



Welcome Back!!

Month at a Glance

September 2

First Day of School
9:00-11:00

September 18

School Open House & BBQ
5:30-6:30

September 19

Pro-D Day
School Not in Session

September 25

Student Photos

September 26

Terry Fox Run

September 26

School Supply Fees Due

September 29

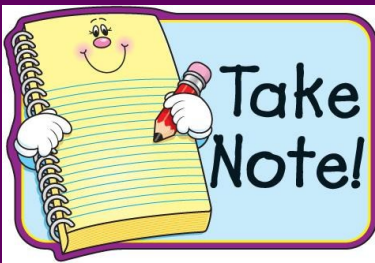
Orange Shirt Day

September 30

National Day of Truth &
Reconciliation
School Not in Session



ku?makaku
September

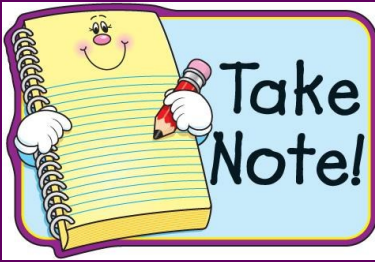


**Thursday, September 18th
from 5:30-6:30 pm**

**We invite Kootenay Orchards'
Families to join us for a
Welcome Back BBQ & Open House.**

**This is a great opportunity for
students to give their families a school
tour, introduce their teachers and connect
with other families.**

We look forward to seeing you there!!



Kootenay Orchards Bell Schedule

MORNING CLASSES

8: 40 AM – Warning Bell

8:45 AM – Classes Start

RECESS

10:30 – 10:45 AM (Primary & Intermediate)

10:30 – 11:00 AM (Kindergarten - Until Spring Break)

LUNCH

12:05 PM

AFTERNOON CLASSES

12:50 PM – Warning Bell

12:55 PM – Classes Start

END OF DAY

2:55 PM

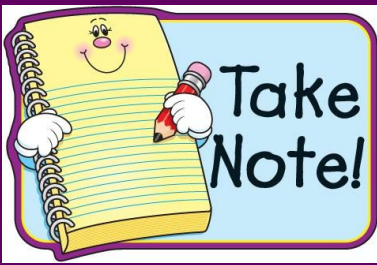
School Website & Facebook Pages

Have you checked out our School Website or Facebook Pages?
Stay up to date on all our latest updates by visiting the following:

[Kootenay Orchards Elementary Website](#)

[Kootenay Orchards Music Program Page](#)

[Kootenay Orchards Parent Advisory Council \(PAC\) Page](#)



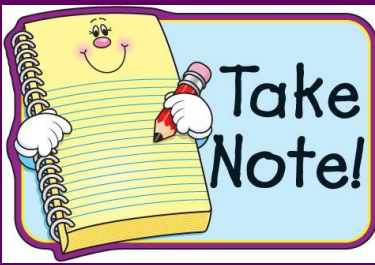
Back to School Forms

All students will be heading home with a package of forms that need to be completed, signed and returned to their classroom teacher.

Some of the forms included are:

- **Student Verification Form:** Please review and indicate any changes or updates required. This information is very important to ensure that we have the correct contact information on file in case of an emergency.
- **Low-Risk Field Trip Permission Form:** This is for low-risk, local field trips around our school neighborhood.
- **Personal Information Consent Form:** This form must be completed yearly.
- **BC School Fruit & Vegetable Program:** Please complete this form if you would like your child to participate. *Only for students who have not previously participated in the program.*





Childhood Experiences Questionnaire for Kindergarten Families

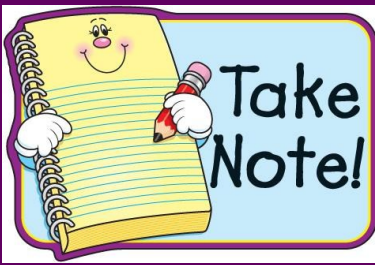
Kindergarten parents are welcome to join Principal Hart in the library on Wednesday, September 10th from 9:30 - 11:00 am to fill out the CHEQ questionnaire.

CHEQ stands for Childhood Experiences Questionnaire and it gathers important information about children's experiences prior to kindergarten – collecting actionable information that schools and communities can use to support children and families and ensure a solid foundation for healthy development and well-being. Families will also have the option of filling out the CHEQ questionnaire from home after they receive their login code the first week of school.

Laura-Lee Philips, District Principal of Early Learning, will be available on Wednesday morning in the library to support filling out the survey for our Kindergarten parents and answer any questions they might have. It's also a great opportunity to meet other Kindergarten parents in the school.

We hope to see you then!





