



NORKAM SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2025 | WWW.NKSS.SD73.BC.CA | 250-376-1272



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Happy September NorKam Families!

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer break and like the staff here at NKSS are looking forward to a new year of learning. NorKam is a full and busy place with 925 students in grades 8-12.

Our athletic director, Amanda Marchi, has worked very hard with BC School Sports and has had NKSS re-designated as a category 2 & 3 school without any teams being designated at category 4. This means that all our teams will play in town, which greatly reduces travel costs. I am very grateful for the work that Amanda has done to ensure more of our students can play sports this year.

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years program continues to flourish and both the grade 8 and 9 cohorts are full. We are looking forward to the future of this district program and are excited for this continued opportunities for our students. The district Trades and Hairstyling program are also full and running with the enthusiasm and drive of students who are working towards building their talents and passions for potential careers.

June 2026 will see the last of our large Grad classes. This year we have 251 grade 12 students that we expect to walk the stage. After that, our classes are under 200. The end of an era and we are excited to celebrate with you all.

NKSS is a place of opportunity. We are fortunate enough to have a wide variety of programs that fill a wide number of niches for students to find a place to belong. Our greatest hope and our drive is to support students and families find a place to fulfill their educational dreams and move on to positive next steps.

I hope you all have a wonderful year!

Rachael Sdoutz
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

School Opening	Sept 2
Photo Day	Sept 8
WISE Days Begin	Sept 17
Safe Grad Committee Meeting	Sept 16
Pro-D (No School)	Sept 22
Truth & Reconciliation Day	Sept 30
Thanksgiving (No School)	Oct 13
Mosaic #2 Begins	Oct 17
Photo Retakes	Oct 22

ADMINISTRATION

PRINCIPAL: MRS. R. SDOUTZ
VICE PRINCIPAL: MRS. N. STEWART
VICE PRINCIPAL: MR. D. POELZER

COUNSELLORS

Ms. Kelsey Davy	(A-F)
Ms. Katie Friesen	(I-Me)
Mrs. Erin Theunissen	(Mi-Z)

SECRETARIES

Mrs. Brittany van der Merwe
Mrs. Deanna Kucko
Mrs. Tanya Storey
Mrs. Valerie Cadoret
Mrs. Deb Collins (COUNSELLING)

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY—FRIDAY
8:00AM TO 4:00PM

SAFE GRAD COMMITTEE

Any parents interested in serving on the **Safe Grad Committee**, please join us for a meeting on **Tuesday, Sept. 16th at 6:30pm** in the NorKam library.

PHOTO RE-TAKES

Photo re-takes are happening **Wednesday, October 22nd** for any student who missed them on Monday, September 8th. Extra photo packages are available at the main office.

REPORTING ABSENCES

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

Visit: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>

Please choose the reason for your child's absence from school: sick, appointment, family vacation, etc. Don't forget to wait for a confirmation number.

Students leaving school during class or arriving late in the morning must sign in/out in the office. Parents will receive a phone notification through the computerized system for unexcused daily absences. Students who are going to be away for an extended period of time are asked to fill out a **Planned Absence Form**. Forms are available in the office.

SCHOOL FEES

Semester one student fees will be payable in the first week of **October**. You will receive an email notification from [School Cash Online](#) when fees have been added to your student's account.



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.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- If you are interested in learning about the Loran Award and how to apply, please [CLICK HERE](#).
- The Post-Secondary BC Event is coming to NorKam on the afternoon of **Friday Oct. 3rd**. Students will be called down from classes and be able to meet with representatives from various BC Universities in the cafeteria. Grads, mark the date in your calendar!

See this link for more details: <https://www.postsecondarybc.ca/>

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



September is Truth and Reconciliation month with our national holiday on September 30th. Please remember to wear your orange shirt to school on Sept. 29th in support and honour of this important day.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL WELLNESS

The first few months of a new school year can be a challenging and emotional time to navigate. With that in mind, we are sharing BC Children's Hospital's ['Back to School Wellness Toolkit'](#) to support parents, caregivers, and families during this transition.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Title: Partnering for Success

Wednesday, September 17th, 2025 From 6:00 PM to 7:00

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

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.

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

If you are interested in attending, please register in advance [here](#). Following your registration, you will receive the link to the meeting.

