



École Secondaire South Kamloops Secondary School

Principal: Mr. W. Kirschner **Vice Principals:** Mrs. M. Mattes, Mr. S. Simpson
PAC Chair: Mrs. Julie Reimer
Website: <http://skss.sd73.bc.ca>



NEWSLETTER: September 2019

Important Dates

September 3	School Opens
September 16	Student Photos
September 23	Pro D Day
October 3	4W1 ends
October 4	4W2 starts
October 14	Thanksgiving
October 16	6W1 ends
October 17	Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
October 17	6W2 starts
October 18	Photo Retakes
October 25	Pro D Day
November 4-5	Assessments
November 6	4W2 ends
November 7	4W3 starts
November 7	Term 2 Begins
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 12	Marks Due
November 21	Report Cards
November 29	6W2 ends
December 2	Pro D Day
December 3	6W3 starts
December 11	4W4 begins
December 20	Last Day of Classes
December 23– January 3	Winter Break
January 6	School Re-opens
January 24	Term 2 Ends
January 23-24	Project Completion Day
January 24	Semester Turn Around
January 24	4W4 / 6W3 ends
January 27	Start of Semester 2/Term 3 Begins
January 27	4W5 begins
January 28	Marks Due
February 6	Report Cards
February 7	Pro-D Day
February 17	Family Day
March 2	4W5 ends
March 3	4W6 starts
March 12	Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
March 16 – March 20	Spring Break
April 9	4W6 ends / Term 3 ends
April 14	Term 4 Starts / 4W7 starts
April 15	Marks Due
April 10	Good Friday
April 13	Easter Monday
April 23	Report Cards
April 27	Pro-D Day
May 15	Pro-D Day
May 18	Victoria Day
May 21	4W8 starts
June 13	Commencements
June 23	Last Day of Classes
June 24	Term 4 Ends
June 24-25	Project Completion Day
June 26	Admin Day

Principal's Message...

Welcome back to all of our students and staff at SKSS !!! I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and now it is time to gear up for another exciting year on our campus!! The first two weeks of school have been outstanding with all of our students placed in full-time schedules. We had just over 10 new registrants and 41 international students enroll at SKSS, which currently has our school enrolment at 938 students. It is always nice to see new students from all around the world as well as an ambitious and excited group of 188 grade 8's join our school and add to the already outstanding spirit and culture that is a TITAN.

With the start of a new school year also comes the opportunity to welcome new staff to our building. I would like to do my first "Titans Call-out" for the year to the following new staff members: Mr. Simpson- Vice-Principal, Ms. St. Hilaire- SS/En, Ms. Dalgleish- Inclusive education, Ms. de Pierrepont- FSL, Mr. Mahil- Math/CE 8, Mr. Lancaster- French Immersion and Ms. Hill- French Immersion. I would also like to welcome our new support staff which includes: Ms. Imeson- Library Assistant, Ms. Lamberton- 4 hour steno and Ms. Boyd- First Nations Education Worker. We look forward to a spirited school year with all of our new staff being a part of our "Titans" team.

The 2019/20 school year also brings to us the fourth year of implementation of the BC Education curriculum at SKSS which now includes all courses in grades 8 to 12. This is indeed a very exciting time in education as our course delivery and curriculum evolves to more of a personalized and inquiry based model with a focus on the Core Competencies of: Thinking, Communication and Personal & Social. At SKSS, our staff has worked hard to implement all of these competencies over the past three years and we look forward to spending even more time this year through professional development and our professional learning community initiatives to further enhance our existing work. If you would like to look at all of the completed courses, please visit the following site for more detailed information: <http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

We are also very happy to continue with our Connections Block & Professional Learning Community model at SKSS which provides our students with a comprehensive support system to permit success in all of their classes. Our PLC model provides our staff with collaborative time to engage in professional conversations that are specific to the needs of students on our campus. The Connections component allows for our students to receive additional support within all of our dept's during this scheduled time on Wednesday afternoons from 2:10 to 3:00. Each department will post a schedule of where students can go during this time to receive additional academic support. The

calendar for early dismissals is posted on our website for the year with the first scheduled dismissal occurring on September 25th.

