



# École Intermédiaire Shuswap Middle School

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February 17, 2026

Hello Shuswap Middle School Students and Families!

I hope everyone was able to enjoy some sunshine and good times with family and friends over the Family Day weekend. This past week was a heavy one for many people. Our hearts go out to the community of Tumbler Ridge. We know that in times of tragedy there are many ripple effects that are felt deeply by many. Our school team is well prepared and trained to assist with processing these difficult emotions and we encourage you and your children to reach out if there is anything we can do to support.

One thing you may notice is that side and back doors to the school are remaining locked for much of the day. We had already started doing this a couple of weeks ago, and it makes sense to continue with this practice. The front door is always accessible.

You may also notice increased visibility of RCMP in the areas around the school. We appreciate the relationship we have with our local RCMP and we will continue to work together to support the safety of our school community.

This is also a good opportunity to remind families of the importance of being very aware of mental and emotional health. We ask you to please reach out if you have any concerns. You can always reach out directly to the school team (principal, Vice principal, counsellors or classroom teachers). You can also report any worrisome behaviours through the Erase Reporting tool which is linked on our school website and is found at <https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/> The information reporting on this tool is anonymous and is screened provincially and then reported to our school district office.

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.

We are here to support all in our school community. We value the partnership with families as we work through good times as well as challenging times.

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:** We continue to work really hard on developing writing stamina- which is the ability to persevere and write longer selections of work. In order to write longer selections without losing quality (e.g. not becoming repetitive) students need to be able to add details and explanation to their thoughts.

**Helping at home:** A way to support this at home is to play “Give me two good reasons...”. Give your child a topic that they might wish for such as “Give me two good reasons why you should go to a friend’s place today” or “Give me two good reasons why you should have pizza for breakfast”. Then your child needs to give you two reasons, with supporting evidence to go with it. For example: “I should go to my friend’s today because when I am hanging out with my friend, I will be outside and you will be able to sit down with a nice cup of tea and relax for a bit. The second reason is that when I am playing outside with my friend, I

won't be making a mess inside!" The topics can be as reasonable or as ridiculous as you want- the point is to learn to come up with more than one idea for a topic, and then to elaborate on each idea. Improving writing ability doesn't always require having to put pencil to paper. There are a lot of skills that can be developed orally.

**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:** Connect 4 is a great game for practicing multiplication tables. All you need are two dice and a game board (print or copy the one below)

### CONNECT 4 Multiplication

Skills: multiplication facts

Materials: 2 six-sided dice, counters (2 colours-one colour for each player), game board

#### Instructions:

Player 1 rolls 2 six-sided dice and multiplies them together to get the product. Example if player 1 rolls 3 and 6 then the product is 18. Player 1 places a counter on any 18 on the game board and then passes the dice to player 2.

Player 2 rolls both dice and does the same thing, covering the product of the two numbers they rolled. Player 2 uses their own colour counter to cover the square.

The winner is the person who gets 4 counters (of their own colour) in a row (horizontal, vertical, diagonal etc)

\*If a player rolls a product and there are no more of that number left to be covered, they miss their turn and play passes to the next player. You may choose to change this rule up a bit, and play that if there are no more "12's" for example left, and you roll a product of 12, then you can bump your opponents counter off that square and claim it for your own- but only if there are no more open 12's you could cover.

Please see the game board on the next page 😊

Game board:

0	2	13	7	9	6	3
4	7	12	1	14	10	16
9	3	5	10	6	19	4
11	1	6	15	2	12	8
5	10	8	17	0	15	20
18	2	13	9	4	14	11
17	15	8	8	19	7	5

**Grade 8 course selections:**

Grade 8 students will have a visit from staff from JL Jackson and SASS on Monday February 23. They will be choosing their courses for next year. Hopefully students know which of the two high schools they will be attending, based on home address. We will be able to assist students in knowing which school they are assigned to as well. Here is the information from the SD 83 website:

2025 JL Jackson Catchment Areas	2025 Salmon Arm Secondary Catchment Areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Hillcrest</li> <li>· North Canoe</li> <li>· Rancho</li> <li>· Silver Creek</li> <li>· French Immersion Students (Program of Choice)</li> <li>· South Canoe Outdoor School (Program of Choice)*</li> <li>· International Program Students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Bastion</li> <li>· Carlin</li> <li>· North Shuswap</li> <li>· Salmon Arm West</li> <li>· South Broadview</li> <li>· Sorrento</li> </ul>

**\*South Canoe families who live within the SAS catchment area and who are transitioning to secondary school, will have the option to attend either JLJ or SAS. This decision must be made by March 31, 2026. Once the decision is made, the student will remain at the chosen school for the remainder of their high school years.**

## **Grade 8 Wellness Symposium**

This year we are very excited to be hosting two wellness mornings for our grade 8 students. Half of the grade 8's participated on Wednesday Feb 11 in the morning and the other half will participate on Wednesday Feb 18. Students were surveyed earlier in the year about topics relating to wellness that were of particular interest to them. From those suggestions, we collaborated with community partners to create a number of sessions that students signed up for. Topics included things such as "Self confidence and self worth; sip smarter and live better; Online safety; Substance use facts; Powering up your mind by stressing less and staying strong, and Bringing your values, goals and dreams to life". Many great reports were received from the students who participated last week. Huge thanks go to Ms. Mueller, Mrs. Janowsky and Theresa Johnson for all their work in coordinating this event.

## **Red Team fundraiser for Second Harvest**

As we move into the months after the holiday season, local food banks often experience increased demand and fewer donations. Our local food bank has shared that monetary contributions are the most impactful way to support their work, as they have strong purchasing power with local stores and can stretch every dollar further than individual purchases. Red Team is leading our school in a challenge to support Second Harvest with fundraising efforts. For the weeks of Feb 23-March 6, we invite our staff, students, and families to consider making a financial donation if they are able. Please use the following link to donate directly to the Second Harvest, or students are welcome to bring in money to the office. [Second Harvest](#)

For families who would prefer another way to give, we will also be collecting non-perishable food items at the school to pass along to the food bank. Donations can be sent in with students and dropped off at the office. Whether you choose to give financially or by donating food, every contribution - big or small - helps ensure members of our community have access to nutritious food. Thank you to the Red Team for taking on this very important cause.

## **Celebrations**

There are always a lot of things that can be celebrated at SMS. This month I would like to highlight something that I believe is a really important life skill. It's easy to do things that we've done before or that we are good at. It's often much harder to try new things, or persevere with things that don't come easily. This month I really noticed a number of students going outside of their comfort zone and trying new things. Teachers at SMS work really hard to provide a huge range of opportunities for their students, including things like skiing, snowboarding, curling, swimming and skating. We are really proud of those who show up, do their best, and try things that are new and perhaps difficult. We know that not everyone will be the next Olympian, but there's so much value in trying new experiences. We are also celebrating those who continue to work super hard on aspects of their academics, even when things are difficult. We see students seeking out extra help from their teachers in order to better understand a math concept, or participating in small group writing interventions to develop their writing skills. If you are one who has been making the most of the opportunities at SMS, be proud!

## **Things to note**

February and March can be tricky months- where we are feeling a bit of the lack of sunshine and hanging on until Spring Break arrives. It's super important to keep showing up and doing your best both academically and socially. We've been having a number of conversations about making sure we are treating people with respect, regardless of whether we consider them a friend. We're using the language of "you don't need to be friends with everyone, but you do need to be friendly to everyone". We appreciate the conversations between home and school as we help our kids figure out who they are and what they stand for as they navigate the pre-teen and teen years.

## **Sports News**

Wrestling season is coming to a close. We had a small but mighty team competing under the leadership of Mrs. Sterkenburg. Congratulations to Fynn Lazar who won the zone competition in his weight class and is headed to represent SMS at Provincials!

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!

Shuswap Hoops is once again offering some Spring Basketball opportunities for students in the community. See the poster below for more information:

**JOIN OUR SPRING ID CAMPS AND TRYOUTS**

**U11 BOYS**  
**TUESDAY MARCH 3**  
**430 - 600PM**

**U11 GIRLS**  
**TUESDAY MARCH 3**  
**430 - 600PM**

**U13 BOYS**  
**MONDAY MARCH 9**  
**600 - 730PM**

**U13 GIRLS**  
**MONDAY MARCH 9**  
**430 - 600PM**

**U11 BOYS**  
**TUESDAY MARCH 10**  
**430 - 600PM**

**U11 GIRLS**  
**TUESDAY MARCH 10**  
**430 - 600PM**

**U13 BOYS**  
**WEDNESDAY MARCH 11**  
**600 - 730PM**

**U13 GIRLS**  
**WEDNESDAY MARCH 11**  
**430 - 600PM**

**SHUSWAP HOOPS**

**ID CAMP/TRYOUT**

**FEE \$25**

**REGISTRATION COMING SOON**

**ALL TRYOUTS AT SHUSWAP**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**SHUSWAPHOOPS.CA**



**Parent Advisory Council news**

Our PAC is needing a Secretary! 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](mailto:mturland@gmail.com). We need you! The next PAC meeting is February 23, 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>



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|-------------|---|
| February 16 | Family day: no school for staff or students   |
| February 23 | Grade 8 course selections for gr 9            |
| February 23 | PAC meeting 6:30 pm                           |
| February 25 | Gr 6 Immunizations                            |
| March 10    | Learning updates go home- check backpacks     |
| March 16-27 | Spring Break: enjoy!!                         |
| March 30    | Welcome back from Spring Break                |
| April 3     | Good Friday no school for staff or students   |
| April 6     | Easter Monday no school for staff or students |