

Pitt Meadows Secondary School *Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows*

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February 2021 Newsletter



Dear families:

Thank you to our amazing students for coming to school each day with positive attitudes and wearing their masks. I continue to be inspired by their perseverance, desire to come to school and their resilience.

The months of January and February can be difficult for many people with the grey sky and rain. Coupled with that, we are approaching a year of being in a pandemic. This certainly adds an additional layer of stress for our students, staff, families and community. We are here to walk alongside you as we navigate this roller coaster of uncertainty together. We are courageous together.

Research shows that practicing gratitude brings happiness and joy. May I suggest that you take a moment to call, send a text, card or email to someone to let them know that they are in your thoughts. It is very easy for us all to get caught up with the 'being busy'. However, it is important to take time to focus on what matters most for us. It is truly about the connections we make with colleagues, friends and family.

Thank you for supporting your child's educational journey.

Respectfully,
Cheryl Schwarz
Principal

Thanks for Masking!

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

Counselling Department:

Ms. Elizabeth Morrow
Ms. Alisha McLaughlin
Ms. Penny Griffin
Ms. Tory Flavin

Grades 8, 10, International
Grades 9, 11, 12 Counselling
Grade 12 Academic Advisor
Youth Care Worker

elizabeth_morrow@sd42.ca
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victoria_flavin@sd42.ca



Grads of 2021 Update

The cost for baby pictures and parent dedications are \$26. Payment can be made on the parent portal, or by cash/cheque payable to PMSS at the office.

All submissions must be made online. The yearbook team will not accept any paper photos and paper submissions.

Please submit your baby picture and parent dedications online using the form below: [Grads of 2021 Form](#)
The deadline to submit is Saturday March 6, 2020. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Chu at bchu@sd42.ca

Please remind your son/daughter to make sure they complete the grad quote for the yearbook. Link is on the pmssgrads.wordpress.com website and click on "Grad Write-Ups" at the top.

Quarter 3 Bell Schedule Memo

You can also view this on the PMSS school website <https://pmss.sd42.ca/>



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

PMSS Website: <https://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 /Report Card Information / Classroom resources and communicate with Teachers)

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

Transfer Guidelines for 2021-2022

Transfer requests can be submitted starting **Feb 4** for the 2021/2022 school year. For details see the PMSS website(pmss.sd42.ca) as well as the District website (sd42.ca). If you require further details please email: cindy_rasmussen@sd42.ca



Valentine's Day – February 14th



Valentine cards exchange is permitted as long as the cards are basic paper cards (cards with pens, stickers or candies are NOT permitted at this time). The virus is not transmitted on paper but can be transmitted on the attached items such as pens, stickers, and candies.

Homemade Baked Goods

Schools and district buildings must not allow homemade food items available to students or staff at this time (e.g. birthday treats, bake sale items, candy-grams, PAC lunches, potluck staff lunches, holiday baking, etc.). *Only individually prepared and packaged commercial items are acceptable (Safety Plan and Handbook for Staff, p. 36). If parents wish to contribute goodies, they must come in an unopened box to the classroom teacher for distribution. Classroom teacher will wash hands and distribute to each child if they are participating in such an activity.*

Pink Shirt Day – February 24th

Why do we acknowledge this day? This is celebrated annually around the globe. **Pink Shirt Day** began in Canada in 2007 when two students, David Shepherd and Travis Price, took a stand against homophobic bullying after a grade 10 student was harassed and threatened for wearing **pink**.

It is an awareness for everyone to remember that "**Kindness Counts**" not just today but **every day**.



February at a glance

- Feb 1 Quarter #2 – Last day of classes
- Feb 2 **No set classes** - Flex Learning Day
- Feb 3 **No set classes** - Health & Safety Orientation
- Feb 4 Quarter #3 – First Day of Classes
- Feb 4 School Transfer Requests open
- Feb 11 **Report Cards Q2 on [MyClass Login](#)**
- Feb 15 **Statutory Holiday – Family Day**
- Feb 16 **Non-Instructional Day – No Classes**
- Feb 24 **Collaboration Date – Late Start**
 - Gr 10-12 start 9:45
 - Gr 8 / 9 start 10:00
- Feb 24 **PINK SHIRT DAY**

March – looking ahead

- **March 15 to March 26 no classes**

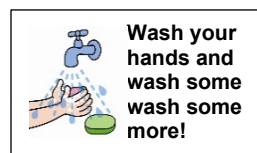
Spring Break



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.