



École Intermédiaire Shuswap Middle School

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November 3, 2025

Hello Shuswap Middle School Students and Families!

November has arrived, and with it the time change. Although it is nice to arrive at work in semi-daylight now, the flip side of that is that it gets dark super early. Many of our students are heading home in semi-darkness or darkness now as they leave the school from their after-school activities. Drivers, please be extra alert and watching for kids as they make their way home. On the same note, thank you to parents who are watching carefully as they drop their kids off in the lower dirt parking lot. There are a lot of cars and a lot of kids! Please try to pull as far down into the parking lot as possible to alleviate the back up on 30th. Reminder that students should not be dropped off at the upper parking lot/school doors. Thank you!

November also brings with it some chilly weather and our lost and found has started to build up with abandoned hoodies that would love to find their way home! Please encourage your child to check the lost and found by the stairs across from the gym. There are some expensive clothing items that I am sure parents would love to get back!

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 looked at some results for our students compared to similar grades across BC and it is evident that while our students are generally very strong readers, they are finding writing much more difficult. We will be doing a “School Wide Write” during the month of November and teachers will look at the results to find areas of strength for their class, as well as specific areas they will focus on to help students move ahead with their writing.

Helping at home: One thing that kids are really struggling with is coming up with more than one thing to say that answers a question. Something you can do at home to help with this is ask a daily/weekly “Would You Rather” question. Have your child give you three reasons, out loud, to support their choice. For example: “Would you rather have only summer or only winter weather?” Answer: I would like to have only summer weather because the mornings are cool enough to go outside to run and the then the afternoons are warm enough for the beach; the warm weather means my heating bills are lower and the sunshine and warmth mean my garden produces healthy food for my family. Having your child formulate reasons orally is great practice. You don’t have to be writing everything down in order to build writing skills.

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: playing games to ensure students are fluent with their basic addition and multiplication facts will go a long way towards success. One of the best math games is Yahtzee. You need only 5 regular dice, a game sheet and a piece of paper.

Yahtzee

Name _____

UPPER SECTION	HOW TO SCORE	GAME #1	GAME #2	GAME #3	GAME #4	GAME #5	GAME #6
Aces  = 1	Count and Add Only Aces						
Twos  = 2	Count and Add Only Twos						
Threes  = 3	Count and Add Only Threes						
Fours  = 4	Count and Add Only Fours						
Fives  = 5	Count and Add Only Fives						
Sixes  = 6	Count and Add Only Sixes						
TOTAL SCORE	→						
BONUS If total score is 63 or over	SCORE 35						
TOTAL Of Upper Section	→						
LOWER SECTION							
3 of a kind	Add Total Of All Dice						
4 of a kind	Add Total Of All Dice						
Full House	SCORE 25						
Sm. Straight Sequence of 4	SCORE 30						
Lg. Straight Sequence of 5	SCORE 40						
YAHTZEE 5 of a kind	SCORE 50						
Chance	Score Total Of All 5 Dice						
YAHTZEE BONUS	✓ FOR EACH BONUS SCORE 100 PER ✓						
TOTAL Of Lower Section	→						
TOTAL Of Upper Section	→						
GRAND TOTAL	→						

Player 1 rolls all 5 dice. You have 3 rolls and can roll as many of the dice for each roll as you want. At the end of the three rolls you must choose the category you are counting your rolls towards and fill in the box.

Upper section:
Aces: count all the 1's on your 5 dice
Twos: count all the 2's on your 5 dice
Etc.
If the total of the upper section is 63 or more, you get a 35 point bonus.

Lower section:
3 of a kind: must have 3 of the same #; add total of all 4 of a kind: must have 4 of same #; add total of all dice
Full house: 3 of one # and 2 of the other scores 25 pts
Small straight: sequence of 4 numbers e.g. 2,3,4,5,
Large straight: all five dice in a sequence e.g. 1,2,3,4,5
Yahtzee: 5 of a kind (can use all 3 rolls to get this)
Chance: sum of all dice

The highest total wins the game.

What did we do on the last pro D day?

The last pro D was a provincial pro D day, which means that provincial specialist associations run conferences that many of our teachers attended. For example, some teachers attended a conference about using technology effectively in the classroom, or teaching French Immersion. Other teachers learned more about current research into literacy instruction, teaching phonics in middle years, critical thinking skills and promising practices in math instruction. Our professional development days are super important to us as it gives us a chance to stay current with the latest research into helping our kids have the skills to excel in our ever-changing world.

Sports News

Cross country running wrapped up a highly successful season. Thanks to coaches Mrs. Lawson and Mrs. Hiebert for giving their time, and congratulations to all the runners for giving their best and representing our school with great sportsmanship. We had two runners represent us at the Provincial X Country championships in Nanoose Bay last weekend. Congratulations to Becca Perkins and Elise Green for their outstanding finishes, running against girls up to two years older!
Volleyball is quickly coming to the end of the season. Coaches have been very pleased with the commitment and improvement shown by all teams. We have some upcoming home games on November 3 and 13th starting at 4:30 p.m. Come out and cheer the teams on!

Celebrations

Students and staff enjoyed a fantastic performing arts presentation on October 29 from the “Blues Rocks” band. It was a fast-paced, audience participation and entertaining hour and the musicians made a point at the end of the presentation to let us know how impressed they were with our student behaviour. The same can be said for student behaviour during our fall safety drills. We have finished our three fire drills as well as our earthquake drill and students generally have done an excellent job with evacuating quickly and orderly and taking the drills seriously. We hope to never have to use these procedures in an actual emergency, but it is reassuring to know that they are practiced and automatic to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Things to note

Vaping continues to be on the radar here at SMS. Sadly, it is one of those things that can quickly become habit forming. This is a huge concern. Attached to this newsletter is a handout put together

by the Canadian Lung Association specifically for parents which might be helpful. Another helpful website is [“Talking with your teen about vaping”](#). We will continue to be as vigilant as possible at school for signs of vaping.



Purdy’s chocolate PAC fundraiser

Treat yourself and your loved ones while helping our school! The SMS PAC is fundraising with Purdy’s Chocolates - just in time for the season. A portion of every purchase goes directly back to supporting programs and activities for our students. More information is included in this email as an attachment, and can be located on the SMS website under the Parents tab>Parent Advisory Council.

- Order deadline: November 18th
- Pickup on: First week of December
- Click here to order: <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1367705-130087>

Yearbooks

If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook, please visit the online order site at <https://sms.sd83.bc.ca/yearbook/>



November 7	Remembrance Day assembly
November 7	Last day of quarter 1 classes- new exploration rotation starts Nov 12
November 10	Pro D day: No school for students
November 11	Remembrance Day: no school
December 16	Written Learning Update goes home: check backpacks!
December 19	Last day before Winter Break