



Salmon Arm West Elementary School

4750 10th Ave SW

Salmon Arm, BC V1E 3B5

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

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Hello to our Salmon Arm West Families!

Welcome back to the 2024/2025 school year. We have had such a wonderful startup, with learning and routines already established throughout the school. Our staff have truly enjoyed welcoming students into their new classroom spaces, some which changed from last school year, and many of which have remained the same. We are very excited to dive into all the learning that goes on in our school, and to watch everyone grow and share their strengths. We can already tell that it's going to be an amazing year for us here at Salmon Arm West!

For those of you who are new to the school and community, my name is Laura Jègues. This is my third year serving as your Principal and I am SO fortunate to be able to spend my days with your children, while also supporting the incredible team of adults here in the school. I truly have the best job and could not be more excited for another year of memories to come.

Prior to working at Salmon Arm West, I spent nine years in the Military Reserves (back in Winnipeg where I was born and raised), followed by a move to Salmon Arm, where I spent the next four years working as a Vice-Principal. My two children attend schools in Salmon Arm, and they help keep my husband and I busy in the many ways that our children do! Being a parent as well as a Principal reminds me each day that approaching students and staff from a place of care and compassion, while also holding firm to our safety rules and inclusive practices, is so important as a school leader. I am so humbled to be a part of this community, where we have the privilege of learning together each day on the traditional lands of the Secwépemc people.

If at any time I can be of support to you, or concerns arise throughout the year, please reach out to me at the school. I also love to hear from families about the many extracurricular successes in your children's lives, so that we can celebrate them as a school. And of course, you are always welcome to connect and share all of the things you are loving about SAW 😊

This year I will have the pleasure of working alongside the following team:

Kindergarten/Grade 1: Dianne Peebles

Grade 1/2: Sarah Croken & Sarah Schroeder

Grade 3/4: Amanda Norrie

Grade 4/5: Jake Jakobsen

Principal: Laura Jègues

Secretary: Angela (Ang) Mastrangelo

Learning Resource Teacher & literacy support teacher: Leah Shykora

Music: Chelsea Goshulak / Laura Jegues

Teacher Librarian: Christy White

Certified Education Assistants: Doris Tress, Jenny Lawrence & Zerena McDiarmid

Education Support Worker: Nicole Robinson

Custodian: Hasan Alsalloum

Aboriginal Education Worker: Lana Binder

English Language Learning teachers: TBA

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/>

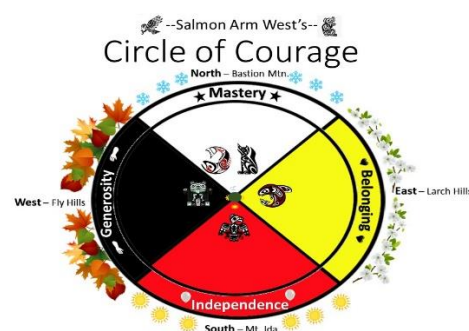
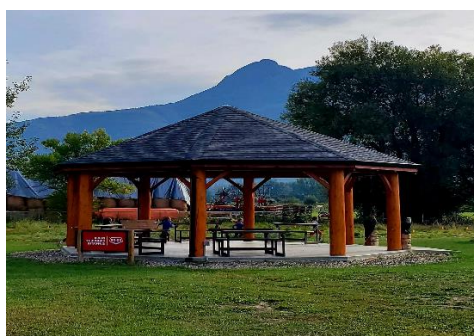
Truth & Reconciliation – Orange Shirt Day Sept. 26th

Our first school-wide act of Reconciliation will take place on Thursday, September 26th. Please support us by helping your child find their Salmon Arm West Orange shirt, and if unavailable, please ask them to wear orange (or their favourite colour) to school this day.



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. Weather permitting, our Orange Shirt Day assembly will be held in this outdoor space.

Our newly planted 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. 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. This act will remain a part of our history and our school's story. 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. 17th 2024

Thursday, October 17th 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, Ang 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. Please know these calls are made daily.



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 and family members at any time throughout the year as well.

