



Salmon Arm West Elementary School

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Spring/Summer 2024 Newsletter

Hello Salmon Arm West Families,

What a wonderful Spring season it has been! We are grateful for the rain, not only to see everything in bloom, but also to help keep our lands as wet as possible with the summer months ahead. We have been engaging in so many important conversations with students around protection of our lands, our roles and responsibilities, as well as the importance of the seasons. These important conversations and classroom learnings have tied in nicely with the many outdoor field trips and outdoor learning Salmon Arm West has been engaging in.

From the school-wide field trip to the Wildlife Park in Kamloops, to the Vernon Science Center stations outside, cross-country running on the fields, and field trip for older grades to North Fork Wild, we have truly been enjoying and experiencing nature in its most beautiful forms. We hope you have been able to spend lots of time outdoors as a family, too!

It has been such a successful year for us here, as we reflect on all the learning, growth and strengths our students have acquired. As we begin to enter the month of June, staff have begun the initial stages of planning for the 2024/2025 school year. With our current enrollment, we are projected for 4 Divisions, which would look as follows: K/1, 1/2, 3/4 and 4/5. While we do not have a formal process for classroom placement requests, I always invite families to reach out to me directly before summer break with any information they may like to share with regards to the placement of their child(ren)'s classes for next year. Please note that we will not be able to guarantee any information until September, once all schools know their exact number of students in attendance. Once this has been confirmed, we receive confirmation from the School District as to our number of Divisions. This is a district-wide policy, and we thank you for your patience as we go through the process.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the important information in our Spring/Summer Newsletter. Enjoy the photos throughout! 😊

Warmly,

Laura Jegues

Principal

Volunteer appreciation Tea

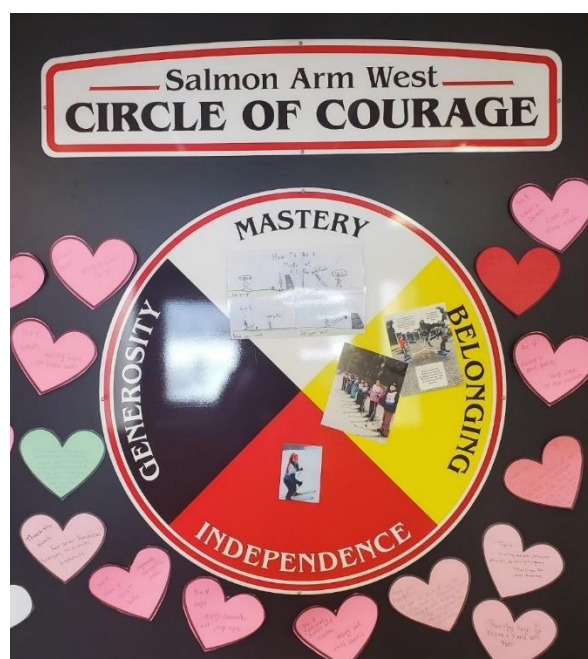
A big thank you to everyone who attended our Volunteer Appreciation Tea. We are so grateful for all the help, initiatives and supports our volunteers provide for our students, staff and community. To those unable to attend, please pop by for one of our flower gifts. We could not do the many activities and programs we offer here at Salmon Arm West without you.

Thank you as well to those involved in planning, creating gifts, serving, and to our student performers, who did an outstanding job!



Truth & Reconciliation

Recently, our staff participated in a Professional Development Learning day around the Circle of Courage. This learning is part of our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation as a school, and we look forward to celebrating your child(ren)'s journey through the teachings of Mastery, Independence, Belonging and Generosity. We would like to thank all of our families for their support during these Pro-D days, which allow us to come together as a staff and learn ways and methods to best support our students, your children.



Parking & Newly seeded area

A reminder to families that we ask for your cooperation in not parking or stopping in front of the school designated bus/fire lane at any time. Our transportation department and local community emergency partners greatly appreciate your cooperation to ensure we have the bus/emergency lane clear at all times. This is especially important during drop-off and pickup, as there have been vehicles blocking access for the bus to turn in. Thank you for your cooperation!

