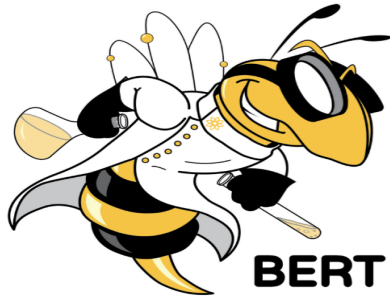




**BERT EDWARDS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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

September 2026

Welcome back to a new school year Bert Edwards families! It is a pleasure to once again be your school principal. I would 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. 8th

*10:30am-12:40pm. Regular hours commence on September 9th
8:31am to 2:35pm (for Grades 1-7). On September 8th and 9th, 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 2026 – 2027

Students will develop proficiency in literacy skills.

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

BEST Staff List 2026/2027

Mrs. K. Edstrom	Principal
Mrs. B. Primus	Vice Principal and Learning Assistance Teacher
Ms. C. Farber	Kindergarten
Mrs. A. Bowden	Kindergarten
Mrs. B. Denison	Grade 1
Ms. T. Tomson	Grade 1/2
Ms. L. Duquette	Grade 2
Mrs. J. Ernst	Grade 2/3
Ms. N. Vermey	Grade 3
Ms. G. Campbell	Grade 3/4
Mr. J. Hummel	Grade 4/5
Mr. J. Kershaw	Grade 4/5

Mrs. S. Lovell	Grade 5/6
Mrs. A. Unsworth	Grade 6/7
Mr. M. Wood	Grade 6/7
Mrs. G. Benz	Learning Assistance Teacher
Mrs. L. Phillips	Arts Education Prep Teacher
Mrs. J. Bains	Prep Teacher
Mrs. E. Therrien	Flex Support Teacher
Ms. K. Kipp	Teacher Librarian
Mrs. S. Hicks	Administrative Assistant
Ms. H. Lewis	Indigenous Education Worker
Mrs. A. Bartel	Certified Educational Assistant
Mrs. S. Egdell	Certified Educational Assistant
Mrs. A. Nikula	Certified Educational Assistant
Ms. H. Uppenborn	Certified Educational Assistant
Mr. C. Nakashimada	Certified Educational Assistant
Ms. E. Bennett-Donaldson	Certified Educational Assistant
Mrs. M. Khara	Day Custodian
Mrs. M. Bains	Evening Custodian
Mrs. S. Prevost	Evening Custodian
Mr. R. Dejong	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.

ALLERGY AWARENESS

Please note that students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are required to bring nut-free food to school. Students in Grades 4 to 7 should follow the classroom teacher's guidelines regarding nut-free food for the current school year.

We are also a scent-considerate facility. To help maintain a comfortable environment for everyone, we ask that students and visitors avoid wearing strongly scented products.

If your child has any medical needs, allergies, or health concerns, please share this information with the school at your earliest convenience so we can provide appropriate support.

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

The student drop-off area on York Avenue is designated exclusively as a **drop-off zone** for parents and caregivers. Drivers are asked to pull into the designated area, allow students to exit the vehicle promptly, and then continue on. This area is **not intended for short-term parking**.

Please note that bus zones are **No Parking** areas at all times. Parking is available in several locations surrounding the school. Your cooperation in following these procedures helps maintain a safe environment for all students who walk, cycle, or travel to and from school.

Parents and caregivers are also reminded that the **staff parking lot is closed to parent vehicles** during the school day.

Thank you for respecting these procedures and helping us keep our school community safe.

At the start and end of each school day, students in K-2 classes will line up and be dismissed from their designated outdoor locations. Classroom teachers will meet students at these locations in the morning and dismiss them there at the end of the day. We kindly ask that parents and caregivers pick up their children from their class's 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. 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 Mrs. Primus at 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](#) (attached below).

