Pitt Meadows Secondary School
Ecole Secondaire Pitt Meadows

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Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 1G1
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Dear PMSS Community: **Fall 2026 Newsletter**

A Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe that we are already nearing the end of October! With the busy start-up of the school year behind us, students and staff have settled into their routines, and it has been wonderful to see our school community coming together. As I begin my first year as Principal at Pitt Meadows Secondary, I want to thank our students, staff, and families for the warm welcome. I have enjoyed getting to know PMSS and seeing the many ways our students and staff contribute to making our school a welcoming place to learn and grow.

Drama Festival of Scenes

On October 20th, our drama students shared their talents in a Festival of Scenes. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their creativity, hard work, and confidence on stage. Congratulations to our student performers and a big thank you to Drama Teacher Belinda Saèd for supporting and guiding our PMSS actors.

Celebrating School Spirit – Our First Pep Rally

On October 22nd, students and staff came together for our first Pep Rally of the year. The energy and enthusiasm were a wonderful celebration of PMSS pride. A huge thank you to Mr. Oldridge for serving as our MC and helping make the event such a success. Opportunities like this help build connections and a strong sense of belonging across our school.

Leadership in Action

Our Leadership students have been busy creating opportunities to connect and celebrate our school community. Their October 22nd movie night was a great way for students to spend time together. Looking ahead, Leadership is organizing a *Halloween Spirit Week*, with several events but including a haunted house during FLEX from October 28–30 and a costume contest on October 30. They will also be serving coffee and hot chocolate on November 2 to help staff ease into the week after a busy Halloween weekend! These thoughtful activities build school spirit and show appreciation for our staff. A big thank you to Ms. Buchan, Mr. Sun, and our Leadership students for their creativity and enthusiasm.

PMSS Athletics – Fall Sports

Our fall athletes have been busy representing PMSS with enthusiasm, commitment, and school spirit. The Senior Girls Volleyball team under Coach Sue Haras, has demonstrated incredible teamwork, determination,

and dedication throughout the season. At their final home game on October 15th, the team celebrated our Grade 12 players - recognizing their leadership, passion, and contributions. The team's season continues through the end of November, when they will compete in their final tournament.

On the soccer field, both our Grade 8/9 Boys team and Senior Boys team under Coach Mike Oldridge are competing in the MRPM local league, while Mr. Richard McGraw is coaching our cross-country runners through their season. We are also looking forward to the start of basketball season! Congratulations to all our athletes, and a sincere thank you to the coaches and staff who give their time to support these opportunities.

PMSS Grads – Post-Secondary Opportunities

As our Grade 12 students begin planning for life after high school, we are pleased to offer opportunities to explore post-secondary pathways, learn about scholarships, and connect with university and college representatives.

On Thursday, October 22, representatives from SFU's Beedie School of Business visited PMSS during FLEX to share information about their programs, admission requirements, and opportunities for future students.

Upcoming Events:

- *Tuesday, October 27* – SD42 Trades Presentation
  Time: Flex | Location: Library Conference Room
  For interested Grade 10 and 11 students who would like to learn more about entering a trade during their Grade 12 year.
- *Thursday, October 29* – Beedie Luminaries Scholarship Presentation
  Time: FLEX | Location: Main Library
  Students are invited to learn about the Beedie Luminaries scholarship program and the opportunities it offers.
- *Thursday, October 29* – Post-Secondary Mini Fair
  Time: 5:00–7:30 pm | Location: MPR
  Families are encouraged to attend this event together! Students and their parents or guardians can meet directly with post-secondary recruiters, explore programs, learn about admission requirements, and get their questions answered.

We encourage our Grade 12 students and families to take advantage of these *valuable* opportunities as they prepare for the exciting next steps beyond PMSS!

