



# NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

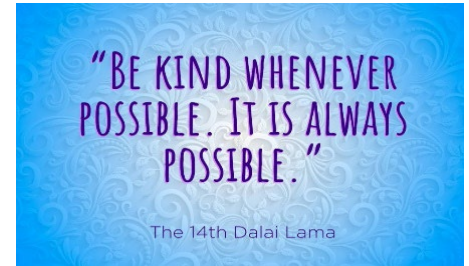
## ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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February 28, 2024

Dear Students, Families and Staff:

I wanted to reach out to you as we recognize Pink Shirt Day throughout our schools and communities. Pink Shirt Day is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the impact of bullying and promoting kindness, respect, and inclusion in our schools and beyond. It's a day when we stand together, committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community.



Bullying can have profound and lasting effects on those who experience it, impacting their mental health, self-esteem, and overall well-being. As educators, families, and students, it is our collective responsibility to take a stand against bullying in all its forms.

Today on Pink Shirt Day, I encourage each one of you to participate in creating a community filled with kindness and respect. Kindness is more than just a word; it's everyday simple acts that shape our interactions with one another and the world around us. It's about extending compassion, empathy, and support to others, whether they're friends, classmates, teachers, or strangers.

Whether it's wearing a pink shirt, standing up against bullying, or performing acts of kindness for others, your involvement makes a difference every day. Let's send a powerful message that bullying has no place in our schools, our community, or our world; show our support for those who have been affected by bullying; and share our commitment to fostering a culture of empathy, acceptance, and kindness.

We know that, sadly, there are times when students do not feel safe or welcome in schools, and we encourage anyone who needs support to reach out to a trusted person at school. We also remind everyone that the Ministry of Education and Child Care supports [Bullying - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/bullying/) and an anonymous reporting tool [erase = expect respect & a safe education - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/erase/) that can be accessed as well. Please reach out if you, or someone you care about needs to.

Together, we can make a difference. Thank you for your help in making your schools and communities places of kindness where everyone can feel valued, respected, and supported.

With warm regards,

Stephen McNiven  
Superintendent of Schools

Jane Kempston  
Assistant Superintendent

*Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow*