



## Armstrong Elementary School

### Respect Self, Others, Property and Learning

September 9, 2025

#### Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. It has been such a pleasure to welcome our AES students back to school. Hearing the laughter and seeing the smiles as kids are connecting with those around them is a great reminder of why this time of year is so special. Armstrong Elementary has a history of priding itself on being a school "where everybody belongs." As we look towards ways for students to feel connected, not just to new classmates, but also to some of the adults in the building, please know that an important part of that is ongoing communication with families. The more we talk and work together as partners, the better we will be able to support students. Please reach out to your child's teacher early on to begin that important relationship. We are always happy to have discussions and help answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

*Megan Weir*

Principal

#### Welcome Back BBQ

Thanks to our PAC and staff for planning our Back to School BBQ for Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Many of our staff will be available in their classroom from 5-5:30 pm. This is a great opportunity for your child to show you their classroom and introduce you to their teacher. If you would like to have a discussion with your child's teacher, please make an appointment for an alternate time/date, as this evening is for informal conversations and for teachers to meet as many families as possible 😊 At 5:30, there will be a BBQ with hot dogs available for students and families. This is a picnic style BBQ, so bring a blanket or chairs for your family as you'd like. Families are welcome to bring something nut-free to share if they would like – but no worries if not! These are busy times. We are really looking forward to seeing families there!

#### School forms

Please have a look at the forms that have been sent home so far: School fees list, Munch A Lunch (hot lunch fundraiser) that will start October 7<sup>th</sup> (online ordering will be available next week) and information about completing a volunteer application and criminal record check. If you think you might be interested in volunteering at AES in any capacity (breakfast club, field trips, reading with students, helping at the school in any way), please complete the online criminal record check as well as the volunteer application. Criminal record checks are good for 5 years and must be completed through the school district's unique code when applying online. And it's FREE.

Online, please go to: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>

Access Code: 6TQTFUJGQP

Another form coming home this week will allow you to confirm or make changes to addresses, emergency contacts, phone numbers, emails etc. Please return the forms to the school as soon as possible. We really appreciate you taking the time to do this.

An email has been sent home on how to complete online permission forms through Parent Connect. Please contact Kyla in the office if you need a hand with this.

If our records indicate a medical alert plan or school administration of medication for your child, some important forms will be sent home this week to fill out and return as soon as possible.

## Parent Advisory Council (PAC) News

All parents/guardians are members of PAC. Coming to the PAC meetings is an opportunity to support and enhance your child's school experience, as well as for their schoolmates. Being involved with the PAC provides a voice in school initiatives and is an opportunity to bring your ideas and learn how to become more involved in your children's school.

PAC will be hosting a Budget Meeting Sept. 17 at 5:30 in the library and their first Regular Meeting Sept. 23 at 5:30 in the library. Child-minding provided. Please feel free to join us!

## Nuts & Peanuts

We have a number of students and staff who are allergic to peanuts and nuts. While some allergies are just if the person eats the product, others have allergic reactions that can be triggered by contact such as touching a desk or doorknob where there are traces of nuts. Students and staff who are anaphylactic to nuts may stop breathing if they come in contact with nuts or nut products. For this reason, our school is a "Nut sensitive" school and we request that peanuts and nuts are NOT sent to school. Thank you so much for understanding and for doing your part to help keep our school community safe. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the school.

## Breakfast Program

Thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers and CEA who assists with meal prep, our daily breakfast program will start soon. We are so appreciative of the time and energy that our parent volunteers dedicate to putting together trays of food for each class every morning. Learning happens best on a full stomach and we are so thankful that our students have the opportunity to grab a quick snack or two in the morning.

## Attendance

Regular attendance at school is incredibly important. So much goes on every day that if your child misses very many days, they are at risk of feeling disconnected from the relationships they are building at school and of falling behind in their learning. We also know that once you start to feel behind, it is easy to start feeling overwhelmed and even worried. The longer students are away, the bigger those feelings can get. Your child's success is so important to us. If there is anything standing the way of regular attendance, please reach out to us. Together, we will brainstorm and consider solutions.

**Absent students:** if your child is going to be away from school, please email [aes@sd83.bc.ca](mailto:aes@sd83.bc.ca) or call the office at 250-546-8778. If we don't answer, please leave a message. Once attendance is completed in the morning, if a child is absent from school and we have not heard from the family, we will be phoning to ensure your child is home safe with you.

## School Office Hours

Our school administrative assistance, Kyla Verbeek, is in the office from 7:30-3:00 Monday to Friday. Outside of the hours, please feel free to leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible. If you need to get an urgent message to your child, please call the office as soon as possible. Messages left after 1:45 may not be retrieved in time to get to your child before the end of the day. We do our best... and appreciate your understanding.

## Drop off and pick up at AES

AES is a lively place at these times. Supervision in the morning starts at 7:45am. If you are dropping your child off at the school, please use either the parking lot at the side of the school or the back, off of Rosedale. The bus lane is only for buses in the morning and after school. We have seven buses that come to the school within a 15-minute time span and the bus lane is full. Please do not pull into that area, even if it is just for a short time. Much appreciated!

Picking up your child after school: Again, please use the Rosedale parking lot, or the side parking lot. If you are on foot, please meet your child behind the school. The bus area by the small playground becomes very crowded

and we respectfully ask that only bus students wait in this area. This helps us to be sure that everyone who is supposed to get on the bus does so, and that no extras get included. We need everyone getting home safely 😊

We also really appreciate the modeling that happens when parents and adults use the crosswalk. This sets such a good example for the students! Traffic sometimes goes by a little quickly in front of the school and our crossing guards are there to keep everyone safe from 7:34-8:04 and 2-2:30 each day.

**Bus students**

If your child is eligible to ride the bus, they must be registered with SD 83 Transportation (250-832-9415). Non-registered riders will not be allowed to take the bus. Kindergarten students must be met at the bus stop by a responsible adult. If an adult is not there to meet them, they will be brought back to the school.

**Orange t-shirts and hoodies for sale**

In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, K̓wsaltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw School District (SD83) is selling orange t-shirts and hoodies, as a part of the commemoration of this very important day. If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt or hoodie, please follow the link [here](#). **The online store will close Monday, Sept 15th, at 3:00pm.** Orders will be delivered to the District office for distribution to schools the week of Sept 15th, allowing time for schools to hand them out before school events. Please be sure to include your child's name in the order form. Should you have any questions, please contact Abundant Specialty Advertising at [asateam@abundantspecialty.ca](mailto:asateam@abundantspecialty.ca).

**School photos**

Our school photo day is Tuesday, October 14, 2025. Watch for more information coming soon. If you miss photo day, or require re-takes, our retake day is Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Important Dates**

|              |                                                                                                 |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 16 | Welcome back BBQ: 5-5:30 Meet the teacher; 5:30-6:30 BBQ                                        |
| September 17 | PAC budget meeting: 5:30                                                                        |
| September 23 | PAC regular meeting: 5:30                                                                       |
| September 25 | Terry Fox Run (short presentation in the gym at 12:15; running outside at 12:30)                |
| September 26 | Truth & Reconciliation Assembly (more information will be on the website)                       |
| September 29 | Pro D day for staff; school not in session for students                                         |
| September 30 | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: no school                                            |
| October 13   | Thanksgiving: no school                                                                         |
| October 14   | Photo Day                                                                                       |
| October 20   | Parent/Teacher/Student Conference Day: regular classes not in session; more information to come |



*AES - The School where everyone belongs*