

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023—2024

### November

- 7 Last day for Grad Photos
- 9 Remembrance Day Ceremony
- 10 School Closure Day—no classes
- 13 Remembrance Day Holiday—schools closed
- 16 After Grad Meeting 7-8
- 21 PAC Meeting 7:00—8:30
- 22 Midterms on Portal after 4:00 pm
- 29 Gr. 9 Day
- 30 Early Dismissal. 2:00 pm
- 30 P/T Conferences 2:30—6:30 pm

### December

- 4 Christmas Jazz Concert 6:30—8:30 pm
- 6 Christmas Jazz Concert 6:30—8:30 pm
- 7—9 Metfest
- 14 Winter Formal
- 18—22 Spirit Week
- 22 Last day of school before Winter Vacation
- 25—5 Winter Vacation

### January

- 8 Schools re-open
- 12 ELL Speech Competition
- 12 Black Excellence Day
- 18 Gr. 8 Parent Night 6-8:15
- 22—26 Grad Assessments
- 23 PAC Meeting 7:00—8:30
- 26 Last day of S1
- 29 Pro D—School Based
- 30 First day of S2
- 31 Final S1 Reports on Portal after 4:00 pm

### Admin Team

#### Principal:

Janine Close  
[jclose@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:jclose@sd43.bc.ca)

#### Vice Principals:

Chris Martin (A—J)  
[chmartin@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:chmartin@sd43.bc.ca)  
Mark Rao (Q—Z)  
[mrao@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:mrao@sd43.bc.ca)  
Kelly Zimmer (K—P)  
[kzimmer@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:kzimmer@sd43.bc.ca)

# PINETREE SECONDARY SCHOOL

## Accepting Challenges Together

3000 Pinewood Avenue, Coquitlam, BC V3B 7Y7 PH: 604-464-2513 Fax: 604-937-8056

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/pinetree>

NOVEMBER 5, 2023

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *Working with our community, we are dedicated to preparing our students for success in a rapidly changing world by providing a supportive learning environment, which recognizes and respects individual difference, encourages students to challenge personal limits, and promotes excellence.*

## Principal's Message

As we move into the month of November, students are well immersed in their classes and many activities and opportunities have rolled out. We ended the month of September with Meet the Teacher Night, the Terry Fox Run, and a school wide Truth and Reconciliation Assembly! As we reflect on all that September had to offer, we can also consider how to make improvements for next year. I'm proud to share that the Pinetree Secondary community raised over \$3000 for cancer research but, next year, I think we will schedule the run for earlier in the day. Over 55+ students opted to avoid doing the run by having their parents call in the afternoon to excuse them for early dismissal. This resulted in chaos in the office and put a lot of unnecessary pressure on my office staff. I would encourage parents and students to view these activities as opportunities to engage in building school culture and connections. The Truth and Reconciliation assembly was another one of these opportunities, with the entire school coming together to reflect on what the day means. Several students spoke; the choir sang; and Indigenous rap artist, Miista Technique (Brandon Webster), performed. The response from students was very positive, and many students connected with his style and delivery. I hope many of you were able to make it out to "Meet the Teacher Night" on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, to put names to faces and hear a bit about your adolescent's courses and expectations. We will continue to look for ways to draw parents into the building to connect with what Pinetree Secondary has to offer.

October brought with it three four-day weeks in a row, with statutory holidays on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and a Provincial Pro-D on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. We also saw our grade 12's enjoy their Senior Sail evening event in Vancouver Harbor that showcased stunning views of Vancouver, light snacks, and a packed dance floor. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Lovelock organized a Work BC Hiring Fair for grade 12's to attend during ESS; however, other grade blocks could sign up to check out the range of paid and volunteer opportunities. Interim Reports also became available on the MyEd portal where parents could see a snapshot of students' progress in their first semester courses. Parents saw either Meeting/Not Meeting or some teachers opted to use the Proficiency Scale which is what will also be used for grade 9's in both their midterm and final report cards or "Learning Updates", as they are now being referred. Midterm Learning Updates will be available on the student and parent portal on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Proficiency Scale will be used to assess grade 9's; however, grades 10-12 will continue to receive a percentage and letter grade. All grade levels will receive comments on student strengths, stretches, and areas for growth. Parent/Teacher conferences will take place after the Midterms on **Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Information on how to sign up will go out to parents when the midterms are made available. I encourage parents to book appointments to see their teachers; school and home communication is an important component to engaging student success.

