



## **North Shuswap Elementary September News**

### **Welcome Back**

Dear North Shuswap Families...

I hope all of your children have been coming home excited to be back at school and being able to connect with their peers and the wonderful staff at NSH. The staff at NSH are very excited to be back working with our students.

### **North Shuswap Staff**

At the time of this letter, we have one job posting for our new grade 5/6 class. A TTOC is in place until someone can be placed, and I am hopeful this will happen by next week. Once I know more, I will send a message to parents of students in this class to let you know what is happening. Please be assured that there is a qualified teacher in the room along with support from Mrs. Pellett (Learning Resource), so the curriculum is being followed.

We are fortunate to be adding two new teaching staff and a new head clerical to NSH this year. Nicole Rushton will be teaching our grade 2/3 class and is coming from Sorrento Elementary. Kelly Hendrigan is not new but will be moving from our librarian position to the K/1 teacher position. Titch Whitelock has moved from the board office in Salmon Arm to NSH as our head clerical. We are also grateful to welcome Carol Lepsoe who is teaching Drama on Tuesdays and Thursdays until we are able to find a music teacher.

#### ***Teaching Staff and Support:***

Brad Schmidt: Gr. 6/7/8

Vacant: Gr. 5/6

Kim Schmidt: Gr. 4/5

Nicole Rushton: Gr. 2/3

Sharon Langlois: Gr. 1/2

Kelly Hendrigan: K/Gr. 1

Carol Lepsoe: Drama

Carlie Pellett: Learning Resource

Marie Siebel: Counselor

Stefanie Dumont: IEW

#### ***Educational Assistants:***

Simone MacDonald Cheryl Munson Kacie Koyle Sue Beverly

**Bus Drivers:** Lynda Zontag

Ernest Moniz

**Custodian:** TBD

#### **Administration**

Chris Matheson: Principal

Secretary: Titch Whitelock

### **Regular School Hours**

8:00am	School Starts
9:30- 9:45am	Recess
11:15 – 11:40am	Lunch Break- Outside Play
11:40am- 12:00pm	Lunch Break- Inside Eating
1:57pm	End of Day Dismissal- Div. 2-6
2:07pm	End of Day Dismissal- Div. 1

### ***Student Supervision (Before and After School)***

Please note that morning supervision starts at 7:45am before the first bus arrives. Students should not arrive prior to 7:45am. After school our supervision concludes when the second bus leaves at 2:10pm. If you are unable to pick your child up by 2:10pm, please call the office to let us know.

# NORTH SHUSWAP COUGARS

Please keep in mind that the school is responsible for you children until they return home or are in the care of a parent or guardian. For this reason, it is important that all students, riding the bus or walking go directly home after school. If they wish to return to school to play or hang out after checking in at home, it is up to individual parents to make that decision. Students who are walking to a friend's house after school are required to provide a note from his/her parent acknowledging this consent.

## Attendance

Having your child arrive at school on time is extremely important. Children who regularly arrive late often miss the initial instruction of a lesson or a work period, which can have a negative impact on the student's learning. When a child arrives late, the flow of the classroom routines and education of other students can be interrupted. *The school will be monitoring unexcused late arrivals or absences, and parents will be contacted if their child is regularly arriving to school late or absent.* Of course, we understand that students will be arriving late or be absent due to an appointment or illness.



**If your son or daughter is going to be late or absent, due to an appointment or illness, please contact the school, so we can pass that information on to the teacher.** When your child is away and the school has not received a call advising us that your child will be late or absent, a Safe Arrival call will be made to you to ensure your child is safe, at home. Please remember to have your child sign in, at the office, if he/she arrives late to school. If you are picking your child up early, please try to call the office prior to arriving, and then you can come by the office and sign out your child. Thank you.

**\*Please check in with teacher when picking up your child early**

## Bussing

Bussing Students who ride the bus must be respectful towards the driver of the bus, other students and the property of the bus. The bus driver needs to have a quiet and respectful environment on the bus, in order to ensure that all students arrive at school and home in a safe manner. ***Riding the bus is a privilege*** and students who do not follow the expectations set for riding the bus may be asked to find an alternate form of transportation to and from school.



