



# CATALINE ELEMENTARY

## JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Principal: Dwayne Benvin  
Vice Principal: Tess Riley  
(250) 392-7154

January 07, 2025

### Partners in Attendance

Parents play an important role in the education of their children. Their involvement and encouragement can help a child excel. Other family members and friends also play a key role in making sure students understand why they need to attend school to succeed. A success in school starts with regular attendance from the early years right through high school completion. Did you know that even as early as Kindergarten, chronic absenteeism makes it more difficult to learn? Parents and schools can work together to find solutions that support children's success in learning. Please contact your teacher or the school if looking for attendance support.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and practice good hygiene (e.g. handwashing)
- Be in regular communication with your child's teachers.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers and school, and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

### Safe Arrival Program

Please use the SafeArrival program to report your child's absence. There are 3 convenient methods:

1. SchoolMessenger app from Apple App or Google play stores:  
<https://go.schoolmessenger.com>
2. Safe Arrival website:  
<https://go.schoolmessenger.com>
3. Toll free number: 1-833-582-6894

\*\*If you are picking up your child early from school – please **DO NOT** report this on the app. Please send a message to your child's teacher via their agenda.

### PAC News

Next PAC meeting will be the first Monday in February at 5:30 in the library. There will be **no** PAC meeting in January.

### **New Fundraiser that will be running year-round!!**

Use **Flipgive** when doing your online shopping and help earn money for our PAC! Digital Gift cards can also be bought and used for yourself or sent as gifts! **Download the APP Flipgive** and use team code **7SYLDR** or use the following link to register and start shopping  
[https://www.flipgive.com/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0BMQABHVCL7wDUTm1cov4rOC1ynfTABSErCLFfswN4HbcQwXrjGUASQjfeVlxveA\\_aem\\_imlH0JFMVlw3Q-ugJqFfGg](https://www.flipgive.com/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0BMQABHVCL7wDUTm1cov4rOC1ynfTABSErCLFfswN4HbcQwXrjGUASQjfeVlxveA_aem_imlH0JFMVlw3Q-ugJqFfGg) using team code **7SYLDR**.

**West Coast Seeds** fundraiser information is attached to this newsletter. You can access the website using the following link:

[fundraising.westcoastseeds.com](https://fundraising.westcoastseeds.com) or scan the QR code

Please make sure all orders are submitted by January 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:55 pm. If you are unable to order online, please contact Stephanie at [catalinepac@gmail.com](mailto:catalinepac@gmail.com)

### Munch a Lunch

All orders for February lunches are to be completed no later than Jan 24 @ 2:55 pm

Paper order forms will be available in the office.

Parents, please use this link to order or to register:  
<https://munchalunch.com/login>

Please follow us on Facebook:  
**Cataline Elementary School P.A.C.**



### Interschool Sports

Basketball Season

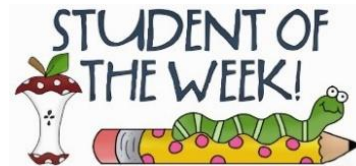
The basketball season has begun with practices starting tomorrow!

Interschool basketball games for Grade 5/6 boys and girls begins at the end of January. **Schedules will go home next week.** Games will be after school – Grade 5 Boys – Mon; Grade 6 Boys - Tues; Grade 5 Girls – Wed; Grade 6 Girls Thurs  
Schedules will be sent home in the new year.



**Dec 6:** Olivia Newman, Evan Best, Hale Worthington

**Dec 13:** Zayden Brown, Oaklyn Roy, Brooke Engelhart



**Dec 3:** Ms. Alysha nominated Daksha Amal

**Dec 9:** Mr. Armstrong nominated Aleah Solomon

**Dec 16:** Mrs. Hopkins nominated Melodie Johnson

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten Registration for 2025/2026 school year opens January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. School District #27 will be using the MyEducation BC **online registration** process for kindergarten student registration for the 2025/2026 school year.

Children must be five years of age by December 31, 2025. Children presently enrolled in kindergarten do not need to re-register for Grade One.

