



Salmon Arm West Elementary School

4750 10th Ave SW

Salmon Arm, BC V1E 3B5

Phone: (250) 832-3862 Fax: (250) 833-1126

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Dear Salmon Arm West Families,

Welcome to fall of the 2023/2024 school year! We have had such a fantastic startup this year, with learning and excitement in full swing throughout the school. It has been so wonderful connecting with former as well as new students and staff. The students have quickly become comfortable in their new classroom environments, and we love welcoming them each morning. It is going to be a wonderful year!!

For those of you I had the pleasure of connecting with last year, thank you for trusting in me and welcoming me to your community. Your trust in me and willingness to work together made for a very memorable and enjoyable school year. For those I have not yet had the opportunity to connect with, I would love for you to pop in anytime to say hi. I love putting faces to names, and my office is always open to support your family however possible.

This is a lengthy newsletter, but we would appreciate if you could review all of the information, as this fall newsletter has information to review for returning families and important information for new families. Please remember, if you ever have any questions or concerns, you are always welcome to give us a call, make an appointment to see us or e-mail us at saw@sd83.bc.ca

I would like to introduce you to the SAW team for the 2023-2024 school year:

Principal: Laura Jègues

Secretary: Dani Hickman

Kindergarten/Grade 1: Dianne Peebles

Grade 1/2: Mehrnaz Coady

Grade 2/3: Amanda Norrie

Grade 3/4: Jason Chambers (M/T/W) / Jacob Purdon (Th/F)

Grade 4/5: Jake Jakobsen

Learning Resource Teacher & literacy support teacher: Leah Shykora

Music: Chelsea Goshulak / Laura Jegues

Teacher Librarian: Christy White

Certified Education Assistants: Doris Tress, Jenny Lawrence, Jane Sullivan

Education Support Worker: Nicole Robinson

Custodian: Hasan Alsalloum

Aboriginal Education Worker: Lana Binder

English Language Learning teachers: Michelle Atkins & Cathy Burke

Speech/Language Pathologist: Matthew Baldwin

Counsellor: Trudy Rosman

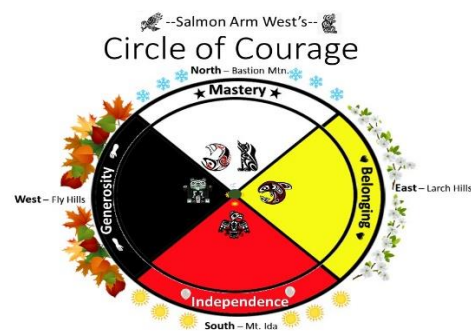
All staff contact information can be found on the SAW webpage under the Home top tab -> **Staff Contact Information**. <https://saw.sd83.bc.ca/contact-2/>

Truth & Reconciliation

Salmon Arm West prides itself on taking our learning outdoors and honouring the land as often as possible, in purposeful and meaningful ways. We are very fortunate to have the 'Shannon Sharpe Learning Circle', an outdoor space where students, staff and community members gather regularly to share knowledge, stories and embark on learning journeys together. The Shannon Sharpe Sharing Circle symbolizes connections to the former teacher's Métis and Secwépemc heritage, and the design of the structure reflects Indigenous traditions reflecting local landmarks.

Recently, Salmon Arm West School's community planted trees to honour the lives of the children whose bodies were discovered in the grounds of the Kamloops Residential School. Our new forest has become an important part of our school's history, and our students have taken much pride in planting and caring for the greenery.

We are dedicated to providing equal opportunities for all of our students, as part of our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. We welcome all of our families to take part in our journey.



Conference Day - Oct. 26th 2023

Thursday, October 26th is our District-wide family-student-conference day. *Please note that all schools are closed this day*, as we will be asking families to book scheduled in-person meeting times with their child(ren)'s classroom teachers. Please watch for emails coming next week to book your time(s).