Many of our fall athletic teams such as cross country, volleyball, and the swim team are coming to a close or moving into regional and/or provincial championships. In volleyball, our junior and senior boys' and girls' teams have all had incredible seasons (the senior boys are undefeated in regular season) and are looking forward to Fraser Norths in the coming weeks. We wish all teams the best

Principal's Message  
continued....

of luck and encourage good sportsmanship as they represent the Pinetree Timberwolves! The Club Fair saw over forty clubs advertising to the student body and many of these wonderful opportunities are now up and running regularly. Intramurals has also been very popular with indoor soccer and, most recently, volleyball running during lunchtime.

Graduating grade 12 students and parents are encouraged to check out the Counselling Department News in this newsletter. There is important information around the Student Transcript Service and Diploma Verification for graduation. Grads should also keep checking school announcements and the MySchool Day app as information about Grad Wear will be coming out shortly. The student grad committee has been hard at work putting together a variety of choices for this year's grads as well as planning for our Winter Formal. On the evening of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, over 90 parents attended a Canadian post secondary information session, put on by Ms. Moorhouse and held in the cafeteria. Parents of graduating students are encouraged to contact Ms. Moorhouse, our Post-Secondary & Career Advisor, or their counsellor, should they have questions that pertain to their post graduation plans.

With the change in the weather, we would like to remind parents that the staff parking lot should not be used for student drop off. Students can be dropped off using the drop off lane at the back of the school outside of the staff parking lot or in Parking Lot A across from the school at the bottom of student overpass, which is the best student drop off spot. Reminder that parents should not be dropping off in the community center parking lot.

With two more upcoming four-day weeks due to a school closure day on **November 10<sup>th</sup>** and the Remembrance Day statutory holiday being recognized on **November 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will be heading into December in what will feel like the blink of an eye! Please be sure to check the My School Day app to stay connected to activities, updates, and Pinetree related information.

Sincerely,

**Ms. Janine Close**  
*Principal*

## FORMS

Student Verification Forms— It is crucial that the information in our system is correct. Parents/Guardians, if you haven't already done so, you are asked to view the forms through the Parent Portal. If changes are required, parents/guardians are asked to print the form, indicate the changes required, sign and return it, along with copies of the required documentation mentioned in the notification, to the office ASAP. If you are unable to print the form, advise the office and we will print it for you.

Emergency Release Forms—These forms were sent home at the beginning of the school year with students. Forms are now past due.

Medical Alert Forms—If your child has a medical alert, please complete the appropriate Medical Alert Forms found accessible on our school website or [here](#).

Activity Fees and forms due! Visit School Cash Online to submit. Emergency release forms are past due—please hand into the office.

# ATHLETICS UPDATE

PAGE 3

November is here and that means that fall sports are nearing the end of the season. Sr. boys soccer had a lot of ups and downs in a tough season. Cross country had some strong individual finishes throughout the season particularly in the senior girls and senior boys categories with Paige K. winning the Gail Sayers Trophy at districts for top senior female. All of our volleyball teams have either made districts or Fraser Norths depending on their level. As of the time of this writing our senior boys volleyball team is undefeated in league play with our senior girls, junior girls, and junior boys all only having lost one league game each, putting them in the top 2 in their respective leagues. Our grade 9

girls volleyball team is slowly developing, but having a lot of fun getting better each day. Our aquatics team is off to provincials in Nanaimo with our top four female athletes of Paige K., Carrie C., Lorena S., and Emily C. competing in the relays. A special thanks to all the teacher coaches, community coaches, and sponsor teachers who made this possible which include: Brad Deans, Steve Jack, Kyla Mobilio (sr. soccer), Vinay Sharma and Beth Leslie (aquatics), Julianna Mah and Todd MacDonald (cross country), Krista Sale and Julianna Bosa (gr. 9 girls volleyball), Rachel Armstrong and Mary Babcock (jr. girls volleyball), Serene Lau (sr. girls volleyball), Malika Ouch and Tristan

