



Heffley Creek Elementary

7020 Old Highway 5
Kamloops, BC V2H 0B7
p: 250.578.7227 f: 250.377.2223

September 2025 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome back! I hope that you were able to enjoy the summer with your family. I am excited about the new school year ahead and for students to experience the many wonderful things that we have planned for them.

In recent weeks, staff have been working hard to prepare our building and the classrooms for the arrival of students. In particular, I would like to thank our new custodian (Connie Wenzel) for all of her efforts behind the scenes. The school is looking amazing!

We also have a new Heffley Creek & Sun Peaks Secretary currently based out of Heffley Creek. If you have a moment, stop in and say hello to Ms. Naomi Winter. She is doing an incredible job of getting things rolling for the new year.

I look forward to our students having a memorable year filled with engaging and meaningful learning experiences.

Dave Conroy
Principal

New Bell Schedule for This Year

8:25 am	Warning bell
8:30 am	School begins
10:15–10:30 am	Recess
12:00–12:25 pm	Students play outside
12:25–12:50 pm	Students eat lunch
12:50 pm	Warning bell
12:55 pm	Classes begin
2:34 pm	Dismissal
2:50–3:00 pm	Buses load

Newsletters

Monthly School Newsletters will be emailed to families and made available on our [school website](#). Paper copies are available upon request from teachers and at the office.

Upcoming Events & Dates

- Sept 2 First Day of School 10:30 am -12:34 pm
- Sept 16 Amazing Kids - Art Starts Performance at Rayleigh Elementary
- Sept 18 School Photos at Rayleigh Elementary
- Sept 19 Kindergarten Bus Safety Training
- Sept 22 Pro-D - no school for students
- Sept 25 PAC Meeting in the Staff Room - 9:00 am
- Sept 26 Terry Fox Run
- Sept 29 Orange Shirt Day
- Sept 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - no school
- Oct 9 Come Read With Me for Grade 1 Families at 8:30 am in the Library
- Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day - no school
- Oct 14 Live Theatre Performance at Rayleigh
- Oct 22 Student Photo Retakes at Rayleigh
- Oct 24 Pro-D - no school for students
- Nov 10 Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day - no school
- [SD #73 School Calendar for 2025/2026](#)
- [SD #73 School Calendar for 2026/2027](#)

School Staff for 2025-2026

Ms. Dillman - K/1
Ms. Silva- Gr. 2/3
Ms. McKay - CEA
Ms. Cavlek - LART
Ms. Naomi Winter - Secretary
TBD - Indigenous Education Worker
Ms. Wenzel - Daytime Custodian
Mr. Conroy - Principal

Learning Updates Overview

- **1st Point of Contact: Various formats - Oct 27th - Nov 7th - exact date to be determined**
- **2nd Point of Contact: Written Learning Updates Printed & Published - Dec 12th**
- **3rd Point of Contact: Written Learning Updates Printed & Published - March 11th**
- **4th Point of Contact: Various formats - April 27th - May 8th - exact date to be determined**
- **5th Point of Contact: Summative Written Learning Updates Printed & Published - June 25th**

Heffley Creek School Learning Plan

The goals outlined in the Heffley Creek School Learning Plan for 2025/2026 are:

1. Literacy: Each learner will demonstrate a year's worth of growth in Literacy.
2. Well Being: Students at Heffley Creek Elementary will feel a strong sense of belonging.

Staff will participate in a variety of Professional Development initiatives and make these areas a priority this year.

Open Parachute Wellbeing Program

We are excited to support student's mental health and wellbeing using the new school-wide program, Open Parachute. This program aims to build a strong foundation of resilience within students as they learn practical mental health skills. For overarching program information, please follow [this link](#) and check out this Parent/Caregiver home support lesson on [Building Resilience](#).



Forms & Permissions

During the first week of school, we will send home forms that require parent/caregiver signatures. Please ensure these forms are checked over for accuracy and returned to the school as soon as possible.

School Supply Fees

Heffley Creek Elementary offers and strongly encourages a user fee program for school supplies with payment through School Cash Online. For a nominal fee, we supply all pens, pencils, exercise books, crayons etc.

