



École Intermédiaire Shuswap Middle School

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January 6, 2026

Hello Shuswap Middle School Students and Families!

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the two weeks and were able to spend some time making memories with family and friends. The next few months are prime learning months, with a real focus on the foundational skills of reading, writing, communication and math. We will also be starting the planning process for next year as we start our transition as part of the Salmon Arm reconfiguration. Watch newsletters and our website as we share information in a timely way.

Yours truly,

Ms. Edgell, Principal
Mr. Petch, Vice Principal

School goals:

Every year, each school creates a plan to help focus on both academic and social development. This year we are really focusing on writing and for math each grade has a different key area of focus.

Writing goal: Classes are continuing to focus on writing and each classroom teacher has been using the results of the school wide write to pick the area they are focusing on first. We also have a group of students participating in a writing intervention program called “Expressive Writing”. This program is research based and specifically designed to help students who are struggling with written expression.

Helping at home: A fun activity to try in the car or around the supper table is “big deal or no big deal”. To start give a scenario such as “going camping in the winter”. Then each person decides whether this is a big deal (exciting) or not a big deal and explains their reasons for their choice. Reasons should all relate to the question and not go off topic. Students should list two or three ideas why it is a big deal or not a big deal. For example, if they chose camping in the winter is a big deal, their three ideas might be:

- A) Can do favourite activities such as ice fishing or sledding
- B) Can have campfires without worrying about a ban
- C) Less pests or predators e.g. mosquitoes, bears

Then, very importantly, students should elaborate on each idea with a reason. For example if one of their reasons was having a fire to stay warm then the supporting reason could be having a campfire in the winter can burn larger without worrying about the risk of a forest fire and they will be able to enjoy their favorite meal of campfire hot dogs.

Other possible topics might be having a winter activity day at school, having a movie night with friends, having pizza every day for a week or having school outside all day for one day.

Numeracy goal: This year we are focusing on ensuring students are able to compute percentages at grade 6, work with positive and negative numbers at grade 7, and use fractions to solve equations at grade 8. These concepts are absolutely critical to have mastered in order to have success at the next grade level.

Helping at home: The very best thing you can do to help your child succeed with math is to play lots of games that build fluency with math facts. We have just the opportunity for this! We are hosting a community wide family math night with internationally acclaimed presenters: John and Jane Felling from Box Cars and One Eyed Jacks!

Fun and games in 2026  **Cars
& One-Eyed Jacks**

We are super excited to announce that SMS is holding a community wide Family Math Games night on Monday January 12, 2026. John and Jane Felling, founders of “Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks”

will be here to lead families through some super fun games using cards and dice. John and Jane are very sought after presenters and have worked with families and teachers all across North America. We are super fortunate to be able to bring them here to Salmon Arm. There will be a primary session, focused on games suitable for Kindergarten through grade 3, and an intermediate session focused on games suitable for grades 4-8. This will be super fun evening- so bring your kids and come enjoy an hour of good times! Please pre-register for this session by completing the short registration using this



QR code. Hope to see you there!

Band concert

Our first band concert of the year is happening on Tuesday January 20, 2026 starting at 6:30 in the SMS gym. Please join us to celebrate the accomplishments of our first semester band students. It will be a wonderful concert!

Staff updates

Welcome to Mrs. Georgijevic who is taking over Mrs. Thio's class as Mrs. Thio's family has moved to the island. Mrs. Georgijevic is a familiar teacher in our school as she has previously taught here for short term contracts. Welcome also to Mme. Glasser who is taking over Mme. Dalgaard's class as she heads off on maternity leave.

Nut and Scent Aware School

Please remind your kids to avoid strongly scented sprays, lotions etc. Some of our school community are very sensitive to these scents and are impacted. Also, if there are students in your child's room who are anaphylactic to nuts, please don't send nuts in lunches. Many thanks to everyone for their understanding and for helping to keep our school community safe.

Lock down drill

Once a year every school in B.C. is required to hold a lock down drill. Lock downs in "real life" are extremely rare, thankfully, but similar to fire drills, practicing what to do in an emergency is important in ensuring that people are safe. We will be holding our lock down drill on January 14. Please feel free to let your child know that we will be holding our drill on that day if you feel like it will help them. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Val Edgell either by email vedgell@sd83.bc.ca or by phone.

Sports News

Basketball season is underway, with grades 6,7 and 8 boys and girls teams. Many thanks to our coaches: Ms. Mueller, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Askew, Mrs. Ritchie, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Cadden, and Mr. Schlueter. Good luck teams!

Things to note

ERASE reporting

Did you know that there is a province- wide tool for reporting concerns around student safety? Reports can be anonymous and will be followed up by the school principal. To access the ERASE reporting tool, go to the SMS website and it is the first selection under the "Students" tab at the top of the page.

We also really want to emphasize the importance of reaching out to school staff when you have a concern. We care deeply about our students and the earlier that concerns can be addressed, the better.

Accessing support

Continuing along the same lines, the winter months can often be times when the stresses of life seem to mount. Mental health is important, and we want to highlight the Kids Help Phone. This is a free service that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Kids can reach out via text or phone and speak to a trained adult. Kids Help Phone can be reached at 1-800-668-6868 or by texting TALK to 686868.



Parent Advisory Council news

Our PAC is needing a treasurer! This is not a huge time commitment, but is a vital role in the PAC. If you are interested in possibly taking on this role, please reach out to Morgan Turland at mturland@gmail.com. We need you! The next PAC meeting is January 26, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the SMS library. We hope to see you there!

Yearbooks

If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, please visit the online order site at <https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09706728>



January 12	Family Math night at SMS 5:30 p.m. pre registration required
January 14	Lock down drill
January 15	Late French Immersion meeting 6 p.m.
January 15	Gr 8 ski trip
January 20	Band concert 6:30 p.m.
January 23	Last day of quarter 2. New explorations classes start Jan 26
January 23	Jersey Day: wear your favourite jersey!
January 26	PAC meeting SMS library 6:30 p.m.
January 29	Gr 8 ski trip
February 6	Dress like a student/teacher day
February 12	Gr 8 ski trip
February 13	Pro D day: no school for students
February 16	Family day: no school for staff or students



K-3 And Grade 4-8 Family Math Games Night

Shuswap Middle School



Come to Shuswap Middle School and spend an evening playing a variety of K-3 and Grade 4-8 math games using cards and dice! Each registered family will receive a packet of math games to play along with the presenter, and materials will be provided for use during the event. The sessions for both grade levels will be held simultaneously. Bring your best energy and get ready to PLAY!

Benefits for Kids:

Games are a fun way to review and strengthen basic math skills at home!





Children who are secure in their math skills will grow in self-esteem and have greater success in school.

Benefits for Parents:

Games are a motivating, simple and economical homework support that reinforce concepts taught in school.

Your presenter will provide you with strategies, tips and tricks to help your child with math fluency

Games Reinforce:

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Counting |  Problem Solving |
|  Basic Facts: $+$, $-$, \times , \div |  Place Value |

WHEN: Monday, January 12th, 2026 5:30-6:45 PM

WHERE: Shuswap Middle School

TO REGISTER: Please Scan the QR code



RSVP By: January 8th, 2026

BOX Cars
& One-Eyed Jacks