



École Secondaire South Kamloops Secondary School

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



NEWSLETTER: September 2018

Important Dates

September 4	School Re-opens
September 17	School Photo Day
September 21	No Classes - Pro-D Day
October 5	4W1 Ends
October 8	School Closed – Thanksgiving
October 9	4W2 Starts
October 10	Interim Reports issued
October 16	6W1 Ends
October 17	6W2 Starts
October 18	Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews/Photo Re-takes
October 19	No Classes - Pro-D Day
November 8	End of Term 1/4W2 Ends
November 9	Term 2/4W3 Starts
November 12	School Closed – Remembrance Day
November 23	Report Cards
November 28	6W2 Ends
November 29	6W3 Starts
December 3	No Classes – Pro-D Day
December 10	Interim Reports Issued
December 12	4W3 Ends
December 13	4W4 Starts
December 24-January 4	Winter Break
January 7	School Re-opens
January 21-22	Double Blocks
January 23-24	Project Completion Days/Term 2 Ends
January 24-25	Government Exams
January 28	Semester 2/Term 3 Begins/4W5/6W4 Starts
February 7	Report Cards issued
February 8	No Classes – Pro D Day
February 18	School Closed - Family Day
March 1	No Classes – Pro-D Day
March 4	4W5 Ends/Interims Issued
March 5	4W6 Starts
March 14	Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
March 15	6W4 Ends
March 18-March 22	Spring Break
March 25	School Re-opens/6W5 Starts
April 1	No Classes- Pro-D Day
April 5	Day of Suwewtwecw
April 12	Term 3/4W6 Ends
April 15	Term 4/ 4W7 Starts
April 19	School Closed – Good Friday
April 22	School Closed – Easter Monday
April 26	Report Cards issued
May 10	6W5 Ends
May 13	6W6 Starts
May 17	No Classes – Pro-D Day
May 20	School Closed - Victoria Day
May 21	Interim Reports Issued
May 22	4W7 Ends
May 23	4W8 Starts
June 14	Commencements
June 19-20	Double Blocks
June 20	Last Day of Classes
June 21-24	Project Completion Days
June 21-26	Numeracy Assessment
June 24-25	Government Exams
June 27	Report Cards
June 28	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 week of school has been outstanding with the majority of students placed in full-time schedules and our counseling staff with a goal to have all course changes complete by the end of this week. We have had over 20 new registrants to SKSS which has our school enrolment currently at 940 students. It is always nice to see new students as well as an ambitious and excited group of 147 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. Badgero- En/SS, Ms. Fonseca- Drama/SS, Ms. Hay- Mathematics, Ms. Boisvert- French Immersion, Ms. Lee-Math/Sc., Ms. McInnes- SPED/Psych/En., Mr. Spanis- Science, Mr. Thompson- Mathematics and Ms. Thompson- Foods. I would also like to welcome our new support staff which includes: Ms. Conroy- Counseling Steno, Ms. Wright- First Nations Education Worker and our new evening custodian Mr. Johnson. We look forward to a spirited school year with all of our new staff being a part of our "Titans" team.

The 2018/19 school year also brings to us the third year of implementation of the BC Education curriculum at SKSS for our grade 8, 9 and 10's. 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 have worked hard to implement all of these competencies over the past two 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 the completed grade 8/9/10 courses and the grade 11-12 draft curriculums, 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 calendar for early dismissals will be posted on our website for the year with the first scheduled dismissal occurring on September 26th.

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 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 2018/19 is on September 18th at 7pm in our library. I will 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 third 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 **Tuesday, September 18th 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 Monday, September 24th**. Fee statements with the total owing for first semester, will be issued to students on **September 24th**. 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.**

SPRING BREAK 2020

Student Travel Opportunity Spring Break 2020

Interested in a safe travel opportunity? Join Mrs. Yamaoka in planning an EF tour for Spring Break 2020! We had such a fantastic student trip this year to Europe, I am happy to share that I will be organizing a tour in two years! If your student is interested in travelling for an amazing learning experience to Costa Rica please stay connected and join the email list. Stay up to date for our parent meeting in October 2018.

Please contact Lisa Yamaoka for more details at:

lyamaoka@sd73.bc.ca

Tour Details & Tour Quote: Costa Rica a Touch of the Tropics

www.eftours.ca/2145759pp

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 2018-19 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](#).

KIDS PLUS ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance

For your convenience, we've made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc (iA Financial Group).

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the unexpected costs of injury from accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

For complete plan details, please visit kidsplus.ca.

Kids Plus™
Accident Insurance



iA Financial Group is a business name and trademark of Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.

<https://www.kidsplus.ca/plan-information>

If you would like to purchase insurance, please use the link above for more information. New this year, the entire process is online for your convenience.

