

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

Monday, November 27 - Non-Instructional Day (School Closed)

Tuesday, November 28 - 6:00pm: PAC meeting

Thursday, November 30 - Hot Lunch



Pinewood Updates

It's hard to believe that we have entered the final four weeks of school before the winter holidays! This month, we have had many successes to reflect upon. Notably, our students have been working hard in the classroom and in athletics; we have also had art and music thriving in our building, as was evidenced during our Remembrance Day Assembly. Members of our school choir will also be representing Pinewood at the North Delta Christmas Tree Lighting tomorrow with Mrs. Kato. It is sure to be a wonderful community event. We have many activities planned for December, and we will certainly have some fun here as we get ready for the holidays. Please read on to hear more about what's coming up at Pinewood. We wish all of our families a wonderful weekend!

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

ArtCards

ArtCards have gone home to families this week. If you are interested in placing an order for this fundraiser, please follow the instructions provided inside the sample card. Orders can be placed at www.artcardsbykids.com. The red code on the back of the sample card will be needed for ordering. The deadline for ordering is Tuesday, November 28.

Panther Fridays

We have initiated 'Panther Fridays' Spirit Days! Staff and students are encouraged to wear black and purple or Pinewood spirit wear. Go Panthers!

Upcoming Events

Dec. 5-8 - Scholastic Book Fair

Thursday, December 14 -

Term 1 Report Cards posted

December 20 - Winter Concert

December 22 - Last Day of School before Winter Break

Thank you!

To families for supporting our ArtCards fundraiser!

To families for the generous support of our Holiday Giving Initiatives!

For ensuring students have clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather, especially in cold and icy conditions!

Parking Guidelines

Traffic and parking are concerns at every school. Our most important concern is the safety of our entire community (students, parents, staff and visitors). We are grateful to our community for adherence to the adjusted driveway and parking procedures this year. Our traffic flow appears to be safer than before, and the placement of cones along Pinewood/Briarwood has helped our pedestrians to be more safe as well. Please continue to follow these guidelines carefully:

- The parking lot is for staff only.
- No drop-offs or pick-ups are permitted in the staff parking lot.
- The traffic circle is for drop-off and pick-up.
- There are three accessible parking spaces in the driveway:
 - **Accessible parking spaces are only for those individuals who display a valid parking permit**
 - **If you do not have a permit, please do not use accessible spaces for drop-off and pick-up of students at any time**
- Do not park in the Bus/Fire Zone.
- Do not park in the new 'Daycare' drop off and pick up spot between 8:30-9:15am and 2:30-3:15pm
- There is also parking on both sides of Pinewood Drive and on Alderwood Crescent.
- Do not block the traffic circle or driveway for any reason.
- If a child requires the driver's assistance to enter or exit the vehicle (including booster seats) and parent supervision walking to the building or class line-up, please park safely and give yourself extra time to walk to the school grounds. We are especially busy at 8:40-9:05am and 2:50-3:10pm. Whenever possible, walk or bike to school.
- U-turns are permitted only in the designated space at the end of Pinewood Drive, at the entrance to the watershed. This area is marked with white, crosshatched lines. No U-turns are permitted elsewhere in our school zone.
- Please remember, your children are watching you follow or not follow these guidelines. It can be uncomfortable for everyone involved if a staff member has to remind a driver of these guidelines; it is very important that everyone sets an example of good citizenship for our students.

Thank you for taking the extra time each day to ensure a safe drop-off and pick-up for all students.

Daycare Drop-Offs

For families who use the Pinewood Before and After School Care, it is very important to follow the guidelines for dropping off children. Mornings can be very hectic, and accidents can easily occur. For everyone's safety, please do not pull in quickly, u-turn in the parking lot, stop in the no-parking area by the chains, or leave your car running while exiting your car to drop off children. All of this is unsafe for parents and students, as well as for staff who are arriving to work. We appreciate everyone's attention to safety on our school grounds.

Holiday Concert

Our students and staff have been continuing to prepare for the upcoming Holiday Concerts scheduled for **Wednesday, December 20** as follows:

Afternoon Performance: 1:30 (doors open at 1:00 pm)

Evening Performance: 6:00 (doors open at 5:30 pm)

Parents and family members are invited to attend one performance only. Given the number of families in our school, we are asking that parents limit the number of family members who attend. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis and there will be no reserved seating. Please note that the gym doors will open 30 minutes before show time as last-minute preparations will be occurring until that point. If you wish to arrive earlier than that, please line-up by the side of the Leisure Centre to eventually enter through the outside gym doors facing our playground area. The gym will not be accessible through the school. For the evening show, students will be let in the hallway door next to the gym at the back of the school at 5:30, or the front door. They will go to their classrooms and can be picked up at the end of the evening from their classes. We ask all guests to remain for the entire duration of the concert in order to honour and respect the work of all students.

Giving Back- Holiday Initiatives

As shared with families earlier this week, this holiday season, Pinewood is again taking on an initiative to give back to children and families in need in our community. Under the leadership of our library teacher, Ms. Loodu, we have decided to support the Deltassist Angel Tree Gift Drive. Please see the letter to families attached with this newsletter.

Additionally, we will be communicating very soon about a non-perishable food drive as well. Please watch for more information.

Extended Vacations

Please note our procedures around extended vacations, as published in the student planner:

While we appreciate that families cannot always plan and work around the same schedule as the school, the teacher is not expected by the School District to provide work for a student to do while they are away. Most lessons that teachers do in class involve explanation, discussion, group work, and materials that are not easily assigned as independent study. Sometimes, lesson plans change. It will be the student's responsibility to find out what was covered while he/she was away. We suggest instead that students take along some age-appropriate reading material and write a daily journal or keep a holiday scrapbook in order to apply their literacy skills.

Family Learning Opportunity - Digital Literacy/Online Safety - Extra Session

ERASE Learning Sessions

Due to high demand, the Ministry of Education and Childcare is offering an additional "Social Media Awareness" Family Session on December 5th at 6:30pm. This 60 minute session will be held virtually via zoom.

To register for this session please click on the link below.

[Family Session: Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities Tickets, Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

This virtual ERASE learning session for families and children will focus on establishing safe, caring, and respectful digital communities. This online session is best suited for families and youth aged 10 and above.

Details: Recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up as a way to facilitate the conversation of safe and caring use of technology at home and in the community. This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sexortion. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.

Students will learn:

- Digital media habits, oversharing, and digital addiction
- The permanence of online posts/activity
- The significance of your digital tattoo in how others perceive you (e.g., sports teams, college admissions, and potential employers)
- The importance of caring for peers both online and offline

- Geo-locational settings and the dangers of social media and cell phone misuse
- The social and legal consequences of cyberbullying behaviour as well as possession and distribution of intimate images (sexting and sextortion)
- An anonymous student reporting tool that can help you and your friends stay safe both online and offline

Have You Ever Thought of Becoming a Foster Parent?

Do you share a desire to help children and youth reach their full potential? Currently in B.C. there are many kids who need foster families when they can't live at home. Many of these children and teens have experienced trauma and difficult times.

The children need amazing foster families who are committed to their care and provide support so that they can grow and develop in a positive way. Please see the link below for more information:

[Caring for children and youth in B.C. - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/caring-for-children-and-youth-in-bc/)

If this is something you would be interested in, or if you would like more information, please contact:

Ministry of Children & Family Development, South Fraser Recruitment Team (FII) at 604.209.2681.

PAC

The next PAC meeting will be Tuesday, November 28 at 6:00 pm in the school Learning Commons. The next Hot Lunch dates are November 30 and December 21.