ATHLETICS

Volleyball is up and running for Jr. Girls, Jr. Boys and Sr. Girls. Please see the [athletics calendar](#) to stay up to date with what's happening in athletics.

LA BELLA SAINTS HAIR SALON

La Bella Saints will be opening to the public on October 7th. Our hours run from 9am until 3pm. We will be available for foils, balayage, colours, haircuts, and even perms. Our young stylists, currently level 1 apprentices, are supervised by a Red Seal Stylist and capable of all salon services. We have the most competitive prices in town for both hair services and retail products. Stop in to make an appointment or talk with one of our stylists to book online. Call us at **250-376-3133**.



NORKAM LIBRARY COMMONS

Hello everyone! The library staff wish to extend a personal welcome to all students, returning or new, to NorKam, and invite you to come on down to check out what we have to offer. The library is open for business - come in and take out fiction or non-fiction books, use the computers or Chromebooks, do some homework, play board games, role-playing games, or just hang-out! Feel free to put in a request for a book/series and we will do what we can to get it in! **Mr. Hafeli** and **Mr. Regnier** are here to help you out, so bring your lunch and explore/enjoy your library!

Library hours: Monday-Friday 8:10 am - 3:30 pm.

***If you need to stay later, it can be arranged with Mr. Hafeli - please plan ahead!*

NOTE: THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ELIMINATED LIBRARY ASSISTANT POSITIONS, SO THERE WILL BE AN INEVITABLE LOSS OF SERVICES THIS YEAR AS WE ADJUST TO THIS NEW REALITY. WE ARE SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THIS CAUSES

****Library portal:** <http://nksslibrary.weebly.com/> - access citation tools, databases, and more!

****FICTION SECTION BY GENRE!** 100s of brand new titles this month!! Look for signs in the fiction section and the **COLOURED** dots on book spine labels to find your favorite genre!



- Fantasy/SciFi/Dystopia
- Fiction/Relationships/Sports
- Mystery/Suspence/Crime
- Adventure/Disaster/Historical/Fiction/War
- Thriller/Horror/Supernatural
- Graphic Novels

LIBRARY REMINDERS:

- We have a universal self-serve device charging station - all phone cord types and induction charging available! **LIBRARY STAFF IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SELF-SERVE DEVICES - KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR OWN SMART PHONE!** We will charge devices during class time, but only if they are dropped off before class time - they can only be picked up between classes.
- Cell phone use is permitted in the library before/after school and during breaks, but no streaming video please. During class time we have the same expectations as classrooms
- Food and drinks are being permitted in the library on a trial basis **ONLY** during **LUNCH HOUR** and only at the **big brown tables**

NUMERICAL LOGINS FOR *NEW* SD73 STUDENTS ONLY!

These are only for students who were NOT in SD73 last year (e.g. international students). Chromebooks are available for use in the Library every block, at lunch, at long break, and after school! There are two ways to login to Chromebook/Google:

1. a) New SD73 Students:

Username: student#@gedu.sd73.bc.ca AND **password:** your choice

b) All Other Students:

Username: firstname.lastname@gedu.sd73.bc.ca AND **password:** sd + student #

****Any emails sent to this Google account will be automatically forwarded to your SD73 student Zimbra email*

2 - Use your own Google account login

**** see Mr. Hafeli if you are not able to login to the Chromebooks*

Have a great year and we hope to see you soon in the Library Learning Commons! From Mr. Hafeli, Mrs. Goss and Mr. Regnier



NorKam CARES We are Inquiring, Adaptable, Global Citizens

Compassion **A**ccountable **R**espect **E**xcellence **S**afety

I will... *I will...* *I will...* *I will...* *I will...*

About You

- ▶ Accept the qualities that make me unique
- ▶ Take ownership over my behaviour and learning
- ▶ Be on time, with supplies out, ready to learn
- ▶ Attend regularly and arrive on time
- ▶ Embrace that learning takes effort and time
- ▶ Exhibit a positive attitude and work to the best of my ability
- ▶ Be kind to myself and take care of myself
- ▶ Think before acting and consider the consequences of my actions

About Others

- ▶ Accept and celebrate everybody's individual differences
- ▶ Be kind and patient
- ▶ Contribute to a positive school community
- ▶ Take initiative to help others
- ▶ Be kind and use manners
- ▶ Listen to NKSS staff
- ▶ Respect the right of everyone to be heard and learn
- ▶ Encourage and support others to do their best
- ▶ Respect the personal space of others.

