

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Dear Upper Lynn Families,

Welcome to a New School Year at Upper Lynn Elementary!

We're excited to welcome back our returning students and extend a warm greeting to those joining the Upper Lynn community for the very first time.

The beginning of a school year always brings a mix of anticipation, excitement, and, at times, a few butterflies. As routines are established and classrooms come together, those early nerves quickly shift into confidence, connection, and enthusiasm for learning. Our teachers are committed to building strong, supportive communities that help every child feel a sense of belonging.

In preparation for the year ahead, our staff has spent significant time thoughtfully creating class groupings. This process includes careful consideration of many factors: parent input (collected last spring), student learning needs, social and peer connections, and gender balance. At this time, our classes are at or near maximum capacity, and we are excited to be welcoming many new students who have joined the Upper Lynn community over the summer.

Our goal is always to ensure the best possible environment for student growth and success. Below, you'll find key information to help you and your child settle into the first week of school.

First Week Schedule

Tuesday, September 2nd is the first day of school for students in grades 1 to 7. Kindergarten students will start the gradual entry process on Wednesday, September 3rd 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 2

- **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 2024-2025 drop-off / pick-up location from last year.
- School is in session for two hours on Tuesday.

Wednesday, September 3

- 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 2024-2025 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.

Thursday, September 4th

- Regular school day (8:55-3:00).
- All students will meet at their 2024-2025 location from last year.
- Students will need to bring a snack, lunch, water bottle and dress for the weather.
- 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.**
- 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 with instructions on how to complete the payment process.
- Classroom teachers will communicate more specific details as needed.

Friday, September 5th

- Regular school day (8:55-3:00)

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.**

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 2025-2026 school year.

Kind Regards,

Tim MacLeod
Principal

Lauren Vanderham
Vice-Principal

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

PAC 2025/2026

Welcome to the new and returning Upper Lynn families:

Introducing Your Upper Lynn PAC Executive for 2025/2026

- Heather Beil – Chair
- Kate Brennan - Co Chair
- Carolyn Cox – DPAC
- Carmen Zimmer – Secretary
- Nafeesa Valli-Hasham – Co-Secretary
- Derrick Johnston – Treasurer
- Norina Lew - Co-Treasurer

...And many wonderful parents have stepped forward to help in other key roles,

- Jatina Lai - After school programs
- Lucy Wells – Fundraising
- Michelle Buxton, Erin Harrington, Erin Johnston, Carine Lau – Hotlunch

Save the Dates!

We are kicking off the start of the school year with an **Ice Cream Social on September 11th** at 6pm at Upper Lynn. Bring a bowl, a spoon and a toonie!

Our first **PAC Meeting will be on September 15th 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 ever-popular **Family Movie Night will take place on September 19th**. This year's movie is THE WILD ROBOT. 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 29th. We will offer Upper Lynn **orange shirts for sale from September 4th to 8th** via www.munchalunch.com. Please note the short ordering window in order to get the shirts printed in time.



As announced at our AGM in June, FreshSchools is coming to Upper Lynn Elementary! The sign-up link will be released the first week of school.

FreshSchools is a platform used by schools to simplify organization and communication between the school, parent advisory council, and parents.

Once school has started and classes have been finalized in Sept, you will assign your child(ren) to the correct class (similar to Munchalunch) so you can receive messages from the PAC and not miss out on

important information. Class reps can also manage their class notifications, calendars, and share photos and files, all from the website or smartphone app

The hope is that this will replace class rep emails, our ULE PAC Facebook page, and eventually our Weebly website. Effective engagement with the parent community is important for the continued success and relevance of the PAC. The Facebook page and emails have become less effective than in the past, so we feel it's time for a newer, more modern approach.

Volunteer Opportunities

Fundraising Committee

We are looking for more volunteers to help with Upper Lynn Fundraisers! These occur throughout the school year and include Whitecaps/Canadian's tickets, Family Photos, Purdy's Chocolates, Poinsettias and many more! If you are willing to take the lead on organizing one of these fundraisers, please reach out to upplerynnpac@gmail.com. It is a great way to get involved and give back to the school without a huge time commitment.

After School Programs

Steamoji—Intro to 3D fabrication (3D designing and printing)

Grades: 2-4 (Max number of students is 16)

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 3:00-4:30pm

When: Sept 16 - Dec 9

Where: MPR

Length: 11 sessions (no sessions on Sept 30 and Nov 11)

Price: \$385+GST

Register: <https://www.steamoji.com/camps/canada-bc-north-vancouver/>

All materials, computer access, and 3D printing are included, and apprentices will take home everything they create! This hands-on class introduces kids to the exciting world of technology and the fundamentals of prototyping—learning how to improve designs through iteration. This is an accessible, beginner-friendly course with step-by-step guidance in a supportive, inclusive environment.

We can't wait to see what your child creates with us. Let's get building!

Lunch Grit

Grades: 3-6

Day: Wednesdays

Time: 12:00-12:47

Where: MPR

Dates: Sept 17-Oct 22

Price: \$140 [scholarships available]

Register: <https://concrete-living.jumbula.com/LunchGrit202526/lunchgritatupperlynngrades36fall2025>

Join us for Lunch Grit this Fall! In it, we un-pack how to be a happier human at school. We find tools for finding calm in stressful situations, we navigate our way through the landmine of tricky friendships, we deal with the pressure of expectations, we laugh - we create - we move our bodies and train our brains. It's the perfect break for half-way through the day!
register for Lunch Grit.

Chess Club

Ages: 6-11

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 12:00-12:47

Where: MPR

Dates: 12 Weeks: Sept 16 to Dec.16

Price: \$120

Register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZcJBzJTmXfaTFcyu-v6LM5ac-2X_Lc_0DVI5fmAFdVHsitw/viewform

You are invited to explore the strategic world of chess at this exclusive chess club. This club includes fundamentals for beginners along with strategies for the more advanced players. Chess Club players will have the opportunity to improve their skills by playing against other player of various levels.

Have a wonderful startup.

Upper Lynn PAC