

Welcome 2025 Newsletter



Welcome back to the 2025-2026 school year. I would like to extend an additional welcome all our new families that have joined us this year. We are glad you have joined our Ralph Bell community.

To begin this new school year, all grade 1-7 students will return to their last year's classroom on Tuesday. All new students will enter through the main doors and meet in our library. They will join the classes after a short tour of the school. Students will remain in these classes for this first week.

Due to new student enrolments and students moving, we are continuing to build our classes. Sometimes there is anxiousness around the beginning of the school year about class placements, but those worries will usually disappear once there has been opportunity to experience the classroom and relationships begin to build. Parents can help to ease the worries about class placements by providing positive encouragement, support, and consistent messaging. Each new year brings many opportunities. Students can build new friends, experience different learning environments, develop new social, academic, and individual skills that leads to increased resilience and personal independence. We want you to know we appreciate your concerns and requests regarding your child's classroom placement and we are doing our best to fulfill those requests. Thank you for your support and patience during this process.

Thank you for being a valuable member of our Ralph Bell Elementary family. We value your support and participation in our school and look forward to another great year.

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LYONS LANDSCAPING



A large Bobcat shout out to Lyons Landscaping that provide soil and plants for our leadership group last year to put together beautiful flower pots for our front entrance! Thank you so much!

First Day of School - Sept. 2 (Gr 1-7)

- *Buses will pick up 2 hours early and drop off at home 2 hours earlier*

- *School will begin at 10:30*
 - *Students return to last year's classroom*
 - *New students to the library*
 - *Students will bring a lunch*
 - *Dismissal is at 12:39*
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First Day of Kindergarten

Kindergarten students will start on September 3. Please refer to the schedule¹. If you do not know which group your child is in, please contact the office as soon as possible.

¹<https://ralph-bell.sd73.bc.ca/Modules/News/index.aspx?newsId=ee874195-3ef3-4279-8134-10108e3a4d11>



Bell Schedule (except first and last day of school)

8:25 – Warning Bell

8:30 – Start of the day

10:00 – Recess

10:15 – End of Recess

12:15 – Lunch (eating)

12:35 – Lunch (playing)

1:10 – End of Lunch

1:15 – Afternoon session

2:39 – End of the day

Newsletters



The September school newsletter will be sent home via email and posted on our school website. During the year, monthly school newsletters will be sent home via email as well as posted on our school website. If you require a paper copy of the newsletters, please contact the office.

School information/dates will be in our monthly newsletters as well as on our website. In our first newsletter, you will find more information regarding sports, Parent Advisory Council, Safe Arrival, school supply information and much more.

Student Code of Conduct²



²<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/93823/?expanded=93950&preview=102797>

Please review the following, with your child:

- *Student Code of Conduct*³
 - *Dress Code*⁴
 - *Technology: Student Acceptable Use*⁵
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Bus Code of Conduct⁶



Please review the Bus Code of Conduct with your child:

To ensure the safety of all who ride school buses, school bus drivers are authorized to enforce the following rules and to deal accordingly with students who violate said rules:

- The driver is in full charge of the school bus and the students.
- School bus drivers are responsible for discipline on the bus and may recommend to the principal that a student who becomes a discipline problem be suspended from riding. The length of the suspension will be at the discretion of the principal, in consultation with the bus driver, and parents will be advised immediately of the suspension and its duration.
- Students will not be put off a bus at other than their normal bus stop.

³<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/93823/?preview=102797>

⁴<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/93823/?preview=94006>

⁵<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/93823/?preview=94005>

⁶<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/93823/?preview=94009>

- Standing, smoking or creating a disturbance of any kind is not permitted on a bus.
- Students will not extend anything out of school bus windows.
- Students must be on time for their bus, because drivers will not wait beyond the scheduled departure times at any stop.
- Bus stops will be placed only as agreed between the District and bus drivers. Buses will run only on public roads and will stop only in the safest place, regardless of possible inconvenience to individual passengers.

Please note the information can change with out notice. The most up-to-date version can be accessed on-line. Click on "Bus Code of Conduct" above.

Letter of Fair Notice For Parents and Students 2025-2026⁷

Parents, please review. Also, review with your child.

Personal Digital Device Policy⁸

Ralph Bell's Elementary's **personal digital devices** (cell phones, smart watches, laptops, and any other device that can access the Internet) expectations/policy is to promote online safety and focused learning environments for all students.

The use of personal digital devices will be restricted at Ralph Bell Elementary. Students will have **permission** to use their personal digital device as directed from their teacher or principal based on the following:

- Instructional purposes
- Digital literacy purposes
- Accessibility and accommodation needs (outlined in an Individual Education Plan, Service Plan or Annual Instruction Plan)
- Medical needs

Expectations

⁷https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/our-district-board/resources/Privacy_Policy_and_Support/Letter-of-Fair-Notice-For-Parents-and-Students-2025-2026.pdf

⁸<https://ralph-bell.sd73.bc.ca/en/our-schools-programs/resources/PDDG/Personal-Digital-Device.pdf>

- Restricted use from the time the student arrives at school to the time they leave the school property (including field trips).
- Students will be expected to turn off their device and store it in a secure location.
- The device will not be on their person or in their desk during the school day.
- If parents/caregivers need to contact their child, please contact the office and leave a message.
- Classroom phone passes are needed to use the school phone.
- Students are encouraged not to bring personal electronic devices to school.
- NO VIDEO or PHOTOS can be taken by student personal electronic devices.
- Any use of personal digital devices must comply with Administrative Procedure 145: Use of Personal Electronic Devices⁹
- Student behaviour that contravenes these guidelines will be addressed using Administrative Procedure 350: Student Code of Conduct¹⁰ and Administrative Procedure 355: Student Discipline¹¹.

