



Pitt Meadows Secondary School Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows

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

October 2017 News Update

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Hello Parents and Students and Welcome to November! Please allow me to congratulate and thank everyone for their contributions to what could have been a very challenging school year start up in September. As most of you will now know, we welcomed over 20 new teachers to PMSS this year, most as a result of retirements, end of contracts for temporary teachers last June, and the renewed teachers' contract with the government. You can feel the buzz in the air, as many of our newest staff are also new to the profession and ready to make an impact. With an expanding staff comes the challenges of opening up more classrooms (many schools received portables this year) and acquiring new furniture. This did create a headache for everyone but everything is now in place and things are moving along nicely.

As we start making our way towards the Winter months, I wanted to use a few lines to thank the many parents who are actively involved in events and initiatives here at PMSS. Our Parent Grad Committee came out of the gate flying in September and are well on their way to making Grad 2018 a huge success. We also have many of you involved in our extra-curricular activities whether as coaches/sponsors, drivers or spectators. 'Thanks so much' as these programs rely on the involvement of parents and staff.

'Electronic Report Cards' is the new term being tossed around these days as all of our secondary schools move to this mode of report card distribution starting in December. SEE ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS. PMSS launched this concept last June and therefore parents and students in grades 9-12 should have experienced this once already. It is important parents prepare in advance so that they can access report cards in December. The key to the process is creating a MYCLASS account on your computer as per district directions. Many of you would have done this last June BUT you must register again for this year; there is no carryover.

Student Led Conferences: Our student led conferences for term 1 will take place on **Thursday November 9**. Classes are not in session on that day. Students are **expected** to accompany their parents to meet with teachers and **participate** in the conversation.

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We have an online booking system for these conferences. The link for conference sign up will be posted on our school website (<http://schools.sd42.ca/pmss/>) and GO LIVE on **Thursday November 2 at 2:45 pm**. You will be able to follow a step-by-step sign up process in order to arrange to see teachers once you click on the link. Please keep in mind that each conference is **5** minutes in length and **closely** timed. It is imperative that parents honour each student's appointment time by allowing some time in between meetings, as you will need time to move from teacher to teacher. There may be some times available for walk in sign up on the day of, but there **are no guarantees**. We **strongly encourage you to sign up in advance**.

Some helpful tips:

- Parents will be required to set up an account before the confirmation email will be sent to you. This email will allow you to register your son or daughter with specific teachers.
- A return email comes in a few moments.
- Closer to the date a schedule/reminder will be sent to your email address.
- The website includes tutorials and help pages.

Please keep in mind that you may not be able to see every teacher on your child's timetable. If you require a more in-depth meeting time, we encourage you to arrange that with your child's teacher on a different day. Please feel free to email Vice Principal Cheryl Schwarz if you have questions about this process: cschwarz@sd42.ca

A Stretch of Non-Instructional Days: Tied in with the Student Led conferences on November 9 is a Professional Development Day on November 10 AND the Remembrance Day Holiday on November 13. This means that students will not be attending regular classes for FIVE days (including the weekend). Please note this as you plan for the month ahead.

In closing, we invite all parents and guardians to feel free to drop by the school anytime. Our doors are always open; just please check in at the office upon your arrival.

M. Keenan
Principal

C. Schwarz
Vice Principal

D. Drapeau
Vice Principal

Spring Break 2018 trip to Italy



Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 are welcome to come on this 9-day trip with 2-day extension to Pompeii. We will be travelling from Venice to Florence to Assisi, to Rome and possibly Pompeii.

Students are chaperoned at a six to one ratio. For more details, look online at EF Tours, Bell'Italia. For more information, contact Ms. Burrows at hburrows@sd42.ca.



For all Grade 9 Students:

Reminder to all parents of Grade 9's that Take Your Kids to Work Day forms are due in the office on October 27th, or Monday October 30th (for latecomers). Student participation in this event is very important, as it is part of their Career Education 9 course this year. See email, Career Centre, Ms. McCallum or Mr. Herman for forms.

PARENT PORTAL

A reminder that the **Parent Portal is an excellent way to let the school know your daughter or son will be absent from school.**

The Parent Portal absence report is the best for those working in the office because the portal shows the correct spelling of the student's name, includes the Student ID number, grade and the parent who is making the absence report.

Please contact the office if you are experiencing difficulties with the portal.



BIG THANK YOU to Glenda Siemens from Save-on-Foods (Pitt Meadows) for the 2 cases of oranges generously donated to PMSS for the Terry Fox run.

CORE COMPETENCIES: What are they and why are they in the curriculum?

The BC curriculum has been redesigned to meet the needs of 21st century students. The new curriculum maintains a focus on literacy and numeracy while supporting deeper learning through three core competency areas: **communication**, **personal and social**, and **thinking**.

Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in life-long learning. Core competencies are evident in every area of learning and in every grade, and come into play when students become actively engaged in their learning.

For more information about the new curriculum, visit <http://www.sd42.ca/new-curriculum>.

Coming in November – *The Communication Competency.*



You can't cook as a team without effective communication!

PMSS CLASS OF 2018 GRAD NEWS UPDATE #1

Upcoming Fundraising Events

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5th Bottle Drive

PARENT VOLUNTEERS/STUDENTS NEEDED!

Our Bottle Drives have been very successful events so far with our 1st one bringing in \$1654.00 and our 2nd one bringing in over \$2000!

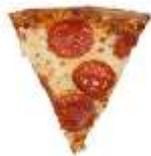
Our 3rd Bottle drive is scheduled for **Sunday November 5th**. And the 4th one on **January 6th**. We will need at least 30 volunteers and 30 students and parent drivers with trucks/vans to come out to these events in order to make it successful. Please contact Sheri sheri5@telus.net or Teresa tjik1@shaw.ca to register for this event



Shopping for the Holidays Fundraiser November 15th

PMSS Multipurpose Room from 5-9pm. Local Vendors, crafts, and a mini Grad expo featuring hairstylists, nail techs, Black and Lee Tuxedos, photographers and much much more! The event will also include raffles, concession and draws! Tell your friends and family! Everyone is welcome. Helpers needed for set up/tear down. Contact Sheri sheri5@telus.net or Lolita lolitagodfrey@gmail.com if you can help.

**Crazy Bread and Pizza Sale
December 21st
Lunch Time @ PMSS**



PUB NIGHT SAMZ PUB NOVEMBER 24th GRAD FUNDRAISER



Mark this date on your calendar! Friends and family welcome! Tickets are \$25.00 per person and includes a beer/glass of wine and a burger with a side. Tickets can be ordered through Rani Aujla raniaujla@shaw.ca

Grad 2018 Hoodies are on Sale. Prices start at \$50. Order forms are at the office. Deadline for the first order is November 3rd. Sheri will be at PMSS Oct. 27th Lunch time for sizing.

The bottle depots in Maple Ridge and in Pitt Meadows are now set up to accept donations for PMSS Dry Grad. Make sure to write your name on the back of your receipt and drop it off at the Grad box in the office at PMSS. All



From your
Class of 2018
Co-Chairs

Sheri Bishop & Teresa Michalec



together

an exhibition on global development

Step into a world of opportunity...

Where improving quality of life in the developing world is more than just a hope – it's a reality.

This mobile exhibition will take you on a journey, exploring how Canadians are driving global change.

Come out and get inspired.



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION CANADA
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Undertaken with the financial support of:



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www.akfc.ca/together

#AllForChange

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[@AKFCanada](https://twitter.com/AKFCanada)

Fentanyl Forum II

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Thomas Haney Secondary School

23000 - 116th Avenue

Maple Ridge, BC

This forum will bring together a tremendous number of community professionals who will share their vast knowledge regarding the current overdose crisis.

Includes presentations from Fraser Health, Alouette Addictions Services and Ridge Meadows RCMP. Panel discussions with Q & A to follow.

Open to youth, parents, caregivers and anyone affected directly or indirectly by substance use.