The following documents **are required** at registration and must be uploaded with your on-line registration:

1. Birth Certificate or passport
2. BC Care card – both sides are required
3. Two pieces of proof of physical address **are required** ie. Mortgage statement, rental agreement, hydro bill. **\*\*Driver's license or BCID or Care Cared are second pieces only.**

Please note: Registration is not complete until all documents required are received.

For more information, please go to our the SD27 website: **[sd27.bc.ca/CATALINE](http://sd27.bc.ca/CATALINE)**

If you wish to have your child attend a school that is not your catchment school, a School of Choice application **MUST** be completed after registration has been submitted at the catchment school.

**Online School of Choice applications will be available on January 27, 2025.**

**School of Choice deadline is March 12, 2025**

### **Grade 6 News**

We will continue selling World Finest and Laura Secord chocolates until they are gone. If you would like to purchase chocolate bars let us know.

Cookie dough fundraiser coming soon... we will have more information shortly.

### **Volunteering**

If you are interested in volunteering with field trips or working with children without direct vision of a teacher, it is school board policy that you have a criminal record check done. Criminal record checks are good for 5 years and are FREE of charge.

Here is the online link: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/>

Access code: **JUV5QFPLWC**

**\*\*Only use the "Internet Explorer" browser. If you are having difficulties with the system, please call 1-855-587-0185 and choose option 2\*\***

### **Minister's End of Year Letter**

*Please find the attached message from Minister Lisa Beare.*

### **Preparedness**

Please ensure your child comes to school with a good healthy lunch. If students are not finished eating in the 15-minute eating block, they are welcome to take their unwrapped food outside to finish. We are strongly encouraging "naked snacks": Let's keep our playground litter free!

A Cariboo winter is finally upon us, and wintery weather has arrived. PLEASE ensure your child has a warm jacket and footwear as recess and lunch breaks are outside unless the temperature is deemed too cold by administration (wind chill is taken into consideration). Generally, *if it is colder than -15, students are permitted to stay inside.* Reminder, this is a guideline and not a hard and fast rule.

If it is an inside morning or recess and the decision is made to bring students inside, we will post it on the front door and office window.

Hopefully we do not have many inside days throughout the year as I would rather have students outside during play wherever feasible.

If you need assistance or support in clothing your child for the winter conditions, please reach out to the school. We want the students to be fully prepared for winter conditions.

### **Sledding**

Students using the sliding hill MUST wear snow gear. Cataline has crazy carpets for student use, and a class set of foam slides for teachers to sign out. However, students may bring their own crazy carpets from home (please label).

***Please refer to the attached Cataline Sliding rules attached:***

### **Used Helmets**

If you have any used helmets that are too small or not being used, we are always looking for extra gear that is in good condition. Donations can be dropped off at the office. Thank-You!

### **Newsletters**

In addition to communication from your child's teacher, a monthly school newsletter and calendar will be emailed to you on the first day of every month. The newsletter will also be posted on our school's district website: **Cataline Elementary (sd27.bc.ca)** and on our school's Facebook page. Please mark it on your calendar to check the newsletter monthly for important information.

### **Family Handbook & Code of Conduct**

Please check our school website under “About Us” to locate and save this important information. **Paper copies are also available at the school office.**

### **Strong Start**

Parents interested in attending Strong Start are invited to register at the office (please bring your child’s birth certificate and care card). We offer Strong Start 5 days a week from 9:00 am – noon. Strong Start programs provide a rich learning environment designed for early learning development-language, physical, cognitive, social, and emotional. Mrs. Schindle leads learning activities where children find opportunities to make friends and interact with others of similar ages.

Participate with your young child (aged birth to five) in play-based learning activities – including stories, music, and art. At no cost to families, this early learning drop-in program helps prepare children for success in kindergarten.

### **Starfish Backpack program**

Starfish backpack program is sponsored by the Daybreak Rotary Club of Williams Lake with the support of many community donors and volunteers. This program provides support to families in need with food over the weekend. Each student is provided with a backpack with sufficient food for the weekend. If you or anyone you know could benefit from this program, please contact the office. A huge thank you to the Williams Lake Rotary Club for this support.

### **Drop off and pick up**

A reminder that all vehicles in the pick-up loop must have engines turned off when picking up or dropping off your children. This is an idle-free zone.

