



North Shuswap Elementary

September News

Welcome Back

Welcome back returning students and families and welcome to our new students. Staff at NSH are excited to be back working with our students. While this is once again a less than ideal start to the school year with Covid-19 restrictions still in place, we will continue to find ways to ensure students feel safe and have a positive and enriching educational experience.

We have a caring and committed community here on the North Shuswap and we will count on everyone to do their part to ensure our students return is safe for everyone. It will be extremely important that parents, students and staff adhere to the safety measures in place here at the school and within the community.

Although school is not quite back “normal” many of the tighter restrictions and limitations we faced last year have been loosened this year allowing us to engage in wider variety of activities on and off site. We will continue to adhere to Interior Health and Provincial health and safety protocols and guidance. As such, we will provide regular updates and information as it becomes available.

North Shuswap Staff

At the time of this letter we have two job postings that have yet to be filled. One of the positions is for our new division at the Grade 2/3 level and the other is in our Grade 5/6 class as Ms. Honey has taken a leave for the year. An email update for parents will be sent home as soon as the positions are filled.

We are fortunate to also be adding new teaching and support staff to our team. Angela Nitschke is our new Kindergarten/Grade 1 teacher coming to us from Sorrento. Zachary Power is our new Music teacher. Zach is with us on Tuesdays and Fridays and comes to us from SASS Sullivan. Stefanie Dumont is our new Indigenous Education Worker and will be at here on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Teaching Staff and Support:

Brad Schmidt: Gr. 6/7/8

Vacant: Gr. 5/6

Kim Schmidt: Gr. 3/4/5

Vacant: Gr. 2/3

Sharon Langlois: Gr. 1/2

Angela Nitschke: K/Gr. 1

Zachary Power: Music

Carlie Pellett: Learning Resource

Marie Siebel: Counselor

Stefanie Dumont: IEW

Educational Assistants:

Donna Tennent

Simone MacDonald

Cheryl Munson

Bus Drivers: Lynda Zontag

Brian Clarke

Custodian: Marc Lebleu

Administration

Paul Rosman: Principal

Secretary: Kyla Dawson

Regular School Hours

8:00am

School Starts

9:33- 9:48am

Recess

11:18 – 11:43am

Lunch Break- Outside Play

11:43am- 12:03pm

Lunch Break- Inside Eating

2:04pm

End of Day Dismissal- Div. 2-6

2:10pm

End of Day Dismissal- Div. 1



Student Supervision (Before and After School)

Please note that morning supervision starts at 7:40am when the first bus arrives. Students should not arrive prior to 7:40am. After school our supervision concludes when the second bus leaves at 2:15pm. If you are unable to pick your child up by 2:15pm, please call the office to let us know.

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.

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.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, only registered bus students are allowed to ride the bus, before and after school. Students who are not registered, are not permitted to ride the bus. Families organizing playdates, parties or get-together's must make arrangements to pick-up additional students using private vehicles.

All students in Grades 4-12 must wear a mask when riding the bus in SD83. Younger students are encouraged to do so, but it is not a requirement.

Personal Consent Forms

Please see the attached school-wide permission forms required each year. Please complete the authorization of the forms online as soon as possible. If you need assistance please call the school. Paper copies of all forms are available upon request.



Masks

Students at North Shuswap in Grades 4-8 are currently required to wear a mask as part of the Covid-19 protocols and guidelines. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear one, but this is not a mandatory expectation. Masks will be provided to students should they misplace or lose theirs, but it is a good idea to pack a couple in their bags if available.

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. Teachers will send home individual suggestions and ideas as it pertains to their individual classes in this regard as the year progresses.

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.***



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. 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. Rosman for further information.

In an effort to avoid unnecessary close contact and handling of cash, we ask that parents try to pay the school fees using a cheque or through a direct deposit e-transfer. A school fee form has already been sent home please call the office if you would like a new one.

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 Covid-19 symptomatic or feeling sick. This is not optional and must be adhered to. Students arriving at the bus stop or school displaying symptoms will not be permitted to 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. Many times in the past we have given students a chance to lay down for a while and return to class if they felt better, but that will not be permitted at this time. Parents will be called to pick up their child and expected to follow established protocols before sending their child back to school. Students who are ill will not be allowed to ride the bus at the end of the day and must be picked up.

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.

Dropping of Items/ Attending Meetings

Parents needing to drop off forgotten items (lunch/homework/etc.) can do so by simply letting us know your coming and we can meet you at the front entrance.

Parents, caregivers and guests requiring access into the building must self-acknowledge and follow the instructions on the health check questionnaire on the front door. ***Masks must be worn by all guests when entering the building*** (one-time use masks are available if you forget). Guests will need to use the hand sanitizer and sign-in at the front door for contact tracing purposes. All guests must check in at the office before moving throughout the building. These measures are in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students, staff and guests of North Shuswap Elementary.

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 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 on Monday, October 4th, at 2:20 pm, 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 20-** Pro D: No School for Students
- **Wednesday September 29-** Orange Shirt Day and NSH Terry Fox Run
- **Thursday September 30-** National Day for Truth and Reconciliation holiday
- **Monday, October 4-** PAC Meeting (2:20pm start)
- **Monday October 11-** Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Thursday, October 14-** Individual Student Photographs
- **Friday, October 22-** Pro D: No School for Students



School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

Should you be at school?

Children should be at home if they have any of the following symptoms of illness . . .



