



École Intermédiaire Shuswap Middle School

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April 1, 2026

Hello Shuswap Middle School Students and Families!

The sun is shining, grass is starting to grow, it looks like spring is here! This spring looks a bit different at SMS from those in the past as we start the transition to a new configuration. We will be sharing more information as plans start to firm up. There is some important information contained in this newsletter with respect to next year- so please keep reading 😊

Yours truly,

Ms. Edgell, Principal
Mr. Petch, Vice Principal

Next year: In order to know the number of classes we need next year, we need to know exactly who will be here. If you know that you are moving and your child will not be here at SMS next year, please let us know as soon as you can. Also, if your child is planning to change programs (e.g. French Immersion to English) please contact us as soon as possible. These two pieces of information are critical to ensuring we are staffed appropriately. Next year we will have French Immersion 6-8; and English grade 7 and 8. At this point, we anticipate having straight grade 7 and straight grade 8 classes in the English program.

SMS Hockey program: The 2026-2027 school year will be the last year of the SMS Grade 8 hockey program as it currently exists. Information was sent out to all current grade 7 families on March 4. If your child is interested in participating in the hockey program, please ensure that you have applied prior to April 30, 2026. Students entering the hockey program need to be competent skaters prior to being accepted. To apply, please complete the form [linked here](#).

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: We continue to work really hard on developing writing stamina- which is the ability to persevere and write longer selections of work. We know how important it is for students to have a “target” or an example of what grade level writing looks like. We are sharing with students some examples of writing that is provincially considered to be “at grade level” or “proficient”. We will be posting these on our school website soon so that you are able to take a look and see the level that is considered proficient.

Helping at home: Generating ideas can be tricky for writers. A great game to play with older kids is “Taboo”- which is a game that can be purchased. However, we can play our own version of it and have a ton of fun! Make up a set of words ahead of time and have two teams. The first player draws a card with a word on it and then must describe this word (without using the word itself) for their team to guess. If they are able to guess the word before the time is up, the team gets a point. Examples of words might be “ice cream sundae” and someone might describe it as follows: “This is something that you eat. It is very cold and involves frozen milk. You can put really great toppings on this such as sprinkles or chocolate sauce”. Games like this really help build the idea of putting together multiple sentences on the same topic, which is a skill that is often really difficult.

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. Students generally have the most difficulty with subtracting negative numbers, so this is super important to practice.

Helping at home: 16 card Integer is a game that is great for practicing adding and subtracting with positive and negative numbers. For this game, use red cards as positive and black as negative. You can play this using either addition or subtraction.

Place 16 cards face up in a 4 x 4 grid.

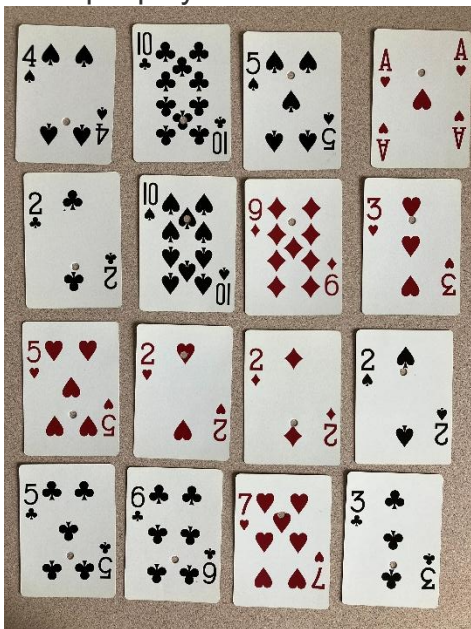
Roll a 6 sided dice to give the target for the whole game. (Example:4)

Players take turns selecting pairs of cards that add or subtract to the total of "4". Each time a pair is removed, replace the cards with two from the draw pile. It is important that the equation is stated aloud E.g. $-6 - (-2) = 4$ is read as "Negative six take away negative 2 is equal to 4"

If no move is possible, player can choose two cards to remove from the grid, place them on the bottom of the pile and replace them with the top two cards from the draw pile. Play then passes to the other player.

The winner is the person with the most cards at the end of game. The game ends when all the cards have been used or there are no more moves possible.

Example play:



Target is 4

Player 1: picks up red 9 and black 5 and says 9 plus negative 5 equals 4.

Then would replace those two cards with others from the draw pile.

Player 2: picks up red 2 and black 2 and says "2 take away negative 2 equals 4" and then replaces those two cards with cards from the draw pile.

Play continues until no moves can be made, or there are no cards remaining in the draw pile.

Lost and Found: Help! Our lost and found is overflowing! After Easter we will be donating items that have been living in the lost and found for a long time... if your child is missing something please remind them to take a look- or feel free to stop by and rescue the items yourself 😊 Thank you!

Things to note:

We surveyed all students at SMS over the past two months about feelings of safety and wellness. Two areas of the school were highlighted where students feel the least safe: washrooms and changerooms. We implemented some changes that we hope will help. We've increased supervision outside of washrooms and limited the number of students out of a classroom at one time to one student. Please help reinforce that washrooms are a single purpose room... and certainly not a great place to gather and eat snacks! Changerooms are obviously an area where there is less supervision and that was noted by a number of students as a concern. We are brainstorming possible solutions with our classes to help make changerooms feel safer, and will do all we can to implement solutions quickly.



Parent Advisory Council news

The next PAC meeting is April 27, 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>



April 3	Good Friday no school for staff or students
April 6	Easter Monday no school for staff or students
April 10	Performing Arts "My Son the Hurricane"
April 15	Fire drill
April 17	Quarter 3 classes end
April 20	Pro D day: no school for students
April 22	Lions vision screening for grade 6 students
April 27	PAC meeting 6:30 p.m.
April 29	Cross Country run (Gr 6/7 team members) Little Mountain
April 30	Fire drill #5