Money

Please do not send money to the school with your child unless there has been a written request from the teacher or office. Our school offers [SchoolCash Online](#), which provides you with the convenience of paying online for school items such as field trips, school supply fees, etc. This is the preferred way for families to pay for school-related items.

Fair Notice Letter to Families

SD73 has updated our Fair Notice to Parents with regards to student safety. Please take a moment to read our policies and procedures [HERE](#).

Emergency Preparedness Drills

All schools participate in Emergency Preparedness Drills each year. We will have six fire drills, two lockdown practices and an Earthquake drill. If your child talks to you about these drills, please reassure them that the practices are to ensure their safety in an emergency.

Dress Code

While at school, students are expected to dress in a way that aligns with the learning environment that they are in. Heffley Creek Elementary follows the SD73 Dress Code and this includes choosing clothing that avoids the following things:

- promoting the use of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol
- advocating for illegal activity
- promoting 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
- containing profanity, pornography or obscene images

For a more comprehensive review of the [SD73 Dress Code](#), please follow the link.

Criminal Record Checks for Volunteers

All volunteers who wish to be involved in field trips and other school based activities are required to submit a criminal record check. Once completed, criminal record checks are valid for three years within SD 73 schools. Starting July 1, 2024, we were informed that all Criminal Record Checks must be completed through the [online Criminal Record Check](#) Review program as the RCMP will no longer be offering an in-person option. We usually receive these reviews within 3-4 days of submission. For the sake of streamlining information, the Criminal Record Checks for Heffley Creek and Rayleigh Elementary are all handled through the Rayleigh Elementary School website and can be used for both schools (if your child has older siblings and/or moves there in Grade 4). We encourage anyone interested in volunteering to proactively complete this process as soon as possible.



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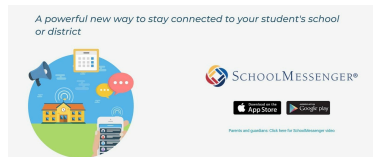
Medical Alerts & Admin. of Medication

Please remember that it is a family's responsibility to let the school know if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication while at school. School district personnel are not permitted to administer medication to students unless specifically authorized to do so by a Doctor. Please ensure you obtain the forms from the office that authorizes the school to administer a prescription or identify the steps to take in a medical emergency. These forms need to be renewed each school year.



Student Absences

Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to no longer leave a message on the school's answering machine. Our system handles the majority of parent/caregiver contact (including phone calls) for current and upcoming student absences. If your child arrives late or needs to leave part way through the day, they **must** be signed in or out at the office.



To enter an Absence please use the School Messenger app which is excellent for one day or multiple absence entries, website (go.schoolmessenger.ca) or phone number 1-844-350-2647.

PAC News

If you are looking to connect with the Heffley Creek PAC, feel free to email: pac.heffleycreek@gmail.com

The Heffley Creek PAC will have the next meeting on Sept 25th at 9:00 am in the staff room. Everyone is welcome to attend. Here are the [minutes](#) from the June 12th meeting.

Scent Considerate Environment

For most of us, perfumes, essential oils and colognes add an element of enjoyment to our lives. However, scent allergies are on the rise and we have district staff members who are severely allergic to scents. For them, being around scents results in difficulties breathing, migraines/headaches, sneezing and feeling unwell. Please help us to keep the school environment free of scents by not using scents before visiting and ensuring that your child(ren) are not wearing scented products.

SCENT CONSIDERATE FACILITY

Many students and adults are allergic perfume, cologne, laundry detergent, shampoo, and other scented products.

Please do not wear or use these types of scented products in this building.

We share the air, go scent free.



Personal Digital Devices

Heffley Creek Elementary School's personal digital devices guidelines & expectations are guided by the Provincial Government and SD73 and have been developed with staff and parents/caregivers to promote online safety and focused learning environments for all students.

During Instructional Time (class time & field trips), student use of personal digital devices is only permitted based on staff discretion. Students are encouraged to not bring personal electronic devices to school. Any use of personal digital devices must comply with [Administrative Procedure 145: Use of Personal Electronic Devices](#). For a comprehensive overview of the Heffley Creek Personal Digital Devices Guidelines & Expectations, [click here](#).