

Upper Lynn e-News

September 24, 2023

Important Dates & Reminders for the Week of: September 25 to September 29, 2023

Monday 25	Tuesday 26	Wednesday 27	Thursday 28	Friday 29
		Staff Collaboration Time Early Dismissal 2:00	Drill Lockdown 10:10 X-Country Meet Upper Lynn: 3:45	Orange Shirt Day Wear orange to raise awareness about the legacy of Residential Schools in Canada

Dear Upper Lynn Community,

Another eventful week has come and gone, and we would like to express our gratitude to all the parents who joined us for the first ULE PAC meeting of the year. Your enthusiastic participation made it a resounding success, and both the PAC and our school deeply appreciate your support. For further information about the PAC and updates on activities in and around Upper Lynn, please visit the PAC website at <https://bit.ly/3EQuhex>.

Our recent Welcome Back Parent evening also saw an impressive turnout, and we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the parents who actively engaged in their child's learning journey. Last Friday, we were fortunate to have splendid weather for our Terry Fox Run and movie night. We are delighted to share that we have reached half of our \$4000 goal to support cancer research. Donations will continue to be collected at the school for the next week, and our online donations page will remain open for a few more weeks. A huge thank you to all the parent organizers for the movie night. What an amazing and extremely well-run event.

This Wednesday, we have a staff collaboration day, resulting in an early dismissal for students at 2:00 pm. Please make the necessary arrangements to pick up your child promptly.

In the upcoming week, our Upper Lynn community learning focus will lead us to Orange Shirt Day on Friday. Many of our classes are currently delving into literature, stories, and cultural studies that shed light on the history of our country, its Indigenous Peoples, and the intergenerational pain and suffering caused by Canada's Residential School System. This history differs significantly from what many of us

were taught, and now is the time to seek the truth, heal together, deepen our understanding, and share our knowledge.

We encourage you to spend quality time with your children, embrace them tightly, and learn alongside them. The following Monday marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Please take this day to delve deeper into the truths of this land and its First Peoples.

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and Squamish Nation, whose traditional territory North Vancouver School District and Upper Lynn Elementary resides on. We value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this unceded traditional territory.

Wishing you all a healthy week filled with compassion and continued learning.

Upcoming Dates

- ☐ Wednesday September 27 – **Staff Collaboration (Early Dismissal); 2:00**
 - ☐ Thursday September 28 – Lockdown Drill; 10:10
 - ☐ Thursday September 28 – X-Country Meet Argyle FOS at Upper Lynn; 3:45
 - ☐ Friday September 29 – Orange Shirt Day
 - ☐ Monday October 2 – **National Day and Reconciliation Day; Students Not in Session**
 - ☐ October 5 – World Teacher Day
 - ☐ **October 9 – Thanksgiving; School is Closed**
 - ☐ **October 16-18 Learning Conferences: Students Dismissed at 2:00pm on all Three Days**
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Upper Lynn News

Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters

Friday, September 29 is Orange Shirt Day. Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis' story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. Please wear your orange shirt on September 29! For more information, please click [Here](https://bit.ly/3PwSE60). (<https://bit.ly/3PwSE60>)

Visitors to Upper Lynn Elementary

Kindly remember that all visitors to Upper Lynn are required to check in at the school office upon entering the premises. Even if you are familiar with our staff, it's important for us to identify and acknowledge each visitor. Please note that the front doors of the school are the only entry point accessible during the day. We will be placing extra signage around the building as a reminder for visitors to check in at the office. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Terry Fox Run

Our annual Terry Fox Run took place on Friday, September 22nd. Classes were assigned specific time slots in the morning for their participation in the Terry Fox Run. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Chambers and the dedicated staff for their efforts in organizing and participating in the event. Additionally, we want to express a big thank-you to the parent volunteers who generously contributed their time to support the run.

For those who wish to make contributions, students are welcome to bring their donations to the school, where collection bins are available in the classrooms. Alternatively, you can conveniently make online donations by visiting our [donations page](https://bit.ly/3ZhM9sf) (<https://bit.ly/3ZhM9sf>). Your support is greatly appreciated!

Road Safety

Upper Lynn accommodates nearly 500 students and employs over 50 dedicated staff members. Despite the school's spacious campus, our "beachfront" area, or the front entrance, is rather limited in size. The layout of this section poses significant challenges and safety concerns. Our utmost priority is ensuring the safety of our students, staff, and the wider community.

We kindly urge everyone to consider walking or rolling to school whenever possible. In cases where driving is necessary, we ask that you plan to leave a few minutes earlier and consider dropping your child off a block away from the school. Engaging in U-turns at crosswalks or speeding through the school zone is not worth the time saved, as it jeopardizes safety.

