



Pinewood Elementary School

11777 Pinewood Drive Delta BC V4E 3E9
Phone: 604-590-3357 / Absentee Phone: 604-597-8557 / Fax: 604-497-4881
Office Hours: 8:30 am -3:30 pm
School website: pw.deltasd.bc.ca



Principal: Mr. J. Hope
Twitter @PinewoodDelta
September 26, 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our school year is well underway. We had a fantastic day for the Terry Fox Run last week. A big thank you to Mrs. Buis' class for spearheading that and also we had an amazing parent turn out to support our runners.



Parents may or may not be aware that there was some change to teacher contract language for this year. As a result our staffing processes are functioning differently and we have experienced some unforeseen situations as we work to finalize our school staffing. If there are any changes that affect Pinewood, please know that we will do our best to ensure smooth transitions for our students and their families. As always if anyone requires further information or clarification, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

We look forward to meeting our new families and working with our whole community on the learning adventure that lies ahead. We invite you to work collaboratively with us to create the best learning environment possible for your child. Research shows that a strong partnership between the home and school allows children to reach their highest potential. Here are some suggestions that will be helpful in establishing school routines and will make this year the most successful one yet for your child.

Read Together – Children who read at home with their parents do better in school. Show your children that you see reading as important by keeping lots of reading material around the house and set aside some time each day for reading. Also, model reading yourself.

Establish a Daily Family Routine – Set a specific quiet time and place every day for homework or general reading. While you should be actively involved with your child's homework routine, let them do the actual work. Other helpful routines involve assigning responsibilities for household chores, being firm about times to get up and go to bed (most children require about 10 hours of sleep per night), and having dinner together whenever possible. Don't forget about the importance of a healthy breakfast and lunch to ensure that your child has the energy needed to make it through the day productively.



Talk Together – Find some time each day to ask your child about school. Ask specific questions that will require explanations. Not only will this provide you with an overview of what your child is learning each day, explaining their learning to you will heighten their understanding of their lessons.

Use The School – The importance of strong school-home bridges cannot be overstated. Get to know your child's teacher(s) and what they expect. Let them know you will reinforce the importance of schoolwork at home and keep them informed of important things happening in your family that may be affecting your child at school. Make sure your child knows of your interest in his/her school. This will send the message that what he/she is doing is important.

Have High, But Realistic, Goals – Every student has the ability to learn; they just all have different starting points, interests, and background knowledge. Make sure that you set goals with your child that are achievable, but not too easy, for their age, maturity and ability. Don't forget to celebrate when these goals are achieved.

Respectfully,
Mr. Jim Hope

SCHOOL INFO & REMINDERS

Staff Changes

We welcome the following staff members to our school:

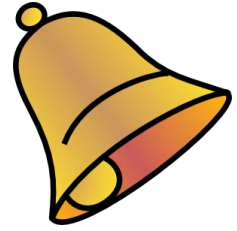
- Ms. K. Lachance - Primary Teacher
- Mrs. P. Mischke - Intermediate Teacher



School Hours

Our bell schedule is:

First Bell:	8:52 a.m.
School In Session:	8:57 am - 3:00 pm
Recess:	10:25 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
Lunch:	12:05 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Please make every effort to help students get to school on time. That being said, we understand that on the rare occasion people are late. If students are late, they will be required to sign in at the office and collect a late slip. In the event that a child is chronically late, the school will call the family and discuss support plans. Arriving late can cause not only disruption to the class but it also creates a lot of anxiety for a student entering the class as they have missed the instructions for the day.

Pinewood Expectations - Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Fair



The school and district do have formal codes of conduct in place. To have a set of expectations in student-friendly language, we have developed a behaviour framework for our learning community which is based on the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model. It is a school-wide system that includes “positive, proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviour to create positive school environments.” A key component of the framework is to create 3-5 key expectations that are well known to everyone connected to our school. As a staff, we decided that “Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Fair” would form the foundation of our model. When students are spotted acting in a positive way in any environment they will be given a ‘Panther Paw’ which enters them in a draw for a prize.

Administration of Medication



Schools are required to maintain a safe procedure for dispensing medications. We would like to have information regarding medication administration within the first two weeks of school. If your child is required to take medication at school, please request a Request for Administration of Medication at School form from the office. These forms must be completed each year and are required to be signed by your physician.

Lost and Found Procedures

Please have your children’s clothing labeled with their names where possible. In the event something is misplaced, clothes will be hung on a rack near the office. The rack will often be on display at the back of the school during drop-off and pick-up to facilitate the return of lost articles. Small items (i.e. eyeglasses, keys) will be kept in a drawer at the office.



Allergy Aware Building



Several of our students have life-threatening allergies to food such as seafoods and nuts including peanuts, cashews, almonds, walnuts, pistachios, brazil nuts, pecans, macadamias, and sesame seeds. With that, our school is a Nut and Seafood Aware building. A notice has gone home with information about this. Exposure to even tiny amounts of these food particles – residue on a desk, a book, a door handle, computer keyboard, or a drinking fountain- may be enough to trigger a reaction. Please help us create a safe environment for them by keeping foods containing these allergens at home. Several companies are now making nut-free snacks and we encourage you to look for these new products when shopping. Other names for peanuts and other nuts include: Arachide, Arachis Oil, Beer Nuts, Goober Nuts, Goober Peas, Ground Nuts, Kernels, Mandelonas, Nut Meats, Valencias, Anacardium Nuts, Calisson, Marzipan, Pinon, Queensland Nut (macadamia). Label reading is the key to sending safe, nut free foods to school. Please do your part to ensure our school environment is a safe one for all of our students. THANK YOU!

Staff and Student Safety

Visitor Sign-in – While we begin to get to know you, parents, guardians and all other visitors are asked to **enter the school using the main entrance and sign in** at the office. Please do not proceed directly to a classroom. All visitors must wear a “visitor” identification badge while in the school for the safety of our students and staff and identifies our visitors as belonging to our school community. If you are picking up your child for an appointment please ask the office to page them down from their classroom. If you are dropping off lunches, please leave them on the “lunch table” in the front hallway and please ensure they are labelled.



I am sure you would agree that our students’ safety is of the utmost importance. It is important that students, parents and staff feel safe in our building and the school is not readily accessible to strangers. Aside from the daily security of our building, we are required to account for each and every child and adult who is in our school during a fire drill, emergency preparation drill, earthquake drill and lockdowns (for this reason, it is also important that you sign-out when leaving). Your cooperation with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Library Hours

Our new teacher-librarian, Ms. Grant, is settling into the library and looking at ways she can better serve the students at Pinewood. One idea she has is to open the library up every morning from 8:30 to 8:52 for students to come in and read, finish homework, or exchange books. This became effective Monday, September 18. Students will be asked to **enter and exit through the OUTSIDE LIBRARY DOOR**. There will be no access to the rest of the school during that time as there is no supervision in the building. Parents and siblings are welcomed to join as well. A big thank you to Ms. Grant for increasing student access to books and other learning resources.

Parent Connect

Our traditional method of collecting pertinent family information involved families completing forms sent home in September. Over the course of the school year this information often becomes outdated. We want to ensure that we have the most current family information possible.



You can now access Parent Connect using your email address. If you have forgotten the Password press "Forgot My Password" and the system will send you an email with this information.

By logging into "Parent Connect", families have the ability to update phone numbers, email addresses, medical information and emergency contact information. Fields that can be updated by the parent/guardian are phone numbers and email addresses, emergency contact names and phone numbers, emergency release and out of province contact names, phone numbers and email addresses.

Through Parent Connect: <https://cimsweb.deltasd.bc.ca/schoolconnect/parentssignon.aspx> parents can have access to their child's attendance record, demographic information, emergency contact information, grades and a history of grades. Parent Connect allows one-way communication with teachers and the office. Parents can also print an Info Form (Elem) or an AM/PM Absence Profile for their student. Students currently in grade 7 will use Parent Connect to select courses in high school for next year. Parents with students already attending a Delta secondary school may already be familiar with Parent Connect.

