & Class Group Photo Day
Friday, October 24 th	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, November 11 th	Remembrance Day Closure – NO SCHOOL
Monday, December 1 st	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
Friday, December 19 th	Last Day of classes before Winter Break
December 22 nd - January 2 nd	Winter Break
Monday, January 5 th	Classes Resume – regular school day
Friday, February 6 th	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
Monday, February 16 th	Family Day – NO SCHOOL
Friday, March 13 th	Last day of classes before Spring Break
March 16 th - Mar 27 th	Spring Break
Monday, Mar 30 th	Classes Resume – regular school day
Friday, April 3 rd	Good Friday – No School
Monday, April 6 th	Easter Monday – No School
Monday April 27 th	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
Friday, May 15 th	Non-Instructional Day – NO SCHOOL
Monday, May 18 th	Victoria Day – NO SCHOOL
Thursday, June 25 th	Last Day for Students – 12:34pm dismissal
Friday, June 26 th	Administration Day – Last Day for Staff

HERE IS THE LINK TO SD#73'S 2025-260 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR: <https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/whats-happening-news/resources/Calendar/2025-2026-Five-Day-Week.pdf>



SEPTEMBER 2025



<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
	01 Labour Day – No School	02 <i>First</i> DAY OF <i>School</i> First Day Grades 1-7 10:30am- 12:34pm	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10 First Full Day for Kindys 8:30am-2:34pm PAC Meeting 6:30pm	11	12	13
14	15 Motivational Magic – Art Starts Performance 1:30pm-2:30pm	16	17	18 PAC Welcome Back BBQ 4-7pm	19 Terry Fox Run	20
21	22 Non-Instructional Day No School	23	24 * SCHOOL * PICTURE * DAY * 	25 BIKE RODEO GRADES K-4 8:30AM-12PM	26	27
28	29 Orange Shirt Day 	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation No School				



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, Li 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 devices)
- fire starting
- sexual intimidation and violence

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO THEIR FUTURE



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,

CELL PHONES, CAMERAS, & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

At the start of the school year, we want to have our students and parents clear about the use of cell phones and other electronic devices coming to school. These electronic devices tend to be expensive and **the school will not take any responsibility for these items if they become lost or stolen.** Therefore, we encourage that these devices stay at home. Students have been known to use these devices to take photos and videos and post them on "social networks" such as Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat and TikTok. This is prohibited and contravenes personal privacy. This activity can also lead to "cyber-bullying" and other unwanted publication. Students are always allowed to use the office phone for emergency purposes. Also, students can always be contacted within a very short time if parents encounter an emergency. Therefore, **there is no real need for students to have a phone at school.** However, if you as parents see the need for these devices to be with your child, please be aware of the School District's policy and David Thompson's school policy regarding their use:

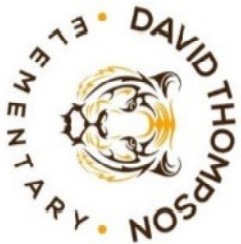
**SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON) POLICY 406.1
Effective Date: August 29, 2011**

TECHNOLOGY: USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. Each school shall develop guidelines for the acceptable use of personal electronic devices by students in the classroom, school, school sponsored or school related activities on or off school property. Personal electronic devices mean any electronic device, service or system designed or used to assist in extending human potential (including but not limited to computers, cell phones, cameras, social networking sites, e-mail and voice services, school networks, etc.) owned and / or operated by a school district user, and excludes District owned technology. The guidelines will reference Policy 403.2 Technology: Student Acceptable Use and the District and School Code of Conduct.
2. 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.
3. District management reserves the right to access all files and content on personal devices connected to district networks to check for appropriate use.
4. The Board accepts no responsibility for theft or damage that may occur to personal items brought to the school or worksite. It is recommended that personal electronic devices used on District property be covered under personal insurance.

DAVID THOMPSON'S SCHOOL POLICY REGARDING PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES (THIS WILL BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY BY PAC AND SCHOOL STAFF)

The use of all telecommunication and audio or video recording devices, including cellular phones, pagers/beepers and cameras, at school and at school-sponsored or school related activities on or off school property, is prohibited during the school day except where expressly authorized. Students shall be allowed to possess such devices; however, such devices must not be visible and must remain turned off during the school day. Should there be a problem with a student complying with this policy, he/she will be asked to keep the device at home and/or may have the device confiscated to be **returned to the parent.** Thanks for your cooperation in helping to reduce the risk of "cyber-bullying" and other improper use of these devices.



David Thompson Elementary

School Supplies 2025/26

Due Oct 17th, 2025

Each year David Thompson provides school supplies to students for a 'user fee'. The school will supply all pens, pencils, markers, art paper, notebooks, photocopied booklets, etc for the school year, as the student needs them. We encourage parents/caregivers to use this program as it is economical and provides consistency of materials throughout the classroom. Grades 1-7 are required to use an agenda book. Kindergarten students will use a modified version; an agenda folder that the Kindergarten teachers will provide to the students. Performing Arts: all students will attend a series of music/plays/concerts throughout the year as well as professional 'Art Starts' performances.

NEW THIS YEAR!!! NEW INFO FOR ALL ITEMS PAID FOR THROUGH SCHOOLCASH

Starting September 2025 individual student fees (enhancement fees for 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.

<https://sd73.schoolcashonline.com/>

SCHOOL SUPPLY COSTS WHEN PAID ONLINE VIA SCHOOLCASH				
Grade	School Supplies	Performing Arts	Agenda	Total
Kindergarten	\$36.75	\$16.00	\$2.25	\$55.00
Primary Supplies - Grades 1-3	\$36.75	\$16.00	\$9.75	\$62.50
Intermediate Supplies - Grades 4 - 7	\$55.50	\$16.00	\$9.75	\$81.25

****PLEASE NOTE: WE DO NOT HAVE A DEBIT / CREDIT CARD MACHINE AT THE SCHOOL
AND WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT ETRANSFERS****



David Thompson Elementary 2025-26 School Supplies



SCHOOL SUPPLY COSTS WHEN PAID WITH CASH OR CHQ (PAYABLE TO DTE)				
Grade	School Supplies	Performing Arts	Agenda	Total
Kindergarten	\$35.00	\$15.00	\$2.00	\$52.00
Primary Supplies - Grades 1-3	\$35.00	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$59.00
Intermediate Supplies - Grades 4 - 7	\$53.00	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$77.00

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Amount: _____

Amount of payment Enclosed: \$ _____

CHEQUE # _____ CASH _____ Receipt Required: _____ YES _____ NO.

PLEASE ONLY RETURN THIS FORM IF YOU ARE PAYING WITH CASH / CHQ.