



# UPLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MONTHLY PARENT NEWSLETTER JANUARY, 2012

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## Calendar At A Glance

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012  
Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>  
Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>  
Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>

- Schools reopen
- Farm Bag Delivery
- Div. 1 – 3 School Spelling Bee
- Grade 4/5 Basketball Game with the Lakers
- Family Literacy, Read In and Pajamas Day
- Ready, Set, Learn



## Seasons Greetings!!



### **Principal's Message:**

How quickly time flew by this month with many holiday activities, events and every day learning ☺. Many thanks for coming out to our Winter Concert, *A Pirate's Christmas!!* It was great to see our Uplands' families and we are so very proud of our students' performances. Heart-felt thanks go out to our whole staff for making the concert possible! We also extend a very special thank-you to our talented music director and coordinator, Mrs. Salting and to Ms. Street and her grade two/three class for their outstanding performances. We extend further thanks to Ms. Street's and Mrs. Buzikievich's classes and a group of our outstanding grade five student leaders for singing at and bringing gifts to *Toys for Tots to Teens*. Classes also performed for our seniors during this holiday season. Bringing cheer and kindness to others will follow our students wherever they go in the future☺.

Santa's Workshop was another huge success. Many, many thanks go out to Mrs. Foreman and Mrs. Kelly for coordinating the event, to all of the wonderful volunteers for helping out, and for everything you are doing to make Uplands such a wonderful place to be. The New Year is already filling up with many more exciting events and activities (check out the calendar attached☺). School will resume on Tuesday, January 3rd.

On behalf of Uplands' staff, we wish everyone  
an enjoyable and relaxing Winter Break with family and friends!

### **SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS...Uplands T-Shirt Friday**

School Spirit Days are every *Friday* at Uplands. Wear your school clothes or black and red to show your school spirit. Samples of school clothes and order forms are located in the general office.



### **SAFE ARRIVAL**

Please contact our office at 250-770-7678 to advise if your child is going to be away or late for school for any reason. Please feel free to leave a message on our answering machine before or after school hours.

## PAC

Meetings are held monthly in the school library. At these meetings decisions are made affecting your children, and your input is important. All parents are most welcome ☺. The next PAC meeting is Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

## OPEN GYM

In January, the gym will continue to be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:15 am for any interested students. Many thanks go to our parent volunteer, Mr. Beuselink, for running this event.

## CHESS CLUB



Uplands is planning to start a chess club in January for all grades. It will run for half an hour during lunch time on Fridays. If you are willing to volunteer your time to supervise and help students learn the game, or if you have any chess sets or books you can donate, please contact Catherine at 250-770-1112 or [zcrockett@gmail.com](mailto:zcrockett@gmail.com).

## BASKETBALL

Grade 4s and 5s will begin basketball on Mondays and Wednesdays! On January 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a special treat as the Lakers Jr. B Hockey Team will be coming to Uplands to play basketball against our grade 4/5 students!! Let's show our Uplands team spirit!



## CANSPELL SPELLING BEE



Uplands is registered for this year's CANSPELL Spelling Bee. According to CANSPELL Spelling Bee rules, entrants must be 9 years old to participate in this event. We will have a School Spelling Bee for Divisions 1, 2 and 3 on January 20<sup>th</sup>, to determine our entrant into the Okanagan Regional Spelling Bee. Student kits are available in the classrooms involved. There are suggestions for ways to support Spelling Bee enthusiasts on the CANSPELL Spelling Bee web-site. [www.canada.com/canspell/index.html](http://www.canada.com/canspell/index.html)

## FARM BAG FUNDRAISER

Our Farm Bag Fundraiser has been a huge success! Many thanks go to Barb Sheppard and Rebecca Aubie for their hard work in organizing this fundraiser. The next Farm Bag delivery is January 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like more information, please go to [www.farmbag.littlegreenbook.ca](http://www.farmbag.littlegreenbook.ca) or see us on Shaw at <http://www.shaw.ca/shawtv/kelowna>. Click on Farm Bag Fundraiser story.

## LICE

With winter approaching, hats and toques will be coming to school ☺. It is important to remind children **NOT** to share hats and scarves. It is also recommended that parents check all children and family members on a **weekly** basis and treat as necessary. For further information please call Interior Health or visit their website [www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca).

School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Children born in 2007 are eligible to enter kindergarten in September 2012. Parents, who feel their child is not yet ready for kindergarten, may defer enrollment for one year. Please contact Wendy Hyer (250-770-7700) at the School Board Office for information on this.

Placement in your neighborhood school kindergarten is based on your address and registration date. The earlier you register, the more likely your child will attend a school close to your home.

Register at your neighborhood school during regular school hours. **A birth certificate will be required as well as proof of address.**

## Parent Workshop Series

### McNicoll Park Middle School

Teacher contact - Shona Becker (Counselor)

McNicoll Park Middle School is hosting a series of parent workshops that are designed to provide pro-active strategies and ideas in dealing with concerns and issues that their children may be experiencing. Workshops occur on the third Thursday of each month from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the school library. Parents can pick and choose the topics that are most applicable to them.

