



September 2025 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Students, Staff, and Families,

As we embark on another exciting school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the journey ahead. This year promises to be filled with new challenges that will push us all to grow, innovate, and evolve in ways that will ultimately enhance our teaching and learning practices.

We are thrilled to welcome several new staff members to our school community. Their fresh perspectives, energy, and creative ideas will undoubtedly bring a renewed sense of purpose to our classrooms, and I am excited to see the positive impact they will have on our students.

Above all, I am optimistic about the energy and positivity that will define this school year. Together, we will face challenges with resilience, support one another, and create an environment that fosters growth for all—students and staff alike.

I feel incredibly privileged to be part of this community, and I look forward to another year of growth, learning, and success with all of you.

Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

Warmly,
Jonathan Brady
Principal

Important Dates

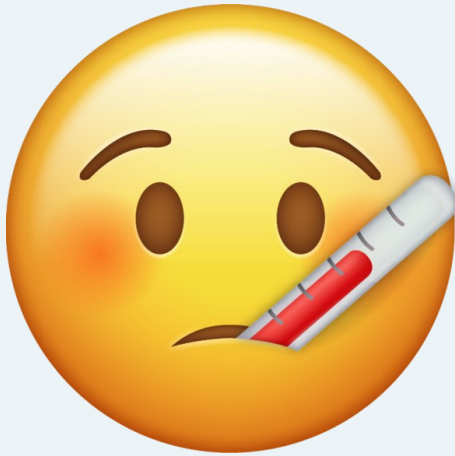
Labour Day— No School.....	Sep 01
Orientation Day.....	Sep 02
Photo Day.....	Sep 09
Terry Fox Run/BBQ.....	Sep 12
Non-Instructional Day.....	Sep 22
Orange Shirt Day.....	Sep 29
Truth & Reconciliation Day..... (No School)	Sep 30
Post-Sec BC Visit at HGED 6:00pm- 8:00pm.....	Oct 01
"IE" Report Week.....	Oct 06
Mosaic #2.....	Oct 07
Thanksgiving Day—No School...	Oct 13
Parent/Teacher Interviews.....	Oct 16

Administration

Principal: Mr. J. Brady
Vice Principal: Ms. K. Dolha
Vice Principal: Ms. C. Waage

Attendance

STUDENT SAFE ARRIVAL



Deciding when your child is too sick for school is not always an easy decision.

Children should not come to school if they are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. If you have questions and concerns about your child's health, talk with a qualified healthcare professional.

To learn more click [here](#).

Parents no longer leave a message on their school's answering machine/Safe Arrival line. Our new system handles the majority of parent contact (including phone calls) when a student absence is unexpected. This also allows parents to interact directly with the system in the following ways:

- by phone when the system calls you or when you want to initiate a call to notify that your child will be absent
- by internet through a login controlled web page interface
- by a Smart phone app (iOS and Android version; both available for free)

In the preferences on the SchoolMessenger App, parents can select the style of message that they wish to receive for certain school messages. For example, parents may wish to receive a text message for a morning call (Safe Arrival) instead of a phone call.

All parents are asked to please report student absences **before 8:30 am** on the day of the absence (you can also report absences in advance, if they are known).

To report an absence you may choose to:

- ♦ call the toll free # 1-844-350-2647 or
- ♦ access the following web-site: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca> or
- ♦ download School Messenger app from [Google Play](#) or [Apple's App Store](#)

Schools play an important part in preventing youth tobacco and vapour product use, protecting youth from exposure, and providing reliable information and interventions when necessary. This is a list of resources related to the key areas of tobacco and vaping prevention. For more information, click



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 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



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



Student Fees

School Cash

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.

*Please note your school academic fees will be uploaded to School Cash no later than October 10th. Athletic fees will be uploaded later in the month of October. Any questions, please contact the Sa-Hali Secondary office.

Please pay through SchoolCash online: [https:// sd73.schoolcashionline.com/](https://sd73.schoolcashionline.com/)

Why Use SchoolCash Online?

- Convenient: Make secure payments 24/7 from the comfort of your home.
- Easy To Use: Online shopping with various payment methods
- Safe: Your child won't be carrying cash or cheques to and from school
- Saves Time: Manage your school expenses and view payment history in one place
- One Account: You can manage the fees for up to 8 students at 8 different SD73 school through one account.

Cell Phone Guidelines

Bell-to-Bell Expectations

- ◆ During class time (from bell-to-bell), personal digital devices will remain in lockers, backpacks/purses, or holders provided by classroom teachers. Phones will be off or in silent mode.
- ◆ During class time, all school areas, including bathrooms, hallways, and common areas will be designated CELL PHONE FREE.
- ◆ During class time, airpods, headphones or listening devices connected to personal digital devices will not be permitted.

* Personal Digital Devices means any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the internet, such as a cell phone, tablet or other smart devices. Essential Supports- students who are exceptions to these expectations will be identified by our LART, Counselors or Administration In case of emergencies, communication can be handled through the office.

CBC News - January 26th - Provincial Cell Phone Restrictions

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-restrict-cellphones-schools-1.7096155>

CBC - Nov 2023 - Social Media Impacts on Teens

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/smartphone-brain-nov14-1.7029406>

E-Mental Health - Unplug and Connect - Keeping Families Strong

<https://www.ementalhealth.ca/Ontario/Unplug-from-Technology-and-Connect-Keeping-Families-Strong-in-a-Wired-World/index.php?m=article&ID=26722>



SA-HALI IS A SCENT CONSIDERATE SCHOOL

Many students and adults are allergic to personal hygiene items, such as cosmetics, perfumes, colognes, creams, deodorants, shampoos, conditioners, hair spray and soaps.