Bobb (jr. boys volleyball) and sponsors Paul Kerr and Mario Iacobucci, James Tecson, Sam Koch (sr. boys volleyball) and Amanda Walraven and Brianne Rioux (sponsors).

To date, we have had three Athletes of the Week: Paige K., Justin C., and Jeffrey C.. We have acknowledged the jr. girls volleyball, jr. boys volleyball, and aquatics as teams of the week in the last several weeks of the season for their important achievements so far.

**Congratulations  
Athletes! Keep  
up the good  
work!**

## LEADERSHIP

Pinetree's Leadership Class started the school year off with Spirit Assemblies to foster school culture and community. Grades 9/10 and 11/12 battled in team building competitions that were fun to participate in and watch. Leadership students are now in the midst of finishing Halloween plans and starting the planning for the Remembrance Day Assemblies.



## STUDENT DROP OFF/PICK UP

### Drop-off/pick-up safety for our students

In order to ensure the safety of ALL students during drop-off and pick-up times, and to respect the staff and patrons of the Community Recreation Centre, **parents/guardians are asked to please NOT enter the Community Recreation Centre's parking lot.** Instead, parents/guardians may use one of the following options:

- **Drivers must use the marked yellow zone beside the staff parking lot** located off Pinewood Avenue (across from the Fire Hall). To drop off and pick up your students in a safe and legal manner, please drive as far along the marked drop-off area as possible before stopping. DO NOT use the staff parking lot. Once students have safely exited the vehicle, drivers MUST continue to drive forward and exit to Pinetree Way (via the Recreation Centre or Douglas College exits). This is the only way to keep this zone safe for all students and keep traffic moving in this area.

### OR

- Drivers are permitted to use Lot A located in the Town Centre parking area. Lot A is at the end of the student overpass. Parents/guardians may drop students off at the bottom of the stairs of the student overpass. The school's entrance doors are located right at the other end of the student overpass. We suggest you have your child meet you after school at the stairs of the student overpass in Lot A.

In order to decrease traffic congestion and improve student safety, families should encourage students to walk to school whenever possible.

Contact your  
Counsellor for  
information

Grads—download  
the MySchool Day  
APP and add the  
Grad 2024 Channel  
for the latest news  
regarding Grad  
2024!

# COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT NEWS

## COUNSELLOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Ms. Ririe	last names A-I	<a href="mailto:lririe@sd43.bc.ca">lririe@sd43.bc.ca</a>
Mr. Kevin Nelson	last names J-O	<a href="mailto:kenelson@sd43.bc.ca">kenelson@sd43.bc.ca</a>
Ms. Meena Dhillon	last names P-Z	<a href="mailto:mdhillon@sd43.bc.ca">mdhillon@sd43.bc.ca</a>
Ms. Nicole Carson	International Student Contact	<a href="mailto:ncarson@sd43.bc.ca">ncarson@sd43.bc.ca</a>

## GRADE 12 INFORMATION

### **NOVEMBER CHECKLIST FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS:**

Counsellors will be meeting with all grade 12's during ESS on **Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>** to provide important information regarding graduation. All grade 12 students should ensure they have done the following (see below) before the end of November and continue to stay connected through the **My School Day Pinetree APP – GRAD 2024** channel for notifications, along with checking their school email regularly.

**Cap and Gown Survey**—Grade 12's must complete the online form for their Cap and Gown Measurement. Deadline to complete the form is November 30<sup>th</sup>. The link to the form will be emailed to students and posted in the GRAD 2024 Channel on the Pinetree APP on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**GRAD 2024 Channel**—Grade 12's will be asked to add themselves to this channel in the Pinetree My School Day APP so they can stay informed about all details pertaining to graduating students.

