



**BERT EDWARDS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

711 Windsor Ave Kamloops, BC V2B 2B7  
250-376-2205  
250-377-2243

## September 2025

Welcome back to a new school year Bert Edwards families! It is a pleasure to once again be your school principal. I want to welcome Mrs. Primus (Vice Principal), Ms. Lewis (Indigenous Education Worker) and Mrs. Plawn (Daytime Custodian) to our school. I would also like to welcome the new Kindergarten families joining us! A big thank you to our custodial team who have done a wonderful job in preparing our school campus. I would also like to recognize all of the extra time that staff members have dedicated to preparing classrooms, designing learning plans and organizing our school. Thank you to our entire team for their dedication. I wish everyone a rewarding and enjoyable school year full of engaging learning experiences and many memories!

***First Day - Students in Grades 1-7 attend Sept. 2nd 10:30am-12:40pm. Regular hours commence on September 3rd 8:31am to 2:35pm (for Grades 1-7). On September 2nd and 3rd, all students are to report to the primary side of the school and line up beside the pylon labeled with their new grade level. This will also be the pick-up location for these two days. Once students are placed in their permanent classes, the classroom teacher will communicate directly with parents about dropoff/pickup details.***

***Please watch for my weekly email which will be sent each Friday.***

Sincerely, Mrs. Edstrom

## **BEST School Mission Statement**

To develop curious, dynamic problem-solvers within a personalized learning environment utilizing Inquiry- based learning, through the lens of science, supported by technology.

## **BEST School Goals for 2025 – 2026**

*Students will develop proficiency in literacy skills.*

*Students will feel pride and connection in belonging to a science and technology school.*

## **BEST Staff List 2025/2026**

<b>Ms. C. Farber</b>	<b>Kindergarten</b>
<b>Mrs. A. Bowden</b>	<b>Kindergarten</b>
<b>Mrs. B. Denison</b>	<b>Grade 1</b>
<b>Ms. M. Adams</b>	<b>Grade 1</b>
<b>Ms. L. Duquette</b>	<b>Grade 2</b>
<b>Mrs. J. Ernst</b>	<b>Grade 2</b>
<b>Ms. N. Vermey</b>	<b>Grade 3</b>
<b>Ms. G. Campbell</b>	<b>Grade 3/4</b>
<b>Mr. J. Hummel</b>	<b>Grade 4/5</b>
<b>Mr. J. Kershaw</b>	<b>Grade 4/5</b>
<b>Mrs. S. Lovell</b>	<b>Grade 5/6</b>
<b>Mrs. A. Unsworth</b>	<b>Grade 6/7</b>
<b>Mr. M. Wood</b>	<b>Grade 7</b>
<b>Mrs. G. Benz</b>	<b>LART</b>
<b>Mrs. B. Primus</b>	<b>Vice Principal and LART</b>
<b>Mrs. K. Edstrom</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>Mrs. L. Phillips</b>	<b>Arts Education Prep Teacher</b>

Ms. J. Storvold	Prep Teacher
Ms. K. Kipp	Teacher Librarian
Ms. H. Lewis	Indigenous Education Worker
Mrs. A. Bartel	CEA
Mrs. S. Egdell	CEA
Mrs. A. Nikula	CEA
Ms. H. Uppenborn	CEA
Mr. C. Nakashimada	CEA
Mrs. N. Plawn	Day Custodian
Mrs. N. Dhillon	Evening Custodian
Mr. J. Marshall	McQueen Lake Caretaker
Mr. W. Deptuck	McQueen Lake Resource Teacher

## **SAFE ARRIVAL**

SafeArrival is an absence management system that improves student safety and makes it easy for you to let us know about your child's absence. You are asked to report your child's absence in advance. Please find instructions attached in this newsletter.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

With the safety of our children and staff in mind, we undertake the practice of both Fire and Lockdown Drills throughout the school year. If you or your child feel any anxiety or concern with the drills, and we can help in any way, please contact us at the school. We undertake these drills to make sure students are aware of safety procedures in the event of an emergency.

## NEW BELL SCHEDULE

8:26am	Doors Open
8:31am	Classes Begin
10:15am - 10:30am	Recess
12:10pm - 12:40pm	All Students Outside
12:40pm - 1:05pm	Eating Time
1:05pm	Classes Resume
2:35pm	Dismissal

## RECESS / LUNCH

All students are expected to go outside at recess and lunch. Exceptions will be made during extreme weather conditions. Students will not be able to leave the school grounds during recess and lunch break.

