



Dear North Shuswap Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year!

We are excited to open our doors once again and welcome students and families back to North Shuswap Elementary. Whether your child is returning or joining our school community for the first time, we look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, friendship, and new opportunities.

At North Shu, we are committed to helping students become confident, capable, and caring individuals who thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our staff has been preparing for the year ahead, and we can't wait to reconnect with students and families.

Key Dates to Remember

- **Monday, September 7** – Labour Day (No School)
- **Tuesday, September 8** – Staff in Session
- **Wednesday, September 9** – First Day of School for Grades 1–8 (8:00–11:00 AM)
 - Early Dismissal (11:00 AM)
 - Students will meet on the basketball court (weather permitting) or in the gym.
- **Thursday, September 10** – Full day of school for Grades 1–8; Kindergarten gradual entry begins
- **Friday, September 11** – Full day of school; Kindergarten gradual entry continues

Please make every effort to have your child attend school on Wednesday, September 9.

Attendance on the first day is very important, as we use this information to finalize class organization and ensure students are placed appropriately. Thank you for your support.

Kindergarten Families

Kindergarten students will begin with a gradual entry schedule to help them settle comfortably into school routines. Further information about group schedules, supplies, and transportation has been provided directly to Kindergarten families, with a reminder email going out to them shortly. If you need further information, please contact Titch at the school office.

Building Community Through Our "Dens"

This year, one of our school-wide focuses will be the **Circle of Courage**, an Indigenous framework that helps students develop a sense of **Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity**. These values align closely with the kind of caring, inclusive community we strive to create each day.

To help launch the year, students in Grades 1–8 will spend part of the first few days participating in our **Den Program**. For comfort and connection, students will be in familiar groupings on Wednesday (the first day of school), and then will be placed in mixed-age groups (Dens) led by different staff members and will take part in activities designed to help them get to know one another, build connections across grade levels, learn school expectations, and strengthen our sense of community. Throughout the year, Dens will continue to bring students together for celebrations, leadership opportunities, and community-building activities.



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We are excited about this approach and believe it will help every student feel known, valued, and connected from the very beginning of the school year.

Reminders for All Families

- **School Zone:** Please remember our **30 km/h school zone** and exercise extra caution in the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up times.
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is one of the strongest contributors to student success. We encourage students to attend school consistently and arrive ready to learn each day.
- **Absences:** If your child will be away, please notify the office by phone or email as soon as possible.
- **Cell Phones and Digital Devices (such as smart watches):** Students are expected to keep personal electronic devices turned off and not on their person during the school day. If a student needs to contact home, they may do so through the office.
- **School Supplies:** General classroom supplies are covered through school fees. Students should arrive with a backpack, clearly labelled personal items, and a pair of non-marking indoor shoes. Teachers may communicate any additional class-specific needs.
- **Bussing:** Information regarding transportation and registration can be found on the School District 83 website.
- **Volunteers:** Communities thrive when many different members get involved and contribute. We need YOU! If you plan to support with chaperoning any field trips or being in a class on a regular basis this year, volunteers are required to have an up-to-date criminal record check. Please contact the office for information on how to complete this to avoid disappointment later.

We value the partnership between home and school and encourage families to stay connected, ask questions, and get involved whenever possible. Together, we can make this school year a positive, engaging, and successful experience for every learner.

Thank you for being part of the North Shuswap Elementary community. We look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Warm regards,

Duncan Hazlewood

Principal, North Shuswap Elementary School