Safe Arrival

If your child is going to be absent or late, we ask you to call or email the school by 8:20 am to advise us (250)832-3862 saw@sd83.bc.ca Once teachers take attendance, Dani will call the home of all those students who are not at school, excluding the ones who have called/emailed in. This will ensure that the safety and whereabouts of every child is known.



Bell Schedule

8:00 - Supervision Begins (no supervision before this time)

8:20 - Classes Begin

9:50 - 10:05 - Recess

11:35 - Bell for Lunch (Eating Time)

11:55 - Bell for Lunch (Outdoor Play Time)

12:20 - Classes Begin

2:16 - Dismissal

2:30 - Supervision Ends (School will call families of students still at school)

School PAC – volunteers needed!!

All parents automatically belong to PAC – our Parent Advisory Committee. No experience is needed, just a love for supporting your child(ren)'s school! You can plan to attend all or just some of the meetings. We welcome all new Salmon Arm West parents any time throughout the year as well.

The PAC makes it possible for our students to participate so many things, and without volunteers these activities would not be possible. Some ways the PAC supports / sponsors include library books for the school, smartboards and technology in the classrooms, off campus activities, hot lunches, teacher supplies, popcorn days, movie night, fundraisers and so, so much more.

Please come out and join this dedicated group of parents who contribute so much to our school. They are looking for a fundraising coordinator as well as volunteer help. Please help in any way you can so that we can continue to offer these programs for your students.

Please join us at 6:30 on October 25th, 2023 for our next meeting in the library. If you require childcare, please reach out to the school.

Volunteer Police Information Checks

As you may know from the last couple of years, the school district now requires all parents who volunteer to work with children (unsupervised by the teacher) in the school setting have a Police Information Check (PIC) completed by the RCMP. This is of particular importance for parents driving students to sporting events and on field trips. Simply put, if a parent is not on our file at our school for having had a record check completed, she/he can ONLY drive his/her own children. As a result, this may affect sports teams' participation in road games, as well as field trips in our community.

If you would like to get a Police Information Check (PIC) done, please visit the following website: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>

You will be required to enter an Access Code that is unique to School District No. 83. Please contact the school's main office for the Access Code. There is no cost to have a Police Information Check completed and the PIC is valid for five years

Bussing

Students who ride the bus must be respectful towards the driver of the bus, other students and the property of the bus. The bus driver needs to have a quiet and respectful environment on the bus in order to ensure that all students arrive at school and home in a safe manner. Riding the bus is a privilege and students who do not follow the expectations set for riding the bus may be asked to find an alternate form of transportation to and from school. Students who regularly ride the bus will receive a Bus Orientation early in the school year so all expectations for riding the bus are known and understood.

Students who are not registered are not permitted to ride the bus. Unfortunately, this means regular bus students will not be allowed to have a friend ride the bus to their home for after school activities.



Meet & Greet!

This year we hosted our meet and greet evening **Wednesday, September 20th**. Thank you so much to all of our families who attended!



School Health & Safety

SAW is following the SD83 Communicable Disease Safety Plan. This plan can be found on the school website and the SD83 district website.

Please note we are a 'Nut-Aware School' (hand washing after eating nut products, no food sharing), with the exception of classrooms where your teacher will inform families they are now a 'Nut-Free' classroom. Thank you for your attention to this.

If your child has any allergies or requires medication, please contact the office immediately to ensure we have the proper documentation and medication at the school office. This includes inhalers for asthma, as well as allergy medications.

If at any point in time you have questions or concerns related to Health & Safety, please contact the school. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

School Forms

Please see attached pages, which include instructions on Parent Connect Verification and Permissions. If you have any questions or require support, please contact Dani at saw@sd83.bc.ca or by phone (250)832-3862. These are important forms for the school to have. Please complete as soon as possible!

For student supply fees and any payments throughout the year, e-transfers may be sent to saw@sd83.bc.ca (be sure to include your child's name in the 'memo' section). Please skip past the question/answer portion (this is not required for school transactions). We will continue to accept cash and cheque as needed.

