PACIFIC WAY ELEMENTARY

2330 Pacific Way
Kamloops, BC V1S 1S8
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Principal: Katrina Sewell (ksewell@sd73.bc.ca) **Vice-Principal:** I-Wen Bluhm (ibluhm@sd73.bc.ca)

September 2025

Principal's Note:

I am so excited to start my second year at Pacific Way and look forward to reacquainting myself with more of you as we begin our new school year.

Last week, students spent time with their last year's teachers while we prepared for placing students in their new classes. Students took part in completing a school-wide art project, which is displayed outside the office. Students also participated in rotations with their buddy classes, where they learned and reviewed school-wide expected behaviours.

Our enrollment held steady over the summer, maintaining 18 divisions. Students were placed in their new classes on Friday. Please know that student placements were done with much care and attention in order to create balanced classes that support student academic, behavioural, and social emotional needs.

Wondering about Combined Classes?

In the effort to keep classes balanced, as well as adhering to provincial rules for class size and composition, there will often be combined classes. In the past, classroom instruction focused on grade specific content and skills. Instruction was supported by grade specific textbooks and resources. Today education is changing. Research is guiding us to look at the importance of broad competencies and less focus on grade level content. Research has also found that students in a combined class perform as well as students in a single grade class. It is important to know that students in the upper grade of a combined class are not being held back to the level of the lower grade students, nor are the students in the lower grade expected to work beyond their abilities.

School communication throughout the year will come to you in a variety of ways:

- ★ Monthly Newsletters are usually emailed by the first Friday of the month. If you would prefer a paper copy, please let Mrs. MacDonald know.
- ★ Emails as pertinent information needs to be communicated between newsletters
- ★ Pacific Way Website for a one stop place to see school information. You will find upcoming dates, monthly newsletters, and other important items.
- ★ Pacific Way PAC Facebook page: visit facebook.com/groups/pacwaypac
- ★ Synrevoice (voice message) at peak or critical times of the year when a timely message needs to be relayed.

Please reach out to me at ksewell@sd73.bc.ca or our Vice-Principal, Mrs. I-Wen Bluhm at ibluhm@sd73.bc.ca, if you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Katrina Sewell

BELL SCHEDULE 2025 - 2026

8:26	Students Line up
8:31	Morning session begins
10:25	Recess begins
10:40	Morning session continues
12:10	Lunch (eating time begins)
12:25	Students go outside
1:05	Afternoon session begins
2:35	Home time

Safe Arrival Program

All student absences and lates should be reported to our Safe Arrival number BEFORE 8:40am or through the School Messenger App.

To report your child's absence please call this toll free number **before 8:31 am** 1-844-350-2647 or visit go.schoolmessenger.ca.

Payment of fees:

Payments for student school fees will be done using School Cash Online. While cheques will still be accepted, the office does not carry a float, and any cash payments will have to be exact change only.

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.

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

Reminder: School supplies fees are due **September 30th**. Each teacher chooses the best way to connect with families—this may be through agendas or communication folders. Fee breakdown is:

Kindergarten: (with folder and Art Starts): $52.00
Primary: (with agenda and Art Starts): $59.00
(with folder and Art Starts): $52.00
Intermediate: (with agenda and Art Starts): $77.00
(with folder and Art Starts): $68.00

Please pay school fees on School Cash Online.

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2025-2026 Pacific Way Staff

Administrative Staff:

Principal	Katrina Sewell
Vice-Principal	I-Wen Bluhm
Secretary	Sue MacDonald

Teaching Staff:

