



**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 58 (NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN)**

**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161, Fax: (250) 378-6263

September 12, 2022

Dear Families and Guardians of SD 58 Students:

We are excited to welcome you to the 2022/2023 school year and we genuinely hope that your first week was a happy and positive one. We are thrilled that all students and staff are back in their schools, this is entirely due to the hard work and determination of so many people. We are so grateful to the students, families and staff who endured so much and made the best of what has been a truly challenging situation. To those of you who are still feeling the considerable impacts of the last couple of years, our hearts are with you, and please reach out if we can help in any way.

We want to make all families aware that the Province recently announced the Student and Family Affordability Fund Grant in response to the very challenging economic times that many families are facing. As we are required to collaborate with partner groups in determining how these funds should be allocated and disbursed, please feel free to reach out to your school's PAC if you have ideas that would help us to make the biggest difference for those who need it. We are anxious to get this support out to families and students and we look forward to coming up with a great plan.

More information on the grant can be found here:

[New funding helps make back-to-school more affordable for families that need it most | BC Gov News affordability-fund-q-and-as.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

We also want to let you know that we continue to follow all the requirements that are being put forward by the Province in order to support the health and well-being of all staff and students. Prevention measures are in place to reduce the spread of communicable diseases including COVID-19. These include supporting effective personal practices, supporting health awareness, reminding staff and students to stay home when sick, and encouraging regular hand washing. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to 811 for medical support or to your school administrator for school specific information.

More information on health and safety can be found here:

[COVID-19 safe schools - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)  
[Health, safety remain focus as students head back to school, child care | BC Gov News](#)

As we head into this new school year, we are looking forward to refocusing on the goals of our Strategic Plan. Communication continues to be a priority for us, and we hope that you are feeling comfortable using our District and school websites as useful sources of information as well as feeling welcome to be back in schools.

[Home - SD58 Nicola-Similkameen](#)  
[Twitter @sd58connect](#)

We wish everyone all the best for the 2022-2023 school year.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SMcNiven', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephen McNiven  
Superintendent of Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Kempston', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jane Kempston  
Assistant Superintendent

*Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow*