

# Uplands Park School News February 2021

3821 Stronach Dr Nanaimo, BC, V9T 3X4

Tel: 250-758-3252

Website: [http:// https://up.schools.sd68.bc.ca/](http://https://up.schools.sd68.bc.ca/)

[On the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw People](#)



## Principal's Message

Uy'skweyul (good day). For some reason, this school year seems to be flying by!

February is "Acts of Kindness" month and it is a good reminder that we need to be kind everyday to everyone. We don't always know what kind of stress people are dealing with so it's important to treat everyone with kindness and respect.

February is also Black History month. Take the time to research Canada's role in the Underground Railroad and important contributions made by Black Canadians.

Thank you to the PAC, especially Karli Stocks (Fun Lunch Coordinator) for a successful hot lunch. You really brought a bit of normalcy to our school year and we are looking forward to the next one!

Thank you, huy'ch'qa

Ed Young, Principal

## SCHOOL HOURS

### Monday - Friday:

8:40 am	Welcome Bell
10:30 am	Short Recess – outside play
10:45 am	Instruction Continues
11:45 am	Long Recess – outside play
12:20 pm	Welcome Back Bell - Lunch/Read
2:20 pm	Classes Dismiss for the Day

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Hul'qumi'num' Word of the Month: sxwunculi**  
(pronounced Swun-soo-lee) which means hummingbird



## Save the Date!!

**Feb. 10-Valentine's Day celebrated at school**

**Feb. 11-Pro-D (no school for students)**

**Feb. 11-PAC Meeting @ 6:30pm**

**Feb. 12-Pro-D (no school for students)**

**Feb. 15-Family Day (no school)**

**Feb. 15-FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment) begins**

**Feb. 24-Pink Shirt Day**

**Valentine's Day Reminder**-Uplands Park will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>. Just a friendly reminder that children will be able to share Valentine's Day cards if they like but must not bring any treats from home. This includes homemade and commercially packaged items. Teachers may choose to distribute treats, but they must be individually packaged from a commercial kitchen, for example, Hershey's Kisses.

**Parking Lot Reminder**-Just a friendly reminder that our parking lot is for staff parking only and to be kind and courteous to others as they drop off and pick up their children. Please be mindful that we have little ones that could dart into traffic at any moment so remember to drive slowly through the loop.

### **FSA's**

The Foundation Skills Assessment is an annual province-wide assessment of all B.C. students' academic skills in grades 4 and 7, and provides parents, teachers, schools, school

districts and the Ministry of Education with important information on how well students are progressing in the foundation skills of Reading, Writing, and Numeracy. Grade 4/7 FSAs are between **February 15<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>**.

**Student Drop Off/Pick Up:** We continue to urge parents and families to exercise caution when dropping off or picking up children. When you are dropping off or picking up children, please keep physical distance (2 metres) in accordance with COVID-19 protocols and/or wear a mask. We would ask that you encourage students that are able, to walk independently to the lineup. If you are waiting before the start or end of school for your child, please keep distance and/or wear a mask. Adults without masks should not be near other students. Thanks for helping to keep our school community as safe as possible. As people are standing together for a period, we recommend families wear masks to assist in keeping our school community healthy.

### **Masks in Schools**

I know that many of you would like to have all people in school wearing a mask all the time. While research shows that it is effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19, Dr. Bonnie Henry does not recommend them for elementary age children. The reasoning is that children will touch their faces more often to try to adjust the mask, among other reasons. That being said, staff are required to wear them in common areas such as hallways and bathrooms. Though we cannot force children to wear a mask you may choose to ask your child to wear one. We will support you in this decision and can remind them to wear it if that is your wish. Should this policy change, you will be notified.

### **Nut Aware**

A reminder that Uplands Park Elementary is a nut aware school. Please don't send your child to school with nuts or nut butters. Thank you for helping to keep our students and staff safe.

### **School Closures**

It is that time of year when the weather is colder, and the risk of snow is greater. If schools are closed due to snow, or any other weather-related problems, announcements will be made on local radio stations (WOLF 106.9 FM, WAVE 102.3 FM, and 91.7 COAST FM) by 7 a.m. on the day of the closure. Please do not call the radio station – tune in and listen for the announcements, which will be made on a regular basis. In addition, the district will post the information on the district's website, Twitter, Facebook, and mobile app. Please keep in mind, however, that there may be situations where this is not always possible, for example,

power outages or technical problems. The most reliable method is to listen to the local radio stations.

**Formal Report Cards-** will be issued **February 10th, 2021**(I believe I indicated the 5<sup>th</sup> in a previous newsletter, sorry). *“Due to the ongoing pandemic, it’s important to acknowledge that each child entered school in September in a different place than their classmates and their individual journey continues. Please know that each child is exactly where they are meant to be and we are so proud of each and every one of them. I encourage you to sit down with your child and join them in celebrating all of their efforts and successes this past term.”*



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