

Uplands Elementary

Year: 2023-2024

Principal: Mike Ingalls



Our School Story

What are the unique, positive characteristics that we celebrate in our school/community?

Uplands Park Elementary School is situated in North Central Nanaimo and has a current student population of 343 students in 15 divisions. We have a strong school community supported by dedicated staff, parents, grandparents, caregivers, as well as an active and generous PAC. The staff at Uplands is made up of a mix of long-serving staff who know the community deeply, and keep traditions alive, as well as newer staff who come with energy and new ideas. Our diversity is our strength.

Students are supported to excel in academics, arts, school service, and athletics through art club, sports teams, leadership activities, and performing arts like the popular talent show that usually takes place in the spring. Uplands is situated next to a large, forested park which provides an excellent place for outdoor learning and is frequently visited by classes.

What are the important demographics of our school and community?

Uplands Park School is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw Peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, teach, learn, and play on these lands.

Our student population has become more diverse over the last few years. Approximately 10% of our school population self-identify as indigenous. In addition, there are families from many cultural and socio-economic backgrounds attending Uplands. We are home to several International Students and a growing number of students for whom English is not their first language. Our growing diversity is our strength.

To support our students, we have a team of approximately 35 dedicated staff as well as our school community which is made up of parents, caregivers, and grandparents to name a few. The Uplands Park PAC is active in supporting the school community with community building events.

Our School Goals

We have chosen to focus on two goals for this school year. We are continuing to focus on social-emotional well being, including developing our sense of belonging at school. Our second goal is around literacy and ongoing improvement of student reading skills.

Our School Celebration Story

For approximately the last eight years, the Uplands Park PAC has been fundraising for new playground equipment. We have an aging wooden structure, that while loved by many students, has come to the end of its life as much of the wood is less structurally sound. The school's PAC has raised enough money for some new equipment and it is scheduled to be installed in March 2024.

As an Active School Travel pilot school, we are excited about encouraging students to get to school in an active manner. To support Active School Travel, we are working with the City of Nanaimo and Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools, the Uplands Park staff, and PAC to provide information about active school travel and are in the process of planning projects such as new bike racks and improved crosswalks. We have supported two Walk and Roll challenges in the last 10 months which saw an increase of student getting to school without riding in an automobile.