



SUMMIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday, March 30, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Happy Spring! With Easter just around the corner, I hope you are gearing your family up for all the fun things to do in the warmer times around our beautiful city. Summit Elementary is moving onward and upward, with several exciting things to share about the coming months.

New Mask Guidelines

By now you've most likely heard about the recent changes to increase COVID restrictions in BC. What does this mean for us? Well the planning that needs to take place in response to sudden changes has not yet been completed, so the only information Summit is acting on at the school is the following, taken directly from the Government's restrictions website:

"Public health guidance for K to 12 schools has been updated to support and encourage students in grade 4 to 12 to wear masks at school."

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

I will send out more specific information in the coming days as it is released.

Parent / Teacher Night

The yearly calendar was changed by the School board a few months back to include a second 'early release' day to have teachers and parent connect over student learning. At Summit, this day will be on Thursday April 15th, and students will be dismissed at 11:18 AM, so please arrange for an early pickup. This event will look a little different in every classroom around our school, so stay tuned for a message from your child's teacher about it.

Dog Poop Campaign

What a topic to have to write about in a newsletter. A special thank you to our PAC who have been connecting with our school district media department to start a district wide campaign informing Kamloops residents about dogs on school property. Did you know that there is a city bylaw that prohibits dogs on public property (including schools) unless otherwise specified? We (and many other schools) have been having lots of trouble with dog poop on our field. Our supervisors carry dog bags, and in the winter thaw our fields are unsanitary. Our school will be contributing to a media campaign about this, with film footage, students made signs, and other work from students asking our communities to keep dogs away from school property. This will be published some time in the next month or so.

Grade 7 Farewell

You're almost done, grade 7s! A committee of grade 7 parents has been struck to fundraise for a few special events for our students. As a fundraiser, they are collecting bottles in our neighborhood on April 11th, but if you would prefer to drop them off at the school, there will be a bin set outside the office door every morning until the drive.

The events, including a ceremony, is currently scheduled for June 11th. It will be recorded and streamed to the families of the grade 7s that day. Unfortunately, with current COVID restrictions, we cannot plan to have families gather on site to celebrate, whether indoor or outdoor.

Feedback on Summit Elementary

In the week before Spring Break I scheduled individual meetings with every staff member at Summit, including support staff, the secretary, etc. I did this to get a solid understanding of what is going well for our school and what needs more work to improve, from the staff's point of view. I am starting to collect this valuable information to form goals for our school for the next few years, and I'd love to have you, the parents and caregivers, take an opportunity to let us know what we need to spend time on in order to be the best school possible! There are two surveys that are important: one from me (with the questions I ask) and one from the Provincial government. If you want to have your voice heard, I strongly suggest you let us know how things are going by doing one or both of these:

1. *Summit's Parent Feedback Form* (5-10 minutes, if you type comments):
<https://forms.gle/LbuGhtr5DsbhcFvb6>
2. The Province, every year, surveys parents looking for input. This survey is also about 5-10 minutes long. You'll have to scroll to the parent section, choose 73 – Kamloops and choose Summit Elementary:
<https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>

Class requests and our plans for next year's configuration

Kindergarten enrollment is underway, and from our early projections it looks like Summit might have two full K classes again. This means that I can move forward with configuring classes over the next few months. If you would like to have input into class placement for your child, please use this form so that I have all the information recorded and organized. Please note that the school cannot guarantee we meet everyone's requests.

<https://forms.gle/eQt6apr7QMjKsbaTA>

Library renovation update

As with most publicly funded projects, our library renovation fundraising is going slower than anticipated. We have received financial support from our district in some ways, the sales of masks, and we've set aside some money from the school budget. Our library is the center of our school and now that we have done so much work in clearing out our old resource areas (including the underused computer lab) we are ready to start dreaming up our new floor plans to make it more functional for learning and working in collaboration.

Student Drop Off - Roundabout

We have had a large number of new families join our school this year! We started the year at 239 students and now have 253. I need to remind all parents, new or not, that the roundabout is for daycare pickup and drop-off only. There are a few daycare vehicles that are not marked which sometimes creates confusion. Thank you for your help in this.

PAC projects

A huge thank you and kudos to our PAC for taking on so many important jobs around here. You may notice the new sign on our new fence at the Gleneagles entrance, a safer playground due to some high vis paint, and other improvements. There's a lot to come in the future, including a revitalization of our upper court area, a new tetherball pole, refreshed four-square and hopscotch paint, and new signage for our dog campaign, to name a few. If you want to get involved in these projects (or PAC in general) please contact them at:

summitPACexec@gmail.com