



SEPTEMBER 25, 2023



### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 27 School Photo Day
- Sept. 28 Orange Shirt Day
- Sept. 28 Popcorn Day
- Sept. 29 PRO-D #1 (No School)
- Sept. 30 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- Oct. 2 Day in Lieu for the 30<sup>th</sup> (No School)
- Oct. 3 Shelter in Place Drill
- Oct. 4 Lockdown Drill
- Oct. 5 World Teacher's Day
- Oct. 9 Thanksgiving Day (No School)

### COMMUNICATION

Communication & connection with our community is important and we want to be able to share & celebrate with you regularly. Please be sure to check out the info shared via the following platforms:

#### SCHOOL MESSENGER

Email blasts and automated phone calls from the school and the District.

#### SCHOOL WEBSITE

Your go to! Find us. Bookmark us. Check back regularly.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Instagram. [@southpoplarelem](https://www.instagram.com/southpoplarelem)

### SOME OF THE THINGS THAT YOU WILL FIND ON OUR WEBSITE ...



**BELL TIMES**  
[Click Here](#)  
 8:30 Drop-Off  
 2:26 Pick-Up



**SCHOOL CALENDAR**  
[Click Here](#)  
 Will be updated weekly with school-wide events.



**NEWSLETTERS**  
[Click Here](#)  
 Find a PDF version of all newsletters.



## FOUR x FOUR DAY WEEKS AHEAD!

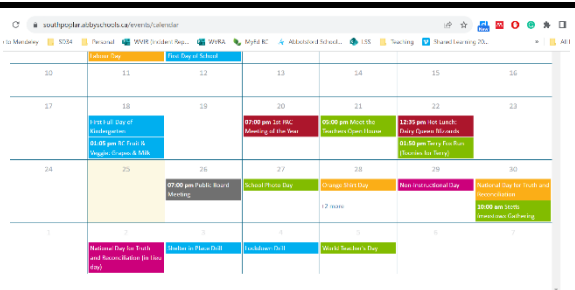
Today kicks off the first of four, 4-day weeks in a row. Please make sure that you have marked your calendars that there is no school for students on the following dates:

- **Friday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>** → Pro-D Day #1 (No School for students)
- **Monday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>** → Day in lieu of Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>'s National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (No School)
- **Monday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>** → Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)
- **Friday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>** → Pro-D Day #2 (No School for students)

Please also note that we will have two early dismissal days in October to allow time for Parent-Teacher conferences. More info to come, but for now, please note the following dismissal times:

NO LUNCH REQUIRED THESE DAYS. JUST PACK MORNING SNACK.

- **Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>** → **Students dismissed @11:56pm**
- **Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** → **Students dismissed @ 11:56pm**



### SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website is full of important info & links including:  
 - [School Calendar](#) **\*\*NOW UPLOADED. UPDATED WEEKLY.\*\***  
 - [Uniform Info](#)  
 - [Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures](#)  
 - [All things hot lunch & popcorn related \(how to buy, how to register for an account and how to volunteer\)](#)

And so much more.



## LAST WEEK AT SOUTH POPLAR

Last week was a busy week here at South Poplar. There is so much for us to celebrate!!!

### FIRST PAC MEETING OF THE YEAR

We had an incredible turn out of parents that met in the library and online. It was a fabulous opportunity to gather, share and plan together for the upcoming school year. If you missed this meeting, don't worry. **All parents are welcome to join us at the next meeting (Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm).**

### MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

What a fabulous night of fun, family, and friends! It was wonderful to join with almost our entire school community to further develop the connection between school & home. Thank you for joining in!

### FIRST "HOT LUNCH" OF THE YEAR: DAIRY QUEEN BLIZZARDS

The first hot lunch of the year was a great success. Thank you to the many volunteers that came to help get this fun treat organized and delivered to our students. **If you missed this first hot lunch and you don't want to miss out on the Popcorn & Pizza days that are just around the corner, be sure to carefully read the "Hot Lunch" info below.**

### TERRY FOX RUN

I always love the Terry Fox Run! It is so powerful to see our entire school learning about this Canadian hero and then to put their empathy & care into action as they bring in donations and then run "across Canada". Thank you to Mrs. James and her amazing team of volunteers. Also, thank you to the parents that came to cheer on the students as they gave their all.

I also want to take this opportunity to briefly address the other big event that happened last week. On September 20<sup>th</sup>, some families did not send their child(ren) to school due to anti-SOGI protests. In talking with many parents, it is clear that there has been a lot of misinformation circulating, resulting in confusion and worry about what is, and is not, being taught in our school.

### WHAT IS SOGI 123?

SOGI stands for Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity. SOGI 123 was added to the Ministry of Education in 2016. SOGI 123 is NOT a curriculum nor a set of lessons teachers must teach, it refers to resources and information that teachers may choose to access/include to diversify their classroom approach. These optional resources are created to help students understand the negative impacts of discrimination and to improve awareness and understanding of the diverse people around them.

