



September 2025

Raven's Roost

Parkcrest Elementary School Newsletter

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2025-206 school year! I hope you've had a restful and enjoyable summer, filled with great memories and experiences. I am excited to become a part of the Parkcrest Elementary School community and look forward to getting to know everyone.

I'd like to introduce myself and share a little about my journey in education. I have had the privilege of serving as principal at Juniper Ridge Elementary for the past three years and at Arthur Stevenson Elementary for four years, following three years as vice-principal at Lloyd George Elementary. Before stepping into administration, I spent three years as a literacy resource teacher at Parkcrest and Bert Edwards, supporting students and staff in fostering strong reading and writing skills. I also bring with me many years of experience working at the district level, where I collaborated with schools to enhance teaching and learning for all students. I enjoyed my years at Parkcrest and really look forward to returning to the community.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the families and students who are new to Parkcrest this year. We look forward to getting to know you in the coming days and weeks.

Newsletters will be sent to parent emails electronically at the beginning of each month. They will also be posted on our school website. I will send out email updates in the middle of the month or when it is necessary to communicate information with you. If you need to contact me, you can reach me by phoning me at school or sending me an email at dsteptoe@sd73.bc.ca.

Over the next few days, you will be receiving a lot of paperwork (School Supply Fees, Verification Forms, etc.). Some will be from the office and some will be from classroom teachers. We ask that you make every effort to return any forms to the school as soon as possible. This will help us to organize our databases that will help to keep the school running smoothly. Thank you in advance for taking the time to get these back to us!

I look forward to an incredible year of learning and fun!

~Mrs. Deanna Steptoe



SAFE ARRIVAL

School District #73 uses the SafeArrival student absence reporting system to record student absences. Please report your child's absence in one of the following convenient methods:

- Phone: 1-844-350-2647
- Web: go.schoolmessenger.ca
- App: SchoolMessenger

Principal: Deanna Steptoe ~ Vice-Principal: Jason Nesci
2170 Parkcrest Ave, Kamloops BC, V2B 4Y1
Website: www.parkcrest.sd73.bc.ca

2025-2026 IMPORTANT DATES



Tues., Sept. 2	First Day of School
Wed., Sept. 3	Full Day of School for Grades 1 to 7
Tues., Sept. 9	PAC Meeting (6:00 pm)
Wed., Sept. 10	First Full Day for Kindergarten
Fri., Sept. 19	Picture Day
Mon., Sept. 22	Non-Instructional Day - No School
Mon., Sept. 29	Orange Shirt Day
Tues., Sept. 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - No School
Mon., Oct. 13	Thanksgiving - No School
Tues., Oct. 21	Picture Retakes
Fri., Oct. 24	Non-Instructional Day - No School
Fri., Oct. 31	Halloween
Mon., Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Tues., Nov. 11	Remembrance Day - No School
Mon., Dec. 1	Non-Instructional Day - No School
Fri., Dec. 19	Last Day of Classes Before Winter Break
Mon., Jan. 5	First Day Back After Winter Break
Fri., Feb. 6	Non-Instructional Day - No School
Mon., Feb. 16	Family Day - No School
Fri., Mar. 13	Last Day of Classes Before Spring Break
Mon., Mar. 30	First Day Back After Spring Break
Fri., Apr. 3	Good Friday - No School
Tues., Sept. 2	First Day of School
Wed., Sept. 3	Full Day of School for Grades 1 to 7
Tues., Sept. 9	PAC Meeting (6:00 pm)
Wed., Sept. 10	First Full Day for Kindergarten
Thurs., June 25	Last Day of School for Students

Class Placements

Each spring, our teaching staff works collaboratively to begin the process of placing students into classrooms for the next school year. Many things need to be considered for each student including their academic needs, social skills, and learning styles. We also take into consideration peer dynamics and we must follow the classroom composition guidelines set out by the School District and Ministry of Education and Childcare. Parent input that was given to us in the spring is also taken into consideration, but is not guaranteed.

This is a complex process and requires a lot of time and thought. This year, students started in last year's classes and moved into grade level groupings. We will work on the placement process for the first several days of school. As we move into classes, your child may come home the first or second day upset about their class placement. We ask that you allow them at least a full week in their new class to become acquainted with their classmates, teachers, and school procedures. Oftentimes, concerns are alleviated once students get to know their new teachers and classmates. Elementary school is a great time to get to know other children. Thank you in advance for supporting with this process.

