



Parkcrest Elementary
2170 Parkcrest Ave
Kamloops, BC V2B 4Y1
250-554-2368
Safe Arrival: 250-554-7395

December Principal's Message

TERM 1 REPORT CARDS

Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home with students on Friday, December 9th. There are some changes with our Report Cards this year. You will notice that:

- Language Arts is now reported on as 1 subject. In the past, strands of reading, writing and speaking/listening were reported on separately. From the teacher's comments you should still be able to have a clear understanding of how your child is progressing in each area.
- Health and Physical Education are now combined in one course.
- Career Education is now separated from the former Health and Career Ed. Your child's progress in relation to the learning standards will be reported on in the Final Report Card. Students in grade 6 will be assessed and reported on in Term 2.
- Applied Design Skills and Technology is a new subject area which will be reported on in the Final Report Card for Kindergarten to Grade 5. Students in Grade 6 will be assessed and reported on in Term 2.
- With the redesigned curriculum, student progress will be reported on in the Core Competencies (thinking - creative and critical; communication; and personal/social) in the final term by student self-assessment.

We the staff at Parkcrest Elementary would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Take time to relax when you can and enjoy family and friends.

Christmas Concert

Christmas Concert- "The North Pole Exposure." Here's the ultimate in "reality" programming! Thanks to the exploits of a brave and curious group of young people, you'll get a first-hand look at all the famous characters that make Christmas dreams come true: Santa's well-trained volunteer reindeer corps, the overworked elves, snowmen who dream of a tropical vacation, what Mrs. Claus really does on Christmas Eve, and the true spirit of the season, Santa Claus himself!

Please join us as there will be two presentations:
Wednesday, December 14th 1:00 pm to 2:15 A-L
Thursday, December 15th 1:00 pm to 2:15 M-Z
Both presentations will be the same, so we ask parents to attend only one performance to save room for others. We ask that you attend the presentation based on the surname of your child.
A-L December 14, M-Z December 15.



SAFE ARRIVAL

UP-COMING CHANGES TO SAFE ARRIVAL!

Parkcrest Elementary is joining the School District's new Safe Arrival System starting **Tuesday December 6th**. Parents will no longer be leaving a message on our school answering Safe Arrival line. The new system will handle the majority of parent contact (including phone calls) when a student absence is unexpected. The new system also allows parents to interact directly with the system in the following ways:

- by phone when the system calls you, or when you want to initiate a call to notify that your child will be absent
- by internet through a login controlled webpage interface
- by a smartphone app (iOS and Android version; both available for free).

A reference card will go home with students with this newsletter for parents with all the necessary information.

Starting **Tuesday, December 6th** all parents are asked to please report student absences **before 8:30 am** on the day of the absence (you can also report absences in advance, if they are known).

To report an absence you may choose to:

- call the toll-free # [1-844-350-2647](tel:1-844-350-2647)
- access the following website:
<http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com/>
- download the Synervoice Technologies Inc app by searching for SafeArrival School Connects.

Please choose the reason for your child's absence from school: sick, appointment, family vacation, etc. Don't forget to wait for a confirmation # to ensure your child's absence has been recorded.

A registration email will be sent to parents in advance. These emails are not spam and will contain specific parent login information for the system, as well as, instructions on how to log in as a parent to report your child's absences.

If you do not connect with the system by **8:30am** on the day of your child's absence from school, and when the teacher has completed attendance for his/her class, then a report will be dispatched for all students absent without a reason. The system will then proceed to call home and cell phone numbers until you are reached. Each number will be called up to 5 times. It is important that your home and cell phone numbers, along with email addresses are kept current.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Christmas Food Bank

Beginning this week, our school will be collecting food bank items for the



Salvation Army. This year we are asking Parkcrest to be Hunger Heroes and bring in the heaviest non-perishable food items you can. The school with the heaviest amount of food will be awarded a Pizza Party (up to 50 pizzas per school) sponsored by Papa Johns!!! We have boxes outside the office ready for items. Let's really ramp up this campaign and see if we can make a difference in our Kamloops community.

December 5th Professional Development Day

On the December 5th Professional Development day teachers will be participating in a variety of activities. Some will be staying at school collaborating with colleagues, while others will be attending workshops at other schools. Just like kids, teachers are active, life-long learners and learn best when working together.

KSO Matinee of the Hockey Sweater

On Friday **December 9th** Parkcrest grade 1-6 students will be going to the Sagebrush Theatre at 10:30 am to see the musical version of The Hockey Sweater, Roch Carrier's classic Canadian children's story. The story is about a young Québec hockey player who orders a new Montréal Canadiens sweater but instead receives a Toronto Maple Leafs sweater. Children will find out what happens when he has no choice but to wear the rival team's sweater.

Book Fair

Thank you for supporting the book fair on November 7th through 9th. If you missed this one, there will be a second book fair in late May.

School Supplies

We have a number of families who have yet to pay for school supplies. If you have forgotten to do so, please consider this a gentle reminder to send your money to school with your child. Having all families pay for supplies ensures that the school can properly allocate funds to help our students maximize their learning opportunities

Lost & Found

Many lost and found items are gathering on our wire racks in our Primary hallway. The next time you are in, stop by and see if any of these items of clothing are your child's. Items remaining on the rack after December 16th will be given to a charitable organization.

PAC

News from the PAC!

Many thanks to all that helped organize and participate in this year's Christmas Craft Fair Extravaganza! It was a HUGE success. Money raised at the Silent Auction was \$643!!! Our grand

total for the Craft Fair to date is \$1053.00.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Next PAC meeting is Wednesday, December 7th at 6:30 pm.

