



January 2018

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Principal, Mrs. Erica Hopkins



Happy New Year

A new year, a new focus for student achievement. Our current school goal is to improve all students' achievement in mathematics. Mathematics has been our school goal focus for the past few years. During this time, teachers have been working collaboratively, attending professional development opportunities that focus on math, participating in a book study, and acquiring resources for our school. This year our staff is focusing on using common math language in every classroom, so as students move from one grade to the next, the math vocabulary used stays consistent and familiar (i.e. "ten-frame" instead of "number bus"). Our staff are also having "Number Talks" in every class. Number Talks are when students are given the opportunity to solve computation problems (i.e. $28 + 29$) and then share their solutions with their peers. This helps students learn there is often more than one way to solve a problem and introduces students to a variety of strategies. When we review our students' progress over term one, it is evident that we are making good progress in all grade levels in mathematics. Students at Upper Sumas are performing similar to all students across the school district in this subject area. However, term one results also indicate a need to take a closer look at literacy. This coming spring our school will continue to celebrate and maintain the great work we are doing with mathematics, but we will also develop some new goals that directly target our student's reading and writing skills. Updates on the development of our school goal will be shared in future newsletters, posted on our school website and communicated at upcoming PAC meetings. We look forward to sharing our journey.



Kindergarten Sep 2018

Registration for Kindergarten begins on Monday, January 22, 2018. Packages will be available in the office starting on this day.

*Please note: To be registered for Kindergarten for September 2018, your child must turn 5 years of age between January 1 and December 31, 2018 (born in 2013).

You must provide the following documents when registering your child for Kindergarten:

- copy of birth certificate or passport (born in 2013)
- copy of care card / Personal Health Number
- proof of residency * **2 pieces required** (one of utility bill, mortgage papers, rental/lease agreement, property tax notice/assessment **PLUS one of** a bank statement, credit card statement or government document with name & address)
- copy of parent/guardian birth certificate, passport or citizenship card

*at least one parent must be a Canadian citizen by birth or obtained citizenship. If not, you are required to report to the School Board office with an appointment prior to registering your child at the school

Calendar of Events

January 8	School re-opens...Happy New Year!
January 8	Milk order forms going home
January 11	Hot lunch order forms are due
January 17	PAC Mtg @ 7:00 pm
January 19	Hot Lunch-Pasta
January 19	Spirit Day-Twin Day
January 22	Kindergarten Registration Commences
January 23	Milk Orders Due
January 29	Non-Instructional Day #4
January 31	Camp Squeah First Payment Due
February 1	Registration period begins for Gr 1-12
February 2	Hot Lunch-Hot Dogs



Thank You for Donating

Thank you to all our families who made donations to our Christmas Store. The generosity was overwhelming. The cash donations we received helped us to support families in need over the holiday season. Thank you to our Upper Sumas community!!



Out of Catchment Policy Changes for 2018/19

In December, families received a letter from our school district outlining changes to district registration priorities.

Registration Priorities

For the coming year (2018/19), the following priorities will be used to determine placement of students in a particular school:

1. Catchment area students who attended the school during the previous school year;
2. Siblings of catchment area students who attended the school during the previous year;
3. New catchment area students;
4. Re-applying non-catchment area students who live in district, who attended the school during the previous year;
5. Siblings of non-catchment students who attended the school during the previous year as per #4 above;
6. New non-catchment area students (in-district);
7. Non-school district students.

Out of Catchment Applications

Any student whose principal place of residence is not within the local school boundaries is considered a non-catchment student. Non-catchment students may only be enrolled if there is sufficient capacity after reserving places for catchment students. The following procedures will apply:

1. All non-catchment students who have been accepted into a school will be required to reapply for placement on an annual basis.
2. Students who move out of a school catchment area during a school calendar year will have the option of remaining at their current school until the end of the school year. Those students will be transferred to their new catchment area school for the following September.
3. New non-catchment applications will be placed on a waiting list and reviewed at the end of the first week of school (September).
4. Where there is significant enrolment pressure in a catchment, the district may entirely close a catchment to non-catchment applications.

Further information will be sent to affected families mid-January.



January After School Clubs

After school clubs will be starting up in January from 3:15-4:15 pm. Parents are required to arrange for student pick-up @ 4:15 pm. The following clubs will be offered this month:

Basketball After School Club (Gr 4/5)

More info to follow...

Little Bits After School Club (Gr 3)

More info to follow...

Friday Night Basketball (Gr 1/2)

5-Week Session on Fridays from Jan 19-March 2 from 6-7 pm
Thunder Basketball is again offering a basketball program for students in grades 1 & 2.



Winter Weather

Please make sure that your child has appropriate outerwear for our Winter weather. Students go outside in the morning and at recess and lunch time even when it's raining, windy, or cold. Please make sure that they come to school with a warm jacket and proper footwear (perhaps boots), and as the weather gets colder remember to send mitts and toques as well. We only stay inside during heavy rain. Getting fresh air and some physical activity is an important part of their day... rain, snow or shine!



Milk Orders for Feb-June 2018

Our optional milk program is starting back up in February until the end of the school year. Students have the option of receiving white or chocolate milk up to four days a week. This is a school fundraiser that helps support a variety of programs and activities at our school. Order forms went home. You can pay online at abbotsford.schoolcashonline.com or come to the school office to pay. Orders are due by Jan 23rd!

PAC NEWS

Next PAC Meeting

Wed, Jan 17 @ 7:00 pm

Contact Us

Our PAC can be reached at:
uppersumaselementarypac@gmail.com



Preschool Story Hour

Join our Little Hands Preschool teacher, Miss Scott, every Thursday at 11:30 am in the library for story hour. Preschoolers, babies, toddlers and caregivers are welcome! We especially encourage pre-kindergarten families to participate to prepare for full time kindergarten and to transition into the school environment. Hear a story or two, check out library books from our preschool collection, do a fun craft, play with friends, and enjoy a healthy snack.



Ready, Set, Learn

Our Ready, Set, Learn event for children aged 3-5 in 2018 is being held on Thursday, April 19 from 2:00-3:00 pm. More info to follow in the spring.



Spirit Day-Twin Day

On Friday, January 19, it's Twin Day at Upper Sumas. Show your school spirit and dress up as a twin to win some fabulous prizes.