

PINEWOOD COMMUNITY POST

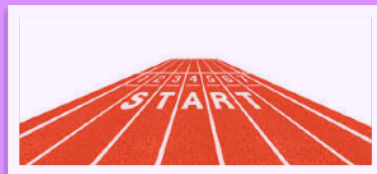
Working as a team to guide, support and challenge children within a safe and caring school community.

This Week's Important Dates

Mon., Apr. 29: 'Cinderella' at Seaquam for Div. 1-10

Thurs., May 2: Grade 1 and 2 immunization catch up with Fraser Health

Fri., May 3: Fro-Yo Friday



Pinewood Updates

Dear Pinewood families,

I am writing to you all today to share the news that my time as Principal of Pinewood is sadly coming to an end. This summer, I will be transferred to begin the 2024-2025 school year as the new principal of Richardson Elementary School.

I am very grateful to have started my journey as a principal here at Pinewood. This is a very special school, and a kind, caring and generous community. It has been my pleasure to work and learn with your children over the last 3.5 years, and I look forward to the many curious, inventive, and joyful moments that are still to come in the next 2 months.

Pinewood will be left in very capable hands. Ms. Hodgins will be staying on at Pinewood as Vice-Principal; the incoming principal is Mr. Taj Reel, who is an experienced Delta administrator. He has most recently been principal at South Park Elementary in Tsawwassen, and he is looking forward to joining the Pinewood community in September.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms. T. Doukas Ms. S. Hodgins

Planning for 2024-2025

As we plan for the next school year, one significant event for staff is to start planning for the setup of classes for next year. At Pinewood, just like at all other schools, there are always changes to our student population and school staff each year. To help us make the best decisions possible, it is extremely important that our student numbers are accurate. Because of this, I would ask that families who are certain to be moving out of our area to

Upcoming Events

Monday, May 6 - Regional Track Meet

Friday, May 10: Fred Fox Presentation (Terry Fox Foundation)

Thursday, May 16 - District Track Meet (for qualifying students)

Friday, May 17 - Pro-D Day - School Closed

Monday, May 20 - Victoria Day - School Closed

Wed. May 22-Fri. May 24: Grade 7s Camp Summit

Thurs., May 23 - Grade 6 Immunizations

Tues., May 28 and **Fri.**, May 31: Bike Hub for Grades 4 and 5

Friday, June 14: Sports Day

Tuesday, June 25 - Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony

Thursday, June 27 -Last day for students (10:30am dismissal)

Thank you!

To our families for supporting student learning during Student Led Conferences!

To everyone who checked the Lost and Found this week!

To families for sharing special recipes with classes!

contact the school as soon as possible. Similarly, if you know of a family moving into our area, please encourage them to register their children as soon as possible.

Additionally, I would like to make families aware of some of the many factors that are important in organizing classes for next year:

STAFFING AND CLASS SIZE:

The number of staff members assigned to Pinewood is decided by the Delta School District and is based on projected student enrolment. Enrolment estimates and class size guidelines affect the configuration of classes. Class composition language also determines how classes can be set up to meet contractual obligations. Combined (split) classes are an organizational necessity based on our student numbers. Teachers' instruction and assessment cycles are guided by the curriculum and the needs of the students in their classes. Multi-age groupings provide very positive learning environments for children. Children in multi-age classes often learn to become more independent, responsible learners and develop a greater degree of social responsibility. The diversity of abilities and interests of students in straight classes can be equally as great as the range in combined classes; not all children of the same chronological age are at the same stage of development or learning.

CRITERIA FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT:

Assigning students to particular classes is a very complex task that teachers spend many hours working on collaboratively. When staff build classes for the next year, they take into consideration a variety of factors. These include but are not limited to: learning styles and strengths, what a student is able to 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, behaviour, and the distribution of support resources. The professional staff, including teachers, support staff, and administrators are in contact with the children in the school setting for 30 hours a week. Therefore, the classroom placement of students must be determined through school-based, professional evaluations. Our objective is to create balanced classes where all students can be successful. I fully trust that our Pinewood teachers have an excellent understanding of the academic, behavioural, and social needs of the children in our school and therefore can

best determine where individual children should be placed.

PARENT INPUT:

As our partners, we recognize that parents have important information that may assist with the placement of students. Parents are welcome to provide insight to the school about personal, medical, or social needs that could affect a child's learning environment. Our staff will keep this information in mind where possible, along with the above considerations when building classes. This information should not include a request for placement with, or not with, a particular teacher. Any requests received that request a specific teacher will not be considered. To offer this input, a downloadable form is available on the Pinewood website under OUR SCHOOL >REGISTRATION. We have also attached it to this email communication. When completed, the form must be emailed to the principal at tdoukas@deltaschools.ca by May 31, 2024.

Input received after this date cannot be accommodated.

Many factors, such as maternity leaves, retirements and lay-offs combine to make school staffing a changing and on-going process. Also, staff members may change grade levels due to school needs or to further professional growth. This may mean that your child is placed with the same teacher for a second year or that your child could be in a combined class for two consecutive years. Whatever the scenario, we strive to place your child in a warm, caring environment that will maximize their learning.

Track and Field

Grade 4-7 students have all been taking part in our Track and Field program. Students will be informed of their events and will be bringing home permission slips very soon. Please return these to school as soon as possible.

Are you moving over the summer?

If you know you are moving over the summer and your children will not be returning to Pinewood, please let the office know as soon as possible. We are already beginning to plan for next year, and this information is always very helpful.

Student Illness

Just a reminder to check student wellness before coming to school. If symptoms of illness are present, please assess whether students are better off staying home.

Families Experiencing Hardship

If any families are requiring financial support for end of year activities, please reach out to our school office in confidence. Ms. Doukas and Ms. Hodgins welcome any requests for support.

Lost and Found

We are happy to report that during Student-Led Conferences, many items were picked up by students and families! Please come by the school to check the many remaining Lost and Found items in our main hallway. At the end of June, all items will be donated to charity.

PAC

The next PAC meeting will be Monday, June 10 at 6:00 pm in the school Learning Commons. All Pinewood parents are automatically members of the PAC, and all are welcome to come to these meetings. Babysitting will be provided. The PAC can be reached at PinewoodConnect@gmail.com

Stay tuned for our next steps with "Sharing our Stories!"