Grade 6/7 Band



This year the Delta School District is continuing our initiative to bring music instruction to all students. At Pinewood Elementary our grade sixes and sevens will be taking band and our other grades will be taking general music instruction with our music teacher, Mrs. Kato.

Student Planners

Student Planners were issued to students from grades 1-7. The book is an excellent tool to help students take responsibility for their learning and to develop good time management skills. The books are used for recording homework and communicating between home and school.



Lunch Time Reminders



Students are reminded to make sure they have proper utensils for their lunch. If you do not send your child with their lunch and you intend to bring it before 12:00 pm, please let your child know that he/she can pick it up on the lunch table in the hallway.

Lunch Time Supervision

Lunchtime supervision of students is provided by our team of noon hour supervisors: Mrs. Pearcey, Mrs. Neumann, Mrs. Brugger, and Mrs. Chong.



A reminder: students planning to leave the grounds who normally eat lunch at school must bring a dated, signed note from home giving permission to leave the grounds. **For safety reasons, students will be required to leave by the main entrance and sign out at the office and immediately return through the main entrance and sign back in upon their return.** Parents should meet their children by the main entrance for mid-day pick-ups, not their classroom door. Intermediate student monitors are used in the primary classrooms while our younger students are eating their lunch to ensure that help is available with lunch kits, lids etc. Adult supervisors are on duty throughout the school. If you become aware of problems, please contact your child's teacher or call the office.

Absentees



If your child is going to be absent from school or arriving late, please send a note to the teacher via a sibling or friend informing the teacher of the absence and phone the school (604-597-8557). Please leave a message on the machine outside of school hours, or if after 8:30 a.m. with Ms. Van Camp. Each morning our 'Safe Arrivals' parent verifies all unaccounted student absences, so to avoid being phoned about your child's absence please make your call before 9:00 a.m.

When reporting an absence please give your child's name, teacher's name, the expected length of absence and the reason for absence. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Pets on the Playground

We know that many families enjoy walking the family dog when they accompany their children to and from school. At Pinewood Elementary, we request that all pets are kept well away from the students. If you walk your dog to the school, please arrange to meet your child either off the grounds at the front of the school or on the grass field well away from the entrances and exits.



PAC NEWS

PAC Meeting



The next PAC meeting will be Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30 pm in the Library. Babysitting will be provided. This is a terrific group of parents who work hard to support school activities. In addition, they are a nice group of people to get to know. Please join us, even if you have never been to a PAC meeting before!



CALENDAR REMINDERS

Tuesday, September 26	- Div. 012 – Richmond Nature Park – 10:00-11:30 - PAC Mtg. – 6:30 - Library
Wednesday, September 27	- Div. 013 – Richmond Nature Park – 10:00-11:30
Friday, September 29	- Orange Shirt Day – wear ORANGE!! - Drumming Workshops
Thursday, October 5	- Div. 008 & 009 – Rondriso Farm – 12:00-3:00
Friday, October 6	- Div. 010 & 011 – Rondriso Farm – 12:00-3:00
Monday, October 9	- Thanksgiving – No School
Wednesday, October 11	- Cross-Country Run at Sunshine Hills Elementary – 3:30-5:15
Thursday, October 12	- Div. 007 – Burnaby Village Museum – 9:00-3:00
Tuesday, October 17	- Div. 012, 013, & 014 – Port Kells Nursery – 9:00-11:30 - PAC Mtg. – 6:30 pm - Library
Wednesday, October 18	- Grade 6 Immunizations - Parent-Teacher Interviews – 2:15 – 5:15
Thursday, October 19	- Parent-Teacher Interviews – 2:15-3:15
Friday, October 20	- Non-Instructional Day
Monday, October 23	- Non-Instructional Day
Tuesday, October 31	- Hallowe'en Parade – More details to come