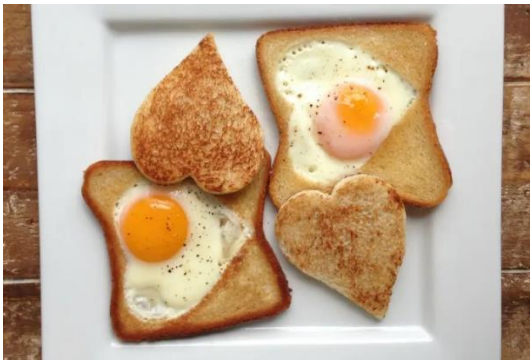
The PAC makes it possible for our students to participate so many things, and without volunteers these activities would not be possible. Some ways the PAC supports / sponsors include *library books for the school, smartboards and technology in the classrooms, off campus activities, hot lunches, teacher 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 after school at 2:30 on September 25th, 2024 for our first meeting in the library. If you require childcare, please reach out to the school.

Breakfast program every morning

ALL students are invited to join us for breakfast club, each and every morning at the school. This stigma-free opportunity is accessible for all, and no student will ever be questioned or refused. A special shout out to Breakfast Club of Canada, as well as SD83 Feeding Futures Grant, who make it possible for all of our students to start their days with a healthy breakfast!



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 **Thursday, September 12^h**. Thank you so much to all of our families who attended!



Popcorn days!

Once a month, students will have the option to enjoy some delicious popcorn! A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who help organize and hand out the popcorn. As well, a GINORMOUS shout-out to *Syme Structural Engineering* for sponsoring this for all students this year!!!



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 Ang 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, Ang, will send out a weekly 'upcoming events' email each Friday for the week ahead. 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.

September 2024

Mon. 2 - Labour Day (statutory holiday)

Tues. 3 - Non-Instructional Day (no school for students, regular work day for all staff)

Wed. 4 - First Day of School. Early Dismissal Day (students dismissed and buses running three hours earlier than usual)

Fri. 27 - Professional Development Day (no school for students)

Mon. 30 - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (schools closed)

October 2024

Mon. 14 - Thanksgiving (statutory holiday)

Thurs. 17 - Conference Day (Elementary/Middle Only)

Fri. 25 - Professional Development Day (no school for students)

November 2024

Fri. 8 – Professional Development Day (no school for students)
Mon. 11 – Remembrance Day stat (in lieu)

December 2024

Fri. Dec. 20 – Last Day before Winter Vacation
Winter Vacation – December 23 – January 3

January 2025

Mon. 6 – Schools re-open after Winter Break
Wed. 15 – Kindergarten/French Immersion/ Outdoor Learning registration opens for Sept. 2025

February 2025

Fri. 14 – Professional Development Day (no school for students)
Mon. 17 – Family Day (statutory holiday)

March 2025

Fri. 14 – Last day before Spring Break
Spring Break – March 17 – March 28, 2025
Mon. 31 – Welcome back! School re-opens after Spring Break

April 2025

Mon. 7 – Professional Development Day (no school for students)
Fri. 18 – Good Friday (Stat Holiday)
Mon. 21 – Easter Monday (no school for students)

May 2025

Mon. 5 – Non-Instructional Day (no school for students but regular day for staff)
Mon. 19 – Victoria Day (statutory holiday)

June 2025

Thurs. 26 – Last day before summer break (early dismissal)
Fri. 27 – 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 Fridays (moved from Tuesdays!!)

We are thrilled to announce that **each and every Friday**, we will be offering a hot meal for all students and staff. We will be serving up different items each week, with a focus on farm to table, and supporting local businesses, as well as familiarizing ourselves with different cultural foods and traditions. These meals will be free of charge to students, as they are funded by our Feeding Futures Grant

*****Please note that a form will come home next week requesting the dietary needs of your child(ren)***** This helps us ensure we are offering a variety of options for those with allergies, as well as honouring all religious, personal, and family food values.

We ask that families please pack an empty container and fork/spoon for their child **every Friday** this year. Please also continue to provide a snack for their morning recess time.

"Fun Food Day" Fundraisers (one Friday per month)

Once per month, our hot meal Friday will be a *'fun' food fundraising day*, with some days being pizza and other days hot dogs (vegetarian/vegan/halal options included). These will be available for pre-purchase (the order form will be coming home next week) providing ALL of this year's fun food dates, with quantity boxes and available methods of payment. Hot dogs will be \$2 each, and pizza slices \$2 each. Our goal is to move away from students bringing money to school, as it can get lost, is difficult for families to come by the night before (or morning of 😊) and is challenging us as a school to anticipate how much food to order ahead. With our new order form system, families will indicate the quantity and type, pre-pay, and the food will be served to your child on the fun food day.

If the 'fun food' meals provide a financial hardship, please reach out to the office and we would be happy to help support the cost. Our goal is for ALL of our students to be included in our fun meal days, and to never feel a barrier around these opportunities. *A note to our Band families*: Our local Bands will continue to cover this cost for all of our Band students at Salmon Arm West.