Please see the policy [here](#) so that all employees, students, and visitors have a safe environment at Sa-Hali Secondary.

We share the air, go scent free!

Counselling News

Student Services

Office is open from Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. If students need assistance from their counsellor, please refer to the following list:

Ms. C. Keltie: Grade 8 -12 (A-K)

Ms. S. Mayoh: Grade 8-12 (L-Z)

Ms. J. Douglas: R & H Ministry Designations, TNT, WEX, Recognition, and Scholarships & Bursaries

Mr. R. Doherty: International Students

Trades & Transition (TNT)

Students who are interested in learning more about the Trades & Transition (TNT) opportunities in our school district can contact

Mrs. Joanna Douglas, Sa-Hali Secondary TNT Coordinator, by phone or email.

You can also visit the TNT website at <https://tnt.sd73.bc.ca/en/index.aspx#> for more information about the programs.

Battle of the Book

Battle of the Books is a Kamloops Reading Motivation Program. The goals of the program are to encourage and to recognize students who enjoy reading and to broaden reading interests. Battle of the Books is not just for elementary students! Check out this [video](#) and see Mrs. Hafeli in the library if you're interested in taking part.

Parent Engagement Session

Empowering Parents:

Presented by Deanna Brady, District Principal of Inclusive Education, and Lise Hyam, District Coordinator of Inclusive Education.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 6:00PM to 7:00PM by Zoom

Are you looking for ways to better understand how schools in BC support students with diverse needs?

Join us for the first SD73 Parent Engagement Session of the 2025-2026 school year to learn how to better understand the education system and your role as a parent. This practical, parent-friendly session is designed to help you feel informed and confident in partnering with your child's school.

In this session, you will:

- Learn how the BC education system supports students with diverse needs
- Understand the roles of teachers, education assistants, case managers, and school teams
- Gain a clear overview of Individual Education Plan (IEPs) —what they are, how they work, and your rights as a parent
- Discover simple strategies to prepare for, participate in, and follow up after IEP meetings
- Take home easy-to-use resources, including checklists, key questions, and a guide to supports available in BC

This session is about **empowerment and partnership**—helping you become a strong advocate for your child while building positive, collaborative relationships with the school team.

This workshop will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025**, from **6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. If you are interested in attending, please register in advance [here](#). Following your registration, you will receive the link to the meeting.

*Parent Engagement Sessions are also featured on the SD73 website cover page.

Upcoming Opportunities

Post Secondary BC Evening Visit – target audience – Grade 10 – 12 students

When: Wednesday, October 1, 2025, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Where: Henry Grube Education Centre (HGEC) Who: Students & Families welcome

Why: Learn about courses, programs, & opportunities available at institutions in BC

University of Calgary Visit @ Sa-Hali Secondary

When: Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 8:30 am – 9:30 am

Where: Main hallway – B – booth set up

Who: Interested students

University of Calgary Indigenous Recruiter Visit @ Sa-Hali Secondary

When: Monday, November 3, 2025, from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Where: Main hallway – B – booth set up

Who: Interested students

University of Alberta Visit @ Sa-Hali Secondary

When: Wednesday, November 19, 2025, from 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm

Where: Main hallway – B – booth set up

Who: Interested students

2025-2026 School Bus Schedule

Bus #	Arrival Time	Departure Time
20730	7:58am	3:20pm
21735	8:15am	3:10pm
20732	8:20am	3:10pm
22730	8:19am	3:15pm
A0734	8:21am	3:15pm



Starting September 2025, the bell schedule will be different. Most importantly, Wednesdays will no longer have an early dismissal. Please take a look at the new schedule for next year [here](#).

How to order your photo's:

Right Photography offers online ordering to all of the schools we service. The student images will be uploaded and available in 24 to 48 hrs. Just click on the [link](#) to take you the online portal.



Find your school and click on the logo / school's name. Photo days are sorted by Original and Retake dates, be sure to click on the correct session.

To access your student's photos, you'll use their student ID number as your online code. This is the number on your student ID card.



CHILDREN & FAMILY GRIEF GROUP

Children ages 6-12 are invited to spend time, together with other children, while we use play and art therapy as ways to express feelings and experiences of grief and loss. Parents/Caregivers will have the opportunity to learn some ways to help support grieving children.

Registration is required and space is limited

8-week closed group

**Thursday,
October 9th**

3:30pm - 4:30pm



For more information and to register
for the group contact:
dallas@kamloopshospice.com
250.372.1336

Location: Cooper Community Resource Centre at Kamloops Hospice Association
72 Whiteshield Cres South



YOUTH CONNECTIONS GROUP

This group is for Youth ages 13-17 in Kamloops and the surrounding areas, who have experienced the death of someone significant in their lives. We hope to create a space for youth to get together, have fun, and create connections through activities.

This group will run once a month starting in September at locations throughout Kamloops that foster active engagement.

Registration is required.



For more information and to register
for the group contact:
dallas@kamloopshospice.com
250.372.1336

Location: Cooper Community Resource Centre at Kamloops Hospice Association
72 Whiteshield Cres South