



PACIFIC WAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2330 Pacific Way Kamloops, B.C. V1S 1Z3

Phone (250) 851-0632 Fax (250) 851-0732

September 2016 Newsletter

Welcome back, everyone! It is a tremendous privilege for me to be able to serve the Pacific Way school community as your new principal this year. I was the principal at Arthur Hatton Elementary on the north shore over the past three years, and prior to that have had the opportunity to lead several schools in our district, including Aberdeen, Haldane, Savona and Blue River. Everywhere I've been, I just keep on learning! It's really exciting for me to join the team here now as the school enters its sweet sixteenth year of existence. I look forward to being a part of the growth process here as well, and making connections with you and your children.

Our newsletters will all be posted on the school website (<http://pacificway.sd73.bc.ca>) and you will be notified when they come out. Typically, a newsletter will be published on a monthly basis.

Pacific Way's Staff for the 2016/2017 School Year

Kindergarten	Mrs. Wassing	Grade 5	Mrs. Alm / Mr. Cuzzetto
Kindergarten	Mrs. Anderson	Grade 5 / 6	Mr. Sandhu
Grade 1	Ms. Thoms	Grade 6 / 7	Mrs. Morrow / Ms. Gardner
Grade 1	Mrs. Gundel	Grade 6 / 7	Mrs. Wiwchar
Grade 2	Mrs. Russell-Sherwood	Library	Mrs Piva
Grade 2	Mrs. McLaren / Mrs. Piva	LART	Mrs Finch
Grade 3	Mrs. Johnson	French	Mrs. Ruberg
Grade 3 / 4	Mr. Bigham	Gym Prep	Mrs. Jumaga
Grade 4	Mrs. Salle		
Principal		Mr. Rempel	
Secretary		Mrs. Dacho	
Library Assistant		Mrs. Kipp	
Certified Education Assistants	Mrs. O'Donovan, Mrs. Poeppel, Mrs. LeBlanc		
First Nations Education Worker	Mr. Michel		
Custodians	Mr. Wood, Mr. Ulmer		

Bell Schedule



- 8:20 - Students can enter the school. There is no supervision before this time.
- 8:30 - Morning classes commence.
- 10:05 - Recess begins – students go outside.
- 10:20 - Recess ends – students return to classes.
- 12:01 - Lunch begins.
- 12:16 - Students may leave their classrooms and go outside or to other activities.
- 12:45 - Warning bell.
- 12:50 - End of Lunch Break
- 2:30 - Students dismissed for the day.

Class Placement Process

The staff works hard in developing placements for students. Factors such as, male/female ratio, academic groupings, independence level, class size regulations, siblings and parent requests are given consideration. Those parents who contacted the school in the spring have had their request considered, but in the final analysis, placement of children is the school's responsibility.

Requests are often made based on rumour and not firsthand knowledge. Each year the staff wrestles with placement decisions, and it is usually the case that 99% of placements are fine. Worries that might seem enormous during the first few days of school usually disappear once classroom programs and relationships have been established. As parents, you can do a lot to dispel your child's insecurities about this by your encouragement and support. Every year is an opportunity to make new friends and experience different learning environments. So the tears and fears that may take place in the first few days are only temporary, soon to be replaced by excitement and enthusiasm!

Why are there split grades or multi-aged classrooms? Are straight classes superior to split classes?

Staff is assigned to our school, based on projected enrollment, and is not enough for each grade to be taught as a straight grade. The number of students does not equal the size of classes as determined by the teachers' collective agreement for class size, so we therefore will have split classes where necessary. There is no qualitative difference between split and straight classes. They are more work for the staff. The B.C. curriculum is taught as directed by the Ministry of Education. In most split class situations a combined curriculum is presented. The younger students in the class will not hinder older students nor will the younger students gain any more advantage by being with the older students. The upper grades of split classes are NOT for lower ability students and vice versa.

For more information on this topic, I have placed a link on our school website entitled "Organizing Our School."

Pacific Way's Safe Arrival Program

Pacific Way Elementary has a safe arrival program in place to ensure the safety and well being of our students. In the event that your child is going to be late or absent, please phone and leave a message with the voice mail number **250-434-3067** stating your child's first and last name, teacher's name, and reason for the absence. Each morning, the call will be retrieved and list will be compared to the list of students marked absent by the classroom teacher. Any discrepancy will be verified with a phone call home. The voice mail is available 24 hours a day but if you are calling after 8:30 a.m. during the school day call the office at **250-851-0632**.

Recess & Lunch

We encourage parents to send a nutritious snack for recess. All students are expected to go outside at recess and lunch. Students need permission to leave the school grounds at lunch. Please contact the teacher if you want your child to go home at lunch. One note for the year is sufficient if your child goes home each day.

Terry Fox Run/Walk

Pacific Way's annual Terry Fox Run will take place on **Thurs. afternoon, September 22nd**. We will start the event with warm-up activities on the school's soccer field followed by the run/walk. Everyone is welcome to join in. We will be sending home information sheets with your child as we strive to do our part for Cancer Research.