In the spirit of complete transparency and a desire to work with our community, discipline for our Ralph Bell Elementary School Personal Digital Device Guidelines & Expectations will be structured around a progressive response system. It is designed to promote responsible personal digital device use and minimize disruptions during instructional time.

Below is a brief overview of the policy:

First Incident: If a student is found using their personal digital device during the school day, they will be asked to store their personal digital device in their lockers, with direction NOT to access the personal digital device until after school hours. The classroom teacher/principal will be notified.

Second Incident: If a student is found using their personal digital devices a second time, the personal digital device will be placed in the Principal's Office in a locked cupboard until the end of the day. The student will be allowed to retrieve their personal digital device at the end of the day. The parents/caregivers will be notified.

Third Incident: On the third occurrence, the personal digital device will be placed in the Principal's Office in a locked cupboard until a parent/caregiver can pick up the device from

⁹<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/93824/?preview=94045>

¹⁰<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/93950/?preview=102797>

¹¹<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/93950/?preview=94013>

school. Consultation with the Principal must occur in order to make a plan moving forward. This is intended to reinforce the importance of adhering to this ministry policy.

We believe that this policy will help create a more focused and productive learning environment for all students. It will also encourage and highlight responsible personal digital device usage and minimize distractions during class time. We kindly request your support in reinforcing this policy with your child and encourage you to discuss the importance of adhering to it.

Breakfast, Snacks, Lunch



*We will continue to offer lunches through Canuel Catering. The menus will be posted on Munch-a-Lunch (www.munchalunch.com¹²) or contact the office for a paper copy of the menu. **Mrs. Conroy will send out an email when it is open for purchase.***

You can also purchase our PAC Snack Days and Lunch Days at the same time. If you need financial assistance in purchasing lunches from Canuel Catering or PAC Snack Days/Lunch Days, please contact Mrs. Hawkins.

We will also have snacks/extra lunches for students that need more food or have forgotten their lunch.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: *we are looking for parent volunteers to help hand out lunches/snacks/extra food over the lunch break - 11:45-12:45. If you are able to help out, please contact Mrs. Hawkins.*

¹²<http://www.munchalunch.com>

***NEW THIS YEAR:** we will be providing breakfast for any student that may need breakfast in the morning. Breakfast will be served from 8:15-8:45am. Students will go to the PAC kitchen to receive their breakfast.*

Allergies



At Ralph Bell, we have several students and staff who have severe allergies to nuts. These individuals carry EPI-PENS, but an allergic reaction can result in an emergency and hospitalization with life threatening consequences. Please avoid sending lunches that contain nut products. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Parking

*Student drop off/pick up will be on Valleyview Drive and Knollwood Dr. and Knollwood Cres. **Please do not use** the front or back parking lot or the Day Care parking lot for drop off in the morning or after school pick up.*

The front parking lot will be used for students that may require support with mobility. This lot will also be used for guests and parents visiting the school during the day or picking up students during the day. The back parking lot will be used for staff.

To help reduce traffic during busy drop-off and pick-up times, we kindly encourage families to make use of the school buses whenever possible. Thank you for helping keep our mornings and afternoons running smoothly!

Student Expectations



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- **Playground** – students are allowed to play behind the school, playground and field. There is no playing in the front of the school or the side of the school near the staff parking lot. Students can drop off their back packs in the morning at their door and head to the play areas.
 - **Students are not allowed** to leave school property unless with an adult and signed out at the office. Please contact the office if you plan on having your child go home for lunch on a regular basis.
 - **School Phone** – will be used for emergencies only. Students are not allowed to use the phone to make after school plans. They must receive permission either from their teacher or the office to use the phone.
 - **End of Day Plans** – to support students at the end of the day, please communicate with your child the end of day plan (i.e., taking the bus, grandma is picking up etc.) before leaving for school in the morning.
 - **Non-Bus students** - if you plan for your child to go home with student that takes the bus, the bus driver needs a note before your child can ride the bus.
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Buses



If you have any inquires with the bus routes/ times/stops or you would like to register your child for the bus, please contact the Kamloops District Transportation Department ¹³(250-372-5853). We recommend all parents to register, even if you may not have your child take the bus regularly.

Current bus riders, please read your registration card carefully, as your bus number or pick-up time may have changed from the previous year.

Entrances



¹³<https://www.sd73.bc.ca/en/community-parents-and-students/register-for-busing.aspx>

Students will use their assigned doors to enter and exit the building. Parents/visitors/guests will use the front door. All visitors must sign in at the front office.

RALPH BELL WEBSITE¹⁴



RALPH BELL

ELEMENTARY

¹⁴<https://ralph-bell.sd73.bc.ca/en/index.aspx>