## PARKING / DROP OFF

Our student drop off area on York Avenue is meant for parents to pull into the zone and drop students off. *It is not a short term parking area.* Bus zones are NO PARKING at any time. Parking is available in many areas around the school and your help with road safety will assist us in providing a safe place for students to walk and ride to school. Parents are reminded that the staff parking lot is off limits to parent vehicles from 8:15 – 8:45am and 2:15 – 3pm. Please respect this policy and help us to keep children SAFE at our school. Classes will line up outside at their designated place. Classroom teachers will pick up the class and drop them off at the designated place outside. We request that all parents/caregivers meet students at the designated location each day.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

In an effort to save costs and paper, our monthly school newsletter will be emailed to student primary contacts and also available on our website at <http://best.sd73.bc.ca>.

## **INFORMATION PACKAGES**

During the first week of school, students will receive start-up packages which will include various forms, the school calendar and bell schedule, and verification forms. Please review and sign all forms and update any information on the student verification sheet then return to the school office at your earliest convenience.

## **STARFISH PROGRAM**

Please contact the school office if you would like to partake in the Starfish Backpack food program. Each week a bag of food is sent home to help with meals. Families must communicate their interest each year in order to be enrolled.

## **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 Procedure [AP 350.2](#)

## **CELL PHONE POLICY**

Students who bring devices such as cell phones, and/or any other electronic communication device 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, or a specific academic or medical accommodation has been established with the school.

## LEARNING UPDATES

Students will receive three formal learning updates throughout the school year. Learning updates will be sent home on **December 12th , March 11th and June 25th**. In addition to the three formal learning updates, students will also receive two informal learning updates from their classroom teacher. Informal updates may include meetings, interim reports and classroom visits. These informal updates will be up to the discretion of the teacher and details will be provided to families directly from the classroom teachers.

## LUNCH PROGRAM

Our Lunch Program begins on Monday, September 15th. A paper menu will be provided soon. ***If you require financial support with the cost of lunches, please contact the school office. Please note that this request must be submitted each school year and recipients must complete a monthly order form (even if receiving subsidy).***

## CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

All volunteers are required to have a criminal record check in order to volunteer at the school or supervise on class field trips. [Link here](#)

Please use the access code **UM7TJRR778** which will designate our school when requesting a record check. If you require help, call the office for assistance.

## TERRY FOX RUN

Our school Terry Fox Run/Walk is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 26th. As always, we will participate in a short warm up and then our primary students will be running around the school grounds, while our intermediate students will be running along the Rivers Trail to Westmount and back. Thanks in advance for your support!

## **NOON SUPERVISION**

We are seeking parent volunteers to help with noon hour supervision. This role includes an honorarium payment. If you would like to help at lunch time please contact Mrs. Edstrom at [kedstrom@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:kedstrom@sd73.bc.ca). Lunch hour is 12:10pm - 1:05pm. Volunteers can help on a full or part time basis.

## **ART PERFORMANCES**

Please note that this year we will be hosting several arts performances. There is a cost for students to attend these performances. Fees for this cultural experience are included in the fees sheet.

## **SPORTS**

We look forward to the year ahead in which students can partake in various sports teams and activities. Soon the cross country running school league will commence (students in Grades 3-7 can participate). More information will be provided. We also look forward to volleyball, basketball and track and field throughout the year. Students in grades 4-7 can participate in these sports.

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

This year our Christmas Concert will be presented in the daytime on **Thursday, December 18th**. Show times will be 9:00am and 1:30pm. We will not be having an evening performance. We request that families attend one of the two daytime performances.

## RIVERS DAY

We are excited to announce that our annual Rivers Day event will be held on October 10th 2025 this year. Students in K-7 will spend the day on the Thompson riverbanks learning about water systems, ecology, biology and nature. Classes attend learning stations presented by various community partners and agencies. If you have a special skill to share or have a contact who may like to do so please contact Mrs. Edstrom at [kedstrom@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:kedstrom@sd73.bc.ca) for more information. We are also looking for parent volunteers to help with early morning setup and afternoon cleanup. Please email Mrs. Edstrom if you would like to help out.

## SEPTEMBER DATES

September 10th	PAC Meeting 6pm Library
September 12th	PAC Movie Night 6pm
September 15th	Motivational Magic Presentation 9am
September 15th	Lunch program begins
September 19th	PAC hot lunch (Panago)
September 22nd	Professional Day (no classes)
September 25th	Photo day
September 26th	Terry Fox Run
September 29th	Orange Shirt Day
September 30th	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)



## Frequently Asked Questions

### SafeArrival for Families FAQ

#### What is SafeArrival?

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.

*You are asked to report your child's absence in advance whenever possible using one of these convenient methods:*

#### 1. SchoolMessenger app (free)

1. If you haven't already provided your email address to the school, please do so
2. Get the app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca))
3. Tap **Sign Up** to create your account.
4. Select **Attendance** from the menu, and then select **Report an Absence**.

#### 2. Web and Mobile Web: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

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

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

1. Call the toll-free, interactive telephone system.
2. 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.

#### Note:

**The new SafeArrival program will be in effect as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018**