Please move forward as space opens to keep congestion to a minimum. The left lane in the loop is to be left open so you can pull out once your child is safely in the car. If you need to get out of your vehicle, please park in the parking lot adjacent to the bus loop.

***Please avoid blocking the intersection of Blair St and 11<sup>th</sup> Ave during afternoon pick up. We need to respect our neighbors and make room for the school buses to pass. Waiting until after 3 pm to pick up your child is a viable option as this lessens congestion and most often, the parking lot is free and clear.***

### **Noon Hour Supervisors**

We are currently looking for another noon hour supervisor who can work Tuesday’s and be on call. Hours for this position is from 12:05 pm-1:05 pm. Please email [tess.riley@sd27.bc.ca](mailto:tess.riley@sd27.bc.ca) or call the office and ask for Ms. Riley if you are interested.

### **Communication Protocol**

Communication between home and school is vital to your child's/children education. Teachers communicate about classroom learning and events through letters home, newsletter, emails, phone calls and your child's agenda.

To make arrangements for a meeting with a teacher, please contact the teacher. If you have concerns about anything having to do with your child's experience at school:

**First:** contact your child's teacher to share information, review the problem and discuss a resolution

**Second:** if, after meeting with the teacher, the problem is unresolved or you are dissatisfied with the resolution, contact the principal or vice-principal.

We will work with you and the teacher to resolve the problem or refer you to someone who can be of greater assistance. Please feel free to call the school and make an appointment to address any concerns at all.

### **Grade 5 Pass**

Did you know... The Cariboo Memorial Complex offers a program for every grade five student in the Central Cariboo Recreation Taxation Area, a free membership for the duration of their grade five year. The Grade Five pass includes free admission to the following:

- ❖ Everyone Welcome Swims
- ❖ Rec Swims
- ❖ Toonie Swims
- ❖ Public Skates

Just bring in your child's birth certificate and a proof of residency to get your free pass. For more information contact the Cariboo Memorial Complex at (250) 398-7665.

## Upcoming Field Trips

Jan 15	Mrs. Dikur/Ms. Riley – Skating	9:30-10:30
Jan 21	Riley/Armstrong – cross country skiing	9:00-2:30
Jan 28	Mrs. Smith/Mrs. Serrano – Skating	10:00 – 11:00
Jan 28	Ms. Riley – Scout Island	9:00-2:00
Jan 29	Mrs. Hansen/Mrs. Sache Mrs. Bamsey – Skating	10:15-11:15
Jan 31	Mr. Wilson – cross country skiing	9:00-2:30



**CATALINE ELEMENTARY** has a Facebook page: Cataline Elementary School  
or check the website <https://www.sd27.bc.ca/CATALINE>

# HAND HYGIENE

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## Staying Healthy over the Winter Months

With winter months here, cold and flu season is also among us. Handwashing is one way to reduce your risk of getting or spreading respiratory and stomach illnesses.

This winter, practice these hand hygiene tips at home which are transferable and practiced at school:

1. Wash hands:
  - when they are visibly dirty, before, during and after cooking or baking,
  - after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose,
  - after touching animals,
  - after going to the washroom, and
  - after touching garbage.
2. Have hand sanitizer or rub (ABHR) available if possible.
3. Encourage family and friends to wash hands before dishing up food and sitting down to eat.



# WEST COAST SEED FUNDRAISER

**This year we are running a fundraiser with West Coast Seeds for the purpose of raising funds for field trips, year end fun day and various other events. We chose this fundraiser because we would like to promote a program that is environmentally friendly and promotes growing food.**

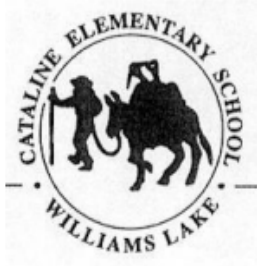
**Did you know that every packet you sell will earn 40% for our organization! West Coast Seeds provides Canada No 1 seeds that are untreated and non- GMO which means that it promotes sustainability. They have provided a wide range of their bestselling vegetables, herbs, and flowers, to give a little something for everyone.**