**GRAD Requirements Check** - All Grade 12 students will be asked to review their Diploma Verification to ensure they will meet all graduation requirements by June 2024. **Students and parents can view the diploma verification in MYED BC under published reports. This information will be posted in MYED BC on November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**Student Transcript Service (STS)** - All grade 12 graduating students applying to post-secondary institutions for September 2024 must register for a BCeID and complete the electronic confirmation so that their transcript of grades can be accessed by the post-secondary institutions they are applying to. **Most institutions do not require paper transcripts and expect students to complete this process so that marks can be accessed by Colleges and Universities electronically.** Students should have this completed by December 1, 2023 (note: changes and additions can be made once submitted). **All grade 12 students will be sent a reminder and the steps presented on November 15<sup>th</sup> to GRAD 2024 Channel** that shows the steps on how to complete the process.

## POST SECONDARY INFORMATION

### **Scholarships**

Grade 12 students were invited to attend a scholarship meeting in October hosted by Ms. Ririe and Ms. Moorhouse. The power point is posted at the following: [Financial Aid - Pinetree Secondary School \(sd43.bc.ca\)](https://sd43.bc.ca/FinancialAid-PinetreeSecondarySchool). The next scholarship meeting will be held in March or April for students interested in applying for Local Scholarships.

SFU Entrance Scholarships for Canadian and International Students: Application deadline is Dec. 15, 2023. [Entrance - New Students Coming to SFU - Financial Aid and Awards - Simon Fraser University](https://www.sfu.ca/entrance/new-students-coming-to-sfu-financial-aid-and-awards-simon-fraser-university)

UBC First Year Scholarships for Canadian and International Students (most require applying to UBC by Dec. 1, 2023). [UBC Financial planning](#)

For all other entrance scholarships, students should visit post secondary websites.

## **POST SECONDARY APPLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES FOR SEPTEMBER 2024 ADMISSION**

BCIT: Check each program. Trades programs accept applications on an ongoing basis.

Capilano U: Check each program

Douglas College: Apply early! [When to apply | Douglas College](#)

Emily Carr Univ. of Art & Design: Jan. 15, 2024

KPU: Early and limited intake programs - March 1, 2024. Open intake programs - July 1, 2024

UBC: Early deadline is Dec. 1, 2023, and final deadline Jan. 15, 2024

UFV: Most programs Feb. 1, 2024

UVic: Jan. 31, 2024

U of Alberta: March 1, 2024. Apply early.

U of Calgary: March 1, 2024

U of T: Early recommended deadline - Nov. 7, 2023. Final deadline is Jan. 15, 2024 (including all documents)

U of Waterloo: Feb. 1, 2024

McGill: Feb. 1, 2024

### **Application Portals:**

BC Applications: [EducationPlannerBC](#)

Ontario applications: [Ontario Universities' Application Centre \(ouac.on.ca\)](#)

Alberta Colleges & Universities (except for U of A): [ApplyAlberta | ApplyAlberta](#)

For all other Canadian universities, visit the institution website.

### **Post-Secondary Visits**

University & College visits (in-person and online) for students and parents are posted on the Pinetree Calendar and the Career Resource website calendar. Below are the remaining in-person visits:

Nov. 7— Western Univ. at lunch in room A200

Nov. 7— UBC Medical School Info Session after school in the library

Nov. 8— U of Guelph at lunch time in room A200

Nov. 15—UBC Sauder School of Business at lunch time in room A200

Nov. 20—StFX University at lunch time in the foyer

Nov. 24—U of Calgary at lunch time in room A200

Nov. 28—UVic Gustavson School of Business at lunch time in room A200

### **SD43 JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMS INFO SESSION for Grade 11 & 12 Students**

[Learning Experiences & Opportunities - School District No. 43 \(Coquitlam\) \(sd43.bc.ca\)](#)

There are two programs (Coquitlam & Port Moody) taking place in the Spring for students interested in getting a true understanding of basic training for recruits. Students are invited to attend a presentation to find more about the Academy and application process on **Monday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> at lunch time in Room A200**. The application is open Nov. 1 - Dec. 8, 2023, and can be submitted to Ms. Moorhouse in counselling.