Fever and chills (greater than 37.5 degrees Celsius)



Coughing and Sneezing



Vomiting or Nausea



Extreme Exhaustion



Shortness of Breath



Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19



Diarrhea



Severe Headache



Difficulty breathing
(and seek medical assistance)



Loss of taste or smell

Also, pre-existing medical conditions until you have medical clearance
(for example Heart Disease, Lung Disease, Kidney Disease, Asthma, Diabetes, Cancer, Immunocompromised etc.)

Get BC's Health Check App at:

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>

Safety Matters because YOU Matter!

NORTH SHUSWAP COLLEARS

School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)

Return to School Plan Fall 2021

SD83 will follow the advice and recommendation of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), Interior Health Officials, and the Ministry of Education when determining the 2021-22 Return to School Plan. The situation is fluid and updates may take place. Take a look below at some of the steps we have taken to ensure safety and well-being remain a priority this coming school year:

Safe Attendance

- Daily health checks before coming to school/work (<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>)
- Students and staff who are ill will stay home. A safe, supervised area is available for any child who becomes ill at school
- Mandatory masks in all indoor spaces for Gr. 4-12 students, staff and visitors
- Masking is encouraged for Kindergarten to Grade 3 (personal and family choice)



Safe Student Transportation

- Hand Hygiene before boarding the bus
- Mandatory masks for students (Gr. 4-12) and staff
- Drivers will wear masks except when driving
- Maintaining increased cleaning and sanitization

Safe Facilities

- Continuing sanitary and hygienic practices
- Physical distancing no longer required however efforts will be made to prevent crowding and utilize available space, including holding classes outdoors when possible
- Water bottle filling stations rather than fountains
- Increased ventilation/filtration or opening windows in all schools
- Managing student/staff flow within schools



Safe Classrooms

- Hand hygiene will be promoted and practiced
- Cohorts no longer necessary
- Mandatory masks for all Gr. 4-12 students and all adults

Safe Activities

- Sports, fitness, and music will resume with some restrictions
- Extra-curricular and co-curricular activities will resume with some restrictions
- We are awaiting direction from Interior Health on the resumption of extra-curricular activities and any further regional restrictions
- Interior Health may be holding voluntary immunization clinics in our schools for the community





School District 83 Permission Forms Information

In an effort to “be green” and to save you time, the following forms have been posted on **Parent Connect** for you to review and authorize. All forms should be reviewed and responded to by your child’s parent/guardian by **September 30th**.

To access Parent Connect, go to the North Shuswap website (www.nsh.sd83.bc.ca) and choose “Parent Connect” under the “Parents” tab. For those needing additional assistance an instruction document is also located on the sign in site. If you would like paper copies of the forms please call the school.

Notes:

- You must have up to date browser in order for Parent Connect to function properly.
- If you cannot remember your password for Parent Connect click on the “Forgot my Password” link and a new password will be emailed to you.
- If you are having trouble logging in it may be because the email address is out of date. If that is the case, please contact the office for assistance.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Log into Parent Connect
2. In the “FORMS” section on the right side of the page, read each form and select the appropriate response. (use the “PREVIOUS” “NEXT” links to see all forms)
3. CLICK SAVE (located below the “FORMS” box)

Personal Information Consent Form

- ☐ In accordance with the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Board of Education of School District No. 83 is seeking your consent to collect, retain, use and disclose photographs, videos, images and/or names of students and groups of students in a variety of publications and on the School District’s website(s) for educational purposes (i.e. yearbooks, newsletters, class blogs etc.). This permission is required annually.

Student Daily Health Check Form

- ☐ Please acknowledge that you will complete regular health check, at home with your child(ren).

Outside Media In Schools

- ☐ Media (including radio, television, newspapers, and other print and online media) are sometimes permitted or invited to come to the school or to school activities and allowed to take photos/video or conduct interviews with students, for the purposes of promoting public understanding of school programs, building public support for public education, and encouraging student achievement. This permission is required annually.

School Network_Consent

- ☐ Schools are now equipped with wireless networks to facilitate more flexible access to learning resources. Students must agree to the terms and conditions of the “Digital Citizenship” regulation #3000 before being granted permission at the school level. This permission is required annually.

Office 365/Cloud Internet Consent

- ☐ School District No. 83 is always looking for ways to support learning in the classroom. As we move through the information age Internet-based tools are being developed and used to create and share learning and to build a lifelong digital portfolio. The District has identified two tools (Office365 and Gsuite) that will require a personal account to be created for your child using their first name, last name, birth year and the school that they are attending. Your consent to your child’s use of Office365 and Gsuite is required by British Columbia’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). This permission is required once per school.



myBluePrint_Internet_Consent

- ☐ As we move towards full integration of the Ministry of Education's New Curriculum, we are looking for tools to better support student learning. The myBluePrint platform has a version called All About Me designed for K-6 students and version for grade 7-12 students called Education Planner. Both versions have planning tools and an e-portfolio in a digital environment. The servers are located in Canada; however, we are still collecting permission from parents to use the program. Alternate activities will be supported if permission is not granted. This permission is required once per school.

Walking Field Trips Permission

- ☐ During the school year, teachers may take students for excursions in and around our neighborhood. The teacher will provide supervision on these neighborhood trips, with the assistance of parent volunteers, as required. When longer trips involving travel outside our local area are planned, you will be informed in writing and will be asked to sign a separate permission slip for each trip. This permission is required once per school.