



Pinewood Elementary School

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Office Hours: 8:30 am -3:30 pm

School website: pw.deltasd.bc.ca

Principal: Mr. J. Hope



Twitter @PinewoodDelta

October 16, 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend with their close circle of family and friends. I appreciate everyone keeping their social circles limited to work towards keeping the school environment as safe as possible for everyone in the Pinewood community. It can be challenging. I know I really missed my usual large family turkey dinner but I keep reminding myself it is for now and not forever.

We continue to work on safety at the school. We had our first Duck, Cover, Hold earthquake drill and we have a Hold and Secure drill set for next week. Additionally, one of our PAC members volunteering to help with emergency preparedness, Jeanette Kumar, spent some time doing an inventory of our emergency bin with me. We confirmed that it is very well-stocked with food and water and we will be adding a few more tools to compliment the existing supplies.

This week I was part of an online information session with Medical Health Officer Dr. Ingrid Tyler of Fraser Health. It was great to hear questions from educators answered directly by Dr. Tyler regarding schools and COVID-19. Please visit Fraser Health for additional FAQ's and videos from Dr. Tyler that will provide any additional information you might be looking for.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Mr. J. Hope

SCHOOL INFO & REMINDERS

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Our first Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up on Wednesday, Oct 21 and Thursday, Oct 22. For both days there will be a **2:00 dismissal**. Teachers have sent home an interim report to give some information about a student's progress. If you would like to have a follow up conversation, please book an appointment through Parent Connect. The system is open now for bookings. If you are booking for multiple children, please leave at least a one-appointment gap between conferences. Due to COVID-19, the interviews will take place via a telephone call with the teacher. Please look for the Pinewood number or 'No Caller ID' messages on your phone during your appointment as teachers will be calling from a variety of lines. Even though this time is set aside for interviews, teachers are always available by appointment to discuss your child's progress.

Halloween Reminder



With the ongoing pandemic, we are looking for as many opportunities we can to add a little fun back into school. Halloween offers that opportunity, but like many other school activities, it will be altered at school this year. We will **not** be hosting the Halloween parade or having parties with lots of goodies as shared food is not permitted. Each teacher will plan some in-class activities with their kids. Students may bring their own individual treat in their lunches to have but there is no sharing of food or large party trays of any kind. **Please do not send**

any treats for groups of kids. If students wish to wear a costume to school on Friday, October 30, they may put it on at home and wear it for the day. Please remember that costumes should be school-appropriate and not cause safety concerns while being worn (including but not limited to masks restricting vision, no guns or weapons, exaggerated gore, cultural insensitivity). We also ask that costumes be easy to sit and learn in, easy to use in the washroom, and students must be able to put it on and take it off without assistance. **Costumes and food can not be dropped off during the day.**

Remembrance Day Assembly

Every year on the day before Remembrance Day, schools honor the day by holding an assembly to pause and reflect on the rights and privileges we enjoy in our country. Due to Covid-19 restrictions on the size of a group that can gather, we will be altering that plan. Classes who wish to participate will create individual content that will be collated into a recorded presentation. This presentation will be posted online for classes to watch during what would normally be our assembly time on November 10. We will post the link for our community to view as we usually have a large community presence at this assembly. We will still be collecting donations for the Poppy Fund beginning November 4.



PAC Meeting



Our next PAC meeting will be held on Monday, October 16 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. Look for the link to come out in the PAC emails. Please join us, even if you have never been to a PAC meeting before!

Emergency Contacts

As we work on updating our safety procedures for the year, we have an action item for parents. In your child's Parent Connect account you will find all sorts of information from basic demographics to attendance records and report cards. Two important pieces of information we need updated every year are the EMERGENCY CONTACTS and EMERGENCY RELEASE names. Emergency Contacts are people we can phone during the day if a child is sick and we can't get through to a parent. These people can pick up kids for short periods of time. Emergency Release people are able to pick up kids for a long period of time or in a crisis situation like an earthquake for example. These are separate lists and if parents want the same people to be on both lists, they **must enter them onto each list separately**. It is also recommended that parents add another family or two in the neighborhood onto the Emergency Release list so kids can go with someone close by should regular caregivers not be able to get to the school in an emergency. If you have any difficulty updating this information, please contact the school.