As well, we have recently seeded the front school yard near the Flag Poles – please help us by reminding your child(ren) to stay off the taped off section. We are very excited for the no-mow, naturalized soon-to-be wildflowers & clover!

With the nice weather ahead, students/families may be riding their bike or other method of wheels to school. We ask that once you are on school grounds, which includes our parking lot / back school ground, please dismount and walk. Thank you for keeping our school grounds safe to everyone 😊

Lost and found

Please check your inbox for a video (attached below) featuring all of our Lost and Found items. If left uncollected, we will wash and hold onto certain items that we know future students may need during different seasons of the year. The remaining items will be donated next week. Please stop by to have a look and bring those lovely jackets, sweaters, gloves, etc back to their home 😊

https://youtu.be/ICfDLw3a8_o?feature=shared

Hot meal Tuesdays

Thank you to our staff and volunteers who make our weekly hot lunch Tuesdays a continued success. Students enjoy this day so very much, and it would not be possible without the ongoing work and support of our volunteers and meals staff.

Able to volunteer on a Tuesday?!

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

Gift card supports

Recently, we have been given some ministry funds to support our families in need. We have had the privilege of ordering gift cards, which are now available by request. If your family could use some grocery or gas support in the summer months, please reach out directly to Principal Laura Jegues and we would be happy to support however we can. Please note that gift cards are limited, and will only be available until they have run out.

PAC / volunteers

****PAC volunteers are needed, in order to continue with the events and contributions at school.****

We require some new faces to join our PAC for the 2024/2025 school year. We currently have some parents who are stepping out of positions, making room for new positions available. Please note that we **need** families in order to continue seeing all of these wonderful things happen for our students, and a minimum number of volunteers are required for PAC's to receive funding.

Please remember that no experience is necessary! - just a willingness to join us in some important discussions once a month and help where you can! If you have any questions around this, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself (Laura Jegues) or any of our PAC members (salmonarmwestpac@gmail.com).

On behalf of our school PAC, our staff, students, and our community, thank you for taking the time to read this. We hope to see you Wednesday, May 29th at 6:30 in our newly updated (Thanks to PAC!) library.

If you require childcare, please reach out to the school.



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. Please note: calls are made each day to ensure student safety.



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)

Volunteer Police Information Checks

SD83 now requires all parents/guardians who volunteer to work with children (unsupervised by the teacher), in the school setting, to 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.

Farmer's Choice Box Program

SD83 families are invited to take part in the Farmer's Choice Box Program. To order a [veggie box please click here](https://naturedelivered.ca/pages/sd83) <https://naturedelivered.ca/pages/sd83> and to order a [protein box please click here](https://sd83.yfmeats.ca/) <https://sd83.yfmeats.ca/>

Food boxes are delivered to the school for easy pick up. For parent convenience, information about this program can be found on our [website under the "Parents" drop down menu](#).

Please note that food boxes are donated if not picked up on the day of delivery. Thank you for your understanding.



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.



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.

Kiddos feeling sick?

If your child is ill, we ask that you please keep them home from school to prevent others from getting sick. If you have any questions around symptoms or whether or not your child should stay home, please do not hesitate to call the office!

Nut-aware school

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 Communication

Our goal is always to keep families informed of school activities and events. Your classroom teacher is the best source of communication for your specific inquiries, as they will have the most up-to-date information pertaining to activities happening within their classroom. Our office secretary, Dani, sends out reminders of upcoming events, and is always available by phone or email (saw@sd83.bc.ca) to answer questions you may have.

Special events within the school or urgent information needing to be shared will be emailed directly from the Principal. Please ensure you are checking emails regularly, and if at any point you require paper copies of information to go home, please let us know.

Our school quarterly newsletters will also be available on the school website. Should you require a paper copy, please contact our office and we would be happy to send one home in your child's backpack. 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.

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/>

If you have not already been receiving these emails, or have changed your email or contact information, 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.

****Please visit our webpage for Upcoming Events and important information, which is also emailed weekly from our office team****

www.saw.sd83.bc.ca

Some of the amazing happenings at Salmon Arm West!



Way to go fundraisers!!



School-wide running days – such amazing weather!





Thank you PAC for the furniture – we are so proud of where we learn!!!



Students vs. staff basketball!