Vancouver Island Art and Food Tour

Coming up in November, the Photography, Foods and Visual Arts programs will be offering a two-night trip to Victoria to explore the artistic and culinary experiences the city has to offer. The trip includes a 3-course meal at 10 Acres Bistro, a tour and workshop of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, High Tea at Bouchard Gardens, a visit to the Royal BC Museum, as well as time to explore and photograph the city. This is a yearly trip that is offered to Grade 11 and 12 students enrolled in Photography, Foods, and Visual Arts.

Flex Friday in the Art Room – the PMSS Art Club

The Art Club is starting again this year! Come and collaborate with art students of all grades to create artwork, work on school art initiatives, and plan for upcoming art exhibitions both at the school and in the community. Volunteering at Fine Arts night and other events is a great way to gain work experience hours! Hope to see you in Ms. Dearman's room 2232 at Flex on Fridays!

Take Your Grade 9 to Work Day – November 4

This is an annual career exploration event in Canada where Grade 9 students spend a day job shadowing a parent, relative, family friend, or volunteer host at their workplace instead of attending school. Detailed information was sent out to all Grade 9 families on the Parent Portal.

Student-Led Conferences – November 5

Our Student-Led Conferences will take place on Thursday, November 5. Sign-up will be via the Parent Portal; the registration window *opens on Monday, October 26th at 3:00 p.m.* These conferences give students the opportunity to guide the conversation, showcase their work, and reflect on their learning and progress. We strongly encourage families to register as soon as the window opens as spots fill up quickly.

Remembrance Day Assemblies – November 10

Student-led assemblies acknowledged the courage and sacrifice of the countless Canadian men and women who have served for the cause of peace and freedom, many paying the ultimate price. Current global events remind us that not all people enjoy the same level of peace and freedom that we as Canadians enjoy. Remembrance Day allows us all to take pause and reflect and remember the courage and sacrifice of so many.

Graduation

The PMSS Parent Grad Committee is well under way in their efforts to fundraise for and facilitate our Prom and Dry Grad for the Class of 2027. Initial plans and preparations are in the works and key people have taken on key positions on the Committee. The festivities begin on Friday, May 21st with our Dinner- Dance (Prom) which will be held at Swaneset with Dry Grad to follow back at the school. Our Valedictory Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22nd at Pacific Academy. While the grad season seems far off, it will be here before we know it. Our next Parent Grad Meeting has been set for Monday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. Any Grade 12 parent/guardian interested in helping out is *always* welcome and appreciated. Information related to ticket purchases and guest applications will be made available closer to Spring Break.

With warm regards,

Cathryn Blanco
Principal

Administrators:

- Mrs. Cathryn Blanco – Principal ..... Grade 12 — cathryn_blanco@sd42.ca
- Mrs. Anne Girbav – Vice Principal ..... Grades 9, 11 — anne_girbav@sd42.ca
- Mr. Rahmin Mehrassa – Vice Principal ..... Grades 8, 10 — ramin_mehrassa@sd42.ca

Counselling Department:

- Mrs. Alisha Price – Grades 9 and 11 — alisha_price@sd42.ca
- Mr. Simon Edwards – Grades 8, 10, 12 & Int'l — simon_edwards@sd42.ca
- Ms. Tory Flavin – Child/Youth Care Worker — victoria_flavin@sd42.ca

Office Support Staff:

- Mrs. Bev Loven – Administrative Coordinator — bev_loven@sd42.ca
- Mrs. Karen Renter – Accounting Clerk — karen_renter@sd42.ca
- Mrs. Kate MacDonald – Records Clerk — kate_macdonald@sd42.ca
- Mrs. Michelle Wiens – Reception — michelle_wiens@sd42.ca



NEWSLETTER INFO FROM SD42:

Apply now for Ridge Meadows College's Winter Programs

Applications are open for Ridge Meadows College's winter semester. The college, operated by the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, is offering the following certificate programs in January 2027:

- Education Assistant
- Early Childhood Educator (assistant, certificate, diploma, post-basic programs)
- Building Service Worker (custodian) *
- Community Support Worker
- Administrative Office Specialist
- Bookkeeping Professional
- Medical Office Administrator
- Medical Booking Clerk
- Medical Scheduling Clerk

Registration closes on **January 4, 2027**. Apply on the RMC website or contact the college for additional information at rmc@sd42.ca.