There will always be vegetarian/vegan/halal friendly options as well for students. We would like to thank Mrs. Robinson, our school meals coordinator, Brittney Syme, our PAC president, and our parent volunteers who have taken on this beautiful initiative and program, allowing us to come together each week and embrace the comfort of a hot meal in our classrooms.

[Able to volunteer on a Friday ?!](#)

[Please reach out to us at the office 😊](#)

Bookfair Oct 15th - Oct 18th!

Our librarian will be running our book fair the week of Tuesday, Oct 15th to Friday, Oct 18th (including conference day!) Please stop by and help support our library by purchasing some amazing literature, book marks, posters, and other small gifts that students love.

Volunteers needed: In order to run our book fair for the full day on Thursday, Oct 17th, we are looking for some volunteers. If you are able to carve out some time that day, please reach out to us at the office.

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 be available year-round 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.

Please join me in welcoming everyone back to the 2024-2025 school year 😊

Laura Jègues

Laura Jègues

Principal



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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 Ang, the 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 the office with questions.

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.



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

RE: SD 83 Student fee information

Listed below are the permissible and optional school fees in compliance with provincial legislation and school district policy.

Please Do Not purchase school supplies for your child. The school has purchased supplies to ensure uniformity, variety and need. A fee will be collected from parents to recover the cost.

PERMISSIBLE (MANDATORY) FEES:

- ▶ School Supplies \$30.00
- Student Agenda \$10.00
- ▶ Activity Fee \$10.00

This amount covers activities such as swimming and other school wide events. Our PAC and staff believe these programs and activities are important for our students and are requesting parents continue to pay these fees. Our ability to provide these programs will be dependent on the response from parents.

- ▶ Cultural Fee \$10.00
- the number of performances booked is contingent upon the amount collected

Total: \$60.00

Please note: Provincial legislation does not allow schools to charge a mandatory activity or cultural fee. The staff would like to take this opportunity to thank families for their continued support in order to provide these valuable opportunities for our students.

COMBINED TOTAL Due Monday, September 30th

PAYMENT

- ▶ e-transfer to saw@sd83.bc.ca Please skip the question/ answer portion (this is not required for school transactions). PLEASE include your child's name(s) in the memo line (families can pay for multiple students in one combined etransfer, please note the names of students in the memo)
- ▶ cheques payable to SALMON ARM WEST - bring to Secretary, Angela M., in the office

A financial hardship policy is in place for families unable to afford school fees. If circumstances do not permit payment by Friday, September 29th, please contact Laura Jegues, Principal to make arrangements.



Our annual Meet & Greet - thank you to everyone who joined us.
Such a beautiful evening!!



Our beautiful school grounds 



Our school pet birds, Mango & Crema 😊



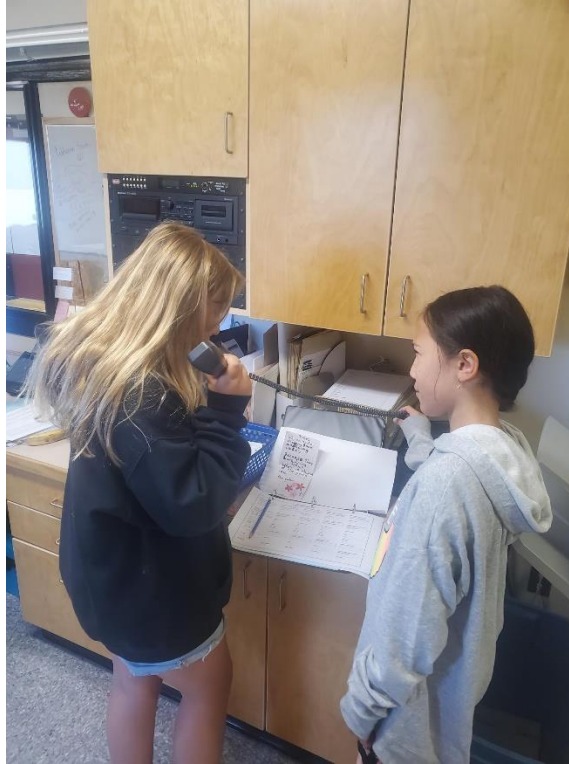
Students cheering on the 55+ Games athletes!!!



Welcome to our new Kindies!!



Summer stories and circle sharing 💙



Leadership in full swing!



P.E fun 😊

...and so much more to come!!!