Parents, for student safety, please abide by the traffic safety rules around the school!



Drop-off Loop – Traffic congestion in the loop is a safety concern! Vehicles are not to stop in the loop for any longer than 20 seconds – time required to drop off or pick up your child. If you must stop and wait for your child please do so in the school's two parking lots or out on Pacific Way Drive.

Pedestrian Crosswalk - The City of Kamloops has painted a "Zebra Crosswalk" across Pacific Way Drive just above our school's entrance way. Please ensure that your children use this crosswalk when crossing Pacific Way enroute to and from school.

30 km/hr School Zone – Remember!! Pacific Way Drive from the corner of Pacific Way & Aberdeen => all the way up past the school's entrance way is a **30 km/hr School Zone!!**

Dogs on school grounds

Please keep your dogs away from the pickup and drop off areas before and after school. There is a city by law that prohibits dogs from school grounds, and with all the parents and small children concentrated in those areas at that time it is best to leave your four legged friends at home. (Thank you)

Dress Code

Students and their parents are expected to support a learning environment where attire is appropriate and not distracting or offensive to others. Articles of clothing which promote alcohol, drugs, inappropriate languages or images, or discrimination of any form, are unacceptable. Clothing that is too revealing is also unacceptable. For example, undergarments should not be visible, and shirts should touch pants/shorts/skirts so that the stomach is not visible. Please remember students are dressing for their "work" day not the beach. What students wear should not be a distraction to the classroom learning environment. Teachers have the discretion to ask students who wear clothing that is deemed inappropriate to change. Please ensure your child is dressed for school appropriately.

Labelling Children's Clothing

How can you as parents help reduce this year's collection of lost & found items?? **Label your children's clothing with their name.** As well, please make a point of checking our lost and found bin whenever you visit the school. It is always full with misplaced items, which if labelled could be returned to the rightful owners.

Parents please watch for the following notices coming home with your child.

- Verification Forms – Please **update** these forms and **sign** them and return them to the teacher. If there are no changes, please **sign** the back and **return** them to the teacher.
- Student Accident Forms. These forms are sent directly to the company – **not** sent back to the school.
- Pacific Way Elementary School Supplies form. This form covers all the student supplies, agenda and the YPC fees. Please return these forms with payment to your **teacher**.

School Visitors

Please sign in at the office when you visit our school at times *other than pick up or drop off*. (after 8:45 a.m. and before 2:15 p.m.) We have a number of people with sensitivities to animals and scents so please do not bring pets into the school without special permission and please do not wear perfumes if you are coming in to the school. For parents who arrive before 2:30, please remain outside or quietly in the hall until the teacher dismisses the class. If you need to see your child during class time please check in at the office. We will call your child to the office to avoid disruption to the class.

Gotchas

The staff at Pacific Way utilizes the Positive Behaviour Intervention and Supports system to promote positive behaviour in the school. One part of this system is to have staff present students with Gotchas. These are given to students for being Positive, Accountable, Cooperative and Kind. They are used to provide positive verbal feedback to students for being good citizens and role models at our school. Each week a draw is done and several students are invited to the office to receive a school pen and have their photo taken. You can see our students of the week outside the office on a bulletin board.

Volunteers

We are in need of the following volunteers at Pacific Way Elementary. Please let us know if you can help us out.

- Noon Hour Supervisors – a \$10 per diem is paid
- Coaches – running, volleyball, basketball, track.

Proper Gym Strip for Phys Ed

Just as pens, pencils, notebooks, and other materials are required for classroom work, students require proper clothing for Phys. Ed classes. Please ensure your child always has the following clothing items at school for Phys Ed classes:

- Indoor non-scuffing runners
- T-shirt
- Shorts or sweat pants

These clothing items will ensure your child gets the most from their Phys Ed classes. Thank you!

Medical Alert Information

Parents, it is imperative that the school be informed if your child has a serious health condition, any life-threatening allergies, or requires medication to be administered during school hours.

Please drop by the school office to obtain and fill out the required forms.

MedicAlert's No Child Without Program is at Our School

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program. MedicAlert is your child's voice in an emergency.

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur. For further information come to the office for a brochure or go to www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office. If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1-866-679-3220 to update your child's file.

PAC Information

The PAC would like to introduce you to the new executive committee this year:

Candice Ewen – Co-Chair
Ashley Folk – Co-Chair
Shandel Belley – Treasurer
Lora Sartori – Secretary
Kristen Mochrie – Executive Volunteer
Tara Doern – Executive Volunteer

The first PAC meeting will be held on September 21, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the media room. Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you there.

Please re-register for the hot lunch and information site at pacificway.hotlunches.net Information on how to sign up will go out with your child shortly. Hot lunch should be up and running the last week of September. Volunteers are always needed to help hand out hot lunches.

PAC Volunteers are also needed to help: deliver milk for the milk program; veggie program, lego club; and craft club. If you are interested in any of these programs or any other programs, please email the PAC at pacwaypac@gmail.com

The Great Little Coupon book fundraiser is here again!! Coupon books will be out next week.