Significant efforts have been invested in enhancing road safety around Upper Lynn, and this endeavor continues. We sincerely request your cooperation in maintaining a safe environment at Upper Lynn. For additional information, please visit our [school's webpage](https://bit.ly/45U4Cxr) (<https://bit.ly/45U4Cxr>). Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Medical Alerts and Allergies

If your child has any medical conditions that may require attention during school hours, such as allergies, please get in touch with the school office promptly. We will provide you with the necessary forms to complete. Additionally, please make sure to bring any required medications, like an EpiPen, directly to the office. Your prompt communication and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Drills

Throughout the school year, schools routinely carry out emergency drills, which include procedures for fire, earthquake, and lockdown situations. In the upcoming weeks, all North Vancouver Schools will be conducting a lockdown drill, with ours scheduled for next Thursday at 10:10 AM.

We kindly request that during this drill, you refrain from visiting the school as all entry points will be secured. Lockdown drills serve various purposes, including addressing scenarios such as the presence of an animal on the school grounds or an unwelcome visitor on the premises. Your understanding and cooperation in this matter are greatly appreciated.

Staff Collaboration

On Wednesday, we have our Staff Collaboration Day, which entails a dismissal at 2:00 pm. During this time, our staff convenes to collaborate on school objectives, curriculum enhancements, and new mandates from the Ministry, including the recently introduced reporting requirements.

ULPAC News

The ABC's of the PAC

If you are wondering who is involved with so many things that happen in our wonderful ULE community for 23/24 you can read about some of the many, many parents here: [Who's who - Upper Lynn Elementary Parent Advisory Council \(weebly.com\)](#)

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch ordering for the fall session is OPEN. Fall Session will run from Friday October 13th to Monday December 18th. Orders must be placed AND paid by Oct 4th at 11:59pm. Unpaid orders will be cancelled.

We will have some great volunteering opportunities for parents wanting to help out and meet fellow Upper Lynn parents.

If you would like to place a hot lunch order and need financial assistance, subsidies are available. Please contact Mr. MacLeod at tmacleod@sd44.ca

The request will be kept confidential.

New users and returning parents will be able to access MunchALunch at <https://munchalunch.com/schools/upperlynn/>

Lunch program FAQ's can be found here: <https://upperlynnpac.weebly.com/lunch-program-faqs.html>

For assistance reach out to Heather @ ulpachotlunch@gmail.com

Movie Night

Thank you to all the ULE families who made Friday night's first ever walk in movie night a huge success. It was wonderful to have our community together at the start of the year and was a great kick-off to what promises to be a fun year ahead. We hope you were able to reconnect with old friends and hopefully meet some new ones.

Thank you again very much to all our volunteers. It truly would not have happened without many; many hands and we were really encouraged by all of the folks who were willing to donate time to make it an excellent time.

SAVE THE DATES!

Parent Talk

Monday Oct 16th - Tyler Milley, RCC (Registered Clinical Counsellor).
Understanding Anxiety: Yours and Your Childs.

Parent Social

Hire your babysitters! The Parent Social is back on November 3rd! A really fun opportunity to meet other ULE family members and neighbours, eat and drink, and dance the night away.

Reminders

Comfort Kits

Please return your child's comfort kit by September 22, 2023. For more information regarding comfort kits please click [here](https://bit.ly/46bgjuh). (<https://bit.ly/46bgjuh>)

Labelling of Material

As we move into the winter season, students will be bringing many more pieces of clothing and extra belongings. We are asking that families label all materials so that they are easily returned to the owner if they are misplaced.

Volunteering?

Are you keen to offer your VOLUNTEER services? Whether it's for class field trips, classroom support, sports, and more, we are delighted to announce the official return of parent and partner volunteers this year.

Nevertheless, it's important to note that there have been alterations to the school volunteering prerequisites during this period. Prior to commencing any volunteer activities involving students, ALL volunteers must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Complete and have paperwork filed with the school.
2. Have passed a Criminal Record Check that is stored with the North Vancouver School District Human Resources Dept. (this can take a few hours to a week to complete).
3. For volunteer drivers- have up to date insurance and driver's abstract filed with our school office.
4. Be signed off by school administration to volunteer.

As you can appreciate, these procedures do require a certain amount of time. For individuals interested in volunteering at any point during this school year, we kindly request that all the steps be completed sooner rather than later to prevent any potential delays in approving your participation in activities such as: Field Trips (both walking and driving), Classroom support, Library assistance, Hot Lunch support, Athletics (including sports clubs, cross country, track and field, and more), or any other volunteering opportunities.

