



Arthur Stevenson Elementary

2890 BANK ROAD
KAMLOOPS, B.C.
V2B 6Y7
Principal: Ms. Kirsten Farquhar
Vice Principal: Mrs. Leah Clare

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September 2024 Newsletter

Message from the Principal:

Hello Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well and in high spirits. It is my privilege to welcome back our school community to another school year full of growth, learning and fun! You'll find in this newsletter additional key information about the school and the year ahead. A condensed Welcome Back newsletter was also sent earlier this week, and it is attached for your convenience. To expand my previous message, I'd like to share that as part of our efforts to bring our school motto of "You Belong Here!" to life, the staff this year will explore Kindness in the Classroom/Mindfulness curriculum. I also plan to incorporate Empathy building and explicit teaching of self-regulation strategies at assemblies. I feel great excitement for this school year, and I look forward to connecting with you as we go forward. If you have any questions regarding the following, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With gratitude,

Your Proud Principal
Kirsten Farquhar (she/her)



Arthur Stevenson Elementary School – **You Belong Here!**

First Day:- September 3rd

A reminder that the first day of school is **10:30am – 12:39pm**. Please send a snack with your child.

New students enter the school through the front doors and go to the library.

Returning students go to their last years' classes and enter the school the same way that they did last year.

Classroom Placement:

Each spring, our teaching staff works collaboratively to begin the process of placing students into classrooms for the next school year. Many things are considered including each student's academic needs, social skills, and learning styles. Parent input is also taken into consideration. Class placements must adhere to class size composition rules and collective agreements. This is a complex process and requires a lot of time and thought. Throughout the first week, we will continue the placement process, and we will do our best to have classes finalized as soon as possible. In the meantime, students will be placed in pseudo-classes so that they can be involved in valuable learning experiences throughout these first few days.

We are asking that you allow students at least a full week in their new classes to become acquainted with their classmates, teachers, and school procedures. Oftentimes, concerns are alleviated once students get to know their new teachers and classmates.

Health and Safety:

Students are encouraged to practice good hand hygiene and to stay home when sick. Ms. Brenda Spooner, daytime custodian comma, does a fantastic job of keeping our school clean and disinfected during the day. We also have two wonderful evening custodians who clean classrooms after hours.

Allergy-Sensitive and Scent Aware School:

We have students in our school who have severe and life-threatening allergies to nuts and other food products. Teachers will let families know of any allergies in their classes in the coming week. When packing lunches, please be considerate of any allergies in your child's class. Arthur Stevenson is also Scent Aware – please refrain from wearing perfumes while in our building as many staff and students experience adverse reactions to them.

Medical Alerts :

Parents and Guardians of students with potentially life-threatening allergies or health conditions are asked to sign the necessary forms at the school office. These forms **must be updated every school year**. Please send any EpiPens to the school as soon as possible. Students should also carry one with them during recess, lunch, and field trips.

Bell Schedule:

Beginning Wednesday September 4th, the bell schedule for the 2024-2025 school year has been slightly adjusted. Please note the following changes (particularly Welcome Bell and Dismissal times).

8:25 Welcoming Bell
8:30 Classes Begin
9:50 10:05 – Recess
12:05 -1:05 - Lunch
 12:05-12:25 (eating time)
 12:25-1:05 (play time)
1:05 Classes resume
2:39 Dismissal

Picture Day:

Get your smiles ready, picture day is coming very soon! Individual pictures will be taken on Wednesday, **September 19th!**

Noon Hour Supervisors:

If you are interested in supervising during the noon hour (12:05-1:05), please contact the office. Supervisors will be given a \$12 an hour honorarium.

School Supply Fees:

Please look for the school supply form that will be sent home with your child. We highly recommend that parents use this program as it saves families time and money and provides consistency of supplies in the classroom.

School supplies can be purchased online or paid for by cash/cheque at the office. Online purchasing information will be on the school supply form.

Student and Family Affordability Fund

The Province of BC has provided funding to help families with the rising cost of living through the Student and Family Affordability Fund. This year some of your child's fees (school supplies, course fees, enhancement fees and academy fees) can be paid through the Provincial Student & Family Affordability Fund. There will be a check box to indicate you would like to use the fund online and, on paper, sent home.

