

Merry Christmas



Pinewood Elementary School

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School website: pw.deltasd.bc.ca

Principal: Mr. J. Hope



Twitter: @PinewoodDelta

December 11, 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Pinewood Community,

It is hard to believe we are already approaching the end of 2020. It has definitely been a challenging year on many fronts, but we persevered! As you may have heard, I will not be returning to Pinewood on January 4, 2021 when classes are scheduled to resume. I have been given a new assignment at Hawthorne Elementary in Ladner, set to begin after the winter break. I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their support, not only for me, but for the path the school has been on since my arrival here. It has been my pleasure to work with your children and I hope I have helped make their school experience a positive one. I value all the connections I have made with families and staff and feel honoured to have been part of your lives for the last four years.



Pinewood will be left in excellent hands. All of our teaching and support staff will continue on through the rest of the year to provide the same outstanding learning environment you are accustomed to. I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Ms. Tina Doukas as the new principal at Pinewood. Ms. Doukas is coming to us highly recommended from Chalmers Elementary School. She has toured the school with me to meet the staff and the kids so they can put a name to a face. I am working closely with her to ensure a smooth transition with emphasis on the continuation of our health and safety practices. I will continue to be in contact with Ms. Doukas after my departure to help with the transition and to provide some insight and advice if needed. Please take some time in the new year to introduce yourselves when you can so she can start becoming part of the Pinewood Community. I know she is extremely happy to be joining our school.

I know change can be disruptive for people, particularly kids. Please help them to reframe their thinking to see the transition as an opportunity to meet a new person, learn some new things, and to be the 'expert' who can share what they know about their school. I have great faith that all the Pinewood students will adjust to a new principal, just like they so expertly adjusted to the new routines and expectations around health.

In closing, I thank you all for the gift of working with your children. I will most certainly miss them. I hope you all have a safe and healthy winter break where you can take some time to celebrate all the things that are going well and the things that we have to be thankful for.

Sincerely,

Mr. J. Hope
Principal

On behalf of the entire Pinewood Elementary staff I would like to wish our community a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! I also want to wish everyone all the best for a happy and healthy 2021!

SCHOOL INFO & REMINDERS

Annual Pinewood Elementary Food Drive

It has been a yearly tradition for Pinewood to hold a food drive raising donations for our community. With Covid-19, we have not been able to do this in its regular form but we are still collecting donations. Mrs. Ke's class has led the initiative to have GIFT CARDS or CASH donations made that we will pass on to the food bank. They will use those resources to purchase the supplies for those in need. The last day to send in donations is December 15.



Health and Safety Update

We continue to implement the safety protocols in our school. The most important tool we have is ensuring everyone who enters the building is healthy. Please continue to complete the Daily Health Check before sending your children to school and please keep them home if there is a sign of any illness. Fraser Health has updated their notification processes for schools so that when there is an exposure at the school, more specific information will be sent home for

classes directly affected, with general information going out to the rest of the school. They will also update the schools when the exposure event is concluded. If you are looking for further information regarding Covid-19 and schools, Fraser Health has a School Hub set up that can be contacted at 604-587-4769. We are fortunate not to have a letter sent out yet and this is only possible with the ongoing vigilance of staff and families in the community. Thank you for your efforts!

Well-being Note- Focus on the Positive

When you ask parents what they want for their kids, the most common reply is that they want their children to be happy. Several years ago, Time magazine featured an [article](#) called *How to Raise Happy Kids: 10 Steps Backed by Science*. The article points out that while sometimes it's hard to balance what's best for children with what makes them happy, the two don't have to be mutually exclusive.

We encourage you to read the full article, but if you don't have time, here are the 10 steps:

1. Get happy yourself
2. Teach them to build relationships
3. Expect effort, not perfection
4. Teach optimism
5. Teach emotional intelligence
6. Form happiness habits
7. Teach self-discipline
8. More playtime
9. Rig their environment for happiness
10. Eat dinner together

Christmas Concert – Wednesday, December 18



Our students have been hard at work preparing a Christmas concert that meets Covid safety protocols. Much like the Remembrance Day assembly, we will be producing a video concert which will be shared with the community. A link and password will be emailed out to families on Wednesday, December 16. Each class will have a contribution to the concert which will add much needed joy and happiness this holiday season.

