

Thursday, August 29, 2024

Dear Upper Lynn Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Upper Lynn Elementary! We're thrilled to greet our returning students and extend a warm welcome to those joining us for the first time.

The start of a new school year brings a mix of emotions—excitement for some and a bit of apprehension for others. As we settle into our new routines and focus on learning, any initial anxieties will soon give way to confidence and enthusiasm. This process takes a little time as we establish new classes and our teachers begin to form strong, supportive learning communities.

At the end of the last school year and the beginning of this school year teachers spend a tremendous amount of time formulating classes. They give consideration to a variety of factors including parent input (submitted last May), learning needs, social groupings, gender mix and teacher recommendations.

Below, you'll find some important information to help you, and your children prepare for the first week of school.

First Week Schedule

Tuesday, September 3rd is the first day of school for students in grades 1 to 7. Kindergarten students will start the gradual entry process on Wednesday, September 4th which is a full day of school for all grade 1 to 7 students. Grade 1 to 7 students are in attendance for two hours on Tuesday from 8:55 to 10:55 and from 8:55 to 3:00 on Wednesday. There is a warning bell at 8:50. Please let the office know if your child(ren) will be absent from school. It is very important for us to account for all students to be able to move smoothly into the new school year. Please use the [Safe Arrival App](https://bit.ly/3X8nsxK) (<https://bit.ly/3X8nsxK>) to report student absences and lates.

Tuesday, September 3

- **New families** please meet in the library after the first warning bell (8:50). You may find the library through the main doors of the school, up the ramp, up the stairs and to the left.
 - **Please meet your child at the front of the school at 10:55 for pick-up.**
- **Returning students** will meet and be released at their 2023-2024 drop-off / pick-up location from last year.
- School is in session for two hours on Tuesday.

Wednesday, September 4

- Grade 1 to 7 students attend from 8:55 to 3:00. The warning bell rings at 8:50.
- Gradual entry begins for Kindergarten students. Schedules were sent home at the beginning of summer. Please contact the office if you did not receive a gradual entry package through email.

- All students will meet at their 2023-2024 location from last year. New students will also meet at this location as informed by a staff member. If a student does not remember their spot, or it was not communicated to them, please report to the office.
- Wednesday is a full day so students will need to bring weather appropriate clothing, lunch and a recess snack.
- Student bulk supplies have arrived at the school and will be ready when the students arrive in their new classroom. Families who have not yet paid will receive an email tomorrow with instructions on how to complete the payment process.
- Students may move to their new classes on this day. **Please ensure you have a set meeting place for the pick-up at 3:00.**

Thursday, September 5 & Friday September 6

- Regular school day (8:55-3:00).
- Students will need to bring a snack, lunch, water bottle and dress for the weather.
- Classroom teachers will communicate more specific details as needed.

Thank you for your patience and your commitment to taking the time to read all the information provided. We would also like to direct you to the Upper Lynn website at www.upperlynn.ca which has essential information, links, and will house copies of our school newsletters.

This week you were sent an important communication from the School District regarding the completion of **District permission forms** using the [school cash online](https://bit.ly/3n1B9hp) (<https://bit.ly/3n1B9hp>) system. **It is imperative these are completed before students attend school next week.**

Personal Digital Devices

The Ministry of Education now requires schools to restrict student use of personal digital devices to ensure safety and create a focused learning environment. In line with the North Vancouver School District's "devices off, learning on" initiative, changes have been made to both the NVSD and Upper Lynn's Code of Conduct regarding PDDs. For more information please see the last page of this Welcome Back letter.

Safe and Active Travel and School Speed Zones

Students and families are encouraged to get to and from school in safe and active ways. You are encouraged to take some time to plan and practice a safe route to school. Drivers, please be mindful of the posted speed limits in effect in school and playground zones and obey all parking rules.

Finally, we are confident that with all of us working together, we can provide our students a happy, safe, and rewarding 2024-2025 school year.

Kind Regards,

Tim MacLeod
Principal

Lise Grendel
Vice-Principal

Please see the next page for information from the Upper Lynn Parent Advisory Council.

From the Upper Lynn PAC

Welcome to the new and returning Upper Lynn families:

This year we are kicking off the start of the school year with an **Ice Cream Social** on **September 12th at 6pm in the Gym**. Bring a bowl, a spoon and a toonie!

The ever-popular **Family Movie Night** will take place on **September 20th**. We are looking for sponsors: if you have a business, this is great way to advertise to the Upper Lynn community and support the PAC. Email ulpacfinance@gmail.com if interested.

Orange Shirt Day will be commemorated at Upper Lynn on **September 27th**. We will offer Upper Lynn orange shirts for sale from September 5th to 10th via www.munchalunch.com. Please note the short ordering window in order to get the shirts printed in time.

Our first **PAC Meeting** will be on **September 16th at 7pm** in the library. This is an opportunity to meet the PAC executive and other volunteers, to hear what the PAC is doing, and to have a say in PAC matters.

The **Hot Lunch programme** will return this fall - ordering dates to be confirmed.

Our **After School programmes** kick off in September, with Fresh Air Learning on Mondays and Multi-sport on Fridays, and more in the pipeline. See [here](#) for details.

If you have PAC related questions, please don't hesitate to reach out either in person or email upperlynnpac@gmail.com.

We hope you and your children have a positive start to this year.

The Upper Lynn PAC

Dear Upper Lynn Parents/Guardians,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we must address some important changes regarding using personal digital devices (PDD). A PDD is any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate or access the Internet, such as a cell phone or a tablet.

For the safety and well-being of students and to create a more focused learning environment, the Ministry of Education requires all schools in the province to restrict student use of cell phones and other personal digital devices while at school.

As previously communicated by the Superintendent of Schools, the North Vancouver School District (NVSD) is focused on “devices off, learning on.” In preparation for the 2024/2025 school year, I would like to share with families’ changes made to the NVSD Code of Conduct and Upper Lynn’s Code of Conduct related to PDDs.

The following guidelines will be in place for September, and are now part of Upper Lynn’s Code of Conduct:

All students in the school community are expected to leave personal digital devices at home, in their bag/backpack during instructional time. Allowances may be made by the staff for instructional purposes, digital literacy, appropriate use based on age and developmental stage, accommodations within a student’s Individual Education Plan, accessibility, medical and health needs, and/or equitable support for learning outcomes.

Across all NVSD elementary schools, there is no student access to or use of PDD at any time on the school campus during the school day. At Upper Lynn, we consider this policy in effect from 8:30am to 3:00pm. Parents are reminded that elementary students are always under direct supervision and that the school will communicate with home for emergent needs if they arise. As referred to in the above guidelines, students with specific educational or medical needs outlined in their Individual Education Plan (IEP) or Learning Support Plan (LSP) will continue to use PDD to support their educational or medical needs. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s case manager.

If you need to contact your child during the day, please call 604-903-3820. The Upper Lynn staff is committed to enabling focused instructional time, and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we strive to create the best possible educational environment for all students. We look to parents, families and community members to also model, support and educate students on what it means to be a responsible digital citizen. Please find listed below some resources that may be helpful for continued conversations about the safe and responsible use of technology:

- [Digital media: Promoting healthy screen use in school-aged children and adolescents | Canadian Paediatric Society \(cps.ca\)](#)
- [Online safety - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- [Welcome to MediaSmarts | MediaSmarts](#)

Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tim MacLeod
Principal