



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

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Oct 2, 2020



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is hard to believe that September is over. There is a sense of calm as teachers and students have settled into routines. I am pleased to say that over 95% of our student population has returned to face-to-face learning with their peers and teachers. I can't tell you how nice it is to have the staff and students back in the building.

It has been an adjustment learning new routines and procedures while getting learning programs up and running. I want to thank everyone who has helped to create the safest possible environment at school. It has been very helpful to have parents keep students at home with any sign of illness and to clear the playground before and after school. We ask that everyone continues to err on the side of caution, and keep kids at home if they show any symptoms of any illness at all. Our goal is to prevent germs and viruses from coming into the school and from going home. These actions, combined with the efforts of staff and students in the building, have helped to reduce the initial anxiety many people felt about returning to school.

We continue to learn and review other aspects of school safety. We completed our first fire drill this week. Students should be commended for their conduct in the drill while maintaining social distance. The traffic in front of the school tends to get worse as the weather becomes more fall-like. Please remember to follow speed signs, no U-turn signs, parking regulations, and keeping the painted area in front of Watershed Park clear of traffic as it is meant as a safe U-turn location. I am also very pleased to see some families who are bringing their dogs to school keeping them outside the fence and away from children as many students are not comfortable around animals. Thank you to everyone for your cooperation with these safety measures.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Sincerely,

Mr. J. Hope

SCHOOL INFO & REMINDERS

Staff Changes

We welcome the following new staff members to our school:

Ms. Harman Maan- Education Assistant

Ms. Rasan Samra- Noon Hour Supervisor



Student Clothing

A reminder that students will be outside every recess and lunch. They will also be outside more frequently as part of their daily lessons. Please have boots, jackets, and umbrellas for students when needed. If possible, try to leave some labelled gear at the school. We ask ALL students to have a labeled change of clothes and footwear at school in case of a slip in the mud or any other kind of incident.

Student Lates

We are finding more students are coming to school late. Not only is it disruptive to the class, students often miss crucial instructions for the day. In the current situation, tardiness creates safety challenges when kids from different cohorts try to run in with other classes or gather at the front of the school waiting for admission into the building. Please utilize strategies for being on time. Things like: make lunches the night before, pre-load backpacks and have them waiting by the door, decide on outfits the night before, turn the clocks a few minutes ahead, leave home with enough travel time, account for high traffic volumes in front of the school and limited parking to name a few. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Parent/ Teacher Conferences

Effective communication between home and the school is very important for student success. Due to COVID-19 we have had to change the way we conduct those conferences this year. The dates set aside are Wednesday, Oct 21 and Thursday, October 22. On both days there is a 2:00pm dismissal. Before those

dates teachers will be sending home an age-appropriate interim report. This will serve as a talking point during follow up telephone conferences that parents will book during conference days via Parent Connect. Parents may select one 15-minute timeslot if they wish to have a follow up conversation with the teacher. During that time, teachers will call the parent. Please be ready at your selected time to answer a call with no caller ID or an indication the call is coming from the school. In order to stay on schedule, teachers will need to adhere very closely with the scheduled times so if further conversation is needed, then another appointment can be set.

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 Medical Alert Card and Request for Administration of Medication at School form from the office (if you have not already done so). These forms must be completed each year and are required to be signed by your physician.

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day was on Wednesday, Sept 30. We had many children wearing orange and learning about the history and impact of Canada's Residential School System. Students were introduced to the topic with grade appropriate stories, films, and websites.

Terry Fox Run

Thank you to Mrs. Ke's class for presenting information about Terry Fox over the PA system at school. It was a good way to inform everyone about the importance of Terry's legacy and to acknowledge the 40th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope. Because of Covid-19 we were not able to hold our traditional school-wide run but each class was able to do their own. Donations are still coming in, but Pinewood is up over \$550.00. Way to go Pinewood!

Halloween 2020

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. We ask that it 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.**

Student Planners

Student Planners have been 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.



Report Cards

A reminder that the first report card of the school year will come out on Thursday, December 10. These report cards will be issued in electronic format only and will be available for viewing that day on Parent Connect.

Community Thank you

I would like to thank a Pinewood Parent, Clement Hwang, for securing a donation of 5 cases of additional disposable face masks for adults and students from T & T Supermarket.

Photo Retakes and Class Photos

On Monday, October 26 we will have Darby Photos back to do individual photo retakes. While they are here we will do class photos. Each class is its own learning bubble so it is safe to do so with the photographers maintaining physical distancing.

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 Meeting

The next PAC meeting will be Monday, October 19 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. A link will be distributed through the PAC email. Please join us, even if you have never been to a PAC meeting before!