Poinsettia Fundraiser

Poinsettia orders arrive Tuesday, December 6th. Please make arrangements to pickup your order after school that day. Thank you for your support. Updates available on our PAC website.

Bright Red Book Shelf

Come and check out the Bright Red Book Shelf located in the primary end of the school. It is kept stocked full of books for students and parents. Please feel free to help yourself. If you have books that you would like to donate, please bring them to Mrs. Butchart in the office.

Basketball

The basketball season will be starting after the winter break. Thank you to Mr. Vaughan Willson for volunteering to coach the boys and Mr. David Cruz for coaching the girl's team.

Volleyball

Volleyball season is complete. We have had a wonderful group of young volleyball players representing our school this year. Special thank-you to Mrs. Shantz and Ms. Girodat for their hard work and commitment to these teams this year.



Pajama Day

Leadership is hosting Pajama Day at Parkcrest on Friday December 2ND. Students are invited to wear their most festive, holiday pajamas!

School Calendar

Date	Event
December 5	Pro-D day, NO SCHOOL
December 14	Christmas Concert (A-L)
December 15	Christmas Concert (M-Z)
December 16	Last Day before Winter Vacation
January 3	School Back In Session
January 20	Pro D Day - No School
February 13	Family Day - No School
February 24	Pro D Day - No School
March 20	Spring Vacation
April 3	School back in session
April 14	Good Friday
April 17	Easter Monday
April 24	Pro D Day - No School
May 15	Pro D Day - No School
May 22	Victoria Day - No School
June 29	Last Day for students
June 30	Administration day - for staff only



Board Notes

From the Board Meeting of: November 21, 2016

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:
 - a. Finance and Planning Committee Report;
 - b. Policy Committee Report;
 - c. Notice of Motion - Policy 600.1 Code of Conduct;
 - d. Notice of Motion - Policy 612.1 Student Dress Code.
2. The Board enjoyed 'Presentations of Learning in Elementary Math Classrooms' by District Numeracy Coordinator Amanda Russett, Teacher Lisa Carr, and two grade 3 students from David Thompson Elementary School.
3. The Board received an Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination presentation from Graham Specht, Diversity Outreach Coordinator for Kamloops Immigrant Services. The Board signed an Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination Declaration to show support for programs and initiatives promoting diversity and inclusivity in our communities.
4. The Board approved the District's 2016-2017 Interim School Learning Plan process and the school staff development focus areas for all schools.
5. The Board received and reviewed a report on the 2016-2017 graduation ceremony schedule.
6. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with the 2015-2016 CommunityLINK Funding and Information Report;
7. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with the Enrolment Comparison Report for their information.
8. The Board received an update from Secretary-Treasurer Stretch on Ministry of Education Rural Education Strategies.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday December 12, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.

Community

**Parent Night at Brocklehurst Middle School
December 7th 7:00-8:30pm
Drug and Alcohol Awareness**

Constable Sofie Winkels will be presenting information gathered from the Youth Advisory Council, as well as trends in Kamloops regarding drugs and alcohol. She will discuss warning signs and effects of drug use. Angela Lawrence and Luvanda Dagenais, our two drug and alcohol counsellors, will be present to talk about their services, community resources and protective factors.



Update on B.C.'s New Curriculum from Education Minister Mike Bernier

November 29, 2016

Dear Parent,

The world is changing and B.C.'s new curriculum is critical in making sure your child is connected with the skills he or she needs to succeed in this changing world. We have just announced important updates on B.C.'s new curriculum – on how it will be implemented in grades 10-12, and on the Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) written in grades 4 and 7.

Grade 10-12 curriculum implementation

Teachers, principals and trustees asked for more time to work hands-on with the redesigned draft curriculum in grades 10-12 – and we agree. The extra time means teachers can try out the draft curriculum and provide feedback before it is fully implemented in the 2018/19 school year. The new curriculum is already fully in place in the earlier grades.

The extra year makes sense because the graduation years are more complex than the K-9 years. They are tied to provincial exams. They are connected to post-secondary choices. We are making sure that we get the Grade 10-12 redesigned curriculum right for students, ensuring their future success in post-secondary and the workforce.

When it comes to provincial exams, we have mapped out which old exams and new exams will be written and when. The most important thing is that new or old, our standards remain high, testing remains rigorous, and combined with in-class exams we will be thoroughly testing student knowledge. Detailed exam information can be found at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/graduation-info>

Foundation Skills Assessments

Along with our new curriculum, we are enhancing our Foundation Skills Assessment that students in Grades 4 and 7 are required to write under B.C.'s *School Act*. The FSA measures reading, writing and math problem-solving skills that students have gained over several years of learning and provides critical information for parents, for teachers, and for the education system.


Starting next year, students in grades 4 and 7 will complete their FSAs in the fall instead of the spring. This means you and your child's teacher will get results earlier – and that means any necessary actions can be taken sooner. More information on the new FSA can be found at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment-reporting/new-foundation-skills-assessment>

Additionally, we will be giving parents like you a snapshot of the FSA results in broader school reports. You deserve to know how your child's school is succeeding on a variety of fronts – and we will include that information to provide a complete picture.

Together with teachers, our new curriculum is making sure that your child learns the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, while also engaging the collaboration, critical thinking and communications skills they'll need to succeed in college, university, and the workforce.

Thank you,

Mike Bernier
Minister of Education



**kids
for
kids**

BRING IN A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATION &

Win A

PAPA JOHN'S
Better Ingredients.
Better Pizza.

Pizza Party!!!

**THE SCHOOL WITH THE
MOST FOOD WEIGHT WINS!**

Be a Hunger Hero! 