Safe Arrival:

School District #73 uses the SafeArrival student absence reporting system to record student absences. Please report your child's absence in one of the following convenient methods:

1. Phone: 1-844-350-2647
2. Web: go.schoolmessenger.ca
3. App: SchoolMessenger

Please report your children's absences before 8:30 am the day they will be absent. Absences can be reported in advance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for any school day in the term.

If the Safe Arrival program does not allow you to report an absence, please contact the school office so they can fix the problem.

Student Messages:

Except in emergencies, parent messages called into the office for students will be passed on to students twice a day. Messages will be passed on to students at 11:30am and 2:30pm to minimize disruptions to classroom learning.

School Sports:

Cross country will kick-off the school year very soon, followed by Volleyball and Basketball in October. ***More information to come – stay tuned!***

Orange Shirt Day:

We will celebrate Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 27th as National Truth and Reconciliation Day falls on Saturday this year. ASES students will engage in many learning opportunities that week as part of our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Parking:

Parking around the school can become very congested during pick-up and drop off times. To help us keep our students safe, please note that the road in front of the school (Bank Road) is a sidewalk and is designated as a "No Parking" zone by the City of Kamloops. We also ask that parents do not park in the staff parking lot before or after school. Parking is available around the corner along Soldier Road, please make sure to park on the school side of the road to avoid blocking the driveways of the residents living on that street. **Friendly reminder – ***please do not park between the two handicap spaces on Soldier road.*** It is not a parking space.

Picking up/Dropping Off:

If you drive your children to school and pick them up, consider designating a meeting point that is not in front of the school.

Our first bell rings at 8:25 to allow students to enter the building and get ready for their day. There is no supervision prior to the 8:20 bell before school or after school. Please make sure you have made other arrangements for this time, if needed.

PAC (Parent Advisory Council) News:

PAC meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 6:30pm in our school's library.

Our first PAC meeting will be Sept 9 at 6:30 in the library, everyone is welcome to attend. The Welcome Back BBQ will be Thursday Sept 26th, more details to follow. PAC is looking for volunteers to help out at the BBQ, contact PAC at ArthurStevenson.PAC@gmail.com for more details.

Hot lunches and fundraiser purchases are done through the hot lunch program: <https://ases.parentcouncil.net/admin/?action=home> access code AEHL. Parents need to reregister since the program gets reset each fall.

Our PAC at ASES hosts many great initiatives and fundraisers such as hot lunches. More information will be at our first few PAC meetings.

Hot Lunch Ordering:

PAC will be doing online ordering for all orders to ensure accuracy with the orders and to make the process as easy for everyone as possible. If you had an account last year, you will need to re-register.

Here's how to get started...

- Go to <https://ases.parentcouncil.net/>
- Click on "Click Here to Register"
- Enter Access Code: **AEHL**
- Complete the rest of the registration form
- Click the "Register Now" button at the bottom
- Follow the instructions to add each child in your family who attends Arthur Stevenson.

Once your child(ren) are registered, click on "Orders" and proceed to order hot lunches for your child(ren). All orders must be placed online.

Payment is done online using Visa, Mastercard or AMEX.

If you require an alternative method of payment, please contact PAC at: aseshotlunch@gmail.com

Arthur Stevenson ROCKS!

Respect
Ownership
Cooperation
Kindness
Safety



R.O.C.K.S. is our student behavior matrix. Teachers will review expectations

with students at the beginning of the year. Students will then have opportunities to earn a "ROCK" throughout the week by demonstrating one the above listed attributes. We end each week with a draw celebrating their successes.

Student Code of Conduct:

Please note that the School District Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Procedure #350) will be reviewed with students in the coming days. The Student Code of Conduct along with the Arthur Stevenson ROCKS Behavior Matrix are intended to encourage acceptable student behavior to establish and maintain a safe, respectful and caring learning environment. These documents will also help to clarify expectations for student behavior while at school, going to and from school, attending any school function or activity at any location, or in other circumstances that may have an impact on the school environment.

For your reference, Administrative Procedures 350: Student Code of Conduct and 350.2: Student Dress Code can be found on the [district website](#)

School Volunteers and Volunteer Drivers

All parents volunteering to drive students other than their own child must have an up to date criminal record check on file with the school. This applies to parents joining on field trips and volunteering as noon hour supervisors.

