

# CRESCENT PARK NEWS



**Crescent Park Elementary School**  
School District #59 (Peace River South)  
9300-17<sup>th</sup> Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G-4A6  
Phone: 250-782-8412  
Ms. Richer, Principal  
Ms. Harnden, Vice-Principal

## **PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK**

A parent & student handbook is available on our website under the “About Us” tab. This is a great resource to answer your questions about our school schedule, non-school days, playground rules, and so much more. Please read the handbook.

## **HOLIDAY CARNIVAL**

The carnival was a great success, thank you to everyone who participated and the staff and PAC who made this possible.

## **DONATIONS – THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the food bank and SPCA in December. Also, a big thank you to Co-op for donating cupcakes and icing for our carnival.

## **EXPANSION**

The occupancy date for our school addition has been moved to the summer of 2026. This delay is the result of the significant risks associated with tying into the city water and sewer system during the winter. We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we continue to provide quality instruction and the safe care of your children for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year. We look forward to an exciting September 2026 in our newly expanded Crescent Park School!

## **BASKETBALL**

The season has begun! We have one grade 6/7 team. Practices are on Tuesdays and games are on Wednesdays. Thank you to Mr. Ford and Ms. Harnden for coaching!

## **SKIING**

Forms have been sent home with all grade 4-7 students for our three school ski dates, February 11, 18 and 20. Please complete all the forms and return to school by January 26.

## **FIELD TRIP VOLUNTEERS**

All parent volunteers wishing to join their child’s class on a field trip must have a criminal record check and SD59 annual volunteer registration form on file at the office.

## **CELL PHONES**

Students are not allowed to use their cellphones at any time on school grounds on school days (including field trips and on the school bus).

**PARKING LOT**

Thank you for your continued cooperation to help us make the best of our parking lot reality! A few reminders:

- Never park in the Emergency Vehicles Only spot at the front entrance. This is reserved for an ambulance or other emergency services.
- Use the drop off lane for quick pick up and drop off only. Do not park or leave your vehicle in this lane.
- Do not enter the staff and bus side of the barricades.
- Park as far north as possible in our parking lot, so it fills from north to south.
- Consider dropping off and picking up your child at the back by 16<sup>th</sup> street.
- Encourage your child to walk to school (when the weather cooperates).

**SCHOOL FEES**

School fees of \$50 can be paid to the office with cash (exact amount only, change is not available), cheque or by e-transfer to [bkirtzinger@sd59.bc.ca](mailto:bkirtzinger@sd59.bc.ca) please add your student's name and reason for payment in the message.

**PAC MEETING**

**The next PAC meeting will be Thursday, Feb 19 at 6:00 in Room 9. Child minding is provided by grade 6/7 leadership students.**

Upcoming meetings are also announced on the PAC Facebook page.

**CPE T-SHIRTS FOR SALE**

Crescent Park t-shirts – for sale

- ▶ You can purchase t-shirts at the office for \$15
- ▶ Sizes youth small, medium, large, extra large and adult small
- ▶ Payment can be made with e-transfer to [bkirtzinger@sd59.bc.ca](mailto:bkirtzinger@sd59.bc.ca) (include child's name and CPE t-shirt), cash or cheque (there is no change at the office, if paying with cash please send exact amount)



**UPCOMING DATES**

Wednesday, January 21	Bar Burrito
Wednesday, January 21	Grade 7 Photo Day
Monday, January 26	Pizza Hut
Wednesday, January 28	Boston Pizza
Thursday, January 29	Thirsty Thursday & Panthermatharama
Friday, January 30	NID – No school
Wednesday, February 11	Grade 4 – 7 ski day
Monday, February 16	Family Day – No school
Wednesday, February 18	Grade 4 – 7 ski day
Thursday, February 19	PAC meeting
Friday, February 20	Grade 4 – 7 ski day
Wednesday, February 25	Early Dismissal Day/Interviews
Wednesday, February 25	Pink Shirt Day
Thursday, February 26	Early Dismissal Day/Interviews
Friday, February 27	Frosty Friday



## **Social Media Parents Checklist**

- ✓ Call a Digital Family Meeting – set rules and expectations for behavior with technology
- ✓ Draft a Social Media Contract ([see Common Sense Media resource](#))
- ✓ Have a Central Charging Station (e.g. your room, kitchen table, living room, etc.) – keep devices out of their bedrooms!
- ✓ Have your child write a paragraph about why they should have a phone or be able to download an app
- ✓ Set up their accounts **with** them
- ✓ Know their passwords! Sealed envelope of passwords on the fridge if applicable
- ✓ Set technology limits on use – if you meet resistance, remind them who pays for the phone or device
- ✓ Buy, Use, and Teach your child how to use a physical old-fashioned alarm clock
- ✓ Set parental controls: Phone, Tablet, Computer
- ✓ Google yourself and your child – what is out there about you and your family?
- ✓ Review privacy settings on all social media accounts – set Instagram as private!
- ✓ Check Instagram “DIRECT” mailbox and read the comment section of pictures and posts
- ✓ Explore strategies of what to do when a stranger approaches them online. Remind them that you won’t be upset, you are just looking out for their safety
- ✓ Ask your child what social media platforms are popular and why – take a keen interest with curiosity to help open dialogue
- ✓ Actually read the privacy policies and terms of service with your child
- ✓ Discuss the difference between a healthy and unhealthy relationship
- ✓ Discuss both the positive and negative uses of social media
- ✓ Remind them of the permanence and public nature of all things shared electronically
- ✓ Discuss with your child the dangers of sharing intimate photos (sexting)
- ✓ Are location services turned OFF for camera and social media apps – do any of their posts have a geo-tag attached?
- ✓ Be mindful of and know what VAULT apps look like
- ✓ Put tape of band-aid on the laptop camera when not in use
- ✓ Make strong passwords for all accounts and emails – this includes YOU!
- ✓ Set up and be ready to use Find my iPhone or Android Device Manager
- ✓ Educate yourself – search online for anything you don’t understand
- ✓ Remember that your kids are growing up online! Help guide them
- ✓ Encourage your kids to create a positive digital footprint as they grow older