**The building service worker certificate program is a three-week program that operates on a separate schedule. Upcoming program dates are Nov. 16, 2026, to Dec. 4, 2026, and Jan. 18, 2027, to Feb. 5, 2027.*

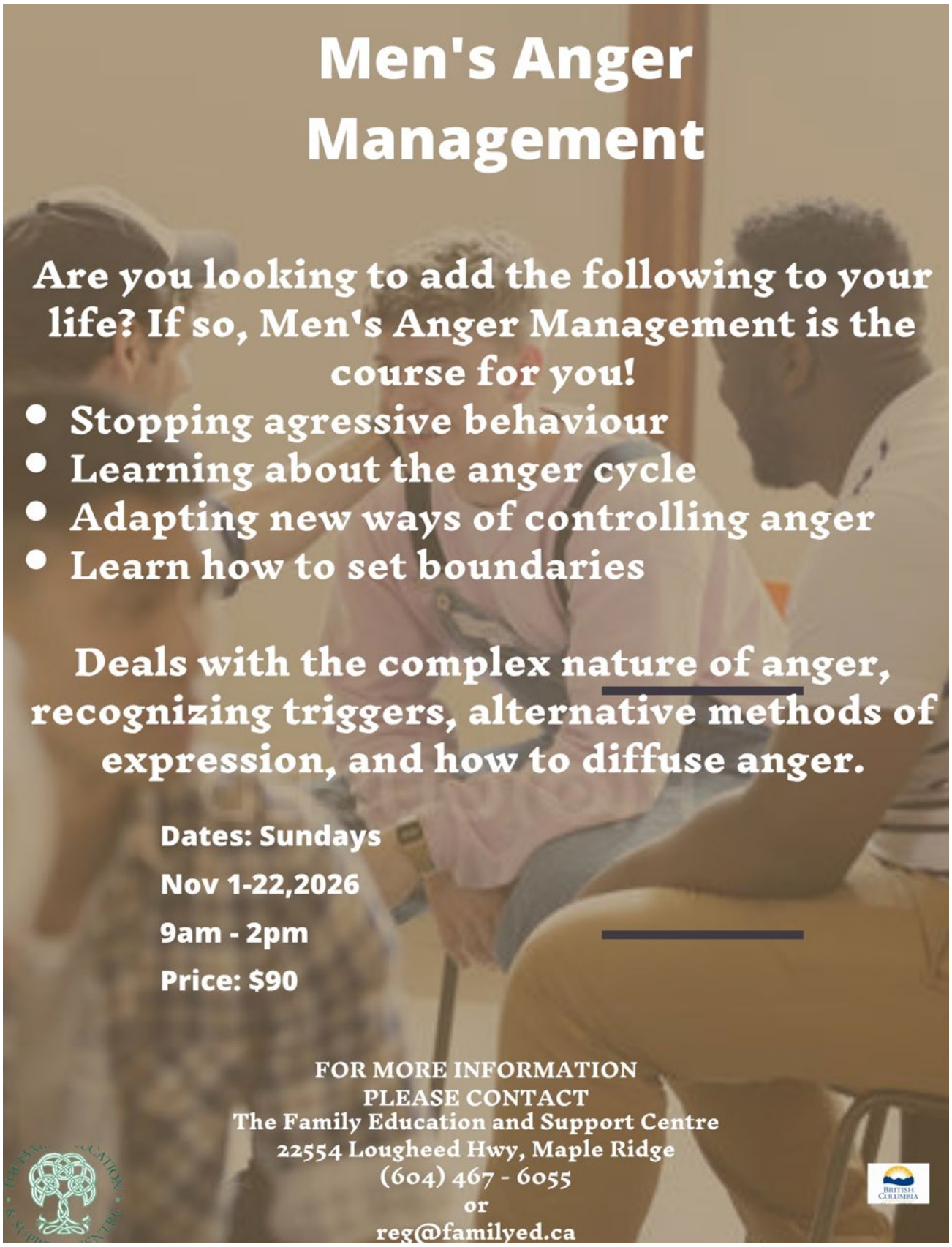
Upcoming Information Sessions

Education Assistant (EA) Program
Are you interested in a career working with children and youth with diverse learning, behavioural, or personal care needs in the classroom? The demand for this job is high as the province faces a shortage of EAs. For students wishing to work in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows, successful graduates will be considered for an interview with School District 42. Join us for an online information session on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at 6 p.m.** Register at bit.ly/RMCInfoSession.

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Programs
The ECE programs prepare students to work with young children in a variety of early learning settings. If you're interested in learning more, join us for an online information session on **Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6 p.m**. Register at bit.ly/RMCInfoSession.

Board Meeting Highlights (September 23, 2026)

Board meeting highlights from the September 23, 2026, public meeting can be found on the district website: https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/2026-09-23-Board-Meeting-Highlights.pdf


Men's Anger Management
Are you looking to add the following to your life? If so, Men's Anger Management is the course for you!
Stopping agressive behaviour
Learning about the anger cycle
Adapting new ways of controlling anger
Learn how to set boundaries
Deals with the complex nature of anger, recognizing triggers, alternative methods of expression, and how to diffuse anger.
Dates: Sundays
Nov 1-22,2026
9am - 2pm
Price: $90
FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
The Family Education and Support Centre
22554 Lougheed Hwy, Maple Ridge
(604) 467 - 6055
or
reg@familyed.ca


PITT MEADOWS FIREFIGHTERS
CHARITABLE SOCIETY
PUMPKIN SMASH
Family Fun for a Great Cause!
