



Kamloops School of the Arts

KSA Community Connection

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1390 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops BC V2C 3X5

PHONE: 250-374-3200 FAX: 250-377-2245

SAFE ARRIVAL: <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>

SAFE ARRIVAL PHONE: Call before 8:20 am to 1-844-350-2647

Principal's Message

Dear parents, guardians, and caregivers:

With the arrival of December, cold weather, and all of the festive happenings, it's time to renew a pledge to take care of yourself, your loved ones and your community. At KSA, many heart warming activities are taking place including the Christmas parade, Winter online celebration (*Sounds of the Seasons*), Connection Crew Spirit Days, Secondary Coffee House and many other events in each classroom. Staff are keeping students busy with a balanced academic focus; online secondary reports have been posted along with elementary interim reports being sent home. I enjoyed reading the comments and hearing about how each of our students have progressed over the past three months of this school year. I must congratulate our fabulous students and staff for a job well done so far this year!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents about our School Learning Plan. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with our superintendent to discuss School District and KSA goals and the commitment to ensure the integration of life skills for students, ensure collaboration for all levels of the system and specify the strategies needed to address the needs of our 21st-century learners.

Our School Learning Plan goals that align to the District Strategic Plan:

#1: Ensure all KSA students meet or exceed grade level expectations in Numeracy and Literacy with specific achievement targets for each grade level.

#2: Ensure all KSA students develop a strong, positive sense of belonging to KSA with the guiding principle that learning is focused on connectedness, reciprocal relationships and a sense of place.

In the New Year, the staff will meet to discuss and strategize ways to make our learners successful in attaining these goals. As many of you may be aware, the School District is in the process of reviewing the Strategic Plan. Families are invited to take a short survey to help shape our outcomes, measures and strategies in SD #73. Click [here](#) to access the survey.



Finally, after learning and working extremely hard this fall, your children deserve time with you to play games, spend time outside and of course enjoy Winter Break to its fullest with family.

Wishing each and every one of you a joyous and safe holiday season!

Mr. B. Lloyd, Proud Principal of 500 S.T.A.R. students!

Important Dates

Dec. 6	No School <i>Pro-D</i>
Dec. 10	Elementary Interim Reports
Dec. 17	Last day of classes before winter break
Dec. 20- Jan. 3	Winter Break
Jan. 4	School back in session
Feb. 4	No School <i>Pro-D</i>
Feb. 21	No School <i>Family Day</i>
Feb. 14	Secondary Report Cards
Mar. 3	Early Dismissal (Secondary only) <i>Parent Teacher Interviews</i>
Mar. 4	Elementary Progress report
Mar.21 - Apr.1	Spring Break
Apr. 4	School's back in session
Apr. 15	No School Good Friday
Apr. 18	No School Easter Monday
Apr. 25	No School <i>Pro-D</i>
May 6	Secondary report cards
May. 20	No School <i>Pro-D</i>
May. 23	No School <i>Victoria Day</i>
Jun. 23	Last Day of Secondary Classes
Jun. 29	Last day of Elementary classes Early dismissal 12:30 Report Cards
Jun. 30	No School Administration Day

KSA Spotlight On "Media Arts"

KSA was involved in a 48 hour film contest put on by Mulgrave High School and Vancouver Film School. For interest in the process here is the Website that describes the outlines <https://www.zoomfest.com/>

They were given a prop and a theme Thursday at 5 o'clock and we had to have a 4.5-5 minute video edited and submitted Saturday by 5 o'clock. The theme was redemption and the prop a turnip. They decided to do a James Bond/Austin Powers heist film. Congratulations to the class for making it into the top 10! The winners will be announced on December 4th. Unfortunately, the group can not attend the red carpet event taking place in Vancouver due to the roads, but they are looking at live streaming options here in Kamloops.



Once again this year KSA has not been able to provide live performances due to Covid 19. KSA has relied heavily on Mr. MacFarlane and his media arts class to help film, edit and produce the many performances done around the school. Recently a few students were tasked with the creation of our school Remembrance Day virtual assembly. They did a fabulous job creating a showcase of our arts classes honouring Remembrance Day.

Great work, creativity and learning is taking place in this senior course. BRAVO!

KSA Wellness Center

The TRU Nursing Students have assessed the KSA community over the fall and have identified a number of initiatives that would benefit the school community! With the support of Administration and Ms. Wallin, the Nursing Students have initiated a Wellness Centre which will be located in the KSA counselling office! The goal with this space is to create an open, inclusive, and judgement-free area where high school students can access easy to understand evidence-based information to learn about the different dimensions of health. Whether it be physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, sexual health, or support, the Wellness Centre can be a space to access important information and answer the questions you may have. Please come and check out the Wellness Centre at the beginning of December! As this project is ongoing, the Nursing Students are hoping to find a group of students within KSA to help create motivational art-based posters, and to continue to grow and evolve the space into the future. If you are interested please reach out to Ms. Wallin or Mr. Lloyd!