Community News

Scouts

Kids join scouts for amazing experiences they can't find anywhere else. Scouts is the start of something great. Find out how to become a scout today. Open registration @Aberdeen elementary September 15, 6pm-7pm in the community room or contact Nina @ [\(250\)879-2398](tel:2508792398). Or Third Kamloops c/of Frank Watson @ [\(250\)372-3742](tel:2503723742).

Learn to Dive – Riptech Diving

Fall session begins September 19th, at the Canada Games Pool. To register or for more information call 250-320-0436 or email info@riptech.ca Website www.riptech.ca

9th Annual Raise-a-Reader Campaign, in Support of Literacy!

2016 Raise-a-Reader Campaign Day September 27th 8:00-8:30am (morning student drop-off)

Make a Donation and Make a Difference. Literacy matters! Look for Raise A Reader volunteers in bright orange t-shirts when you drop your children off at school on Tuesday September 27th. Your extra coins support family literacy programs in your community.

For more information contact please contact Joan Cowden, Raise-a-Reader Committee School Liaison at 250-377-4586 or jcowden@sd73.bc.ca.

**Pacific Way Elementary School's
2016-2017 School Calendar**

Tuesday, September 6 th	First Day of school for our Grade 1 -7 students (10:30 am - noon)
Wednesday, September 14 th	First Full Day of School for our Kindergarten students
Friday, September 23 rd	School Closure # 1 – Non-Instructional Day
Monday, October 10 th	Thanksgiving – School Holiday
Tuesday, October 11 th	Picture Day
Wednesday, October 19 th	Early Dismissal (12:30) – Parent Teacher Conferences
Thursday, October 20 th	Early Dismissal (12:30) – Parent Teacher Conferences
Friday, October 21 st	School Closure # 2 – Provincial Pro-D Day
Tuesday, November 8 th	Picture Retake Day
Friday, November 11 th	Remembrance Day – No School
Monday, December 5 th	School Closure # 3 – Non-Instructional Day
December 7 th & 8 th	School Christmas (Winter) Concert
Friday, December 9 th	First Term Report Cards go home to Parents
Friday, December 16 th	Last Day of classes before Christmas (Winter) Break
December 19 th – January 2 nd	Christmas (Winter) Break
Tuesday, January 3 rd	First Day of classes after Christmas (Winter) Break
Friday, January 20 th	School Closure #4 – Non-Instructional Day
Monday, February 13 th	Family Day – No School
Thursday, February 23 rd	Early Dismissal (12:30) – Parent Teacher Conferences
Friday, February 24 th	School Closure #5 – Non-Instructional Day
Wednesday, March 15 th	Second Term Report Cards go home to Parents
Mon. – Fri. Mar. 20 th – Mar. 31 st	Spring Break – 2 Weeks
Monday, April 14 th	Good Friday
Monday, April 17 th	Easter Monday
Monday, April 24 th	School Closure #6 – Non-Instructional Day
Friday, May 12 th	Early Dismissal (12:30) – Parent Teacher Conferences
Monday, May 15 th	School Closure # 7 – Non-Instructional Day
TBA	Pacific Way's Intermediate Track & Field Meet (all day)
Monday, May 22 nd	Victoria Day – School Holiday
Thursday, June 29 th	Last Day of school for students – morning only – noon dismissal Third Term Report Cards go home to parents.
Friday, June 30 th	Administration Day – Last Day for staff

**Summary of the
2016-2017
School Year**

Days in Session - - - - -	187
Days of Instruction - - - - -	179
Non-Instructional Closures - - - - -	7
Administration Day - - - - -	1
Early Dismissal Days - - - - -	4



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

September 6, 2016

To: Staff, Parents, and Students:

Re: Welcome Back!

On behalf of the Board of Education of School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson), I welcome you back for another exciting and successful school year. In particular, a warm welcome to all new students, parents, and staff who are joining the district for the first year.

The Board also takes this opportunity to welcome Ms. Alison Sidow, our new Superintendent of Schools. Ms. Sidow has been with the district in the Assistant Superintendent capacity for several years and we are pleased that she has agreed to step into this leadership role. She brings with her many years of teaching, administration, and leadership in both urban and rural school districts, as well as two years working with the Ministry of Education. Please join us in making Ms. Sidow welcome in her new role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Harper". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a black rectangular border.

Denise Harper, Chairperson
Board of Education

DH/csh

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Board Notes

From the Board Meeting of: August 29, 2016

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation from Lois McNary and Dan Howe of Special Olympics British Columbia. A request was received to have our District partner with Special Olympics BC for the 2017 Summer Games to be hosted in Kamloops July 6-9, 2017.
2. The Board received the annual 2016 Summer Learning Report.
3. The Board received the Projected Regular Enrollment Report for 2016-2017.
4. The Board received the International Education Enrollment Report.
5. The Board received the Graduation Survey Results for 2015-2016.
6. The Board approved Capital Project Bylaw AFG #127109.
7. The Board adopted the Revised Schedule of Board Meetings for 2016-2017.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday, September 12, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.