

Pitt Meadows Secondary School

Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows



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December 6, 2024

December 2024 Newsletter

Dear PMSS Families:

As we enter the winter months, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we've made so far this school year and to share some exciting news and important reminders. Winter is always a time of both challenge and celebration – our students are hard at work, and we have much to be proud of.

This fall, our students have demonstrated remarkable dedication, from the classroom to extracurricular activities. We've seen significant growth in academic performance across all grade levels, and I commend our teachers and support staff for their commitment to fostering a positive, engaging learning environment. Athletic wise, our fall athletes experienced *great* success in Cross Country, Volleyball, and Boys Soccer. I am proud of the dedication, grit and sportsmanship that all our athletes demonstrated. A HUGE thank you to our coaches, sponsors, athletic leadership groups, as well as our Athletic Director, Mr. Oldridge, for their countless hours of volunteer time. Without their support, we simply could not offer these opportunities to our students. As we head into Term 2, we are excited to continue offering new opportunities for academic growth, community service and athleticism.

With winter weather upon us, please remember to check the SD42 website for potential school closures due to snow. We also want to remind students to dress warmly as they walk to and from school and watch for slippery surfaces. As the sun is coming out a little later and it is getting dark earlier, pedestrians and cyclists are encouraged to be extra vigilant when navigating the streets and especially the area around the school. Moreover, any student drivers are again encouraged to watch their speed and drive for the conditions that exist.

December is always a very busy time for schools. Already this month we have had our Boys Basketball Home Openers, the Winter Craft Fair and several larger field trips. Looking ahead into the month, our Leadership Students are hosting the "Elf" Movie Night on December 10th, our Senior Winter Formal on December 12th, a Grade 10-12 Senior Skate on December 18th along with a variety of 'theme' days the last week of school. Our Winter Christmas Band Concert is scheduled for December 11th. Events like these go a long way in building a healthy school culture and promoting a positive climate.

With regards to academics, the **Term-1 Student Learning Updates** will be posted to MyClass on December 12th. Please be sure to review your student(s) progress and make plans for continued success or intervention for Term 2. If you have any questions or concerns with regards to a course, please be sure to reach out to the subject specific teacher. Remember, **free peer tutoring** is available every Wednesday during Flex for Grade 8-10 students in the library and students are encouraged to use their Flex time wisely and effectively; checking in with teachers for extra support, catching up on any missed work or accessing a support space.

With regards to Flex time, in order maximize instructional time following our two-week break, we will press 'pause' on Flex and extend our blocks by 10 minutes. Typically, we engage a Flex Hold following a break or at the beginning of the

year during start-up, extending first period by 40 minutes. However, this year, we will spread the time across the four periods of the day rather than hit just one block. The school app has been changed to reflect the **new bell schedule**. On January 20th, we will revert back to *free* Flex, where students choose what classroom to spend their Flex in a way that is most meaningful and productive to them.

The following Bell Schedule will be in place for the first half of January.

Period 1	8:30 - 9:50 a.m.
Period 2	9:55 - 11:15 a.m.
LUNCH	11:15 - 11:55 a.m.
Period 3	12:00 - 1:20 p.m.
Period 4	1:25 - 2:45 p.m.

As we look forward to the new year, we remain committed to providing a well-rounded educational experience for all our students. Our focus at Pitt in the second half of the year will include more opportunities for academic growth, community service, student leadership development, and post-secondary/career exploration.

Thank you for your ongoing support. On behalf of the *entire* staff of PMSS, I wish you all a joyful holiday season and successful start to the new year.

Be well and take care,

Colin Sharpe

Principal



DECEMBER SPECIAL DATES

- Dec. 9:** Christmas Countdown begins - a new puzzle will be released *each* day by the big rolling calendar near the main doors. Prizes awarded daily!
- Dec. 10:** PMSS Movie Night – “Elf” (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 11:** PMSS Christmas Band Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the MPR
- Dec. 12:** 1st Term Report Cards out on MyClass at 3:00 p.m.; Winter Formal Senior Dance – *theme is Winter Royalty* (tickets for sale at lunch daily)
- Dec. 13:** Flex change (C/D/FLEX/LUNCH/A/B)
- Dec. 16:** Glamour & Animal Print Theme Day; Candy Cane Grams for sale; Grad Cap & Gown Photo Retakes afterschool
- Dec. 17:** Students Dress as Teachers/Teachers Dress as Students Day; Candy Cane Grams for sale
- Dec. 18:** Light & Bright Dress Day; Candy Cane Grams distributed; Gr. 10-12 Winter Skate afterschool
- Dec. 19:** Fashion Disaster Day; Photos with Santa
- Dec. 20:** Students - Formal Wear Day; Staff - Ugly Christmas Sweater Day; last day of school before Winter Break
- Dec. 21 through to Jan. 5:** Winter Break (school closed)
- (Jan. 6:** School is back in session)

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WELCOMING AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INTO YOUR HOME?

Hosting an international student allows you and your family to experience new cultures and connections while making a significant difference in a student's life. Host families are a valuable part of the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows International Education program and provide our students with support to help them adjust to living away from home. This support helps students have a positive experience both academically and out of school.

Whether you have hosted in the past or are new to the experience, we have varying program lengths, allowing you to choose which works best for your family.

Learn more at <https://inted.sd42.ca/host-a-student/hosting-information/>.

RIDGE MEADOWS RCMP: E-BIKE SAFETY TIPS AND INFO

Please see important e-bike safety tips from Ridge Meadows RCMP, including information about the different laws for each type of e-bike. (E-scooters are not legal in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.)



A motor assisted cycle (e-bike) must have:

- Fully operable pedals (or hand cranks) capable of propelling the cycle, including when the motor is engaged and providing assistance propelling the device
- An electric motor of a certain maximum output and no combustion engine
- Safety features that stop the motor from propelling the device in certain instances (e.g. when braking or when not pedaling or applying the throttle)
- Motors and batteries that are securely fastened to the cycle (must have insulated and covered electrical terminals)
- Two or three wheels (must be at least 350mm in diameter)
- A braking system capable of quickly bringing the device to a stop

Standard E-Bikes:

- Minimum rider age: 16
- Maximum motor-assisted speed: 32 km/h
- Maximum motor power: 500W
- Throttle assist: Yes

Light E-Bikes:

- Minimum rider age: 14
- Maximum motor-assisted speed: 25 km/h
- Maximum motor power: 250W
- Throttle assist: No

*To qualify as a light e-bike, the motors of a motor assisted cycle must not be capable of propelling the cycle unless the operator is pedalling or hand cranking the cycle. The motor assisted cycle must not be equipped with an accelerator controller.

A fine of \$109 may be issued under the Motor Assisted Cycle (E-Bike) Regulation.
For more visit: https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/64_2024

