



SAVONA ELEMENTARY



September 2026

Our Mission Statement – *To respect and enable learners to grow intellectually, emotionally and socially by providing a safe, nurturing environment that encourages risk taking.*

Principal's Message

I am so excited to be returning for a second year at Savona Elementary. I am thrilled to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome back to our returning families, and a special greeting to all our new students and staff joining our school community.

Education is a true partnership between home and school. We encourage open communication and regular attendance. There are a variety of ways that parents and caregivers can be involved with the school. Please consider attending PAC meetings or volunteering your time with PAC events. We are also desperately looking for a few parents to be 'on-call' for lunch time supervision. There is small monetary compensation for parents who volunteer to be lunch supervisors. We are also hoping to get a Come Read With Me Program running in our school. If you are interested in supervising, or helping support students with Literacy, please come and see me (Ms. Chernoff).

I know there is a great deal of information that comes home at the beginning of the year. I know it can feel overwhelming. We are here to help, so do not hesitate to reach out with questions or comments.

It is important to our team to provide a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every student feels welcomed and valued. One focus for the start of the school year is going to be teaching about growth mindset. This will connect to our 'SOAR' awards focusing on the 'O' which stands for Open-minded. We hope to catch many students early in the school year being 'Open-Minded.'

At Savona Elementary we SOAR (Safe / Open-Minded / Accountable / Respectful)

Happy New Year,
Ms. K. Chernoff

School Staff 2026-2027



Ms. Karla Chernoff: Principal, Prep, LART, Library
Mrs. Krystal Lamberton: Secretary
Ms. Ashley Gill: DIV 001 Teacher
Ms. Chloe Johnson: DIV 002 Teacher (Mon-Wed & Fri)
Ms. Megan McKinlay: DIV 002 Teacher (Thurs.)
Mrs. Trish Regan: DIV 003 Teacher
Mrs. Nicole Edmondson: CEA
Mrs. Susan Colville: CEA
Ms. Cheyenne Calhoun: IEW
Mr. Sheldon Jules: Custodian

Bell Schedule

8:25 am	Welcome bell
8:30 am	School begins
10:00 – 10:15 am	Students eat snack
10:15 – 10:30 am	Recess
12:00 – 12:15 pm	Students eat lunch
12:15 – 12:50 pm	Students outside
12:50 pm	Class readiness bell
12:55 pm	Classes begin
2:34 pm	Dismissal
2:40 pm	Student bus departs



Communication

We encourage parents to take an active role in their child's learning. Please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher via email at any time to discuss your child's progress and learning. We also encourage you to visit our Savona Elementary School's website at <https://savona.sd73.bc.ca/> to view our school calendar and to keep up to date on upcoming events at our school.



School Supply Fees



Savona Elementary offers a user fee program for school supplies. For a nominal fee, we supply all pens, pencils, exercise books, crayons etc. that your child needs for the school year. Student fees for 2026/2027 are:

Grades K-3 \$40.00

Grades 4-7 \$55.00

We encourage you to sign up and use School Cash Online for payments, but you may also pay by cash or cheque by filling out the form included in your school start up package. Fees are due back by Friday, September 25th.

Water Bottles

We would like to remind parents that all students must have a water bottle labeled with their name on it that can be brought to and from school. Bottled water is brought in as our drinking water in Savona is often on a boil water notice and unsafe for drinking during that time.



Safe Arrival Program

If your child will be away from school, please call the Safe Arrival number at 1-844-350-2647, visit <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or download the app on your phone to report an absence. Information and instructions on how to use Safe Arrival are included in the school start up package. If you need additional help, please contact the office at 250-373-2520. In addition, if your child will be absent for a prolonged period, please let your teacher or the office know. When teachers know of an absence in advance, they can organize learning tasks that may otherwise be missed. Your cooperation is appreciated!



Forms and Permissions

With this newsletter, you will find the following forms that require parent/guardian signature. Please ensure these forms are returned to the office as soon as possible:

Student Verification Form (green) - Ensure all information is current, correct, dated and signed. Cross off and correct any errors or changes.

Fruit and Veggie Program (orange) - Healthy snacks provided free every few weeks.

Lower Risk Field Trip Form (blue) - Allows for short trips around the community: library, public playground, lake (not swimming), Terry Fox Run etc.

Personal Information (pink) - Allows SD#73 to collect, keep, use and share photos, videos, images and/or names on school or district website.

Outside Media (yellow) - Allows media (including radio, television, newspapers, and other print) that visit the school to take pictures or interview students. See form for more details.

Electronic Use Agreement (purple) - Allows student to use district technology resources.

Web access and Cloud Storage (white) - So students may receive a Google Apps for Education account (gedu) that is used with Chromebooks.

*****Please note not all students will receive all forms. Some forms need to be signed every year; other forms only need to be signed once. If we have a signed copy on file, it will not be included in this year's package. You may review all signed forms on file anytime at the office.***

Additional Forms

Additional forms that may be required can be obtained at the office. These might include:

Medical Alert/Medication - Please ensure that you inform the office if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication during school hours. This needs to be updated every year.