Parkcrest Bell Schedule

8:20 – Welcome Bell – Doors Open
 8:30 – Classes Begin
 10:05-10:20 – Primary Recess
 10:20-10:35 – Intermediate Recess
 11:45-12:40 – Lunch
 2:34 – Dismissal



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

This year, we will be honouring and acknowledging Truth and Reconciliation during the week of September 29 - October 3. We will have Orange Shirt Day on Monday, September 29th. There will be no school on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Tuesday, September 30th).

Medical Alert

Parents and guardians of students with potentially life-threatening health conditions or allergies are asked to sign the necessary forms at the school office. These forms must be updated every year. Please send any epipens to the school as soon as possible. Students should also carry one with them during recess, lunch, and on field trips.

School staff are not permitted to administer any medication to students without the School District paperwork that is completed and signed by the prescribing physician. If your child requires medication at school, please contact the office to pick up the paperwork or send back the completed forms that were sent home in the spring.

Cross Country Running

Cross country running will be starting up very soon. Students in grades 3 to 7 will be invited to participate. Please watch for more details

Fruit and Vegetable Program

We will be having the School Fruit and Vegetable/Milk program again this year. This program provides fruit/vegetables and milk for free for schools in B.C. Please consider this a reverse permission form. If you would like your child(ren) to not participate in this program or if your child has an allergy, please email your child's teacher.

Terry Fox Run

Thank you to Ms. Jensen for organizing the Terry Fox Run again this year. The date has not yet been set, but will be decided upon soon. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Picture Day



Mark your calendars, picture day is coming!

When: Friday, September 19th.

Make sure to send your child to school with their smile. This year, we will be using Life Touch for our school photos.



Safety Information

Safety - To and From School

Drop off and pick up from school may be more congested this year with the new daycare. If possible, please encourage your child to walk, bike, or scooter to school on their own, with you, or with a group of friends. This will help to reduce the number of parent vehicles around the school. If you do drive your child to and from school, consider designating a meeting point.

Please spend some time reviewing traffic safety rules with your child. Some examples that are good to reinforce are walk on sidewalks/side of the road, look both ways before crossing the street, ride bikes on the right side of the road, etc.). Also, please be aware of children going to and from school as you are driving during those busy times.

Bikes and Scooters

In order to ensure the safety of all students, families, and staff, it is important to walk scooters and bikes on school grounds. When coming to school, students are asked to dismount from their bikes or scooters and walk them to the designated parking area. We thank you in advance for having this conversation with your child. Teachers will reinforce this message at school and we will remind students on morning announcements. With everyone on the same page about scooter and bike safety on the school grounds, we can maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Before and After School

Our first bell rings at 8:20 to allow students to enter the building, put away their belongings, and get ready for the school day. The second bell rings at 8:30 which signals the start of the school day. There is no supervision outside prior to the 8:20 bell or after school. Students are asked to come at 8:20 and head home directly after school.



Visitors at School

If you are coming to the school during the school day, please check in at the office. We will be happy to give a message to your child or call them to down. While we welcome parent volunteers, we do not allow parents to go to classes during instructional times. Thank you for helping us to maintain the integrity of instructional time.

***“You're off to great places,
today is your day! Your
mountain is waiting, so get on
your way!”***

- Dr. Seuss



Parkcrest Information

Recess and Lunch Expectations

Recess and lunch are a time when students have a break from their learning and have a chance to get outside for fresh air, movement, and interaction time with their peers. It is expected that all students will go outside at recess and lunch. If they are too sick to go outside during break times, then they should not be at school. During the winter months or other extreme weather times, we will monitor the weather and may keep students indoors for recess and lunch breaks.

Personal Items at School

Please avoid sending toys to school as they often get lost and cause other problems.

Mabels Labels

Labeling all items that come to school helps us to ensure they get back to their owners when left around. Please label items such as coats and jackets, sweatshirts and hoodies, toques, hats, mittens and gloves, boots, shoes, backpacks, and more.

Our PAC has an ongoing fundraiser for Mabels Labels. You can order name labels here:

https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/

Thank you for your support! 20% from every order comes back to the school! (Please select Parkcrest Kamloops, not Parkcrest Burnaby!)

Scent Considerate Facility

Many students and adults are allergic to 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, so please go scent free.

Optional Accident Insurance Information - [Here](#)

School Fees

The school supply program is offered at Parkcrest as part of school fees. We highly recommend that parents use this program as it saves families time and money and provides consistency of supplies in the classroom. You will receive an email from School Cash in the coming days indicating that your child's school fees can be paid.

