



1585 Summit Drive  
Kamloops, BC  
V2E 1E9  
Directrice: Mme Susie Mabee  
[smabee@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:smabee@sd73.bc.ca)

Telephone: (250) 374-2451  
Fax: (250) 377-2229  
<https://south-sahali.sd73.bc.ca/en/index.aspx>  
Directrice Adjointe: Mme Mélanie Dumas  
[mdumas@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:mdumas@sd73.bc.ca)

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Dear parents, guardians, and caregivers,

We have officially made it to the end of September. Our school start-up went as smoothly as one could hope during these strange and unpredictable times. I'd like to thank all of you for your patience and flexibility with the changes in routines at school. It has been a great deal of change, which is not easy for anyone.

### Housekeeping

It's been a long time since we have had such a large number of students attending school all at the same time in one building, so there are a few housekeeping items to which I would like to draw your attention.

1. Please label your child's belongings, this includes face masks. We already have a number of items in our lost and found, including masks. It is much easier to return belongings to whom they belong if they are clearly labelled with a first and last name, or at the very least, first initial and last name. As the winter starts to change, boots, jackets, sweaters/hoodies, touques, etc. are all items that seem to have difficulty making their way back to students backpacks and lockers. A name on these items will make the task all that much easier.
2. Our pick-up/drop-off seems to be running fairly smoothly; however, there continue to be some areas for improvement. In the morning, there continue to be some parents who are coming at the 8:20 time and stay with their child until 8:40. We appreciate that you are trying to help with this transition, particularly with the younger children, and now it is time to begin developing some independence by dropping them off at their spot and then leaving yourself. In the afternoon, it is our intention to have your children down at the pick-up/drop-off area for 2:30 and 2:40 so that you don't need to get out of your vehicle to collect said children. We are hoping that this will expedite the whole process that much more, particularly as we move into the colder months.
  - a. If you do need to walk your child/ren up to/down from their classroom, please park in a designated parking stall in the parking lot and **not in the drop off lane.**
3. A gold ring was found in the library last Spring. If you think it belongs to you, please call Mme Lisa in the office so we can get it back to its rightful owner.
4. A big thank you to the many of you who are using the SchoolMessenger Safe Arrival app or phone number to report your child/ren's absences. For those of you who are new to the school, it is an app that can be downloaded to your cellphone and is easy to use. SD73 is asking that if you are reporting your child's absence as illness, to please designate the appropriate type of illness that applies to your child. Interior Health needs to keep track of any abnormalities in our



attendance data, in the case that there a health concern that our community needs to know about it. If those options don't appear on the app, refresh the app on your phone.

### **Illness**

Unfortunately, we are starting to see some students coming to school exhibiting symptoms of illness. Remember that you have signed the "Agreement to Complete Daily Health Check: which states:

During the 2020-2021 school year, parents/guardians and 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.**

Our staff will monitor all children for key symptoms of illness throughout the day. If a child develops symptom(s) while at school, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick the child up and take them home until symptom(s) have passed. If the symptom(s) persist or worsen, parents/guardians should seek a health assessment.

We implore you not to send your kids to school if they are ill. This includes symptoms of COVID-19, as well as any symptoms of non-COVID illness. We thank you in advance for helping to keep everyone safe and healthy.

### **Water Bottles**

The importance of keeping hydrated to a child's learning cannot be underestimated; however, as of right now due to the COVID-19 health stipulations, students are not permitted to use the water fountains. Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle to school and are permitted to use the water-filling stations to re-fill them throughout the day. Because we continue to try to minimize student contact outside of their learning group, we ask that these come to school already filled.

### **Lockers**

We have been given the ok to start using lockers at Elementary Schools. Mme Dumas and the staff are working hard to develop a system/set of routines that will keep students from different cohorts separated during times of the day when hallways might be busy (i.e. morning bell, recess, lunch, etc.). We hope to have a plan in place for Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> (after Thanksgiving). You would be shocked at how complicated this process is, as it is a seemingly simple task. Keep your fingers crossed that the weather will grace us with some time to iron out the kinks before we roll it out to students.

### **Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA)**

Families of students in Grades 4 and 7 were sent a letter last week letting them know that this assessment was slated to take place in October. The ministry announced this week that the FSAs have been postponed until January. More information will come home closer to the date.

### **Parent-Teacher Interviews**

Students will be dismissed at 12:30 on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> for parent-teacher interviews. As with dismissal at the end of the day, students with last names beginning with A-L will be dismissed, 10 minutes early at 12:20, in order to create some space at the pick-up area.

What these interviews will look like this year is still in discussion. More information will come out next week after we get some guidance from our District Leaders at our next School Leaders meeting. Please look for an e-mail from me, early next week.

### **Halloween**

I am not exactly sure what Halloween will entail this year for our students. Stay tuned for more communication from your child's teacher. Keep in mind that there is absolutely no sharing of food at school, so sending edible treats with your child to give to his/her classmates is not allowed at this time. Oh, how I will miss the tiny Twix bars.

### **PAC Hot Lunch**

Our school PAC provides a Hot Lunch program with food from outside vendors. We have discussed the Health and Safety Guidelines and the PAC have decided that they will continue with this program this year, but it **may** be modified (i.e. not every week). As the details are finalized, the PAC will communicate with you how/when to order your meals.

### **Upcoming Events**

As I am waiting for access to the website in order to update the school calendar, here are a few dates of which to take note:

**Wednesday, October 7** – Picture Day

**Monday, October 12** – Thanksgiving (school is closed)

**Wednesday, October 14** – PAC Meeting @ 6:30 via Zoom

**Thursday, October 15** – 12:30 Dismissal for parent-teacher interviews

**Friday, October 23** – Provincial Professional Development Day (no school for students)

Thanks for reading to the end of this long letter. Here's hoping that there won't be nearly as much new in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Susie Mabee