Our website at SKSS is an excellent source for timely information with regards to our school calendar, academics, athletics and several school initiatives. Please take the time to visit the site at: www.skss.sd73.bc.ca. I strongly recommend that you use this site to keep up to date on everything happening on our campus.

A reminder to our parents that we have a very supportive PAC at SKSS under the current leadership of Julie Reimer. Our SKSS PAC serves as a great collaborative role with our school with a primary focus on our learning environment and supporting student-centered initiatives. These are not fundraising positions, but rather opportunities to be a part of goal setting and planning to enhance our overall educational programs within our building. Our first scheduled meeting for 2019/20 is on September 26th at 7pm in our library. I will also be sending a note out through our MyEd email before our meeting dates for this year and I look forward to welcoming new parents who would like to be a part of our school/community planning.

As I enter my fourth year at SKSS, I look forward to continuing to work hard for our students, staff and our community with a primary goal of respecting our tradition of excellence in academics, social responsibility and extra-curricular programs. Lets have another great year Titans !!!

Sincerely,

Walt Kirschner- Principal

SKSS PAC

The next PAC meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 26th at 7 pm** in the school Library. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings.

To contact PAC by email: sksspac@gmail.com

SCHOOL COURSE FEES

Please note that school course fees will not be collected until the week **starting Tuesday, September 24th**. Fee statements with the total owing for first semester, will be issued to students on **September 20th**. Fees can be paid by cash, cheque or debit at the office. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8-4 pm.

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

Transportation Assistance may be granted in accordance with the Public School Act to parents/legal guardians whose situation qualifies as follows:

- Distance to designated school for that attendance area is more than 4.8 km; or
- Distance to bus route is more than 3.2 km

Application forms are available at the school office or download here [Transportation Assistance Form](#). A reminder to all students who are eligible for School District #73 Transportation Assistance that **a new application form must be completed each year.**

MEDICAL ALERT

There are students in school, with conditions that are physician diagnosed and potentially life threatening that may require emergency care by school staff.

Life Threatening Conditions Include:

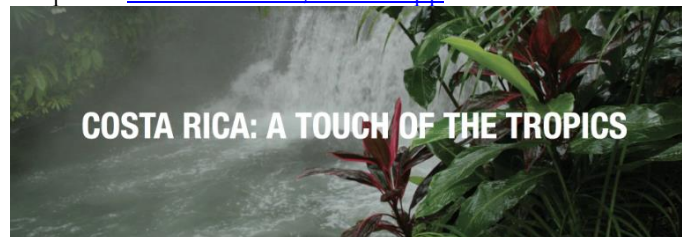
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy/Seizure disorder
- Anaphylaxis and/or history of severe allergic reaction
- Severe asthma
- Blood clotting disorders such as hemophilia
- Other conditions which may require emergency care.

If your child has been diagnosed with any of the above conditions, please ensure you have completed a Medical Alert Planning Form or an Anaphylactic Student Emergency Procedure Plan Form. If you have not completed a form for the 2019-20 school year, please do so as quickly as possible. Forms are available from the office or download here: [Anaphylactic Student Emergency Procedure Plan Form](#) [Medical Alert Planning Form](#) and [Administering Medication Form](#).

SPRING BREAK 2020

Student Travel Opportunity Spring Break 2020

Interested in a safe travel opportunity? Join Mrs. Yamaoka an EF tour for Spring Break 2020! For more details please contact: lyamaoka@sd73.bc.ca
Tour Details & Tour Quote: Costa Rica a Touch of the Tropics – www.cftours.ca/2145759pp



SKSS WEBSITE

The SKSS website is a fountain of information. On the main page and left side of the screen under “Main Menu” you will find a number of folders. “About SKSS” is an excellent folder with many forms you may access such as the Transportation Assistance Form. Also, the Bell Schedule and School Calendar are helpful resources. We also have a list of all teachers with email addresses included.

Visit our website anytime at [SKSS Website](#)

SKSS ART NIGHT



GRAD CORNER

Thursday October 3 Parent Meeting for Safe Grad
7PM in the library

Saturday, June 13th, 2020 Commencements
(Grad Banquet/Commencement Ceremony)

Grad Photo Sessions:

December 11-19

February 5-6

Retakes

Please note: The sign-up sheets will be available in the office approximately 2 weeks prior to session dates.