### WHAT DO WE TEACH AT SOUTH POPLAR?

I want to start by reassuring our families that the most common and important "SOGI" message that our students receive is about erasing discrimination and embracing inclusion. At South Poplar we welcome all students and their families into our school. We strive to create safe spaces. We respect our families and their individual choices. We celebrate inclusion and diversity, including, but not limited to, diverse races, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and more. *As stated in our diversity statement, found below and in every newsletter.*

The impact of being a SOGI-inclusive school at the Elementary level, and at South Poplar specifically, is that teachers are working to be more intentionally inclusive (valuing diversity, respecting differences, and responding to discrimination). This can include things like:

- incorporating books with diverse characters
- including family examples that are not only the traditional mom & dad
- discussing and dismantling stereotypes (i.e. girls can't do this, boys can't do that)

Regarding BC's Health curriculum, it does include topics like:

- K & Gr. 1: names for private parts, and appropriate/inappropriate touch
- Gr. 2 & 3: skills for unsafe situations and factors that influence self-identity
- Gr. 4 & 5: physical, emotional, and social changes that occur during puberty (including those involving sexuality and sexual identity)

Teachers are responsible for approaching each of these topics with information and resources that are developmentally and age appropriate for the children that they teach.

Please also note that before puberty lessons are taught in grades 4 & 5, parents are notified, provided with information about the content that will be covered, and we have to receive signed permission forms for each student.

**HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?**

Parents are strongly encouraged to be curious and ask their child(ren)'s teacher what is (or is not) being taught. Our teachers are happy to explain what is happening in the classroom. If parents have any questions or concerns about books being used at school, please contact the principal at 604-853-1845 or by emailing [southpoplar@abbyschools.ca](mailto:southpoplar@abbyschools.ca)

South Poplar is an incredible place to learn and grow. We are grateful for each student and family that makes up our school community. We are honoured to partner with you on your child's academic journey; working together to make a difference in their lives and excited for the mark that they will make on the world.



**DIVERSITY AT SOUTH POPLAR**

We are intentionally taking steps to ensure that each person knows that they are welcome, important, respected, encouraged, and loved at South Poplar. We are committed to making sure that this message is heard, seen, understood, and felt by each member of our school community.

We are excited to learn more about all members of our school community, their families and their cultures. We invite you to share with us more about holidays and traditions that are important to your family, as well as any ideas/feedback on representation & diversity here at South Poplar.

**HOT LUNCH 2023/24**

If you are interested in participating in our hot lunch program this year, please register for an account at <https://southpop.hotlunches.net>. (The access code is: SPHL)

[Click here](#) for more info on registering for hot lunches.

NOTE: If you had an account prior to this year it has been deleted and you must re-register this year.

HOT LUNCH DATE	MAIN ENTRÉE	ORDER DEADLINE (9am on each CUT-OFF DATE)	VOLUNTEER TO HELP HERE
Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Popcorn	Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="https://volunteersignup.org/P4RPB">https://volunteersignup.org/P4RPB</a>
Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Papa John's Pizza	Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup>	<a href="https://volunteersignup.org/B4XHY">https://volunteersignup.org/B4XHY</a>
Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Popcorn	Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup>	
Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hotdogs	Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup>	
Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup>	White Spot	Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup>	
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Popcorn	Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup>	
Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	McDonald's Pancakes	Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Popcorn	Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	



**PAC**

Our PAC plays a significant role in making South Poplar a fun & exciting place to be. They work hard to fundraise towards important school projects/initiatives.

We have an amazing PAC and we would love for you to join in on the exciting and important things that they have planned.



[Click here to learn more about South Pop's PAC.](#)

## School Day Photos with Vibrant Photos

 Pro-Line Sports Photography

 Vibrant  
PHOTOS



Hello,

Vibrant Photos is excited to be taking your school portraits at South Poplar Elementary School on Wednesday, **September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Photo day is quick and easy!

There are no forms or payment needed on photo day.  
Just bring your best SMILE!

Approximately two days after your student's photo day the images will be online and ready to view.

Viewing and ordering photos is simple

Scan QR code on the paper given to your student on photo day

OR

Step 1- Go to [www.vibrantphotos.ca](http://www.vibrantphotos.ca)

Step 2- Choose 'Click to Order' and then choose 'click here' on School Day orders.

Step 3- Enter your unique code provided on the paper given to your student on photo day

Step 4- View Images.

Step 5 - Select 'Buy Now' and you will be able to select from a variety of packages, single photo sheets and bonus items. Select product that you want to purchase and then choose which image you want to add to the product.

Step 6 – Add to cart. Select school delivery or choose ship to home (minimal shipping charge)

Photo orders must be placed by the end of day Thursday, October 5th to be included in the first delivery to school. Photo orders will be delivered to the school approximately one week after this date.

For any further inquiries please contact us at

[info@vibrantphotos.ca](mailto:info@vibrantphotos.ca)

604-380-3388