PITT MEADOWS FIREHALL
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
PITT MEADOWS FIREHALL
WATCH IT SMASH!
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
100% OF PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE PITT MEADOWS FIREFIGHTERS CHARITABLE SOCIETY AND OUR EFFORTS TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY.
Bring the family, bring your friends, and come SMASH A PUMPKIN FOR A GREAT CAUSE!
PITT MEADOWS FIREFIGHTERS CHARITABLE SOCIETY
Est. 2025

Brave New You!

Join us for this 20hr course is for Women as well as anyone identifying as female to learn to create and keep their boundaries, healthy communication, conflict resolution skills, managing challenging conversations, expressing feelings and identifying your needs. This course helps individuals to explore a new way of thinking for themselves. In this workshop, you will learn:

- **Understanding Anger: Discover the root causes of anger, its impact on your relationships, and how to break the cycle of anger.**
- **Setting Boundaries: Learn practical strategies for setting and maintaining healthy boundaries, even in difficult situations.**
- **Dealing with Controlling People: Gain tools and techniques to address controlling individuals in your life while preserving your own well-being.**
- **Self-Care and Emotional Safety: Explore the importance of self-care and discover practical self-care techniques to reduce stress and promote emotional resilience.**

DATES: SATURDAYS
OCTOBER 24 &25, NOVEMBER 7&8 2026
TIME: 9 AM-2 PM
COST: $90

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
The Family Education & Support Centre
22554 lougheed hwy
Maple Ridge
www.familyed.bc.ca or call **(604) 467-6055**

Please note the location of this program is subject to change as per the BC Provincial Health guidelines regarding Covid-19



THE FAMILY EDUCATION & SUPPORT CENTRE

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ministry of Children and Family Development

PITT MEADOWS SECONDARY SCHOOL

PMSS

WINTER CRAFT FAIR

FRIDAY,

DECEMBER 4TH

@PITT MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4-8PM