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.

School Goals

In alignment with the District Strategic Plan, we will be focusing on the following school goals:

- **Goal 1: To improve student achievement in numeracy through the development and implementation of a coherent, school-wide K-7 scope and sequence that ensures consistent instruction, skill progression, and conceptual understanding in mathematics.**
- **Goal 2: Students will feel a sense of belonging and a positive connection with the adults and their peers.**

More information about Our School Learning Plan or the District Strategic Plan can be found on the Parkcrest website.



Noon Hour Supervisors

Are you looking for a way to spend time with children for one hour a day (over over several days)? If so, please consider applying to be a noon hour supervisor. Each year, we look for volunteers to help with noon hour supervision. Supervisors are required to complete a criminal record check prior to working with us. They are given a \$12/hour honourarium for their service to the school. Please contact the school office if you are interested in volunteering to be a noon hour supervisor.

Criminal Record Checks

Are you planning to volunteer at Parkcrest this year? Volunteering could be in the form of coaching, driving students for sports teams or field trips, helping on field trips or in the classroom, or supervising at lunch. All volunteers must complete a criminal record check. Criminal Record Checks are valid for 3 years and they are completed and sent directly to our school. If you plan to volunteer this year, please contact the office for the code to complete a criminal record check for Parkcrest Elementary School free of charge.

School District 73 will be offering a Parent Engagement on September 17 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Please attend if you are interested in learning about how schools in BC support students with diverse needs. Register [here](#).

Personal Electronic Devices

Please note that students are not allowed to use their personal electronic devices at school. This includes texting or calling family members. If you need to contact your child at school during the school day, please contact the office to leave a message. We will make sure they get your message during one of the scheduled break times or right at the end of the school day.



Volunteer Driver Forms

If you are interested in volunteering to drive for an activity (for example cross-country running), please come into the office to fill out a driver form. Volunteer driver forms need to be completed on a yearly basis. Please note that a valid driver's license is required to be shown to office staff as well as insurance papers indicating that you have more than \$1,000,000.00 in liability. You must also have a Criminal Record Check completed and on file prior to driving anyone else's child.



PARKCREST STUDENTS SOAR



Our SOAR Behaviour Matrix helps to clarify expected behaviours in and around the school including going to and from school, attending any school function or field trip, and any other circumstances that may have an impact on the school environment. We use the language from the SOAR Matrix (Safety, Ownership, Awareness, and Respect) throughout the school to maintain consistency. See the full matrix below.

PARKCREST BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

	INSIDE	OUTSIDE	EVERYWHERE	SPECIAL EVENTS
S Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be polite walk on the right Open doors for others Respect personal space (hands and feet to self) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect personal space Use crosswalks Follow playground rules Walk bikes, scooters, and skateboards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A teacher should always know where you are Safety first Respect the health of others (eg. allergies) Use kind words Respect personal space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polite audience behaviour enter/exit calmly Hands and feet to self Respect personal space Use kind words
O Ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be purposeful Be ready, on time, and ready to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use designated play areas on appropriate days Enter quickly when bell rings Be responsible for equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep the school clean Care for property Give your best effort Dress appropriately Play fair Strive for excellence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care for property (incl. bus, jersey, etc.) Be on time/prepared Follow directions Give your best effort Be respectful of people, places, things
A Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smile Share, be helpful, include others Greet others/eye contact Be kind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smile Share, be helpful, include others Greet others/eye contact Be kind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smile Share, be helpful, include others Greet others/eye contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smile Be kind Use door manners Use audience manners Be polite
R Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use manners (eg. please and thank you) Use inside voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use manners Wait your turn Listen to others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use manners Enter and exit calmly Stay to the right, be polite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use manners Listen to the speaker Stay with your class

Student Code of Conduct



Please note that the School District Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Procedure #350) will be reviewed with students in the coming days. The Student Code of Conduct along with the Parkcrest SOAR Behaviour Matrix are intended to encourage acceptable student behaviour in order to establish and maintain a safe, respectful and caring learning environment.

For your reference, Administrative Procedures 350: Student Code of Conduct and 350.2: Student Dress Code can be found on the [district website](#).



September 2, 2025

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 Otîpemisiwak 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 devises)
- fire starting
- sexual intimidation and violence



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

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 McKay
Superintendent of Schools