



école Nesika Elementary School  
School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

Principal – Mrs. Holly Zurak  
Vice-Principal – Mrs. Heather McKinnon

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## Welcome Back/ Bienvenue Nesika Families!

Happy Back to School season! I hope this letter finds you well and basking in the joyful memories of summer adventures. As we prepare to kick off another incredible year at Nesika Elementary, I want to extend a warm welcome to all our returning families and a heartfelt hello to our new students and their families. Please

find included in this newsletter important information regarding school start-up.

**We look forward to welcoming new and returning students on Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. This is an early dismissal day and students will be dismissed at 11:20am. Buses will run on this early dismissal schedule.**

All students will be starting the first day in their NEW 2024-2025 classroom. Class lists will be posted on the exterior doors with direction about which entrance each class will use. A master copy of all lists will be posted on the library window. **We anticipate minimal changes to the lists**, but urge our school community to be aware that some changes may be made after the first day based on registration and enrollment. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

For Grades 1 – 6, students need to only bring their indoor shoes, snack and water bottle for the first day of classes (the rest of the supplies can stay home for now 😊). School supply lists are posted on our Facebook page, and the Nesika website. Teachers will let students know when to bring their school supplies to school. If you need support acquiring supplies, please contact the office and we can help.

**Note:** Kindergarten students follow a graduated entry schedule as communicated by the Kindergarten teachers. If you need a reminder about your Kindergartener's schedule, please contact the school office, or your K teacher directly: For French Immersion – Mmes Eastope or Vander Putten [natalie.easthope@sd27.bc.ca](mailto:natalie.easthope@sd27.bc.ca) or [sonja.vanderputten@sd27.bc.ca](mailto:sonja.vanderputten@sd27.bc.ca), or English K - Ms. Brown [courtney.brown@sd27.bc.ca](mailto:courtney.brown@sd27.bc.ca).

### Bus Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year:

New and returning bus students **must be registered** for their school bus route in order to ride the bus. Please register with the bus garage: [Choose this link for bus information and the link to registration](#). Updates to policy and frequently asked questions are listed on this page as well.

*“Learning, Growing, and Belonging Together”*

**There are no changes to the past Bell Schedule:**

Start Time: 9:00am  
Recess: 10:15 – 10:30am  
Lunch: 12:00 – 12:45pm  
Dismissal: 3:00pm

**Newsletters:**

At the beginning of each month, school newsletters will be emailed out to all parents/caregivers and will be posted to the school district website: <https://www.sd27.bc.ca/NES>. We also have a school-maintained Facebook page that I would encourage you to join as it is used regularly and has very timely news, shares about learning, and celebrations (@EcoleNesikaElementary). **If you are not receiving newsletters, please ensure you contact Jackie at the school office to confirm we have your most up-to-date email address and phone numbers so you don't miss out on these important informational updates.**

**PAC (Parent Advisory Council):**

A strong relationship between the school and parents is very important in a child's education, and one way of being involved with the school is to be a member of the PAC. Last year's PAC was a very dedicated group, which was really appreciated. We are hoping that the same will be true this year, and with your help, this can come true. We have positions to fill again this year, as well as the continual need for volunteers at specific events. Your involvement in small ways or bigger ways is appreciated by all! *All parents* (English and French Immersion) are invited to attend Nesika PAC meetings. Contact [nesikapac@hotmail.com](mailto:nesikapac@hotmail.com).

**Safe Arrival Program & Attendance:**

We continue to use the School Messenger safe arrival program/app. It is a downloadable and free app in the Apple or Google Play store. If your child is going to be absent or late, please log it through the app OR call: **1-833-582-6944** and follow the prompts. **Please do not call the school to report an absence.**

At this school and in our district, we believe that student attendance is important. There is a strong correlation between attendance and success in school. Students who miss more than 10% of school days are considered to have chronic absenteeism, which results in approximately 18 days a year, or about two days every month.

**Communication:**

Clear communication is an important part of the school and home relationship. Parents and caregivers' primary contact with the school is through the classroom teacher. Families can expect to hear from their child's classroom teacher in the first full week of school. A staff email directory is listed on our school website, please do not hesitate to reach out and begin a relationship with your child's classroom teacher as soon as we begin 😊

Upcoming Important Dates:

- Tuesday September 3, 2024: No School for Students, District and School Planning Day
- Wednesday September 4, 2024: First Day for Students (in grades 1-6) **Early Dismissal 11:20am**
- Thursday September 5, 2024: First full day for Students (in grades 1-6) **Regular dismissal 3:00pm**
- Monday September 9, 2024: First day of school food program (more info in the September newsletter)
- Wednesday September 11 to Friday September 13, 2024 – All Gr. 6 Students to Gavin Lake
- Friday September 20, 2024: Nesika Terry Fox Run, 1:30pm – All Families Welcome!
- Monday September 23, 2024: No School for Students, Pro-D Day
- Monday September 30, 2024: No School, National Truth and Reconciliation Day

We look forward to starting off the year going forward in a good way. Please reach out if you have questions, updates or concerns [holly.zurak@sd27.bc.ca](mailto:holly.zurak@sd27.bc.ca).

Yours in education,

Mrs. Holly Zurak – Principal

Mrs. Heather McKinnon – Vice-Principal

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