Ask The Artist - Exploring Careers



Local artist Vaughn Warren spent time at KSA talking to students in secondary art classes and the grade 12 careers class about the joys and challenges of a career as a professional artist. Vaughn explained his processes of inspiration and learning from the environment around him as well as how to make the most out of opportunities. He talked about how to brand a career from the arts to reach people both locally and internationally. It was a very entertaining and enlightening presentation that the students all enjoyed.

Mental Health Matters



On November 18th Ms. Clark and Ms. Alpaugh's classes were treated to a wonderful mental health presentation from one of our parents, Jaden Stefanyk. She talked to the students about her career and how the teams at her place of work collaborate to support people with mental health issues. Another main focus of her presentation was to erase the stigma surrounding mental health. The students were engaged in the presentation and were able to articulate many points of learning from the presentation. Thank you, Jaden!



Band Together

Band Together is a program offered through the Kamloops Music Collective where students are able to come together and learn a new instrument. KSA has just wrapped up this program with 20 grade 6 & 7 students exploring the joy of music. For 6 weeks students spent their Friday afternoons with Mrs. Alpaugh and Mr. Weisgerber learning how to play a musical instrument in a group setting. During their final session they were able to follow covid protocols and perform a mini showcase of their learning for a parent. Mr. Weisgerber said that it had been 20 months since any live performances were available for parents to enjoy. It was a pleasure to see families enjoy the live music. Bravo to the many musicians who showcased their new musical talents!



KSA Food Bank



Once again our school will be collecting non-perishable food donations to support the local families and the food bank. More information will be sent out in December on how students can bring food to the school. In the meantime, if parents/guardians know of a family that could use a food hamper, please contact Mr. Lloyd or Ms. Latta at the school office (250-374-3200). Thank you to everyone for your support in our endeavour to make a difference in our community.

KSA - Elementary Skating

Classes will be skating from January to March 2022. We have many smaller size skates for primary students, but **we are in need of larger skates for our older students** (size 5 and up) and bike and/or hockey helmets. If you have a pair of skates that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the office.

KSA at the Santa Clause Parade



KSA had an excellent presence at the Kamloops Santa Claus Parade. We had close to 100 students involved and our PAC did an amazing job building a huge lit up float. Our school won the 1st place Elf Award for the parade. We had senior student leaders handing out candy, our grade 10-12 Dance Company, grade 5-7 Dance Squad and the elementary singers on the float. It was a wonderful community event. Santa wants us back again next year!

Connection Crew

KSA December Spirit Days 2021

Hello everyone! The Connections Crew has come up with a plan for the last week before the holiday break. Here is the breakdown of activities:

Monday, December 13th - Ugly Holiday Sweater Day

- The ugliest sweaters will be tweeted out and put up on the Facebook page!

Wednesday, December 15th - Elf Day (dress up like an elf and take “elfies”)

- The top “elfies” will be tweeted out and put up on the Facebook page!

Friday, December 17th - PAJAMA DAY and judging of the Door Decorating!

- Door decorating can commence any time and will be judged by the Connections Crew during lunch hour on the 17th
- To up the ante this year, the door decorating must be accompanied by a short holiday jingle to be sung when the judges come around
- There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Shoes and Boots



As the weather changes, it is important to note that students are required to wear indoor footwear for health and safety purposes. Please have your son or daughter bring and leave a pair of inside shoes at school as the weather is certainly wetter and outside shoes are tracking in a lot of mud and water. On our linoleum stairs this can be a serious slipping hazard for our students and staff and we would be sorry to see anyone injured in a fall. If this is a financial burden for your family, please contact Mr. Lloyd at the school and we will make the necessary confidential arrangements.

Covid-19

As stated back in October, the mask mandate will continue until further notice. This decision was made by the Ministries of Education and Health, and it is directly connected to the rising numbers of cases in the K-3 age group. While the number of potential exposures to COVID-19 in our schools has increased, Interior Health's contact tracing confirms that the greatest risk of transmission is during activities taking place outside of school.

The Ministry of Education has updated the Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 settings with this change in measures for schools. Ensuring students, staff, and visitors stay home when they are sick continues to be one of the most effective personal measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from our communities into our schools. After vaccinations, completing and following the directions of the Daily Health Check is one of the strongest individual measures each of us can take to limit COVID-19 in our schools.

****Thank you for supporting the Provincial Health Order to keep our staff, students, and families safe.****

Elementary Athletics

It is great to see our young athletes playing in the gym again. Grades 4 to 7 have been enjoying Intramural Volleyball at lunch. The Round Robin has just finished and the Playoffs begin this week. Stay tuned for the Tier 3 and Tier 1 Champions. McBride



Secondary Athletics

What a huge success KSA's fall sports had! This year we had a Sr. Boys Soccer, Jr Girls Volleyball, and Sr. Girls Volleyball. The Sr. Girls were one win away from making it to the Okanagan's for the first time in our history! Unfortunately, we lost a close one to Vernon Christian. We are very proud of our athletes and look forward to some more exciting matches next year.

Moving forward into our winter sports we have a Jr. Boys, Sr. Boys, and Jr. Girls' basketball team. KSA is very excited to see if we can build off the success from our volleyball teams and try to bring home a pennant! Be sure to check the KSA website for up to date schedules and locations.

GO STARS GO!!