The first Grad Newsletter will be posted to the school website in the near future. Visit the school website at www.skss.sd73.bc.ca and click on the Grad News and Info folder. If you are a Grad who isn't registered in regular classes at the school (i.e. attending ACEIT programs) please contact the school with your e-mail address so we can forward information to you. Mrs. Mattes (Vice Principal) is the school contact for Grad although the Dry Grad Parent Committee is responsible for Dry Grad and the Prom. This year's Grad Parent Committee has not yet been announced but we will post this information to the website and newsletters when it is confirmed.

TNT NEWS

1. Did you have a summer job? If you worked under the supervision of a certified tradesperson, you may be eligible for dual high school and apprenticeship credits! Please see Ms. Gillis in Student Services this week for more information.

2. For all trades and transition opportunities such as dual credit Trades Foundations Programmes at TRU and Trades Samplers at NorKam, please see Ms. Gillis in Student Services right away!

For all of these opportunities and more, please see Ms. Gillis in Student Services right away!

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Parents/guardians are reminded to call the school (250-374-1405), or send a note with your child to the office in anticipation of any known absence. If your child is leaving the school during the school day, please send a note with them and remind them that they are to sign out at the office as they leave. As part of our custodial responsibility to your child, we will not release students until we have confirmation from parents either in the form of a note or, in the absence of a note, through telephone contact with parents. Thank you.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

DO YOU HAVE ABORIGINAL ANCESTRY? Any lineage at all gives you the opportunity to access Aboriginal programs and services. You do not have to be Status, Métis or Inuit. You will gain access to: Scholarships and Bursaries, Aboriginal Family Counselling, cultural activities, events, field trips and much more. Drop in to see Aboriginal Education Workers Brandi Rusk and Val Wright in room 116 asap.

COUNSELLING NEWS

There will be a Gr. 12 scholarship meeting on Thursday, Oct. 3rd at lunch. General information on scholarships will be discussed. Please bring paper and a pen.



PARENTING IN A DIGITAL WORLD



Wednesday, September 25th
6:30pm to 8:30pm
Henry Grube Education Centre

This event will be live streamed to the following community high schools:

Barriere Secondary - Contact Mr. Paul Hembling 250-672-9943
Chase Secondary - Contact Mr. Dave McDonald 250-679-3219
Clearwater Secondary - Contact Mr. Darren Coates 250-674-3328
Logan Lake Secondary - Contact Mr. Ron Collins 250-523-0441

For Parents of School-Aged Children

With society heading in a direction of being constantly connected to technology, what do we need to know as parents to protect our children and teach them responsible and appropriate use of technology? The parameters of rules and expectations that you put in place at home will undoubtedly guide their behaviour in the years to come. Please join us for an informative presentation which will cover the following topics and more!

PARENTS: Do not miss this free event!

- **Social Media Update** - The most current apps & trends in their social media lives
- **Pick Your Battles!** - You will have to balance the yin with the yang, promote independence whilst taking a strong stance on certain subjects
- **Current Research** - Brain development & technology, violent video games
- **Digital Footprint and Reputation** - With their future approaching, recruiters and employers are taking note – What will they find?
- **Tips & Tricks to Use at Home**



SAFER SCHOOLS TOGETHER – an organization focused on promoting a climate and culture of safety in schools through comprehensive education - www.saferschoolstogether.com



From September 09, 2019, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

CONSENT AGENDA

Audit Committee Highlights

The Audit Committee met with Mario Pirrodi, Partner, BDO to review the recommended operating reserve adjustments and to discuss local capital reserve transfers.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent, **Alison Sidow** submitted her monthly Superintendent's Report to the Board for their review. Highlights from the summer were noted, in particular, the opening of Westsyde Elementary School. [Read more.](#)

EDUCATION TOPIC

Career Education

The Ministry of Education has designated Career Development as the third pillar of education in the newly redesigned curriculum and requires every K-12 student to have Career Education as a course. Director **Lisa Carson**, District Principal **Sheryl Lindquist**, and Coordinator, **Allison Badger**, presented on the program they developed to help educators help students plan for a future where they are expected to have up to 12 careers. [Read more.](#)

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Mental Health in the Workplace

In the Psychological Healthy and Safe Workplace presentation, **Darlene Doricic**, Disabilities and Attendance Support Manager, shared how SD73 is rolling out mental health literacy for all employees. The Parkcrest Elementary fire is an example of the importance of understanding individual responses to stress and trauma; and, the significance of connecting each staff and student to supports that work for them.