A **financial hardship policy** is in place at Salmon Arm West Elementary School for families unable to afford school fees. Please contact Laura Jègues, Principal, for further information.

Important Dates

Please note: upcoming school events are updated regularly on our School Website. We would ask that all families bookmark our website for easy reference:

<https://saw.sd83.bc.ca/>

Our office secretary, Dani Hickman, will send out a weekly 'upcoming events' email each week for the week ahead. If you have not already been receiving these emails, please contact us directly at the school (250)832-3862. Alternatively, if you do not have internet access or are unable to view our website/ emails for important dates, please contact us and we will provide you with a printed copy in your child's agenda book.

2023/2024 SD83 Calendar Year at a Glance: (holidays, conference & pro-d days included)

September 2023

Mon. 4 – Labour Day (statutory holiday)

Tues. 5 – Non-Instructional Day (no school for students, regular work day for all staff)

Wed. 6 – Early Dismissal Day (students dismissed and buses running three hours earlier)

Mon. 18 – Professional Development Day (no school for students – school-based Pro-D day)

October 2023

Mon. 2 – National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (schools closed)

Mon. 9 – Thanksgiving (statutory holiday)

Fri. 20 – Professional Development Day (no school for students – Provincial Pro-D day)

Thurs. 26 – Conference Day (Elementary/Middle Only)

November 2023

Fri. 10 – Remembrance Day stat (in lieu)

Fri. 24 – Professional Development Day (no school for students – school-based Pro-D day)

December 2023

Thurs. Dec. 21 – Last Day before Winter Vacation

Winter Vacation – Dec. 22 to Jan. 5, 2024

January 2024

Mon. 8 – Schools re-open after Winter Break

Wed. 17 – Kindergarten/French Immersion/ Outdoor Learning registration opens for Sept. 2024

Mon. 29 – In Service Day (Ministry designated. No school for students, regular work day for staff)

February 2024

Fri. 16 – Professional Development Day (no school for students – regional Pro-D day)

Mon. 19 – Family Day (statutory holiday)

March 2024

Fri. 15 – Last day before Spring Break

Spring Break – March 18 to March 28

Fri. 29 – Good Friday (statutory holiday)

April 2024

Mon. 1 – Easter Monday (school holiday)

Tues. 2 – Schools re-open after Spring Break

Mon. 29 – Professional Development Day (no school for students)

May 2024

Mon. 20 – Victoria Day (statutory holiday)

June 2024

Thurs. 27 – Last day before summer break (early dismissal)

Fri. 28 – Non-instructional day (no school for students – administration day)

****Please visit our webpage for Upcoming Events and important information****

www.saw.sd83.bc.ca

Hot meal Tuesdays

We are thrilled to announce that **each and every Tuesday**, we will be offering a hot meal to students and staff. Some weeks will be hearty soup & a bun, some weeks pasta, some spaghetti, and sometimes pizza! We ask that families please pack a bowl and fork & spoon for their child every Tuesday this year. There will always be vegetarian/vegan/halal friendly options as well for students. We would like to thank our parent volunteers who have taken on this beautiful initiative, allowing us as a school community to come together each week and embrace the comfort of a hot meal in our classrooms.

Please note that once per month, our PAC will continue offering a hot lunch via the Munch-a-lunch program. This is a fundraiser for our PAC, and our goal is for all families to participate. If this creates a financial challenge in any way, please reach out to the school.

Able to volunteer on a Tuesday?!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849ABA628A5FBC61-tuesday>



Thank you!

Thank you for taking time to read our Newsletter. We want to keep you informed of school activities and events, using various methods of communication. The school newsletters will also be available on the school website. Our goal is to reduce the amount of paper distributed by the school, so we would like to encourage as many families as possible to receive newsletters via e-mail. Of course, families who do not have access to e-mail will receive a paper copy of the newsletter. Please also follow us on facebook for exciting posts and be sure to bookmark our Salmon Arm West webpage for up to date information & important dates.

