



SKAHA LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

"HOME OF THE SHARKS"

110 Green Avenue West, Penticton, BC V2A 3T1
Phone (250) 770-7674 Fax (250) 492-6108

FALL 2011

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<http://sd67.bc.ca/schools/skahalake/>

Principal/Vice-Principal's Message: We are approaching the half way point of Term 1 and we hope that it has been a very positive experience for your son or daughter. We hope to see the students take advantage of the many sports, music, student leadership and other club and academic activities that are offered at SLMS. Our most successful students are the ones who get involved at their school.

This newsletter and others to follow will update you on activities and events taking place as well as celebrating the successes of our students in their many endeavours. Finally, we would like to invite parents to get involved at the school by coming to PAC meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month or volunteering at the school. We can all work together for student success.

Mr. D. Brunelle, Principal Mr. T. Bond, Vice-Principal

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS EARLY DISMISSAL

November 1st and 2nd have been set aside as early dismissal days for students to allow for parents and students to meet with teachers regarding Term 1 progress. Students will be dismissed at 1:54 pm on both days. Please contact your child's teacher directly at 250-770-7674 to book an appointment. (Busses will run at regular times and supervision will be provided.)

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are required to have a *Criminal Record Check and Vehicle Conveyance Form* completed for all volunteers who supervise students and who drive students to and from school sponsored events.

- Criminal Record Check will be valid as long as your child is registered at SLMS
- Vehicle Conveyance Form is required at the start of each school year

Please contact the school if you wish to receive the required forms to complete the process or to verify that previous paperwork is complete.

CLOSED CAMPUS

As stated in our planners and agreed to by policy, Skaha Lake Middle School is a **closed campus**. Students in grades 6-8 are expected to **remain on campus** unless signed out by a parent. Sign in and sign out procedures are in place to ensure student safety. See **Mr. Brunelle/ Mr. Bond** if you have any questions concerning this important matter.

PAC NEWS

HELP!! We are somewhat in a crisis regarding our PAC this year. Our wonderful PAC executive from last year has graduated on to Princess Margaret Secondary along with their children and has left the PAC accounts in a very healthy state.

Unfortunately we have had a very poor turnout at our September and October PAC meetings. Without parents coming to our one hour monthly meetings, Skaha Lake is not able to access these funds. This would be tragic. The monthly PAC meeting is the only commitment needed.

Parents in past have often remarked that attending PAC meetings is the best way to know about your child's school. PAC meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the school library.

We hope to see you at **our next PAC meeting Wednesday, November 9th @ 7:00 p.m. in the library!**

TEAR OFF COUPON

To encourage students to communicate and share this newsletter, please complete this valuable coupon and enter it in the draw box in the school office for a prize draw next week.

Name: _____ Division: _____

Parent Signature: _____

FALL SPORTS ARE ON!

Our fall sports teams have settled into their league schedule. The following sports are being offered in the fall. Thanks to all the coaches who have volunteered their time.

Volleyball

Grade 8 Girls Sky: Mr. McElroy

Grade 8 Girls Navy: Ms. Anderson/Mr. McElroy

Grade 8 Boys: Mr. Bond/Ms. Guza

Grade 7 Girls: Mr. Hartmann

Grade 7 Boys: Mr. Brunelle

Grade 6 Girls: Mr. Olexa / Mr. Schlackl

Grade 6 Boys: Mr. Loewen

Field Hockey- Gr. 7/8 Girls - Mr. Hartmann

Rugby- Gr. 7/8 Boys-Mr. Lovett/Mr. Dunstan-Adams

Cross-Country-Gr.6-8-Mrs. Caruso

Our intra-mural program, coordinated by Mr. Hartmann has been a roaring success as we have the gym packed at lunch time every Tuesday through Thursday.

SHARK HOODIES, SHIRTS, SHORTS & SWEATS ON SALE

Get your SLMS SHARK WEAR.
Order forms in the office

ATHLETIC TEAM FEES

We are pleased to offer our students the opportunity to play on our extra-curricular sports teams. The seasons of play include: volleyball, cross-country running, field hockey, rugby, basketball and track & field. In order to run these programs, all the middle schools in School District #67 charge an "athletic participation fee". This fee covers costs of referees, officials, time keepers and team costs.

- For Grade 6 students the one time fee is \$30.00 that includes a Shark t-shirt with a number on the back. This t-shirt constitutes the team uniform top for all our grade 6 and 7 teams.
- For Grade 7 students, the one time fee is \$35.00 if a Shark t-shirt is purchased and \$15.00 if they already have a t-shirt purchased from grade 6.
- Co-curricular athletic fees for grade 8 are \$35.00 plus a \$15.00 uniform user fee for students. The school supplies uniforms as needed according to grade 8 league rules. The uniform user fee helps support the purchase of these very expensive uniforms at regular intervals.

Athletic fees will be collected in the office and put into the school athletic fund. Please note that no student will be denied the opportunity to participate because of the inability to pay. Please talk to the coach or contact Mr. Brunelle if concerns arise.

CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISING EVENT

Chocolate Sales: Our annual chocolate sales fundraiser will take place from October 20th to November 4th. Each year we raise almost \$3000 that goes directly back to student activities. A letter will go home with your son or daughter asking them to participate. We do want to stress that participation is voluntary. Draw prizes will be awarded as well as prizes for the top seller at each grade level.