Parking with Student Safety in Mind

Not unlike many other schools in Cranbrook, our school is a busy place during student drop off and pick up. Please take extra precaution and look out for pedestrians and cyclists as you park and leave the school.

Parents dropping children off in the morning or picking children up after school are asked to keep loading and bus lanes clear. The lane on the east side of the school is reserved for buses only. For safety reasons, please do not use this area as a drive through to drop off or pick up children. As well, our accessible parking stall in the staff parking lot is reserved for families who need the access. Please do not park in this space at any point of the day.

The safest location for families to pick up or drop off their children is on the south (school) side of 13th Street, adjacent to the school. Parents are encouraged to meet their children and walk with them to their vehicles. Students walking or riding their bikes to school are expected to use the crosswalk. If your child is a responsible older student, consider picking them up 5 – 10 minutes after the bell which will alleviate some of the traffic congestion.

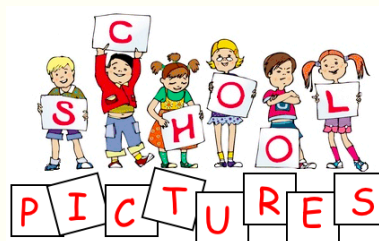
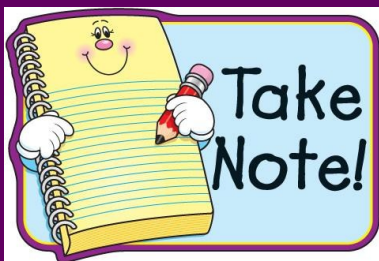
Thank you to everyone for your continued consideration of traffic safety.



Bicycle Safety

We are a community catchment school which means many kids are within walking or biking distance to school. We love to see students biking or walking to school with friends or family, getting fresh air and exercise to help their brains wake up and take in the learning of the day. Parents are asked to review bicycle safety with their children; we expect all students to wear bicycle helmets. Students can park and lock their bikes in the racks provided and are asked not to ride them on the school grounds. Skateboards, roller blades, hee-lies, and scooters are not allowed on school property during the hours of school operation.





Student Photos

Student Photos will be taking place on **Thursday, September 25th.**

More information will be sent home closer to the date.

School Calendar Magnets

Students will be bringing home a 2025-2026 School Calendar Magnet. On the magnets you will find listed all School Breaks, Statutory Holidays, Professional Development Days & Administrative Days; school is not in session for any of these days.

BC School Fruit & Vegetable Program

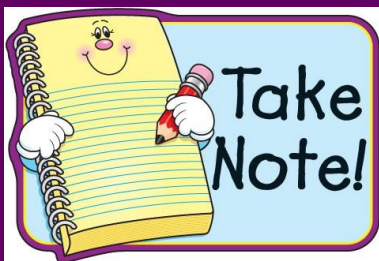
Our school is once again participating in the BC School Fruit & Vegetable Nutritional Program.

All Students are eligible to receive healthy treats throughout the school year. Students in grades K-5 can also receive a milk drink. If you would like your child to participate, please make sure to complete the permission form



included with the Back to School forms being sent home. Students who have already completed a permission form will not need to complete a new one.





School FEES

School Fees due Friday, September 26th

Kootenay Orchards has purchased a few items for students which were either purchased at a discounted rate or are not available commercially. A letter will be provided to each student next week outlining which items have been purchased and the cost.

Please kindly submit payment using [School Cash Online](#) by **Friday, September 26th.** If you need to make alternate payment arrangements, please contact our school office.

School Cash Online

All School Fees including field trips, skiing, school sports, supplies, etc. will be collected using [School Cash Online](#).

Please make sure to register your child/ren. A handout will be attached to the School Fees letter with step-by-step instructions on how to register. If you have any questions or have any troubles completing the registration, please contact our school office.


Pay school fees online
SchoolCashOnline





Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is very excited to be offering hot lunches again this year!!

[Registration will open on Wednesday, September 10th](#) for the first part of the year, December to January. Watch for an email with the registration information which will be sent out in advance.

**Stay up-to-date on all our PAC Fundraisers & Activities
by joining their Facebook Page** 

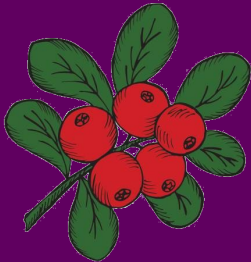
Celebrate the Ktunaxa Language!!

Scan the QR codes below with your phone's camera to hear the word in Ktunaxa.



kuʔtma'aku

September



ʔa·kiʔtma'k

Chokecherries



knukiʔtka

Bus



hawigkinin ʔaki

Hold My Hand



We would like to acknowledge that we learn, play and work on the Homelands of the Ktunaxa people.