

Pitt Meadows Secondary School

Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows

19438 116B Avenue
Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 1G1
T: 604-465-7141 www.pmss.sd42.ca



Dear Families:

During the month of October, our students participated in a variety of spirit day activities on Fridays. We appreciate their energy and excitement with the various cohort challenges too. For Hallowe'en many of our students dressed up and staff participated in creating a Waldo Storybook for our students. They tried their best to discover the 'real' Waldo throughout the morning. Special thanks to Tory, our wonderful Youth Care Worker, for organizing this fun activity.

Our Tuesday breakfast program is up and running. Food is available at each entrance for students to enjoy as they head off to their morning class. Thank you to Kiwanis Club of Maple Ridge for their generous donation to this important program. Various clubs are starting up again at PMSS following Covid Health and Safety protocols. Additional information will be shared during our daily announcements.

Please check in with your child and their teacher as we move towards the last few weeks of Q1 to ensure they are on track to be successful in their courses and ways you may support as needed. Earlier this month, we met with a group of students to ask questions about the quarter system what is working and potential growth areas. We appreciate the authenticity of their voice. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Schwarz
Principal

Administrative Assignments:

Mrs. Schwarz – Principal
Mr. Lozinski – Vice Principal
Ms. Van Nuys – Acting Vice Principal

Grade 12
Grades 9, 11
Grades 8, 10

cheryl_schwarz@sd42.ca
gary_lozinski@sd42.ca
sarah_vannuys@sd42.ca

Thanks for Masking!

Counselling Department:

Ms. Elizabeth Morrow – Grades 8, 10, International
Ms. Alisha McLaughlin – Grades 9, 11, 12 Counselling
Ms. Penny Griffin – Grade 12 Academic Advisor
Ms. Tory Flavin – Youth Care Worker

elizabeth_morrow@sd42.ca
alisha_mclaughlin@sd42.ca
penny_griffin@sd42.ca
victoria_flavin@sd42.ca



STUDENT FEES \$28.00

Friendly reminder of student fee payment. If you have not already paid, please check the Parent Portal. If you wish to pay cash or cheque, please contact our accounts clerk
[Tammy Tucker@sd42.ca](mailto:Tammy.Tucker@sd42.ca)

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!



Yearbooks are still available for purchase now at **\$55.00**. Preferred payment for all fees is through the Parent Portal. For cash payments, please contact our accounts clerk [Tammy Tucker@sd42.ca](mailto:Tammy.Tucker@sd42.ca)
(Personalized books are not available this year)

PITT Stop Café – open for business!

\$21 Lunch Card available on the [Parent Portal](#). If you wish to purchase a card with cash or cheque, please contact the office.

The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers for their Christmas Kettle Program which runs November 20th to December 24th. 2 hour shifts from 9:30 am to 7:30 pm at numerous locations in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. Visit the Career Centre for more information and to sign up.



Attention Grads of 2021

Grad Photo Dates have been set for Nov 30, Dec 1, Dec 2 & 3. To sign up & book your appointment please visit www.mountainwest.ca. The sitting fee is \$20.00, payable to the photographer (Cash/Credit/Debit Card only).

WANT TO ORDER SCHOOL PHOTOS?

On your student's Photo ID card there is a **webcode**. Visit Mountain West Studios website to place your order:
myorder.mountainwest.ca

Message from our Aboriginal Ed Department.
 Sign-up with **Ms. Desabrais** in room 2240



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

LEARN TO SHOWCASE YOU AND YOUR EXPERIENCES TO GET THAT JOB!

We will give individualized support and feedback on your resume.

We can also help you prepare for job interviews.

Sign up with Yvonne in the PMSS AbEd Room for a time slot with Ms. Stanford



Check out the sites listed below to help you connect with what's happening at Pitt Meadows Secondary.

PMSS Website: pmss.sd42.ca

❖ **PMSS School App:** This app is an important communication tool that parents & students can access easily on their phones. This technology provides daily updates to the calendar and schedule, your timetable, homework notifications, etc., can all be accessed using 'the app' Check it out by going to the App Store or Google Play <https://myschoolday.app/download>

❖ **Parent Portal:** <http://parents.sd42.ca>

This website features District & School announcements; Consent & Policy forms; Field trip forms; Pay School Fees (\$28.00); Pay Yearbook Fees (\$55.00); Grad Fees (cost to be advised); Purchase Pitt Stop Café Lunch Cards (\$21.00)

❖ **MyClass:** <https://myedbc.sd42.ca/MyClass>

(Student Attendance/Reporting Card Information/Classroom resources and Communicate with Teachers)

❖ **Find us on Twitter:** @Pittsecondary

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

These forms are on your [MyClass Account](#). Please review to ensure we have the correct and updated information for your student. Any forms with changes should be sent to the office.



In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
 between the crosses, row on row.
 That mark our place; and in the sky the
 larks, still bravely singing, fly,
 scarce heard amidst the guns below.

We are the dead.
 Short days ago, we lived, felt dawn, saw
 sunset glow. Loved and were loved, and
 now we lie in Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe,
 to you from falling hands we throw the
 torch. Be yours to hold it high. If ye
 break faith with us who die, we shall
 not sleep, though poppies grow in
 Flanders Fields.

By Lt. Col. John McCrae of Montreal whose body lies in Flanders Fields.



