

Summit Elementary School

425 Monarch Court, Kamloops, BC, V2E 1Y3

(250) 372-1224



Dear parents and caregivers,

At this time of year as an educator, we watch time in two ways.

1. "When is the break going to be here?"
2. "I can't believe how fast time is flying!"

I want to take this moment to reflect on how incredibly grateful I am to be a part of this school community. I appreciate DAILY the staff, student, and parents here. Even though you may see me flying around trying to manage a busy little school, my days are filled with the joy of having your kids smile at me and 'fill my bucket.' Yesterday I spent the whole day filming students perform for the Christmas concert while Mrs. Scott took over my office duties. I look forward to editing these with final touches and getting them out to you next week. More on this below. I also want to thank our parent community, including the PAC, for the ongoing communication and support we have received this fall. I look forward to what the rest of the school year brings, including when the COVID restrictions ease and things start to return to normalcy.

Christmas Concert

Each class has now been filmed and we are putting on the final touches. The school will be watching the final cut on Wednesday afternoon from their classrooms. After that, an email will come out with links to each presentation for parents to view. Please do not post links to these videos publicly, including social media.

Christmas Spirit Week

Some of our upper intermediate students have been working on planning School Spirit Days throughout the year. Each school day next week will have a different theme according to the calendar at the bottom of this newsletter. We look forward to getting into the Holiday Spirit as a school community! In addition to viewing the concert on Wednesday, we will be hosting a Friday Zoom Carolling session where all the classrooms connect and sing some of our favourite carols.

PAC update

I want to take a moment to publicly thank all those in the PAC and those involved in the recent PAC fundraisers. Our school benefits so much from your hard work and dedication! Some of the highlights this year so far include:

- Met with teachers to clarify goals and vision
- Re-created the process for teachers to apply for PAC funds
- Worked with the city to improve traffic safety in our area, including installing a new fence at the Gleneagles school exit, and having the mobile speedometer set up for a time
- Fundraising through collecting used pumpkins after Halloween
- Raising funds for the school in the Growing Smiles campaign – selling and distributing Christmas plants and arrangements
- Collecting and sorting used Winter clothing for families who need warm items (if you need anything, please let the office or your teacher know!)

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you! We are so happy to have such an amazing group of parents to support us in our mission to care for children.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, December 15th at 6 PM on [Zoom at this link](#).

Dogs on School Property

Throughout my short time at the school so far I have fielded several conversations and concerns about this issue. One of the problems with dogs on school property is the large number of community residents who bring their dogs to play and do not follow through on cleaning up after. Our staff and supervisors clean up a large amount of dog poop from our fields daily. We understand that this issue is coming mostly from people who are not a part of our school community, however. The second issue is when parents bring their dogs to school during pick up and drop off. While for the most part this leads to no issues, there are some families who either have allergies or fear of animals and this can result in having some students feel unsafe at school. In my reflections on the matter, for the safety and well being of the school I have decided to ask that **all families refrain from bringing their dogs on to school property**. This will also help us get out a clear message to the neighborhood that this is a concern (and aligns with SD73 Administrative Procedures). Thank you for complying with my request.

Superintendent Visit

Dr. Terry Sullivan will be visiting the school on Wednesday morning. We have lots in our school to be proud of, so I look forward to showing the district our strengths as a school and all we have accomplished this fall in the face of the pandemic. He will also be looking for input into what our needs are to better inform his decisions from the Board Office. If there are any pressing concerns you would like me to discuss with him, please provide input by emailing me at jdevries@sd73.bc.ca

Health Screening Reminder

As a reminder, during the 2020-2021 school year, parents/guardians/caregivers must assess their child(ren) daily for key symptoms of illness before sending them to school. **If a child has any symptoms, they must not go to school. It is important you know the symptoms on the agreement:**

- Fever or chills
- Cough or worsening of cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Upcoming Events

- Monday, December 14** – Christmas HAT day
– January LUNCH MONEY and FORMS due
- Tuesday, December 15** – Christmas SOCK day
– [PAC meeting 6 PM on Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, December 16** – Red, Green, White day
– Superintendent Visit
– Christmas Concert Ready for Viewing
- Thursday, December 17** – Ugly Sweater day
- Friday, December 18** – Pyjama day
– Afternoon Zoom Carols in Classrooms

Merry Christmas! Enjoy the time with your families.
Sincerely,

Justin deVries, Principal