Should you have any questions or concerns, at any time, please reach out at any time. We are so excited to embark on the 2023-2024 school year and look forward to seeing as many families as possible throughout the school this year 😊

Laura Jègues

Laura Jègues

Principal

Terry Fox Run



Orange Shirt Day Assembly



Making Memories!





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Dear Parents/Guardians,

RE: SD 83 Permission Forms Information

Below, you will find instructions on how to go online to update your child's information and permission forms on Parent Connect. **Please complete as soon as possible.**

The forms have been posted on **Parent Connect** for you to review and authorize. Please login to your Parent Connect account, review the notices and select the appropriate response to each form. **It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded to by your child's parent/guardian. Several forms require student verification on Student Connect as well.**

To access Parent Connect please click [HERE](#) or go to our Salmon Arm West School website, <https://saw.sd83.bc.ca/> and click the Parent Connect link under the Parent Information drop down menu on the top bar. Parent Connect Instructions are located below the sign in button. You can access your account using the email we have on file for you. If we don't have your current email, please let Dani (office secretary) know and she update your email address to our system. You can select "forgot password" and a new password will be emailed to you. If you have more than one child, you will be sent a password for each child. You can change the passwords to the same word to simplify login for your family. You can also watch a video on using Parent Connect, found on the Parent Connect Sign In screen, if you require additional assistance. You may also contact Dani at the school with questions. J

On Parent Connect, please click and respond to each of the forms below. To view the forms, click on the "Click here to view form" box. ***IMPORTANT*** - As you review and update each form, PLEASE SELECT THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE ON PARENT CONNECT AND **CLICK SAVE** (located near top right of page).

- **Parent Personal Information Consent**
- **Parent Outside Media Consent**
- **MyBluePrint Consent**
- **Parent Network Permission**
- **Walking Parent Permission**
- **District Cloud Services Consent**

Walking Parent Permission and District Cloud Services Consent only need to be completed once and will be missing from the list if already completed last year.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, please review the Green Student Information Verification sheet sent home to ensure your contact information and address is correct. Please update any Emergency Contact information if needed. Please complete the Consent for Electronic Messages for Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation form on the pink sheet.

If you have any questions or concerns or if you need a paper copy of the permission forms, please contact Dani at the school, 250-832-3862, or email at saw@sd83.bc.ca.

Thank you,

Laura Jêgues
Principal



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School Fee Schedule 2023-2024

Permissible Fees:

- Listed below are the permissible school fees in compliance with provincial legislation. A **financial hardship policy** is in place at Salmon Arm West for families unable to afford school fees. Please contact Laura Jègues (250.832.3862) for further information. If you wish to work out a payment plan, please contact Dani Hickman, the school secretary.

- Due by September 29th, 2023*

➤ School Supplies (Div 1/2/3/4):	\$30
➤ School Supplies (Div 5 – Gr 1/2):	\$25
➤ Student agenda:	\$10 (Agenda replacement: \$10)

Requested Fees:

- Provincial legislation does not allow schools to charge a mandatory activity fee. Our PAC and staff believe these programs and activities are important for our students. We are requesting parents continue to pay these fees, so these programs can continue. Our ability to provide these programs will depend on the response from parents. No student will be denied access to a school sponsored program/activity for financial reasons. If circumstances do not permit payment at this point, please contact Laura Jègues.
 - **Optional Cultural Performance and Activity Fee \$20 per student (max. \$60 per family).**
 - **Field Trips:**
Teacher may plan field trips and charge a fee to cover costs (eg. transportation, entry fees, accommodation, food, equipment rentals, etc.).

Total: Div 5:	\$55
Div 1/2/3/4:	\$60

Payment can be made by e-transfer to saw@sd83.bc.ca, cash, or cheque.

A password is not required for e-transfer.

Please be sure to include your child's first and last name and what the payment is for in the Memo/Notes section (eg. Jenny Ray – School Fees).

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions regarding fees.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank families for their continued support.

Thank You,

Laura Jègues
Principal