



PINEWOOD ELEMENTARY

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September 21, 2023

Dear Pinewood families,

Our Pinewood community is very interested in safety, and the safety of our students and families is of utmost importance. Lately, safety in our driveway and drop off area has become very concerning, and the parent community has brought forward numerous concerns. As a result, we have been working with our PAC and school district facilities staff to come up with a safer plan for our driveway area and staff parking.

After numerous discussions, we are all in agreement that the current flow of traffic and parking in the driveway includes some risky spots. In particular, the visitor spots at the front of the school have been identified by PAC as being of particular concern. In the last two weeks alone, the visitor spots have been the location of two collisions. As well, there have been ongoing concerns about the safety of students and families on the school walking paths beside these spots. Adding more complexity, as a result of increasing school population we do not currently have enough staff parking. Families also have increasing daycare needs, and we now have more daycare buses providing service to families. For safety reasons, we need to extend some privileges for daycare buses and increase our staff parking capacity.

The plan for improvements at the front of the school will include:

- ❖ changing the visitor parking spots to 2 staff parking spots and 1 daycare drop off spot
- ❖ keeping 3 accessible parking spots
- ❖ adding signage to identify staff/daycare/accessible spots
- ❖ repainting all yellow curb lines and walking paths
- ❖ repainting the white crosswalk and arrows
- ❖ repainting wording on the driveway indicating 'staff parking,' 'slow' and directional arrows

Because of the good weather, and the forecast for rain next week, the district is able to start work today, and they will complete the work during our non-instructional day tomorrow. After drop-off today, work will be taking place in our driveway area until lunchtime and will cease to accommodate our Terry Fox Run this afternoon.

We understand that this change will have an impact on families who currently use the visitor spots, and that we will have to shift some of our routines. We are hopeful that our community will understand that this has been carefully planned with safety as the key factor, and we thank you in advance for your support. We also thank the Pinewood PAC for their thoughtful work alongside us in planning these changes. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. T. Doukas
Principal

Ms. S. Hodgins
Vice Principal