Term 1 Report Cards

On **Thursday, December 10**, the first formal, written report card was made available to families on Parent Connect. As was the case last year, we did not issue paper copies of report cards. Report cards and IEPs are visible under the FOLDER tab in your child's account on Parent Connect. There is a link to the login for Parent Connect on the school webpage.

As you sit down to discuss your child's report card with him/her, keep in mind the following conversation prompts:

- **What are you learning?** Why is it important? How does it connect with your life?
- **How are you doing with your learning?** What kind of feedback do you get? What are your strengths? What are the things that you find hard? How do you “stick with it” when things are challenging? Areas of challenge provide children with opportunities to demonstrate perseverance, diligence, and determination, virtues that we want to foster in our children.
- **Where to next?** How could you improve? What are you still wondering about? What will you do or think differently about now that you have learned some new things?



Thank you for your positive partnership with us in helping your child to succeed at school. If you have questions about how you can support your child in their learning, please contact their classroom teacher.

Weather Information 2020-2021

Announcements of District-wide Closures and/or Delayed Openings of Schools



As winter weather has arrived, we want to remind you of the Delta School District's winter weather procedures and announcements. All schools in the Delta School District will remain **OPEN** if at all possible during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 7:00 a.m. at the latest and will be announced through the media as well as through the District and school websites. Please note that no announcement will be made stating that schools are open. Only closures and delayed openings will be announced.

Information about any district-wide closures will be sent to Metro Vancouver radio and television stations. Please check the following stations for school closure information:

Radio	Television
CBC AM 690 radio, 88.1 FM	Global BC
CKNW AM 980 radio	CBC TV
News AM 1130 radio	CTV BC

Announcements of school closures or delayed openings will be posted on the School District's website. Individual school closures due to unique circumstances (e.g., power outages) will be announced as early as possible on the District website as well as on the affected schools' websites. On occasion, schools may delay the start of the school day; if this happens, specific details will be posted on the school and District websites.

Student safety is the first priority of the Delta School District. Parents/Guardians are responsible for their children's safe travel to and from school. If, for any reason, a parent/guardian feels that a child cannot travel safely to school, then they should make other arrangements. Schools will be kept open except under extreme circumstances to provide the option of attendance for all, but the decision to attend is the responsibility of each family.

During extreme weather conditions it is also common for police and other authorities to advise citizens to avoid unnecessary travel. Parents should take this advice as well. Students will not be penalized for lack of attendance under such advice. This is also a reminder to all students to dress warmly and wear appropriate clothing. Sidewalks and roads can be extremely slippery and so students walking to school are advised to take extra care. At this time, we encourage you to review your own preparations for winter weather and ensure that you are familiar with your local snow and ice response procedures. We request that you strictly adhere to parking restrictions in and around all Delta schools.

Snow will only be cleared to a main building access point and from driveways. Playgrounds and other areas will not be cleared.

Dressing for the Weather

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. On most days, students will be going outside at recess and lunchtime. 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 enough to enjoy themselves outside at recess and lunch, but having warm clothing is also essential in the event of an emergency or unexpected situation requiring a building evacuation. Because our field also gets quite mucky and wet at this time of year, packing an extra pair of socks, underwear and pants into your child's backpack is also suggested, no matter what their age is.

Lost & Found

Please look for the "Lost and Found" out the front of the school next time you are there. Compared to the same time in previous years there are very few items in it. Still, if you are missing a coat or sweater, please check it out.



PAC NEWS

PAC Meeting



There will not be a PAC meeting in December due to the shortened month of classes. Our next PAC meeting will be on Zoom on Monday, January, 18, 2021. 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!