About Our Community & Environment

- ▶ Lend a hand when possible
- ▶ Use the proper recycling bin to reduce waste
- ▶ Report actions that go against CARES
- ▶ Advocate for peers and other community members
- ▶ Model school appropriate language
- ▶ Use designated areas appropriately
- ▶ Recognize the importance of diversity in our community.
- ▶ Take pride in our school and school culture
- ▶ Follow rules and guidelines.
- ▶ Follow the SD73 Student Code of Conduct



NORKAM SECONDARY SCHOOL

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR A POST SECONDARY INSTITUTION

1. Decide where you want to attend-- university/college. Most students pick 2 or 3 institutions.
2. Try and visit the campus if at all possible. Most universities/colleges offer tours.
3. Attend any University/College presentations at EMS to get more information and your questions answered.
4. Attend the BC Post Secondary Institution (PSI) evening and Canadian Universities Event (CUE).
5. Familiarize yourself with the admission requirements for the School and Faculty you plan to apply to.
6. Pay attention to the application deadlines.
7. If applying to BC universities/colleges go to educationplannerbc.ca and set up your account to apply directly to the institution via the website.
8. If applying to Ontario universities go to www.ouac.on.ca and set up your account.
9. If applying to universities in other parts of Canada go to the individual university websites.
10. Before applying to the university have a first and second choice of faculties (eg. 1st choice Science; 2nd choice Arts).
11. All you need to fill out the application form is your choice of faculties and a credit card.
Remember you can save an incomplete application and return to it later.
12. Once you have applied you will start to receive emails from each institution. **MAKE SURE YOU READ THE EMAILS AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.** These emails will give you a “to-do list” with deadlines. Write down your new email addresses (for the different schools you have applied to) along with your username and PW; do not resort to your memory.
13. Do not ask for an interim transcript until the universities/colleges ask you to send one in.
14. Make sure you have created an account on [Student Transcripts Service \(STS\)](#) and selected which schools the Ministry needs to send your marks to automatically for you.
15. If you are asked to self-report grades, be accurate and do not inflate your grades. Remember to have evidence to support your marks (eg. report card, marks print out, Diploma Verification).

PEO CHAPTER AT - STAR SCHOLARSHIP (\$2,500)

September 10, 2025

Dear Class of 2026 Female students:

If you are interested in applying for the PEO Star Scholarship for 2026, you must begin the process now.

A letter indicating your interest in being considered for this prestigious \$2500.00 scholarship needs to be sent to the local School Board Office by **Wednesday, October 1, 2025.**

The letter needs to describe your school and community service involvement; your individual area of talent in Athletics, Fine Arts (or both); and must be accompanied by a grade 11 transcript of marks.

The letter needs to identify what grade 12 courses you will be studying for your grade 12 year, and what your future post secondary academic plans are for 2026-2027.

Please list two personal references with contact information.

ELIGIBILITY

A student is eligible to be recommended for the P.E.O. STAR Scholarship provided she:

- ***Exhibits excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success.***
- Has a minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Is a citizen or legal permanent resident of Canada
- Plans to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in Canada or the U.S. full time or part time in the fall of the academic year following high school graduation
- Is recommended by and receives the vote of a Local P.E.O. Chapter
- The applications for individuals who satisfy this eligibility criteria will be evaluated on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, age, national origin, religious affiliation, disability or P.E.O. connection.

If you are selected as the nominee for our PEO Chapter, you must be prepared to complete an online application. The nominee application form includes all the previous information you will have given our Chapter, **plus** an essay.

A successful applicant will receive the \$2,500. once proof of post secondary acceptance is sent to the national PEO committee next spring.

We look forward to receiving your application by **Wednesday, October 1, 2025.**

Please make sure your phone contact and email address are included in your application.

You or your school counsellor needs to forward your application to the Kamloops-Thompson School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC V2C 3X7.

Attention: Mrs. Dana Heyman. Superintendent's Office.

Sincerely,

Wendy Lonson-Hoffman
PEO Chapter AT – Star Scholarship Committee