Personal Digital Devices:

As per the survey sent from the principal to parents in late spring and communication from the school district, schools will be engaging in the development of an updated Personal Digital Device Policy in accordance with Ministerial Order M89. The principal will share this updated school policy with parents in early October (and elicit feedback).

Upcoming dates:

Sept 3rd: First day of school (10:30 – 12:39)

Sept 19: Picture day

Sept 23rd: Pro D – No school

Sept 27th: Orange shirt day

Sept 30: Truth and Reconciliation Day – No school



Arthur Stevenson Elementary 2024-2025 School Year Calendar

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday, September 3	First Day of School 10:30am – 12:39pm
Monday, September 23	District Professional Development
Monday, September 30	National Truth and Reconciliation No School
Monday, October 14	Thanks Giving – No School
Friday, October 25	District Professional Development
Friday, November 8	Remembrance Day Assembly
Monday, November 11	Remembrance Day – No School
Monday, December 2nd	District Professional Development
Friday, December 20	Last Day of classes before Winter Break
Monday, January 6	First Day of classes after Winter break
Friday, February 7	District Professional Development
Monday, February 17	Family Day – No School
Friday, March 14	Last Day of classes before Spring Break
Monday, March 31	First Day of classes after Spring Break
Friday, April 18	Good Friday – No School
Monday, April 21	Easter Monday – No School
Monday, April 28	District Professional Development
Friday, May 16	District Professional Development
Monday, May 19	Victoria Day – No School
Thursday, June 26	Last Day of School – Dismissal

Arthur Stevenson Staff 2024-25

Staff	Position	Staff	Position
Ms. K. Farquhar	Principal	Mrs. L. Miller	CEA
Mrs. L. Clare	Vice Principal	Ms . S. Mould	CEA
Mrs. K. Evans	Secretary	Ms. K. Padar	CEA
Ms. S. Sorensen	Kindergarten	Ms. J Roach	CEA
Ms. L. Craik	Kindergarten	Ms. B. Spooner	Daytime Custodian
Mrs. T. Hawkings	Grade 1	Mr. J. Kelly	Evening Custodian
Ms. A. Zelisko	Grade 1/2	Ms. J. Haywood	Evening Custodian
Ms. A. Patterson	Grade 2/3		
Ms. T. McLean	Grade 2		
Mr. A. Dhaliwal	Grade 3		
Mrs. P. McKay	Grade 3/4		
Mrs. K. Cruz	Grade 4/5		
Ms. L. O'Neill	Grade 4/5		
Ms. P. Lett	Grade 5		
Mr. J. Roszmann	Grade 6/7		
Mr. B. Kicia	Grade 6/7		
Mr. B. Bregoliss	Grade 6/7		
Ms. G. Ong	LART		
Ms. J. Throburn	LART		
Ms. T. Petrie	Prep		
Ms. Johannesson	Prep		
Ms. K. Kipp	Teacher Librarian		
Ms. D. Rice	Library Assistant		
Ms. Adolf	AEW		
Ms. K. Browett	CEA		
Ms. M. Hunter	CEA		
Mrs. S. Cowdell	CEA		

Summer Welcome Back Newsletter

Hello families!!

While a full September Newsletter will be emailed to you on Friday, I wanted to send you a quick message to say how excited I am for this school year ahead. The staff and I are proud of the gains we have made with many aspects of the school's learning plan over the past couple of years, and we aim to build on these successes (and other aspects of student learning) in the 2024-25 school year. Our school motto, "YOU BELONG HERE!" serves as a guide for what we do each and every day. Moreover, we are focused on fostering a school community that values a sense of belonging, welcoming and connection of all its members. Simultaneously, we also strive for excellence in the intellectual development of all our learners. Furthermore, we recognize parents and guardians as key partners in the development of our future citizens.

Although you will receive more information in the September newsletter on Friday, I did want to confirm for all families the following in advance of our first day back on Tuesday, September 3rd:

- Kindergarten students do not report to school on Tuesday as they follow their gradual entry plans mailed this summer.
- All Grade 1 - 7 students report to their last year's teacher from 10:30 - 12:39 for home room. Please provide a healthy snack for your child and know there will be some outside playing time scheduled into this shortened day.

In the meantime, please check your emails by end of Friday for more information regarding the school year ahead.

With gratitude,

Kirsten Farquhar (she/her)

Proud Principal

Arthur Stevenson Elementary

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