

# Pitt Meadows Secondary School Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows



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Dear PMSS Families:

*Welcome  
Back!!*

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Pitt! I hope this letter finds you refreshed, rejuvenated, and filled with anticipation for the wonderful learning experiences that lie ahead. Whether you are a returning marauder, a new student, a dedicated staff member, or a valued parent/guardian/caregiver, I want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you.

At PMSS, we believe in creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment that nurtures the intellectual, emotional, and social growth of our students. We are committed to fostering a culture where all individuals are respected, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential. As the Principal of this incredible school, it is my privilege and responsibility to lead with a focus on cultural leadership to develop and sustain a climate that supports student learning.

On January 26, 2024, Premier Eby announced that all school districts had until July 1, 2024 to have policies in place that restrict students' cellphone use in the classroom during instructional time. While many of our students have cell phones and have grown accustomed to regular usage, this September students will not be permitted to use personal digital devices during instructional time. Supporting our students to use technology appropriately is a shared responsibility of the home and the school. While changing cell phone culture may be difficult, it is necessary to ensure effective use of instructional & learning time. Updates to our Code of Conduct have been made and the message will be conveyed to students during opening week in September. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this message with students and helping to develop healthy habits.

This year, we will be placing special emphasis on embracing diversity, promoting equity, and cultivating a climate of understanding and acceptance. Our goal is to create an environment where every student and staff member feels safe, valued, and included. We will celebrate the unique talents, backgrounds, and experiences that each member of our school community brings to the table. By doing so, we will foster an atmosphere of collaboration, empathy and growth that will enrich the educational journey of every student.

To achieve this, we will be implementing various initiatives, programs, and professional development opportunities throughout the year. These efforts will help us enhance our cultural competence, promote inclusive practices, and empower student voice and agency. We will also actively engage with our community partners, parents/guardians, and staff members to forge strong connections and work together to achieve our shared goals.

Parents and students are strongly encouraged to use our **school website** as a source of information, as well as download the school app, **'My School Day'** which is available for free. Moreover, make sure you are connected to the **Parent Portal** and **MyClass** – these provide online access to critical information related to each student's

school/fieldtrip/sports fees, attendance, permission forms, school schedule, report cards, etc. \*\* Please be sure to review family contact information to ensure that details are correct and up-to-date. If you ever have a concern, please do not hesitate to contact any of your child's teachers, the counselors, or administration.

The **2024-2025 student schedules** will be available to view through STUDENT MyClass accounts later in the day on **Wednesday, August 28th**. Student MyClass log-in information will only be sent to individual @sd42.ca student email accounts. If you have not yet signed up for your Student MyClass account, log on to the SD42 website – you will find the sign-up information and brochure under the *STUDENT Top Tab*.

Students needing **MyClass** help must email [myclass@sd42.ca](mailto:myclass@sd42.ca) as PMSS school staff cannot reset MyClass passwords for you. Parent MyClass accounts will open later in September.

Our Admin and counseling team will continue to balance classes through September to accommodate class size and composition requirements. The course change request process will be communicated to students during the first week of school. If you need to contact any of the Administration regarding a student issue, please see your 'appropriate' person:

~ Mr. Sharpe: Grade 12    ~ Ms. Girbav: Grades 9 and 11    ~ Ms. Cooley: Grades 8 and 10

**Counseling:** Counsellors will be in the building the week prior to school start-up. They are available **via email** to address questions or concerns about counselling support needs. Discussions about schedules/timetables are to occur the first week of school.

- Mr. Edwards: Grades 8/10/12 ([simon\\_edwards@sd42.ca](mailto:simon_edwards@sd42.ca))
- Mrs. Price: Grades 9/11/12 ([alisha\\_price@sd42.ca](mailto:alisha_price@sd42.ca))

**Student Fees & Lockers:** We encourage you to pay your child's student fees (\$35.00) on the Parent Portal as soon as possible. Moreover, locker distribution will occur on the first day of school and are done by Homeroom during each student's Block A class. Students wanting a locker should bring their own combination lock on the first day.

**Grade 8 Orientation Day:** will be held on **Thursday, August 29th** starting at 9:00 a.m. The PMSS Student Leadership Team will be hosting a welcome event for our new Grade 8 students, culminating in a BBQ lunch. Students are to meet at the front entrance down by the gym (east end of building). I highly encourage participation as it is a great way to re-connect and see the school.

**Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> (first day of school):** Students are to enter through the main front doors and proceed directly to their Block A Class (**as noted above, student schedules are accessible via MyClass**). They will attend for approximately one hour.

- Grade 8 Students: arrival time 10:00 a.m.
- Grade 9/10 Students: arrival time 11:00 a.m.
- Grade 11/12 Students: arrival time 12:00 noon
- **NEW** International Students: arrival time 1:30 p.m. (go to room 1029). If you are a *returning* International Student, please attend at your grade specific time above.

**\*\* IMPORTANT – there will NOT be any school buses running on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.** They will start their regular schedule on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>:** we will move into our regular schedule, starting with Block D, class starts at 8:30 a.m.

**Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>:** regular school day starting with Block H, class starts at 8:30 a.m. The **Pitt Stop** will be open for its' first day of cafeteria service (you can pay via cash or 'existing' Pitt Lunch Cards that still have money to purchase on them). **\*\* Please note that new Pitt Stop Lunch Card sales will start up on the Parent Portal the week of September 9th so plan accordingly if your child is wanting to purchase lunch.**



I encourage you to get involved, stay connected and be an active participant in your child's education. Together, we can create a powerful partnership that will positively impact the lives of our students. Attend our student-led conferences, join our PAC or Grad Committee, or volunteer your time and expertise. Your involvement and support are vital to our collective success. More information on PAC and Grad Committees will be communicated during the first couple of weeks.

As we embark on this exciting journey, I invite you to share your thoughts, ideas, and feedback with administration. I value open and transparent communication and firmly believe that collaboration is the key to success. My door is always open, and I welcome the opportunity to connect.

Once again, welcome to Pitt Meadows Secondary School. I am genuinely excited to work with each one of you and witness the amazing growth and accomplishments that our school community will achieve together. Let's make this year memorable, transformative, and filled with moments of joy and learning.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Be well & take care,

*Colin Sharpe*, Principal

### **IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES:**

- Sept. 3 – first day back (Gr. 8 – 10:00 a.m.; Gr. 9/10 – 11:00 a.m.; Gr. 11/12 – noon)
- Sept. 4 – first day of *regular* classes starting with Block D; Gr. 8 Rotation #1 begins
- Sept. 6 – Fire Drill
- Sept. 9 – Gr. 12 Assembly @ Flex
- Sept. 10 – Gr. 11 Assembly @ Flex
- Sept. 11 – **Photo Day**; Gr. 10 Assembly @ Flex
- Sept. 12 – Gr. 9 Assembly @ Flex
- Sept. 13 – Gr. 8 Assembly @ Flex
- Sept. 18 – Gr. 8 Parent Night (6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – additional details TBA)
- Sept. 19 – Post Secondary Night (6:00 – 8:00 p.m. – additional details TBA)
- Sept. 25 – Naloxhome Student Presentations in the morning
- Sept. 30 – National Day of Truth & Reconciliation STAT
- Oct. 1 – Non-Instructional Day (School Growth Planning)