Date	Topic	Presenter
January 19	How to Help with Homework	Shona Becker
February 16	Helping Your Teen with Anxiety	CYMH worker or F.O.R.C.E (Jenn Wheaton)
March 8	Cyber-bullying and how to help your teen	Daryl Meyers
April 19	Community Connections	Penticton Rec Dept



## **FRENCH IMMERSION** **Registration for 2012/2013** **INFORMATION MEETINGS**

### **For Parents of current Grade 5 students:**

Information sessions for parents of Grade 5 students regarding registration for September 2012 Grade 6 Late French Immersion classes will be held as follows:

**Wednesday, January 25, 7:00 p.m., KVR Middle School**

**Thursday, January 26, 7:00 p.m., Summerland Middle School**

A letter, along with an application form, regarding next September's grade 6 French Immersion classes will be sent home January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 with all grade 5 students. This letter will outline the program and the application process. Application forms will be available January 16<sup>th</sup> at all elementary school offices, the Okanagan Skaha School District No. 67 Board Office (425 Jermyn Ave., Penticton), or on the district website at [www.sd67.bc.ca](http://www.sd67.bc.ca)

**Deadline for applications is 4:00 pm Friday,**  
**February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012**

The program is available to all students residing in the Okanagan Skaha School District entering grade six in September of 2012. Students outside the district are permitted to enrol on a space-available basis (ie after Okanagan Skaha School District students have been accommodated).

Please note: these will be the only information meetings scheduled regarding French Immersion.

## **FSA Information for Parents of Grade 4 Students (or Grade 7 students)**

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning foundation skills in reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy.

The main purpose of the assessment is to help the province, school districts, schools and school planning councils evaluate how well students are achieving basic skills, and make plans to improve student achievement. The FSA is designed and developed by British Columbia educators. The skills tested are linked to the provincial curriculum and provincial performance standards.

The assessment is administered each year to Grade 4 and 7 students in public and provincially funded independent schools.

### **FSA Requirements**

The Student Learning Assessment Order (Ministerial Order 60/94 as amended) (the "Order") requires school boards to ensure that the FSA tests are administered to and completed by students in accordance with the assessment protocols, instructions, and invigilation procedures established by the Ministry of Education. In accordance with the School Act, only the Principal has the authority to exclude children from participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment. Principals may excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuation circumstances. In such circumstances, parents must discuss their request with the Principal.

The following is an excerpt from the Ministry's 2011 "Instructions for Principals and Teachers/Invigilators" about participation guidelines:

### **Who Should Write the Assessment?**

*All students write FSA including:*

- *All students enrolled in Grade 4 or Grade 7, including students enrolled in a distributed learning program, home-schooled students as well as students enrolled in French Immersion or Programme francophone.*
- *All students enrolled in non-graded programs who were born in:*
  - *2002 write Grade 4 level*
  - *1999 write Grade 7 level*
- *English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) students.*
- *Students with special needs who require adaptations, as documented in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).*
- *Students receiving learning assistance services.*

*Exceptions include:*

- *students who have previously written the FSA. Students write the FSA for a specific grade once only. If a student is retained, s/he does not write a second time,*
- *students who have IEPs documenting a disability that significantly impacts their performance in reading, writing, or numeracy and who cannot meaningfully participate in all or part of the assessment, even with adaptations,*
- *students with IEPs who would need extensive adaptations or who would need such extended periods of time as to create a hardship for the individual students, or*
- *those students who are reported and funded as receiving ESL support who have not yet reached a level of proficiency sufficient for them to provide meaningful responses to the reading or writing or numeracy sections of the FSA.*

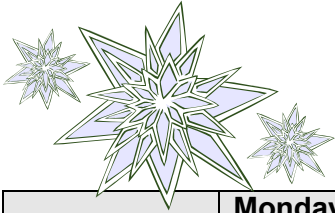
*Principals identify which students, if any, are excused from one, two or all three components of the FSA. Principals must notify a parent or guardian if they intend to excuse a student from participating in one or more components of the FSA. Such notification should be made prior to the administration date by letter or telephone call.*

*Principals may excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, a lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstances.*

*Principals of public schools are to send a list of excused students to their superintendent.*

Thank you,

Don MacIntyre



# UPLANDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## JANUARY, 2012



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3 Schools reopen	4 <u>Hot Lunch</u> <i>Hot Dogs</i> Gr. 4/5 Basketball at Lunch	5 8:15 am Open Gym	6 Chess Club @ Lunch	7
8	9 Gr. 4/5 Basketball at Lunch	10 8:15 am Open Gym	11 <u>Hot Lunch</u> <i>Edo Japan</i> Gr. 4/5 Basketball at Lunch	12 8:15 am Open Gym Farm Bag Delivery	13 Chess Club @ Lunch	14
15	16 Gr. 4/5 Basketball at Lunch FSA window begins	17 8:15 am Open Gym	18 <u>Hot Lunch</u> <i>Tim Horton's</i> Gr. 4/5 Basketball at Lunch	19 8:15 am Open Gym	20 <i>Spelling Bee at 9:00 a.m. (Div. 1-3)</i> Chess Club @ Lunch	21
22	23 Gr. 4/5 Basketball at Lunch	24 8:15 am Open Gym Gr. 4/5 Basketball with the Lakers at 11:30 am	25 Gr. 4/5 Basketball at Lunch	26 8:15 am Open Gym	27 Family Literacy, Read In and Pajamas Day☺ (9:00 - 9:45) Chess Club @ Lunch	28
29	30 Gr. 4/5 Basketball at Lunch	31				

**SAFE ARRIVAL 250-770-7678**

**Students arriving after 8:50 am must check in at the office! Thank you!**