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 in **December, March and June**. 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 later this month. An order form will be provided soon. ***If you require financial support with the cost of lunches, please contact the school office. Please note that this request for subsidy 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 to access the CRC: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/screening/crrpa/org-access> 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. 25th. 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. 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 at BEST. 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 17th**. Show times will be 11:00am 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 2nd 2026 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 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 AND OCTOBER EVENTS

September 16th	PAC Meeting 6pm Library
September 18th	PAC Dance
September 21st	Professional Day (no classes)
September 23rd/24th	Grade 7 Trip
September 25th	Terry Fox Run
September 29th	Orange Shirt Day
September 30th	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)
October 2nd	Rivers Day
October 7th	Photo Day (individual portraits)
October 16th	Come Read with Me 8:45am (Grade 1 Parents)
October 23rd	Professional Day (no classes)

LATE ARRIVALS AND EARLY DEPARTURES

To help ensure the safety of all students and minimize disruptions to classroom learning, we ask that families follow these procedures:

- Students arriving late or leaving school early must sign in or out at the school office.
- Parents and caregivers dropping off forgotten items (such as lunches, backpacks, or homework) or picking up a student early

are asked to check in at the office and wait for assistance. Office staff will contact the classroom and arrange for your child or the item to be brought to the office.

BEST Important Dates 2026/2027

Tuesday, September 8th 10:30am -12:40pm Class Times

Monday, September 21st Non-Instructional Day

Wednesday, September 30th National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Monday, October 12th Thanksgiving Day

Friday, October 23rd Non-Instructional Day

Wednesday, November 11th Remembrance Day

Monday, November 30th Non-Instructional Day

Winter Holiday December 21st - January 1st

Friday, February 5th Non-Instructional Day

Monday, February 15th Family Day

March 15th - March 30th Spring Break

Friday, March 26th Good Friday

Monday, March 29th Easter Monday

Monday, April 26th Non-Instructional Day

Friday, May 21st Non-Instructional Day

Monday, May 24th Victoria Day

Thursday, June 29th Last Day of Class

STUDENT DRESS CODE

Background

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.

Procedures

1. All principals will publish the dress code in a manner that will ensure parents and students are aware of its contents, by September 30th each year.
2. All principals will review the procedures of this dress code with all staff prior to September 30th annually.
3. This administrative procedure will be reviewed at the District level every three years to ensure it remains current.
4. Students must not wear clothing which undermines the District's commitment to a safe and inclusive learning environment. This includes:
 - 4.1. Clothing that promotes the use of tobacco, illegal drugs or alcohol;
 - 4.2. Clothing that advocates illegal activity;
 - 4.3. 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;
 - 4.4. Clothing which contains profanity, pornography or obscene images.
5. Student clothing must conform to health or safety requirements, including requirements arising from participation in specialized programs and events.
6. 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.
7. Staff shall respond to Student Dress Code violations in a manner that:
 - 7.1. Is discreet, respectful and clearly references the specifics of the dress code concern;
 - 7.2. 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;
 - 7.3. Is consultative with the school administration prior to addressing a dress code concern with a student.
 - 7.4. Includes school administration contacting parents and or guardians of any student that has violated this Administrative Procedure.
8. The District will consider the approval of a school uniform for a specific school when the following criteria have been met:

- 8.1. The Superintendent receives a letter from the principal that outlines the consultation process involving the school parents' advisory council (PAC) and leading to the recommendation of a school uniform, as well as a description of the proposed school uniform;
- 8.2. Evidence that at least eighty percent (80%), with one (1) vote per family, of the school community voted by secret ballot to approve a school uniform;
- 8.3. Evidence of a plan to provide school uniforms to any student who is disadvantaged;
- 8.4. Provisions for exceptions that may be necessary for religious reasons; and,
- 8.5. Provisions for a process for individual families to opt out of a school uniform requirement.

Legal references: *School Act*, ss 8, 17, 20, 22, 65, 85
 Regulation 265/89
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), RSBC 1996
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Constitution Act, 1982
Criminal Code of Canada, RSC 1985
Copyright Act, RSC 1985

Other references: Administrative procedures 350, 355
 Introduction to British Columbia's Redesigned Curriculum, 2015

Adopted: September 22, 2008

Revised: December 12, 2016; August 26, 2019, June 18, 2021



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson)

1383 - 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC V2C 3X7 | Tel: 250-374-0679 | Fax: 250-372-1183 | www.sd73.bc.ca

September 2, 2026

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, Lii 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 devises)
- fire starting
- sexual intimidation and violence



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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,

Mike St. John
Superintendent of Schools

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)
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

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 1st, 2018