Safer Schools Together

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### **Social Media Resource Links for Parents and Caregivers:**

Raising Digitally Responsible Youth: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers

<https://resources.saferschoolstogether.com/link/352883/i/>

Raising Digitally Responsible Youth: A Parent’s Guide

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/erase/documents/raising-digitally-responsible-youth.pdf>

Safer Schools also provides webinar sessions for families. We are pushing out, on our district websites, the advertisement for the next **Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities** session that will take place on January 21. Please consider advertising the next session within your school newsletters (<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>).

Everyone Welcome!

Upcoming Remote Sessions:

\*Please click on the specific date you would like to register for.

[January 21, 2026](#)

[March 11, 2026](#)

[May 13, 2026](#)



TIP SHEET



SUPPORTING HEALTHY MEDIA EXPERIENCES FOR KIDS

Young children and teens have very different needs from adults, and experience different risks online. Teens and younger children also have distinct needs and concerns from one another that parents need to consider.

Tips for supporting healthy media use in the home

Parents and other caregivers play an essential role in supporting healthy media use. One of the most important factors is what's called **shared media engagement**. You can see the MediaSmarts tipsheet [Co-viewing with your kids](#) for more details.

- Make sure that you are selecting the appropriate app or platform for your child's age. Many platforms require users to be **13 years of age or older**. For younger users, apps like YouTube Kids can provide a more age-appropriate experience. Even on those apps, though, it's still important to keep an eye on what your kids are watching and have an ongoing conversation about their media lives.
- When kids are interested in getting a new app or signing up for an online account, go through the **Parent or Safety Centre and the settings with them**, to make sure they know how to do things like limit who sees what they post and flag or report harassment and inappropriate content.
- Make sure that kids give their **real age** when signing up for a service. Many apps and social networks have **safety settings and defaults** for kids between ages 13 and 17: for instance, YouTube has autoplay turned off and privacy settings on "Private" by default for kids this age.

Factors to keep in mind when prioritizing kids' media health

**Children under two** should spend as **little time with screen devices as possible**, except for video-chats with people they know offline and reading e-books with an adult or sibling.

Be aware that some apps and games aimed at **older kids** are designed to **encourage longer time spent on them**, and also to nudge them towards things like spending money. **Screen time limits and talks about how to manage time and money** make sense at this age. Take advantage of tools like YouTube's bedtime and take-a-break reminders.

**Tweens' and teens'** media use is **heavily social**, and they may feel like they have to always be available to their friends. **Talk to them about prioritizing their own health** by making sure they get enough time for rest and reflection and learn to use the tools that are available to them to manage their digital use.





- If you're comfortable with your child using a service before they are 13, **make an account for the two of you to share** until they're old enough to make their own. (Some services, like YouTube's Supervised Experience, also allow parents or guardians to create a supervised account that's linked to their own account. This way, parents can select content settings that work for their family, and showcase suitable content for kids to explore.)
- **Create household rules together.** MediaSmarts' research has shown that kids with household rules about internet use are less likely to do things like post their contact information, visit gambling sites, seek out online pornography and talk to strangers online. For more on making and using household rules, see the MediaSmarts tipsheet [Family online rules](#).
- Some platforms have **specific safety resources for content creators**. For example, YouTube has a Creator Safety Centre with resources available for creators to navigate challenges they face. Go through these with your kids if they start posting their own content so they can learn how to secure their accounts, deal with the sudden rise in attention a successful channel can bring and access support networks if they need them.
- Media content can also have an effect on kids, especially if it involves their identity (like representations of gender or diversity) or their body image. When you're co-viewing, don't be afraid to **use the Pause button** so you can talk about anything that makes you uncomfortable.

### Tips for choosing and encouraging healthy media experiences

Media experiences can be positive for children over two, but parents and caregivers need to choose experiences that support their growth and development.

**Between three and about 10**, kids can benefit a lot from media experiences that:

- involve **active** thinking and **open-ended play**, instead of just drills and quizzes;
- **engage** them in the activity without unnecessary distractions or bells and whistles;
- provide **meaningful** content and activities that are relevant to their lives and interests; and
- encourage **co-viewing and interaction with family members** or other people they already know offline.

Parents of **tweens and teens** may have less control over their media lives, but we can still guide them by encouraging or allowing more time for certain activities. Prioritize screen experiences that are:

- **educational**, particularly ones that let kids explore their interests and hobbies;
- **physically active**, so that screen use doesn't replace getting up and moving around;
- **creative**, like coding or making music, videos or animations; and
- **genuinely social**, where kids actually interact with other people rather than simply scrolling and Liking others' posts.

*Over decades, MediaSmarts' research has shown that children and teens want their parents to be involved in their media lives. It's up to us to help them get a good start and make sure that media plays a healthy role as they grow.*