We acknowledge that this may seem like a significant commitment for families, but once it's done, you can put your worries aside. Volunteer packages will be available for pickup at the school. At that time, we will ask you to provide your name, phone number, and address so that we can forward this information to our HR department. They will then get in touch with you, providing the necessary guidance to complete your Criminal Record Check.

In advance, we would like to express our gratitude for your willingness, time, and understanding in helping us gather this information, which is vital to ensuring the safety of all our students.

School Calendar

Our online school calendar will be continually updated throughout the year. Please check our school calendar [here](https://bit.ly/3PalQPR) (https://bit.ly/3PalQPR) for regular for updates. Also, see Upper Lynn's Year Calendar [here](https://bit.ly/3PaA1Va) (https://bit.ly/3PaA1Va) for holidays and professional development days. We will do our best to communicate changes through newsletters, the website (www.upperlynn.ca) and by email.

Have a wonderful week.

Tim MacLeod
Principal

Lise Grendel
Vice-Principal

Upper Lynn Elementary Traffic and Safety Committee Update - September 2023

Welcome back ULE Families! And an extra warm welcome to our new families and this year's Kindergarteners! Last week was a whirlwind of activity as families got (back) into the routine of early morning wake ups and the rush of getting kids to school on time.

With so many new families joining our ULE Community, now feels like a great time to talk about traffic safety in and around the school during peak drop off and pick up times.

Our kids are incredibly lucky to go to a school that sits in the middle of a residential neighbourhood and mostly surrounded by green space. While this makes an amazing space to learn and play, it doesn't leave a lot of room for dropping kids off at the school front door.

We know mornings are stressful. It's hard to get kids to school on-time at the best of times, and it just gets harder as the days start to shorten and weather gets worse. So please take a few minutes to read the following "best practice" tips and familiarize yourself with the District of North Vancouver parking signage and restrictions around the school.

The Do List:

- **Drive to 5.** This is the practice of arriving a few minutes early and parking about 5 minutes away from the school. This helps reduce the number of cars in front of the school and allows your kids to start their day off right, with some fresh air and a chance to "catch up" with other friends walking to school.
- **Use crosswalks at all times.** Always use a marked crosswalk. It's habit forming. If our kids are using crosswalks when with us, they will continue to use them as they grow up and start to walk to school solo.
- **Plan your route.** If you are uncomfortable with your child crossing the street solo, please plan your route to eliminate the need to cross Coleman Street. Plan your approach from Hoskins Road and you can rest easy with a drop off on the North Side of Coleman Street.
- **Use drop-off zones** for kids that are able to exit the vehicle (curb side) safely and independently. Drivers must not exit the vehicle in these zones. These zones are designed to minimize congestion by allowing vehicles to exit the area quickly and safely. If you wish to walk your kids to the door, please park your vehicle safely in a designated parking zone.
- **Be mindful** of our residential neighbours and staff. Do not park in front of driveways or the staff lot entrance. Sometimes a quick drop off takes longer than planned and our neighbours and staff have to get to work too.
- **Leave home a few minutes earlier.** There is simply no safe way for everyone to drop off at exactly 8:51am. Traffic increases drastically the closer you arrive to start time. But there is no shortage of drop off/parking spots 15-20 minutes before that first bell. Take advantage of this stress free drop off time, and use the time saved at drop off to go enjoy a hot coffee/tea!
- **Please be considerate.** We're all just trying to get our kids to school safely. Take a breath and make sure you slow down, stop for kids in the crosswalk and leave yourself enough time for a stress free drop off.

Upper Lynn Elementary Traffic and Safety Committee Update - September 2023

The Don't List:

- **No Jaywalking.** Teach your kids to use the crosswalks and lead by example. Kids running across the street from between parked cars is a dangerous habit. Remember, drop off and pick up times are busiest time at the school, remind your kids to always use a crosswalk and look both ways before stepping on the road.
- **Please don't park your car in a drop off only zone.** These zones are for kids that can exit the car (with all their belongings) independently only. If your child needs assistance, please park your car in a designated parking spot.
- **Do NOT stop in any no-stopping area.** These areas are critical in maintaining clear sight lines of the crosswalks! There is no stopping in these areas.

We know this is a lot to remember, and we all forget to read street signs sometimes. So for added clarity, the Traffic and Safety Committee have created a street view image with colour coded curbs to better show you these tricky areas. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the information in the image below and feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Thank you again to all the parents that take the time to help keep our peak drop off and pick up times safe for our kids.

More information about traffic safety at ULE is available at <https://upperlynnpac.weebly.com/traffic-safety.html> and remember we're always looking for more volunteers.



Contact us at ulpactrafficsafety@gmail.com