School Photos Re-Retakes

Due to road closures and a backlog of rescheduling our photo retakes at KSA have been rescheduled from Friday November 26th to tentative Monday, January 17th. For retakes, all the students need to do is bring in their old package, and we just take a new photo and print the same package they originally purchased for them, no paperwork necessary. Some kids forget their photos, so we still do a retake, the photographer has the database so they know which package they purchased and just ask them to return the old package to the office within a few days after retakes.



Some kids will have forgotten their order form from the original day. They can purchase a package from their original photo or they can have a new photo taken and order that photo.

Right Photography NEVER says no to package retakes, if families are not happy with their original photo they will take a new one. If they get their new package and end up liking the original one more, parents can contact Right Photography and they will switch the package back to their first photo.

Right Photography will refund their package purchase once we get the package back, no questions asked.

School Fees

School fees are now due to the office. Fees cover the expense of school supplies as well as a concert series for our students. Please be aware that unpaid fees directly affect programs and resources at the school. Please call the office at 250-374-3200 if you need more information about the total cost for fees. School "on-line" fee payment program is now available. You should have been emailed earlier this week with instructions to register if you wish to use this platform for course fee payments. The instructions are also available on our KSA website under the Parents/Students tab - [cashless schools](#).

From the PAC

As we come into December, we have some updates to share with you all.

Due to the recent floods in BC, Mom's Pantry and DFS may have delays due to shipping. This unfortunately is out of our control. However, we will do our best to keep you updated and will sort through for pick up as soon as possible.

We are doing the Cookie fundraiser again for the holiday season as it was such a success at Halloween and always a fun activity to decorate cookies. You can place your orders until December 10th and delivery is on December 15th. You can place your order on the Munch a Lunch website. Below is the link:

<http://munchalunch.com/login> (for parents who already have an account)

<http://munchalunch.com/schools/ksa> (for new users)

Thank you for all your continued support with our PAC fundraisers and events. Please continue to follow our Facebook page Kamloops School of the Arts (KSA PAC) for current fundraisers and events. We hope you have a wonderful December and holiday season.



FOUND 4 KIDS



found 4 kids

found4kids is a local group helping **SD73** families by providing school clothing at no cost.

Book your private appointment to select from our collection by

emailing found4kids@gmail.com or calling Dianne @ 250 554 3654

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

found4kids is located on the lower level of Lansdowne Village Mall.

Cell Phones

Older students who come to school with cellular phones are reminded that these are only to be used with teacher permission. These cellular phones can be quite a temptation for our young people, so we ask that if they need to come to school, they need to be stored away somewhere safe. You can help as well by not texting your child(ren) during the day. If you need to get a hold of your child(ren), please call the office and she will be able to get a message to him/her/them. If your child's teacher needs to speak to your child about their phone use more than twice, the office is where the phone will need to be housed during the school day. If it's possible to keep the phone at home, that is an even better alternative, as the school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged property.



Safe Arrival



Just a reminder to all parents/caregivers to call the toll free number or use the Safe Arrival website to report any student absences or late arrivals.

Toll free number to call: 1-844-350-2647

Website for parent access: <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/#/home>

Or download the IOS or Android free app from their respective app store. To find the app, search for "Safe Arrival School Connects" (without the quotes) and install the free app. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

Fruit and Veggie Program



KSA will again be participating in the Fruit and Vegetable program. If you would like more information about the program, please check out <https://www.bcaitc.ca/>.

Please note: If you do not want your child receiving fruit and vegetables and/or milk program please call the office.

Board Notes



Click [here](#) to find out more information of what is going on around SD 73 School District



School District No. 73 (Kamloops-Thompson) DAILY HEALTH CHECK Staff, Students and Visitors

Staying home when you are not feeling well is a critical step in communicable disease prevention.

KEY SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS	WHAT TO DO
Fever (above 38°C) Chills Cough Difficulty breathing Loss of sense of smell or taste	If yes to 1 or more of these symptoms: Stay home. Contact a health care provider or call 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.
OTHER SYMPTOMS	WHAT TO DO
Sore throat Loss of appetite Headache Body aches Extreme fatigue or tiredness Nausea or vomiting Diarrhea	If yes to 1 symptom: Stay home until you feel better. If yes to 2 or more of these symptoms: Stay home for 24 hours. If symptoms don't get better or get worse, contact a health care provider or call 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL:	WHAT TO DO
Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	If yes: Fully vaccinated students, staff and other adults who have travelled outside of Canada may qualify for the fully vaccinated traveller exemption . Students, staff and other adults who are not fully vaccinated and have travelled outside of Canada CANNOT attend school for 14 days after arrival , as part of federal requirements .
CLOSE CONTACT	WHAT TO DO
Have you been notified by public health that you are a close contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	If yes: Follow the instructions provided by Public Health.

You can also check your symptoms with the [K-12 Health Check](#) or the [BC Self-Assessment Tool](#).

Call 8-1-1 with any questions about symptoms of illness. If you have severe symptoms, like difficulty breathing (struggling to breathe or you can only speak single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department. Visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#) for more information on COVID-19.

Have a safe and happy holiday from the staff of Kamloops School of the Arts!