November Special Dates:

Nov 2 to 6	Provincial Assessments
Nov 9	PAC Meeting 7:00pm (Zoom)
Nov 10	School Remembrance Day Reflection
Nov 11	Statutory Holiday – Remembrance Day
Nov 12	Non-Instruction Day – No Classes
Nov 17	Last Instructional Day of Quarter #1
Nov 18	Flex Learning Day
Nov 19	First Day of Quarter #2
Nov 26	Report Cards Quarter #1 are Published to Parent/Students MyClass Account . https://myedbc.sd42.ca/MyClass
Nov 30	Grade 12 Grad Photo's by appointment (Day 1)

COVID 19 INFORMATION – THINGS TO KNOW

BEST PRACTICES:

- Students will be provided 2 reusable masks from our school district. Masks should be regularly cleaned after each use and stored appropriately. May we suggest that your child stores them in a special case or paper bag.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle, and utensils for lunch.
- Please note that all our schools will practice *pack it in and pack out lunch waste*. We should all reduce and reuse before we recycle.
- Students are not able to share supplies. Please ensure that they have their own school supplies for each subject of the quarter. Teachers will not be able to have shareable bins of pens and pencils as per Health and Safety Guidelines.
- Staff and students are not permitted to share food as per Health and Safety Guidelines.



WEARING A FACE COVERING

Masks are not required within learning groups (cohorts) but are mandatory for secondary students and staff when they are outside of their learning groups and in high-traffic areas where physical distancing cannot be maintained (e.g. in buses, hallways, school office, library and some classrooms). The school district will provide two reusable cloth masks to all secondary students. Staff who interact with multiple learning groups will be required to wear a mask and face shield when they are unable to maintain physical distancing.

VENTILATION AND ENHANCED CLEANING AND DISINFECTION ROUTINES

Ventilation systems in all school district facilities will meet **WorkSafeBC** requirements, and all air filters will be replaced on a regular basis. All schools will be cleaned in accordance with the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings. General cleaning (including single-use surfaces like student desks) will occur once every 24 hours, while frequently touched surfaces as well as all shared equipment, appliances, manipulatives, and tools, will be cleaned and disinfected twice every 24 hours. The school district has hired additional custodians to meet the demands of these enhanced cleaning routines

DAILY HEALTH SELF-ASSESSMENT

Everyone entering the school environment is expected to do a Daily Health Assessment. This is a personal review of the signs and symptoms of Covid - 19.

It is not necessary to print or submit. Further detailed information can be located on the SD42 website.

Please review the form in the attached link: [Daily-Health-Assessment-Checklist](#)

SYMPTOMS / ILLNESS

The BCCDC guidelines for schools are mandatory. If a student, staff member or any other adult has any symptoms of a cold, influenza, COVID-19, or any other infectious respiratory disease, they must not enter the school. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

Students, staff members and any other adult must stay home and self-isolate if they have:

- ❖ Travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days
- ❖ Identified as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak
 - ❖ This includes the children of essential service workers.

AS PER PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE PROTOCOL IF A STUDENT/STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS OF THIS ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, schools should:

- ❖ Provide the student/staff with a non-medical mask if they don't have one (exceptions should be made for students/staff who cannot wear masks for medical and/or disability-related reasons)
- ❖ Provide the student/staff with a space where they can wait comfortably that is separated from others.
 - The student is to be supervised and cared for, when separated.
- ❖ Make arrangements for the student/staff to go home as soon as possible.
- Contact the student's parent/caregiver with a request to have their child picked up as soon as possible
- ❖ Clean and disinfect the areas the student/staff used.
- ❖ Encourage the student/staff to seek assessment by a health-care provider.
- ❖ Request that the student/staff stay home until COVID-19 has been excluded and symptoms have resolved.

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to school until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to excluded COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND their symptoms have resolved.

Schools and school districts should notify their local medical health officer if staff and or student absenteeism exceeds 10% of regular attendance, to help with the early identification of clusters or outbreaks.

PROTOCOL IN THE EVENT OF A CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE IN A SCHOOL

If a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19, and were potentially infectious while they were at school:

- Public health will perform an investigation to determine if there were any potential close contacts within the school.
 - To learn more about contact tracing visit the [BCCDC.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)
 - Students and staff who have interacted with the confirmed case may be asked to stay home while public health completes their investigation.
- If it is determined that there are close contacts within the school, public health will notify the school administrators to request class and bus lists to assist with contact tracing and provide guidance on what steps should be taken.
- Public health may then:
 - Recommend 14-day isolation if necessary (for confirmed close contacts)
 - Recommend monitoring for symptoms if necessary
 - Provide follow-up recommendations if necessary
- Schools must continue to provide learning support to students required to self-isolate
- Together, schools/school districts and public health officials will determine if any other actions are necessary.

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers **MUST** conduct a Daily Health Assessment of their child(ren) before sending them to school. Keep this checklist in a well-frequented area (like your kitchen) and incorporate the assessment into your morning routine before leaving for school.

1. Key Symptoms of Illness		Do you have any of the following new key symptoms? Please circle ONE for each line.	
Fever		YES	NO
Chills		YES	NO
Cough or worsening of chronic cough		YES	NO
Shortness of breath		YES	NO
Loss of sense of smell or taste		YES	NO
Diarrhea		YES	NO
Nausea and vomiting		YES	NO
2. International Travel	Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19	YES	NO

If you answered “YES” to one of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’ (excluding fever), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, you may return to school when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered “YES” to two or more of the questions included under ‘Symptoms of Illness’ or you have a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. If a health assessment is required, you should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.

When a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, you should stay home until you are told by public health to end self-isolation. In most cases this is 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test.
- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, you can return to school once symptoms have improved and you feel well enough. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless you develop a new illness.
- If a COVID-19 test is **recommended but is not done** because you choose not to have the test, or you do not seek a health assessment when recommended, and your symptoms are not related to a previously diagnosed health condition, you should stay home from school until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and then you may return if you are feeling well enough. If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, you can return to school when symptoms improve and you feel well enough.

Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19). If you answered “YES” to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should seek testing for COVID-19.

A health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor’s note) should not be required to confirm the health status of any individual.