Arrival at School

It is important for students to arrive on time to school. In our current situation, we ask kids to arrive just before the bell, head straight into their lineups, and not mingle with kids from other cohorts. We also ask parents to keep their distance from the kids or wear a mask if you have to approach your child in the lineup as it brings you within 2m of other children. If the second bell has gone and your child finds the entry doors closed, they must report to the front door and knock for Mrs. Sim to let them in. If there is a large number of kids, they will have to wait outside for the hall to clear before being let in.



Please do your absolute best to ensure children arrive on time as it is disruptive to their learning, to the classroom, and to the safety procedures in place.

Lost and Found

We will put our Lost and Found rack out front of the school periodically. Because of limited access to the school, it is difficult to have a quick look for an item. If your child is missing something, please give the school a call and we can check the rack for you. To help prevent losses, please label all your child's belongings with a first name and initial.



Parent Connect



Even if you think you have already completed these steps, please log on and double-check ...

Thank you to everyone who logged onto Parent Connect to update your emergency contact information and approve your annual permissions (if these are not complete your child will not be able to go on walking field trips, have their photos taken at school, etc.)! Please take some time to ensure all of these are done by following the steps below. Parents can use the email address the school has on file for you to log in. You can access it via a link on the school webpage or from this link: (Please ensure that your browser allows for pop ups on this site).

<https://cimsweb.deltasd.bc.ca/schoolconnect/parentsignore.aspx>

Please log onto Parent Connect using your email address and **password** (if you have forgotten your password click on **Forgot My Password** and your password will be emailed to you). You will need to do this for each of your children attending Pinewood Elementary School.

To add **Emergency Release** information, click on the **Profile** button, select Basic Demographics, and then the green button **Emergency/Out of Prov/Other Contacts**. Click on the **Edit** button on the left side of any row to add contact info. Don't forget to hit **SAVE** after you make each change/addition.

IMPORTANT: Please note that an **ER - Emergency Release** is different than an Emergency Contact. **In the event of a catastrophic emergency, we are only permitted to release students to people who are listed in the ER - Emergency Release section of Parent Connect.** You may want to have the same people under your **Emergency Contacts** as you have in your **ER - Emergency Release**, it's up to you.

Click on the **Forms** tab and give your consent/permission to **ALL** of the following:

- ❖ Demographic Information up-to-date
- ❖ Emergency Release Information up-to-date
- ❖ Google Docs Consent (Gr. 2-7 only)
- ❖ Photographs/Video/Website Consent
- Walking Field Trip Consent
- Fruit and Veggie Consent
- Outside Media Consent form
- ***Daily Health Check

Don't forget to **SAVE** all the changes you are making. Repeat for all children attending Pinewood Elementary.

Dressing for the Weather



Although we enjoyed some wonderful fall weather and many warm sunny days, cooler days are now upon us. As the temperature continues to dip, it is important that the students come dressed in outerwear appropriate for the cold, wet, and wind. Here on the West Coast, rain is just a fact of life. Students will be going outside at recess, lunchtime and for classroom instruction. It is only in the case of **extremely poor** weather, that we designate the recess and/or lunch hour as an “in day” which means that students are to stay inside and play quietly in their classrooms rather than venture outdoors. We refrain from doing this unless absolutely necessary, as the children need the opportunity to get out in the fresh air and be physically active before heading back into the classroom.

Not only do students need to be dressed warmly to enjoy themselves outside but it's essential in the event of an emergency or unexpected situation requiring a building evacuation. Many students are still coming to school without jackets and wearing shorts and hoodies ... even on the coldest, rainiest of days. Please ensure your children come to school dressed accordingly to be outside at recess and lunchtime (e.g. boots, coat, and umbrella). Because our field also gets quite mucky and wet at this time of year, packing an extra set of clothes into your child's backpack, no matter what grade they are in, is also suggested.