**All seeds can be ordered on the fundraising site ([fundraising.westcoastseeds.com](http://fundraising.westcoastseeds.com)). Please ensure that you order from this site only, otherwise we will not earn the 40%. When you are ready to order, make your choices and add to your cart. Once you have completed your order, find our organization on the dropdown menu. Add in your details so that we can contact you when the orders are ready for pick up.**

**Please make sure to order by January 31 at 2:55pm If you are unable to order online please contact Stephanie at [catalinepac@gmail.com](mailto:catalinepac@gmail.com) for help.**

**Thank you in advance for your support!**





## *Cataline Elementary School*

1175 Blair Street  
Williams Lake, BC V2G 1X3

Phone: (250) 392-7154      Fax: (250) 392-2989  
Principal – Dwayne Benvin      Vice-Principal – Tess Riley

November 2024

Parents and Caregivers,

Re: Cataline Sliding Safety Rules

The snow may eventually find its way onto the ground this year, which means there may be an opportunity to slide at Cataline School. Below are the safety rules we are requiring all students to follow if they choose to slide at the school.

- 1) Only *crazy carpet sleds* are to be used and must be in good condition. We have lots of crazy carpets at the school for students to use. As well, there is a class set of foam sliders for teachers and classes (only) to sign out. Formed plastic sleds and foam sliders remain at home.
- 2) Sleds from home must be kept in entry bins during school hours as we do not want to track snow and water in the school. **PLEASE LABEL YOUR SLED!** The school is not responsible for lost sleds.
- 3) All sliders **MUST** wear snowpants, jacket, gloves, and boots.
- 4) Sledding **WILL ONLY** occur on the hill above the field. Sled away from the soccer posts (this area will be marked off).
- 5) Sliders must sit or kneel on their sled, facing forward, pointing downhill – **NO** sliding headfirst or standing on the sled.
- 6) No sliding down the hill on coats and pants if there is not enough snow. This will be determined by the school as we do not want students to ruin their clothing or get excessively wet or dirty/muddy due to lack of snow.
- 7) No crashing into other sliders/students, only go when the hill or run-out area is clear. Non-sliders should not be near the sliding area.
- 8) Walk back up the hill to the side of the run and avoid standing at the bottom of the hill.
- 9) No building of jumps on the sliding hill.
- 10) Student sliding privileges may be revoked for a period of time due to unsafe behaviour.
- 11) Sliding hill will be open, alternating days/times, for primary and intermediate students.

We understand that sliding is very fun activity for our students, but we also need to minimize risk of injury for all participants. If you would like more information, please contact the school (250) 392-7154.

Regards,

Dwayne Benvin  
Principal, Cataline Elementary





December 20, 2024

Dear colleagues, parents and caregivers:

As we near the end of 2024, I wanted to take the opportunity to wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season and quality time with your families.

I am truly honoured to have been appointed the new Minister of Education and Child Care, and am excited to work with all of you to ensure that B.C.'s school system and child care sector are safe, inclusive and supportive for all.

I'd like to thank all of B.C.'s educators and early childhood educators, education sector staff, child care providers and partners for the quality care and education they provide each day for children. The work you do ensures that our province continues to be a leader in education and child care throughout Canada and the world.

As a mother with a child in the public school system, I also recognize the remarkable effort from parents and caregivers who remain dedicated every day to making their kids' lives better so they can achieve success. There are many people who do so much to make our schools better, not just for their own kids, but for all young people.

Early learning and child care is so important for families, and I want to acknowledge the incredible work all our partners are doing to increase access to child care. The expansion of child care on school grounds helps children to become part of the school community sooner and allows parents and guardians to work or pursue other opportunities, which strengthens our communities as a whole.

I recognize we still have challenges ahead, from high enrolment growth to difficulty finding child care to barriers some children and students may experience in the classroom or child care setting. Moving into 2025, I am focused on keeping children safe, ensuring they feel included and that they belong, and that they have the learning supports they need to do well. We all want the best for children, and I am committed to working with you to help them be successful.

From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate your support and hard work. I hope you all have a wonderful break with those nearest to you.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Beare".

Lisa Beare  
Minister

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Ministry of Education  
and Child Care

Office of the Minister

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