

October Newsletter – A Season of Gratitude and Connection

Dear Families,

We hope you had a joyful Thanksgiving weekend filled with warmth, rest, and togetherness. As we move deeper into fall, we're grateful for the strong partnerships between home and school that help our students thrive. Please do reach out to your child's teacher, the office, or me should you have any questions or concerns. Clarity is kindness, and we strive to be open and communicative. If you have any questions at all, please reach out.

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences – Monday, October 20

One of the most important events this month is our **Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences** happening **Monday, October 20**. Families should have received an email yesterday inviting them to book a time. If you have any questions or need assistance, please **call the school office**. We look forward to connecting with you to celebrate your child's growth and set goals together.

Halloween Fun & Costume Guidelines

Halloween is just around the corner! We'll be celebrating with a **costume parade** in the morning and some fun **"spooky" stations** hosted by our amazing PAC. For details and costume guidelines, please visit our [school website](#).

What a generous community!

- **We raised \$526.35** for the Terry Fox Foundation on our TF Run this year! THANK YOU ALL!

Future fundraisers to support our school - Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is busy organizing several exciting fundraisers:

- **Growing Smiles Holiday Plants** – brighten your home or gift to loved ones.
- **Bake Sale at the Winter Concert** – delicious treats for a great cause.
- **Coming Soon: Read-a-thon!** – a fun way to encourage reading and raise funds.

Thank you for supporting these initiatives that directly benefit our students!

Reset Room – Please Read

We've included an important information sheet about our **Reset Room** in the attached document. This space supports students in self-regulation and emotional well-being. Please take a moment to read about how it works and how it helps our learners.

Winter Clothing – Dress your child for the cooler weather

As the weather turns colder, please ensure your child comes to school dressed for the season. Warm coats, boots, gloves, and hats are essential for outdoor play and activities.

Attendance - Did You Know?

Students who miss just two days a month—about 18 days a school year—are considered *chronically absent*, and research from Ontario shows this can significantly impact learning. That report highlights that regular attendance is crucial for building foundational skills. Regular attendance helps children build strong reading and math skills, develop friendships and social skills, and feel connected to their school community. Every day counts—and together, we can help our kids thrive!

Energy Drinks Not Permitted

A reminder that **energy drinks are not allowed at school**. These beverages often carry warning labels indicating potential health risks for youth. We appreciate your support in keeping our students safe and healthy.

Sports under way – Go Cougars!

A big thank you to Mr. Schmidt and others for running two teams this fall. We have both a girls' and a boys' 6/7 volleyball team. Looking forward to a great sports season for our students.

Some important dates for you to note:

Oct 16 (tomorrow) – K-3 Jungle Mania / Swim Day

Oct 17 – We are excited to have a visit from the Celista Fire Department, along with trucks and members! Don't be alarmed if you see them out front on Friday afternoon! Our kids are learning about fire safety and careers in the emergency services.

Oct 20 – Conference day. No school for students, but please book to see their teacher

Oct 24 – Pro-D Day (No school for students)

Oct 27 – PAC Pumpkin Patch at school (prepare at home and bring them back on Oct 31)

Oct 28 – Grades 4-8 Swim Day

Oct 31 – Halloween costume parade (AM) and afternoon cultural presentation / assembly

Nov 4 – Photo retakes!

Nov 7 – Remembrance Day assembly (1 PM)

Nov 10 - Pro-D Day (No school for students)

Nov 11 - Remembrance Day holiday (School is closed)

Thank you for being such an important part of our school community. Your involvement and care make all the difference. Let's continue to work together to make this fall season full of learning, laughter, and connection.

Warmly,

Duncan Hazlewood

Principal, North Shuswap Elementary