

Pitt Meadows Secondary School

Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows

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August 28, 2026

*Welcome
Back!!*

Dear PMSS Families:

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Pitt Meadows Secondary School! I am incredibly excited to be joining the PMSS community as Principal and, in many ways, to be coming home. When I joined School District 42 it was here at Pitt Meadows Secondary, first as a support teacher and later as a counsellor, before leaving in 2013 to take on a new opportunity at another school. It is wonderful to be back, and I am especially looking forward to reconnecting with students and families I have worked with over the years while getting to know those who are new to our community. Returning to Pitt at such an exciting moment, with construction of our new school underway, makes this new beginning particularly special.

We are excited to welcome Mr. Ramin Mehrassa who will join Ms. Girbav as Vice Principal.

As we begin the year together, my hope is that every student at PMSS feels known, supported, valued, and that they truly belong here. Our school is at its best when students, staff, families, and community work together to create a place where young people can learn, grow, take risks, discover their strengths, and find their path. As your new Principal, I am looking forward to listening, learning, building relationships, and working alongside our staff, students, and families to build on the many strengths already present at Pitt. There is so much to look forward to in the year ahead, and I am thrilled to be part of it. Welcome back, Marauders!

Electronic Devices/Cell Phones

In response to the Provincial requirement that schools restrict student use of personal digital devices, including cell phones during instructional time, PMSS will continue to support thoughtful and appropriate technology use at school. The purpose of this direction is to support the intellectual, social-emotional, and overall well-being of children and youth. Research also points to the benefits of reducing students' access to personal devices during the school day, including providing more opportunities to be present and connect with others

At PMSS, our expectations are:

- Personal digital devices, including cell phones, are **not to be used during instructional time** unless directed by the classroom teacher.
- Students are expected to **store their devices in their lockers during instructional time.**

- Teachers may require students to store devices in a designated location in the classroom when appropriate.
- Teachers may permit the use of personal devices when they are being used intentionally as a **tool to support teaching and learning**.

Exceptions will be made when a personal digital device is required to support:

- Accessibility and inclusion
- Communication needs
- Medical or health needs
- Learning needs identified in an Individual Education Plan (IEP)

Supporting young people to develop healthy and responsible technology habits is a shared responsibility between home and school. We appreciate families reinforcing these expectations with their teenagers.

If a student has difficulty following these expectations, school-based interventions may include:

- The device being held in the office until the end of the school day.
- Parent/caregiver contacted and a plan for the device to be dropped off at the office at the beginning of the day and picked up at the end of the day
- The student being expected to leave the device at home.

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 Counsellors, or Administration.

The **2026-2027 student schedules** will be available to view through **STUDENT MyClass accounts** later in the day on **Friday, September 4th**. 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 as PMSS school staff cannot reset MyClass passwords for you. Parent MyClass accounts will open *later in September*.

Our Admin and counselling 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 or school issue, please see your 'appropriate' Administrator:

- **Ms. Blanco – Grade 12 Ms. Girbav – Grades 9 and 11 Mr. Mehrassa – Grades 8 and 10**

Counselling: 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:

- Ms. Price – Grades 9/11 (alisha_price@sd42.ca)
- Mr. Edwards- Grades 8/10/12 (simon_edwards@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. Locker distribution will occur on the first day of school (Sept. 8th) 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: On Thursday, September 3rd, the PMSS Student Leadership Team will be offering several "Open House" sessions starting at 9:30am, 10:30am & 11:30am. A separate message was sent to our Gr. 8 families with further details. I highly encourage participation as it is a great way to re-connect and see the school.

Tuesday, September 8th: Upon arrival at their grade-designated times, students are to proceed directly to their Block A Class (as noted above, schedules will be accessible via MyClass later in the day on Friday, September 4th).

Teachers will welcome students, review opening day materials, school structures, assign lockers, and answer any questions. Students will be here approximately one hour and dismissed following their session.

- Grade 8 Students - start time 10:00 a.m. (please do NOT arrive much earlier as all staff will be in a meeting)
- Grade 9/10 Students – start time 11:00 a.m.
- Grade 11/12 Students – start time 12:00 noon
- **NEW** International Students: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. You will meet your Liaison in the Multipurpose Room (1014) for a school tour, get your class schedule and answer any questions you might have. 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. 8th.** They will start their regular schedule on Wednesday, September 9th.

Wednesday, September 9th: We will move into our regular schedule, starting with Block D at 8:30 a.m. There will be **NO cafeteria service**, however, we will be hosting a Pizza Lunch fundraiser in the MPR at lunch.

Thursday, September 10th: Starting with Block H at 8:30 a.m. The Pitt Stop will be open for its' first day of cafeteria service (cash/debit or 'existing' Pitt Lunch Cards that still have money to purchase on them).

**** Please note that Pitt Lunch Card sales will start up on the Parent Portal the week of September 14th so please 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 of school.

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 and every 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!

All the best,

Cathryn Blanco

Principal

IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES:

- Sept. 8 – first day back. The schedule is as follows:
 - ❖ Gr. 8 – 10:00 am (please do not arrive too early as staff will be in a meeting)
 - ❖ Gr. 9/10 – 11:00 am
 - ❖ Gr. 11/12 – noon
 - ❖ NEW International Students – 1:00 pm
- Sept. 9 – first day of *full* classes starting with Block D; Gr. 8 Rotation #1 begins; Pizza Fundraiser at lunch (the Pitt Stop cafeteria will be closed)
- Sept. 10 – Pitt Stop Cafeteria will be open at lunch; **School Photo Day!**
- Sept. 11 – Fire Drill #1
- Sept. 18 – Grade assemblies starting with Gr. 9 (then 8, 10, 11 and 12)
- Sept. 21 – School Growth Planning Day (Non-instructional Day); Grad Boat Cruise
- Sept. 24 – Gr. 8 Parent Night (5:00 – 6:30 pm... additional details TBA)
- Sept. 25 – Food Trucks coming to PMSS @ lunch
- Sept. 28 – 1st PAC Meeting @ 7:00 pm. All parents are welcome 😊
- Sept. 29 – Orange Shirt Day
- Sept. 30 – National Day of Truth & Reconciliation STAT
- (Oct. 2 – 1st Grad Parent Meeting @ 7:00 pm)

SD42 Parent Portal: <http://parents.sd42.ca>

This website features all District and School announcements; *this is where you report a student absence*; where you complete the Consent & Policy forms; where you find field trip forms; where you pay School Fees (\$35); where you pay Athletic Fees (if applicable); where you can purchase a Yearbook (will be posted in September); where you pay Grad Fees in the Spring (costs to be advised); where you can purchase Pitt Stop Café Lunch Cards, and much, much more. If you're not already signed up or need assistance, please contact our PMSS Admin Coordinator via email at bev_loven@sd42.ca

Do you follow PMSS on Instagram?

Our Vice Principal Ms. Girbav posts *a//* kinds of great pictures of everyday 'Pitt life' and reminders of school events.

@pittsecondary