

PINEWOOD COMMUNITY POST

Working as a team to guide, support and challenge children within a safe and caring school community.

This Week's Important Dates

Sept. 11-15: Kindergarten Gradual Entry continues

Sept. 11-15: Students begin regular schedules, including library and music instruction



Welcome Back!

Welcome back to a new school year! We were so happy to welcome our students back to school this week. Our staff has worked very hard to be ready for students this year, and they are so happy to have met their new classes today. Today, classes are getting down to work, learning new routines, establishing school and classroom culture, and making new friends. We are very much looking forward to a year full of engaging learning experiences and fun memories with peers. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office or the classroom teacher with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Ms. T. Doukas Ms. S. Hodgins

Welcome to New Staff

We are pleased to welcome some new and returning staff to Pinewood this year:

Ms. Lexine Ashe - Grade 2/3 (Tuesdays)
Ms. Jelena Milan - Education Assistant

Class Placements

Today was an exciting day at Pinewood. Soon after the morning bell, students were moved into their classes for the 2023-2024 school year. As this time of transition, we will be supporting the students at school, and we ask for your support as well. Transitions can sometimes be difficult for students, and we have learned that positive encouragement goes a long way. It's going to be a great year and each of the students were very thoughtfully placed in their new class for the year – it will be fun for them to grow and learn with a new group of classmates. It often takes time for students to adapt to a new learning environment. We appreciate your support during this time of transition and encourage you to reach out to your child's classroom teacher if they need some extra help getting used to new routines.

Upcoming Events

Wed., Sept. 20 - Individual Photos (AM)

Wed, Sept. 20 - 5:00-6:00pm: Open House

Thurs., Sept. 21 - Hot Lunch Day

Thurs., Sept. 21 - Terry Fox Run

Fri., Sept. 22 - Non-Instructional Day (School closed for students)

Mon., Sept. 26 - 6:00pm PAC meeting

Fri., Sept. 29 - Orange Shirt Day

Monday, Oct. 2 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (School closed)

Thank you!

To all of our Pinewood families for supporting our students as they start a new school year!

To our PAC for providing a school supply purchase option!

To our community for practicing road safety in our neighbourhood and driveway!



Some background: The number of staff members assigned to Pinewood Elementary is decided by the Delta School District and is based on projected student enrolment. Enrolment numbers and class size guidelines affect the configuration of classes. Combined classes are an organizational necessity based on student numbers. Research also indicates that multi-age groupings (combined classes) provide very positive learning environments for children. Studies show that children in multi-age classes learn to become more independent, responsible learners and develop a greater degree of social responsibility. Achievement levels of these students are as good as, or better than, the achievement levels of students placed in single grade classrooms.

Assigning students to classes is a very complex task that takes into consideration a variety of factors including learning styles and strengths, what a student can achieve in relation to the goals of the curriculum, degree of independence in work habits, social and personal needs, age and physical maturity, previous placements, diverse learning needs of the students, as well as parental insight. Our objective is to create balanced classes, taking all the above into consideration.

For this school year, classes have been assigned as follows:

Div. 1	Faith Edworthy	Grade 7
Div. 2	Mr. J. Henderson	Grade 6/7
Div. 3	Mr. S. Clay	Grade 5/6
Div. 4	Ms. K. Bains/Mr. L. Bhangu	Grade 5/6
Div. 5	Ms. E. Melan	Grade 5/6
Div. 6	Ms. R. Ke	Grade 4/5
Div. 7	Ms. S. Hodgins	Grade 4
Div. 8	Ms. P. Mischke	Grade 3/4
Div. 9	Ms. H. Sidhu	Grade 3
Div. 10	Ms. J. Sidhu/Ms. L. Ashe	Grade 2/3
Div. 11	Ms. C. Weger	Grade 1/2
Div. 12	Ms. V. Bastin	Grade 1/2
Div. 13	Ms. A. Quan	Grade 1/2
Div. 14	Ms. C. Warnock	Kindergarten
Div. 15	Ms. A. Tesan	Kindergarten

School Schedule

First Bell: 8:55am

School in Session: 9:00am - 3:00pm

Recess: 10:30am - 10:45am

Lunch: Eat 12:08pm- 12:28pm, Play 12:28pm-12:58pm

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Please make every effort to have students at school on time so they can enter directly through their classroom doors. If students arrive late to school, they may enter the school through the front doors and sign in at the office.

Partners in Health and Safety

We would like to ask families to review the following health and safety routines:

- Wash and sanitize hands often
- Practice good respiratory etiquette by sneezing and coughing into your elbow
- Respect the personal space of others
- Stay home when sick

Be Prepared

Please ensure students come fully prepared for the day:

Clothing & Sunscreen - Please send your child with proper clothing for the weather, as we will spend time outdoors. Sunscreen should be applied at home. Parents are also encouraged to send an extra set of clothes, in a sealed plastic bag in your child's backpack, labelled with your child's name.

Food & Water - Please ensure your child brings snacks, a refillable water bottle and a lunch to school each day. Should a student forget their lunch, they will not go hungry. We will have some food supplies on hand for emergencies, or families will be contacted by Mrs. Verma.

Drinks at School

At Pinewood, students are encouraged to bring a full water bottle to school each day. The water bottle can be kept with the student at their desk or in an easily accessible location that the classroom teacher has identified. During the lunch eating time, students may drink juice boxes or other such drink choices that parents have chosen to provide. At the end of the eating time, it is expected that these 'other' drinks are finished or put away according to teacher instructions. Such drinks must be easily resealed. This is to avoid sticky spillage which can damage student work. Additionally, parents are asked to refrain from delivering drinks other than water during the school day.

Student Planners

This year, most teachers have opted to use student planners. Unfortunately, there has been a fire in the supplier's warehouse, and our student planners will be delayed this school year. Teachers will plan for an alternate communication system as we await their arrival. Once they have arrived, individual classes will be notified if planners will be required and a notice will be sent home outlining how to cover the cost of the planner.

Parking and Drop Offs

Traffic can be very busy at the front of our school. The traffic circle can be used as a drop off and pick up lane – it is only for a quick exit of the vehicle and pick up if the student is there and all ready to enter the car. We have 4 visitor parking spots at the end of the traffic circle and two accessible spots as well for those with a permit. You can also leave your car on neighbouring streets and walk onto the school grounds.

Please be mindful of our neighbours' driveways and follow all signage. The parking lot is for staff only between 8:00am and 4:00pm and is not to be used for pick up and drop off. Additional parking and safety information has been shared in an attachment with this newsletter and is posted on our school website.

Band and Music

This year, Pinewood will continue to offer music education to all students, under the skilled guidance of Mrs. Kato. In the spring, the Delta School District decided to remove the requirement for mandatory band instruction in grade 7. After surveying our parent group, there was overwhelming support to continue band for grade 7 students at Pinewood this year. As a result, Mrs. Kato will offer band instruction to Divisions 1 and 2 only this year, while Divisions 3-15 will receive general music instruction. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Mrs. Kato or the school office for more information.