Kindergarten	Alana Wassing
Kindergarten	Tanja Anderson (Anna Steele)
Kindergarten / Grade 1	Sarah Gundel
Grade 1	Jessica Greenwood
Grade 1/2	Michele Thoms
Grade 2	Julie Noble
Grade 2	Bev Russell - Sherwood
Grade 2/3	Samantha McLaren
Grade 3/4	Teri Finch
Grade 3/4	Amber Piva / Fonda Shatula
Grade 4	Lisa Galloway
Grade 4	Nicole Meints / Michelle Hill
Grade 5	Michelle Salle / Amanda Marlatt
Grade 5/6	Becki Littlejohn
Grade 6/7	Jason Sandhu
Grade 6/7	Beth Morgan
Grade 6/7	Mandeep Bachhal
Grade 6/7	Shelley Wiwchar
LART	Michelle Hill
LART	I-Wen Bluhm
Teacher Librarian	Kristin Bond / I-Wen Bluhm
Primary Prep	Amanda Marlatt
Primary Prep	Linda Pangotta
Intermediate Prep	Fonda Shatula / I-Wen Bluhm
Teacher-In-Charge	Jason Sandhu

Support Staff:

IEW	Anthony Michel
CEA	Chrisitine Cleveland
CEA	Nadine Ettinger
CEA	Debbie LeBlanc
CEA	TBA (Rochelle O'Grady)

Custodial Staff:

Day Time	Jaspreet Sohal
Night Time	Steve MacKenzie
Night Time	Harmanjot Armstrong

Personal Digital Devices Guidelines

The Kamloops-Thomspon School District Student Code of Conduct outlines the following guidelines (in Procedure 1) for personal digital device use at school.

1.5. Comply with restrictions on personal digital device use at school to promote online safety and focus 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.

Pacific Way Elementary School's personal digital devices expectations/policy is guided by the above language and has been developed with staff and parents to promote online safety and focused learning environments for all students and can be found here.

Parents Advisory Council (PAC) Corner:

- The next PAC meeting and AGM is scheduled for **Thursday, September 25 at 3pm** in the outside portable closest to the office. All parents are welcome!
- The PAC Hot Lunch program is now open for orders (https://pacificway.hotlunches.net/). Please see the separate email coming out via Mrs. MacDonald for further information about the program, how to sign up, and payment information. The deadline to order for the first hot lunch day (Thursday Sept 25th) will be next Wednesday, Sept 17th at 11:59 PM
- Save the Date: Halloween Dance scheduled for Thursday, October 30!

Noon Hour Supervisors Wanted

We are in need of parents for this important position. You will receive an honorarium of $12 for the hour. This is a rewarding job; an opportunity to spend time with wonderful children and contribute to a positive, safe, and dynamic school environment. We are currently needing volunteers for all 5 days of the week.

Please contact Mrs. Sewell by phoning the school or emailing at ksewell@sd73.bc.ca. We will give your contact information to Cathy, our supervisor organizer, and she will reach out to add you to the schedule.

Terry Fox Run

Pacific Way staff and students will be taking part in the Terry Fox Run on September 26th.

We will be collecting **TOONIES FOR TERRY.**

Orange Shirt Day

On September 29th, students and staff at Pacific Way will wear orange shirts in recognition of National Day for Truth & Reconciliation.

Dates To Remember

September 22	Non-Instructional Day - No school
September 25	PAC Meeting - 3:00pm in Portable #3
September 26	Terry Fox Run
September 29	Orange Shirt Day
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - No school
October 10	Picture Day
October 10	Come Read With Me session for Grade 1 Parents
October 13	Thanksgiving - No School
October 24	Non-Instructional Day - No school
October 30	Halloween Dance
November 11	Remembrance Day - No school
December 1	Non-Instructional Day - No school
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2	Winter Break

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Thinking of Volunteering?

Don't forget to complete your Criminal Record Check before helping out on field trips or at the school.

Online Link:
https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck

- **Access Code:** X9NKF6656X

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https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/help

Administrative Procedure 350

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 are to learn, practice and develop such personal character traits and 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 academic and cultural studies to 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;
- Productive and able to gain satisfaction through achievement and through striving for physical 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.
- 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. Kamloops-Thompson School District No. 73 June 2024 Administrative Procedures Manual
- 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

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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:

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 everyone 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 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.

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. 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;

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

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