ATHLETICS

The Fall Athletic Meeting for parents, guardians, and athletes will be held on Tuesday, September 18th at 6:00 pm in the South Kamloops gym.

This is a presentation from South Kamloops Secondary in conjunction with School District #73. This meeting has previously been presented and would be beneficial for all Grade 8's and new students to South Kamloops.

If your son/daughter is playing a Fall Sport, please make sure that someone is there. Athletic information, policies, etc. will be discussed.

More information on South Kamloops Athletics can be found at:

<http://southkamloopsathletics.blogspot.com/>

More information on West Zone Athletics can be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/westzoneathletics/>

THAILAND 2019

Any students interested in going to THAILAND at Spring Break this year can look over an itinerary and costs through the EF Tours website. Tour #1979344TE (TREASURES OF THAILAND) or contact Mr. Yamaoka (cyamaokas@sd73.bc.ca) for more information.

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 Flora King and Val Wright in room 116 asap.

GRAD CORNER

Friday, June 14th, 2019

Commencements

(Grad Banquet/Commencement Ceremony)

Grad Photo Sessions:

December 11-20

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.

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](#)

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, the new Trades & Transitions Co-ordinator for more information.

2. TRU Start courses: If you are interested in completing a first-year TRU course while in Grade 12, there may still be spots in individual courses starting in January. If you are in grade 11 and considering this option for Grade 12, it's not too early to start making a plan. The deadline for applications for next year (2019/20) is April 1st, 2019.

3. Hairstyling in Semester II still has spots! You can earn 16 high school credits toward graduation and will be trained in a Red Seal trade at a qualified training centre through the school district. See Ms. Gillis to apply for a spot in the programme starting in January, 2019.

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

MESSAGE FROM MRS. SIDOW



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 73 (KAMLOOPS / THOMPSON)

1383 - 9th Avenue, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 3X7

Tel: (250) 374-0679 Fax: (250) 372-1183 www.sd73.bc.ca

Fair Notice for Parents - March 2018

Dear Parents:

The safety of our children is a top priority for us all. As a school system, we have been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners – the police, Child & Youth Mental Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Together we have developed a district plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others. School District No. 73 has a policy in place that requires principals to activate a multidisciplinary “threat assessment” protocol in all cases of students making significant high level threats to harm themselves or others. The policy is #542.1 and is available on the school district website at www.sd73.bc.ca

What is a threat?

- an expression of intent to do harm or act our violently against someone or something
- may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture

Duty to report

In order to keep school communities safe and caring staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal.

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- to ensure and promote the emotional and physical safety of students, staff, parents, the student making the threat, and others
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- to understand the factors underlying the behaviours of the threat maker
- to be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker
- to promote the emotional and physical safety of all

A student threat assessment will be initiated for behaviours including, but are not limited to:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- online threat to harm/kill others
- possession of weapons (including replicas)
- gang related intimidation and violence
- verbal/written threats to harm/kill others (clear, direct, plausible)
- bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devises)
- fire starting
- sexual intimidation and violence

What Parents and Student need to know

- any threat must be reported to the school principal
- investigations may involve the student services counselor, the police 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
- threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action
- 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 School 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 by limiting collection to 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,

Alison Sidow
Superintendent of Schools



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 73 (KAMLOOPS / THOMPSON)

1383 - 9th Avenue, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 3X7

Tel: (250) 374-0679 Fax: (250) 372-1183 www.sd73.bc.ca

Fair Notice for Students – March 2018

Dear Students:

School District No. 73 has a policy in place that requires principals to activate a multidisciplinary “threat assessment” protocol in all cases of students making significant high level threats to harm themselves or others. The policy is #542.1 and is available on the website at www.sd73.bc.ca

What behaviours initiate a student threat assessment?

A student threat assessment will be initiated when behaviours include but are not limited to: serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill, verbal/written threats to harm/kill, Internet website/MSN threats to harm/kill, possession of weapons (including replicas), bomb threats and fire setting.

Duty to report

In order to keep school communities safe and caring staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal.

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.

What is a Site-Specific Threat Assessment Team?

The school has a site-specific threat assessment team that includes the principal(s), counsellor(s), teachers and a member of the police.

The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behaviour
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all

What happens in a student threat assessment?

All threat making behaviour by a student shall be reported to the Principal who will activate the protocol for the initial response. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and staff to determine the level of risk and develop an appropriate response to the incident. Intervention plans will be developed and shared with parents, staff and students as required.

Can I refuse to participate in a threat assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker or parent / guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to promote a safe and caring learning environment.

Collection Notice

The School 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 by limiting collection to 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,

Alison Sidow
Superintendent of Schools