

Pitt Meadows Secondary School Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows



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Newsletter #1

Good afternoon PMSS Families:

School start-up is behind us and we are off to a great start here at Pitt. Each day last week, administration and counsellors were connecting with all of our students through our grade assemblies at FLEX and introducing student to all things PMSS. Our Grade 8's appear to be easing into the transition and we are starting to see and feel some excitement from our Grad class. The energy in the building is positive and the students are starting to hit their stride. By most accounts, this has been a very smooth and successful start-up.

The new **PAC Executive** was elected at our first meeting held on Monday, September 16th. My deepest appreciation for those parents that put their names forward to stand for PAC and a huge thank you to Danica Isherwood for taking on the role of Chair. Only schools with a functioning PAC are eligible to claim the Provincial Gaming Grant. Grant money goes towards supporting extra-curricular programming, such as clubs and teams, as well as supporting special initiatives. Meetings will be held bi-monthly and are open to all, though our Executive are the only ones with voting rights. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to bring something up at a *future* PAC meeting, please email pmss_pac@mrpm.sd42.ca

On Wednesday, Sept 18th, PMSS welcomed our Grade 8's and their families for a **Grade 8 Parent Welcome & Information Night**. Our Pitt leadership students were on site to lead tours around the school and answer any questions parents had. Administration hosted an information session in the MPR following the tours to introduce parents to 'all things Pitt' and take questions from families. It was so great to have such a large turnout and meet and connect with all our new families.

On Thursday, Sept 19th, we hosted our annual **PMSS Post Secondary Night**. Approximately 20 educational institutions were on site to provide information related to entrance requirements, the admissions process, and different programs offered. Other than UBC, most local options were represented; UBC will hold a separate event later in the year. Each institution hosted an independent information session, followed by a general expo in our MPR. It was great to see so many of our senior students taking advantage of this great opportunity. A huge thank you to Ms. Mcardle and our careers teachers for helping to facilitate this important event. Further information on post-secondary and scholarships can be accessed through our Career Centre which

is open during Flex and Ms. Mcardle is on site Tuesdays/Thursdays and alternating Fridays. More information is also available at <https://pmsscarrercentre.wordpress.com/>

From a safety lens, we as a school have a few concerns that have come up over the last few weeks. We have seen a marked increase in students using **e-bikes and electric scooters**, many *without* safety helmets. These devices can travel at a high rate of speed and pose a significant risk to the rider as well as pedestrians and drivers. For those families that have students using these, please be sure to reinforce the message of safe ridership and the use of personal protective equipment.

Parking/traffic out front of the school, especially in the morning and at the end of the day, can be very hectic and congested. Having one of the most poorly designed school entranceways poses a number of challenges to drivers and pedestrians. As safety is our highest priority, drivers are encouraged to exercise extreme caution when dropping off or picking up students, entering or exiting the parking lot, and driving through the school zone. Tickets for speeding in a school zone start at \$196.00 and increase exponentially depending on the rate of speed. ** Please refer to the parking guidelines on the PMSS website under the PARENT top tab.

As for driving, students who have their **novice (N) licenses** are reminded not to ‘overload’ their vehicle and to drive at a slow speed not only in the parking lot but on the adjacent roadways; and to park only in *designated student spots*. Moreover, pedestrians should be looking both ways prior to crossing the street or entrance way, remove their earbuds, and pay attention to their surroundings. As a school, we will communicate out to parents when we notice a concern and appreciate your support in reinforcing the message of safety.

Finally, a note on our **bathrooms** – administration and staff are working hard to ensure our bathrooms are safe and free from congregating students or vaping. All students should feel comfortable using our facilities free from intimidation. If a student is unable to follow expectations related to bathroom usage, potential school-based interventions may be implemented. Please have a conversation with your student(s) helping to reinforce this message.

Friday, September 27th, the Marathon of Hope continues as Pitt participates in our **Terry Fox Run**. We will have an adjusted schedule on this day, moving Flex to the period before lunch to allow all students to participate regardless of their pace.



Thank you all for your feedback over the last two weeks as we got up and running here at PMSS. It has been a pleasure to welcome all our new students and staff. As our community grows, so too does our school. With the announcement of new construction to start with completion in 2028, PMSS is entering into exciting times. As information related to the new building becomes available, I will be sure to communicate out to families. Until then, I look forward to meeting you all and working with families over the course of the year.

Be well & take care,

Colin Sharpe, Principal