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

Student Activity Fees were collected during the first week of school in September. The school fee for all students is \$35.00, which covers a student planner (\$19), student activities (\$10) and locker rental (\$6). A \$15.00 refundable textbook deposit is also collected for students new to the school or who have lost their deposit the prior year.

STUDENT PLANNER REVISIONS

Electronic Devices (Cell Phones / I Pods / MP3 Players / Gaming Systems)

All electronic devices are to be stored in student lockers upon arrival to school. Electronic devices must remain in the locker for the entire day. Electronic devices will be confiscated if seen. If there is a second confiscation, the devices will only be returned to a parent. **Students are strongly discouraged from bringing electronic devices to school.** Their loss at school is not the responsibility of the school.

Photos

Due to student and staff privacy legislation, students are not permitted take pictures while on school property.

Valuables

We encourage students to keep valuables locked in their lockers, thereby minimizing the temptation for theft. Do not bring large sums of money to school and never leave money or valuables in the PE change rooms. If possible we will help recover missing things, but the school cannot assume responsibility.

NO STOPPING AND LOADING ZONES

Parents are reminded not to park and/or stop in our loading zones, no stopping zones, and the school and city bus zones. Please ensure that you are heeding the signs and parking outside of our cones. The signs and cones have been carefully placed to ensure the safety of your children.

The Trinity Care Center has also requested that parents not drop-off and pick-up their children in their drive-through. The area gets quite congested and could cause a problem for emergency vehicles.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

To: All parents of School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)

In order for students to be eligible for transportation services, they must qualify under the following guidelines:

- Grade K-3 must reside more than 4.0 km from their catchment area school
- Grade 4-12 must reside more than 4.8 km from their catchment area school

Over the past years, the School District has been able to provide some students with transportation even though they have not qualified under these guidelines. These students are classified as Courtesy Riders. Please be advised that from time to time the School District may be required to limit the number of courtesy riders on some bus routes.

Where bus transportation is not available for students residing more than 4.0 km away from the school, **special needs students only** may obtain a Transportation Assistance Application form from the child's school office.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

School District No. 67 is pleased to offer a district wide Aboriginal Education Program for aboriginal students from K-12. Any students of aboriginal ancestry are eligible to participate in the program. The purpose of the Aboriginal Education Program is to enhance academic achievement and to increase cultural learning opportunities for students.

One of our Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement goals is to increase the awareness of aboriginal history and culture by both the aboriginal and general population of students in schools across the district. We do this by offering school wide cultural events such as a District Pow Wow, Metis cultural performances, and aboriginal theatrical productions.

Aboriginal students who were in the Aboriginal Education Program in the 2010-2011 school year will continue to be in the program for this coming school year unless parents notify the school. New aboriginal students to the school will be given a consent form to fill out. Please complete and return the consent form to school as soon as possible. If you are wondering if your child is eligible to participate in the Aboriginal Program, please contact Tanya Hall, SLMS Aboriginal Education teacher.

We would like to welcome Ms. Crawford, our new Aboriginal Education Assistant. Ms. Crawford transferred to Skaha Lake from the elementary school program.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 21	Provincial Professional Day <i>Students not in session</i>
October 31	Halloween Dance – Grade 7 & 8
November 1 & 2	Parent Teacher Interviews <i>1 Hour early dismissal</i>
November 9	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm
November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly 9:00 am
November 11	Remembrance Day Holiday
December 2	End of Term 1
Dec. 17-Jan. 2	Winter Vacation

HOT LUNCH MENU

Monday	Wraps/Soup/Spaghetti
Tuesday	Pizza by the slice
Wednesday	Pasta Alfredo/Pizza Buns/Salad
Thursday	Perogies
Friday	Pizza by the slice

LIBRARY NEWS

The library hours for 2011-2012 are as follows:

Monday	9:00am-12:10
Tuesday	9:00am-3:00pm (open at lunch)
Wednesday	9:00-3:00 (closed at lunch)
Thursday	9:00-3:00 (closed at lunch)
Friday	9:00-12:10

The library may be closed during Nutrition Break, depending on supervision schedule.

Our new library assistant is Mrs. Kharboutli

PARENT LENDING LIBRARY

The Skaha Lake Middle School Parent Advisory Council provided funding for a parent lending library in our SLMS library. There are a variety of books on topics that parents have requested over the years. If you would like to come in and browse or sign out books, please ask at the library counter for more information!

Some of the topics that have been filed include: how to talk so kids will listen and listen so kids will talk, boys adrift – helping the male learner, Aspergers syndrome and the non verbal learning disability, lost at school, ADHD, anxiety, motivation and depression. Our most recent addition is a Parent Guide to Facebook. We will continue to add to the collection over time. If you have a recommendation please contact Mrs. Ganton, our school counselor. Thank you SLMS PAC!

SHARK BITES

The Safe Arrival Line is 250-770-7674. Please call if your child will be late or away from school, has medical concerns, or to report any address or phone number changes.

Student Phone: Please remember to send quarters with your child for the student phone. The student phone is a payphone to be used for all non-emergency phone calls.