Students who regularly ride the bus will receive a Bus Orientation early in the school year, so all expectations for riding the bus are known and understood.

## Personal Consent Forms

School-wide permission forms are required each year. Please complete the authorization forms that were sent home with your child yesterday and return them to the school as soon as possible. If you need assistance, please call the school.

## Pack in Pack Out

In an effort to reduce the amount of waste we produce, we ask that students bring reusable containers and cutlery as much as possible and take home lunch wrappers and one-time use containers. We do have compost bins available for food waste and other compostable items.

## What to Bring

***Food and Drink:*** All students will need a lunch, snack, and **personal water bottle**. All water fountains have been disabled and replaced with a bottle filling station, so it is important that students come with a water bottle each day. We ask parents send a filled bottle to start the day. Please ensure your child has enough food to last the day. It is a long day for students from drop off to pick up, so you may want to pack more in the first couple of days and determine from there an appropriate amount. ***Please do not send pop and candy as snack items.***



# NORTH SHUSWAP COUGARS

**Clothing and Shoes:** Students at NSH will need to have indoor running shoes. This is especially important for our PE classes, but also ensures our school and classrooms remain clean, especially when the weather turns. When looking for indoor shoes, please ensure they are non-marking soles and can be used for a variety of athletic activities.



Classes will be spending more time outside when possible, so please ensure that your child is prepared for the weather. Mornings are getting cooler so a sweatshirt or hoodie may be required.

## School Supplies and Fees

Supplies are not needed. Teachers at NSH have ordered supplies to ensure all students are adequately prepared and to save parents the trouble of tracking down specific items. The school supplies fee is included in the school fees form which is on the website under the parents tab. We ask that you pay your school fees as soon as possible. Unpaid school supply and activity fees have to be recovered by school funds, which are meant for other school resources and activities. When fees are not paid, other school programs are affected.

Please keep in mind that a **financial hardship policy** is in place at North Shuswap Elementary for families unable to afford school fees. Please contact Mr. Matheson for further information.

## Planners/Agendas

Students at North Shuswap will be utilizing a planner to support home communication and personal organization. The planners have our school beliefs, routines, rules and expectations in the front. Parents are expected to review this document with their children and sign where indicated. Teachers will be using tool as daily communication with parents in addition to regular emails and information correspondence.

## Not Feeling Well



**Students and staff must stay home if they are feeling sick.** This is not optional and must be adhered to. Students arriving at the bus stop or school displaying symptoms will be asked to not enter the bus or school and parents will be expected to pick their child up right away.

Students who develop symptoms while at school will also need to be picked up as soon as possible. Parents will be called to pick up their child and expected to wait until their child is well before sending them back to school.

We understand that this may be inconvenient for parents at times, but we need everyone working together to ensure we all stay safe and healthy.

## Communication

**Email:** Please continue to monitor your inboxes for information and updates from the school and district. We will continue to send monthly newsletters home in paper copies if required, but much of the communication you receive will be sent via email, especially when time is of the essence. It is important that you receive information in a timely matter. Teachers will establish methods of communication in their classes in addition to the daily planner communication that will ensure families are always kept in the know. If you have changed your main email address, please call the office so we can edit our information on file.

**Phone Calls:** We ask that all families have a working phone number that we can reach you or a guardian at if needed. Please ensure we have your most recent contact number at all times. We understand that numbers can and do change so please inform us as soon as new contact numbers are in place.



### **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

All parents, with children in the public school system automatically become members of the school's Parent Advisory Council. If you are interested in becoming involved with the PAC this year, please attend the first meeting (date TBD) to show your interest and learn more about this vital part of our school community. The staff and students of North Shuswap Elementary would like to thank the PAC for all of their contributions to help make our school the best school possible!

### **Dates to Remember**

- **Monday September 19-** National Day of Mourning – No school
- **Friday September 23-** Terry Fox Run
- **Thursday September 29-** Orange Shirt Day
- **Friday September 30-** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation holiday- No school
- **Monday October 10-** Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Tuesday October 11-** Individual Student Photographs
- **Friday October 21-** Pro D: No School for Students
- **Wednesday October 26-** Conference Day K-8 students ONLY attend for scheduled conference