2019 School Start-Up Report

The 2019-2020 school year began on Sept. 3 with over 790 classrooms (41 portables) and 83 buses ready to roll in SD73. Department and school staff provided an overview of more than 40,000 hours invested to ensure more than 15,000 students were welcomed safely into 47 schools. Gratitude was expressed for the commitment of the 2,305 teaching and support staff who prepared for students to walk through the door on the first day of school.

Summer Learning Report

There was a significant increase in the number of students enrolled in July's Summer Learning Program. In 2018, 341 students were enrolled in the Elementary program, and 73 in the Secondary Program. In 2019, 451 students enrolled in the Elementary Program and 107 in the Secondary Program That is a whopping enrollment increase of 34 percent at secondary and 47 percent at elementary respectively.

Preliminary Enrollment Update

When comparing Sept. 30, 2018 enrolment to current figures on Sept. 6, 2019 the district's enrolment is showing a net increase of 143

students, 87 over our February projection. Elementary schools have shown the most growth with 132 new students, increasing total elementary enrollment to more than 9,000 for the first time in decades. Secondary has increased by 11 students over last year.

Staffing Requests

To accommodate the additional students the Board authorized 4.3148 elementary teaching positions to the elementary staffing budget. Additional teaching staff will be added to Logan Lake, Aberdeen, Pacific Way, R. L. Clemitson, Dallas and Beattie Elementary.

Parkcrest Elementary Recovery and TREC Relocation

The District met with staff, parents and guardians of students from two schools over the weekend to reveal the first phase of the Parkcrest Recovery Plan, which will see all students and staff from Parkcrest move into George Hilliard Elementary by Monday, September 16. Although the move to the NorKam facility will go-ahead for the majority of students, parents noted that some students required more individualized programming. District staff were asked to explore the ability to provide additional programming for individual students with specific needs other than the relocated Twin Rivers Education Center at the NorKam Senior site, as well as determine the potential to eventually relocate the consolidated Twin Rivers Education Center at the Happyvale site. Staff will also look into alternative locations for pre-schools currently operating at Happyvale. [Read more.](#)

Trustees Support Parkcrest with Funds

Trustees allocated \$70,000 from the district business company, Global Education, to replace classroom and school supplies at Parkcrest Elementary lost in last Thursday's fire. "We could not think of a better way to assist Parkcrest Elementary staff and students with rebuilding their school routines," said Kathleen Karpuk, Chair SD73 Board of Education. "This money has been set aside for a rainy day, and supporting 40 staff and 340 students certainly will go a long way to enhancing students' experiences at school." [Read more.](#)

REPORTS FROM SECRETARY-TREASURER

Pinantan Elementary Playground Update

The TNRD Board of Directors approved spending a maximum of \$85,000 of its federal gas tax revenues to assist with funding the improvement to the Pinantan Elementary School playground. The school's Parent Advisory Group has committed to contribute \$15,000 toward the upgrade which is scheduled to be installed in the spring of 2020.

Sagebrush Theatre Update

The steel trusses to support the roof of the theatre will be installed over the weekend of Sept. 20.

Valleyview Secondary Update

The project is proceeding on schedule and district staff are scheduled to meet with the architect next week to begin the process of finalizing the design.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND CHAIR

Chair's Report

Owl Award Call for Nominations

2019 nominations are now open for an individual, group or organization who have a made significant, system-wide and outstanding contribution to public education in SD73 over a period of time (five years or more), and have had a positive, significant impact on the development of students, parents, teachers, support staff and educational leaders. [Read more.](#)

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings

September 21, 2019 - Meet with MLAs Stone and Milobar

September 23, 2019 - District-wide non-instructional day

September 23, 2019 - Public Board Meeting at Sun Peaks Elementary School

[Read the Full Agenda](#)

Board Notes are highlights from the regular meeting of the Board of Education for School District No.73 (Kamloops-Thompson).
Expect your next issue of Board Notes after the Sept. 23, 2019 meeting.