



## PACIFIC WAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

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### September 2017 Newsletter

Welcome back, everyone! It is a tremendous privilege and delight for me to be able to serve the Pacific Way school community as your principal again this year. This is a wonderful place to work and learn, and I look forward once again to being a part of the ongoing growth process, and making deeper 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 2017/2018 School Year

<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>Mrs. Wassing</b>	<b>Grade 5</b>	<b>Mrs. Alm</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	<b>Mrs. Anderson</b>	<b>Grade 5 / 6</b>	<b>Mr. Sandhu</b>
<b>Grade K/1</b>	<b>Ms. Thoms</b>	<b>Grade 5 / 6</b>	<b>Mr. Bowden/ Mr. Cuzzetto</b>
<b>Grade 1</b>	<b>Mrs. Gundel</b>	<b>Grade 6/7</b>	<b>Mrs. Morrow</b>
<b>Grade 1 / 2</b>	<b>Mrs. Finch</b>	<b>Grade 6 / 7</b>	<b>Ms. Wiwchar</b>
<b>Grade 2/3</b>	<b>Mrs. Russell-Sherwood</b>	<b>Library</b>	<b>Mrs. Piva</b>
<b>Grade 2/3</b>	<b>Mrs. McLaren / Mrs. Piva</b>	<b>LART</b>	<b>Mrs. Parker</b>
<b>Grade 3</b>	<b>Mrs. Johnson</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Mrs. Ruberg</b>
<b>Grade 3 / 4</b>	<b>Mr. Bigham</b>	<b>Gym Prep</b>	<b>Mrs. Jumaga</b>
<b>Grade 4</b>	<b>Mrs. Salle</b>		

\*grade assignments could be subject to change, depending on enrolment


<b>Principal</b>	<b>Mr. Rempel</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs. Gunton</b>
<b>Library Assistant</b>	<b>Mrs. Cachelin</b>
<b>Certified Education Assistants</b>	<b>Mrs. O'Donovan, Mrs. Poeppel, Mrs. LeBlanc</b>
<b>Aboriginal Education Worker</b>	<b>Mr. Michel</b>
<b>Custodians</b>	<b>Mr. Wood, Mr. Ulmer</b>

Please welcome Mrs. Parker and Mr. Bowden to our school. Mrs. Parker is our new Learning Assistance Resource teacher and Mr. Bowden will be teaching Grade 5/6 in the portable Monday to Thursday, sharing the class with Mr. Cuzzetto. Mrs. Finch is now teaching a Grade One/Two class, located in Room 11, which was formerly our music and multi media room.

## **Week One**

Students are now in their new classes. Enrolment is extremely tight this year, with the new class size agreement in effect and more students at the school. Space at our school is very limited now, but we were able to accommodate all students in our catchment area. We now have 335 students in attendance at Pacific Way, with an increase from 13 classes last year to 15 this year.

## **Bell Schedule**



8:25 - Students can enter the school. There is no supervision before this time.  
8:30 - Morning classes commence.  
10:20 - Recess begins – students go outside.  
10:35 - Recess ends – students return to classes.  
12:15 - Lunch begins.  
12:30 - Students may leave their classrooms and go outside or to other activities.  
1:10 - Warning bell.  
1:15 - End of Lunch Break  
2:30 - Students dismissed for the day.

*\*please note – we have changed the morning entrance time from 8:20 to 8:25, on a trial basis for the month of September.*

## **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 call the **Student Absence Reporting Line at 1-844-350-2647 or visit [ktsd.schoolconnects.com](http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com)** before 8:15 am to report your child's absence otherwise you will receive an automated phone call. **For your convenience, you can also download the Safe Arrival App onto your phone.**

### **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 **the afternoon of Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**. We will start the event with warm-up activities in the gym 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. Please remember to bring a toonie for Terry as well!

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### **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 should not be stopping in the loop for any significant length of time – this area is designated for dropping off or picking up your child. If you must stop and wait for your child please do so in the school's upper parking lot (lower one is reserved for staff) or out on Pacific Way Drive. Please also note that part of the area in the loop is reserved for day care buses only.

**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)

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### **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 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. *Volleyball season starts very soon, so if you would like to help out with coaching or refereeing, please let me know!*

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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: (please get this list from Candice – it has changed!)

Candice Ewen – Co-Chair

Ashley Folk – Co-Chair

Valoree Bloomfield – Treasurer

Bona Odian – Secretary

Kristen Mochrie – Executive Volunteer

Lacey Purnell – Executive Volunteer

The first PAC meeting to be announced in September. Everyone is welcome! We look forward to seeing you there.

Please re-register for the hot lunch and information site at [pacficway.hotlunches.net](http://pacficway.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](mailto:pacwaypac@gmail.com)

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

**Pacific Way Elementary School's  
2017-2018 School Calendar-**

Tuesday, September 5 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of school for our Grade 1 -7 students (10:30 am - noon)
Monday, September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Motivational Magic Presentation in gym (9-10 am)
Wednesday, September 13 <sup>th</sup>	First Full Day of School for our Kindergarten students
Friday, September 22 <sup>rd</sup>	School Closure # 1 – Non-Instructional Day
Thursday, September 28 <sup>th</sup>	Terry Fox run in afternoon
Monday, October 9 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving – School Holiday
Friday, October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Picture Day
Thursday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Early Dismissal (12:30) – Parent Teacher Conferences
Friday, October 20 <sup>th</sup>	School Closure # 2 – Non-Instructional Day
Monday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day – No School
Monday, December 4 <sup>th</sup>	School Closure # 3 – Non-Instructional Day
Friday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	First Term Report Cards go home to Parents
Friday, December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Last Day of classes before Christmas (Winter) Break
December 25 <sup>th</sup> – January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas (Winter) Break
Monday, January 8 <sup>th</sup>	First Day of classes after Christmas (Winter) Break
Monday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>	Family Day – No School
Thursday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	School Closure #4 – Non-Instructional Day
Friday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	School Closure #5 – Non-Instructional Day
Friday, March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Second Term Report Cards go home to Parents
Mon. – Fri. Mar. 19 <sup>th</sup> – Mar. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Spring Break – 1 Week
Friday, March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday
Monday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter Monday
Monday, April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	School Closure #6 – Non-Instructional Day
Friday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	School Closure # 7 – Non-Instructional Day
TBA	Pacific Way's Intermediate Track & Field Meet (all day)
Monday, May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Victoria Day – School Holiday
Thursday, June 28 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of school for students – morning only – noon dismissal Third Term Report Cards go home to parents.
Friday, June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Administration Day – Last Day for staff

## **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). **A package will be sent home with each student. Please see the website for further information.**

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](http://kidsplus.ca).

**Kids Plus™**  
**Accident Insurance**



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

## **Community News**

Learn to Skate and more with **the**  
Kamloops Skating Club  
[www.KamloopsSkatingClub.com](http://www.KamloopsSkatingClub.com)

Skating Programs:

CanSkate & Preschool CanSkate (learn to skate)  
Jr Star ~ Jr Academy ~ StarSkate (Figure Skating)  
CanPowerSkate

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[www.KamloopsSkatingClub.com](http://www.KamloopsSkatingClub.com) ~ [KamloopsSkateClub@Gmail.com](mailto:KamloopsSkateClub@Gmail.com)

**Register in-person & Online Now!!**

**Check the website**

**“Come Skate with the BEST Coaches! We have the most Fun”**