Transportation Assistance - This must be submitted to school board yearly to receive funds.

Aboriginal Programs and Services - Sent home with students who have self-identified as being of Aboriginal ancestry.

TNRD Library Card Application - will allow students to sign books out at the public library on weekly class trips.

Indoor Shoes/Change of Clothes

It is expected that all students will have a pair of non-marking indoor shoes that can be left at school. We encourage primary students to keep a change of clothing in a Ziploc bag in their backpack in case of spills or accidents.

PAC - Parent Advisory Council



Research indicates that when parents are involved in their child's learning, student achievement increases. Savona Elementary is fortunate to have a fantastic group of parents committed to the improvement and well-being of our school community. Our PAC is always looking for fresh faces. The first PAC meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th at 5:00 pm in the Savona Elementary School Library. PAC elections, dates and plans for future meetings will be decided at this meeting. Please watch the school website under Parent Advisory Council for future events. We also encourage you to join the Savona Elementary PAC Info page on Facebook for information on upcoming school events and fundraisers.

Terry Fox Run

Our school Terry Fox run/walk is scheduled for Monday, September 28th at 11:15 am. We will be warming up and then going for a short run through the community and back to the school. Any donations for the Terry Fox Foundation between Sept. 14th – Sept. 28th would be greatly appreciated. A link for donations will be on our school's website, or your child can bring in a "Toonie for Terry" for our donation jar in the office. We are looking to better last year's total of \$310.00 Together, we can help keep Terry's dream alive and win the battle against cancer.



Emergency Procedures

With the safety of our children and staff in mind, we undertake the practice of both Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills early in 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 at 250-373-2520.



Nut Allergy Awareness

We have students in both our 2/3/4 & 5/6/7 classes with allergies to nuts. We are asking parents to please be nut aware and if possible, not send items in your child's lunch that contain nuts. We appreciate your cooperation.



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day are on Wednesday, September 30th. As school is not in session that day, we ask all staff and students to wear their orange shirts to school on Tuesday, September 29th.



Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada in the spring of 2013. It grew out of *Phyllis' story* of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. For more information and to watch Phyllis's and other stories go to <http://www.orangeshirtday.org>

There is no school on Wednesday, September 30th for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation holiday.

Walk to School Day

We will be having our annual Walk to School Day on Friday, September 18th.

Students who take the bus will meet staff at the pumping station at about 8:15 am. If you drop your child off at school, please meet the group at the pumping station between 8:15 am and 8:25 am. The group will start walking to school at 8:30 am. One staff member will remain at school to walk with any students from the before school program or who may have come to school by mistake, and they will meet up with the group. Parents are welcome to join in on our walk as well. Breakfast of cereal, fruit and juice donated by our wonderful PAC will be served to students when they arrive at school.



Picture Day

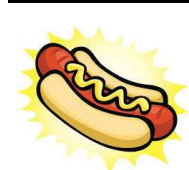
Right Photography is scheduled to come to our school on Wednesday, October 21st in the morning to take individual student photos. Retakes will take place on Wednesday, November 18th for those who missed having their photo taken or wish to have their photo taken again.



Starfish Backpack Program

The Starfish Backpack Program is run through the Kamloops food bank and helps families in need by offering backpacks containing 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners and snacks for students to take home each weekend throughout the school year. If your family is interested, please contact Ms. Chernoff at 250-373-2520.

School Hot Dog Days



We will be offering hot dog days again this year on the third Thursday or Friday of each month. Please use the paper order form sent home in the school start up package and return the form with cash or cheque made out to Savona Elementary School. We are unable to set payment up in School Cash due to the addition of processing fees. Hot dogs are \$2 each and a bag of chips (assorted flavors) can be added for \$1.00 more. Please return your orders by Friday, September 18th so we have time to shop and organize the first hot dog day on Thursday, September 24th.



Upcoming Events

Sept. 8	Back to School (Gr. 1-7) 10:30 am – 12:34 pm
Sept. 9	First Regular Day of class (Gr. 1-7)
Sept. 9	Kindergarten Interviews
Sept. 10	Kindergarten Interviews
Sept. 11	Kindergarten PM Only (1:00 pm – 2:34 pm)
Sept. 14	Kindergarten AM Only (8:30 am – 12:00 pm)
Sept. 14	PAC Meeting 5:00 pm – School Library
Sept. 15	Kindergarten – First full day
Sept. 18	Walk to School Day
Sept. 18	PAC Hot Lunch – Grilled Cheese
Sept. 21	District Non-Instructional Day – No School
Sept. 24	Hot Dog Day (if purchased)
Sept. 25	School Fees Due
Sept. 25	Field Trip – Motivational Speaker @ David Thompson
Sept. 28	Terry Fox Run – 11:15 am
Sept. 29	Orange Shirt Day
Sept. 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Closure – No School



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 Administrative 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



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