# TRUTH & RECONCILIATION DAY

**Pinetree's First Orange Shirt Day Assembly**—It was an important morning on September 29<sup>th</sup>, when students, staff, and guests gathered in the gym to acknowledge and honour survivors of Canadian residential schools. This was Pinetree's first Orange Shirt Day Assembly and a definitive step towards Reconciliation for our school.

The assembly was emceed by Anjali W. and Marianne A.C. and their first task was to introduce fellow English First Peoples 11 students, Harene K. and Jerome L., who recognized the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Kwikwetlem territory with thoughtful respect and commitment.

Next, the choir, led by Mr. De Vita, performed a beautiful and moving version of Chief Dan George's *Coast Salish Anthem*. One of the Indigenous parents in attendance commented that though she had heard this song sung by many different Indigenous groups, she had never heard it performed by a non-Indigenous choir. The Anthem is what impressed her most on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Marianne and Anjali then had the honour of introducing Indigenous guest speaker and performer, Miista Technique—aka Brandon Webster- who spoke about the intergenerational impact of residential schools on him and the direct impact on his family. Sharing his personal experience was interwoven with his songs, tracks written with the intention of both informing and connecting with his audiences.

Ms. Close tied the teachings of the assembly together through her closing remarks.

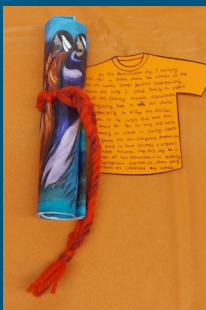
After the gathering in the gym, EFP11 students enjoyed lunch and conversations with our guests who felt warmly welcome at Pinetree. Guests were also treated to gifts of bannock and Three Sisters soup made by Ms. Jackson's Foods classes ... who received rave reviews! Guests included Mr. Rob Zambrano, SD43 Assistant Superintendent; April Bennett, Elder and SD43 Indigenous Advisory Council member; Leah Mantic, Indigenous Community member; and guardians and parents of Pinetree Indigenous students.

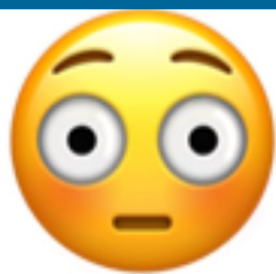
Thanks goes out to our vice principal, Ms. Zimmer; the Orange Shirt Day Committee; Ms. Turpin's Block 2 English 10 class who greeted and visited with guests that morning; and all the other staff and students who not only made the assembly a success, but made the day meaningful.

Hay čx<sup>w</sup> qə  
(thank you)



**Miista Technique**  
performing for our  
students





# SCREEN TIME

Recently, we asked several students to show us how they use their screen time (see the examples below). Not all screen time is bad screen time, but if your adolescent is struggling to find time for homework/study, not getting enough sleep, or missing out on hobbies/sports/extracurriculars, a reduction in excessive screentime may be the healthy decision that you can help them make by deleting or restricting apps.



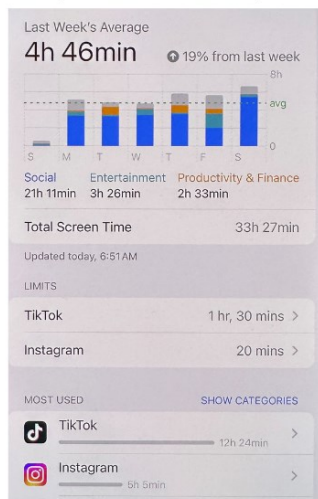
**Student #1**

In one week, this student spent **36 hours** on Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat, Facebook and TikTok.



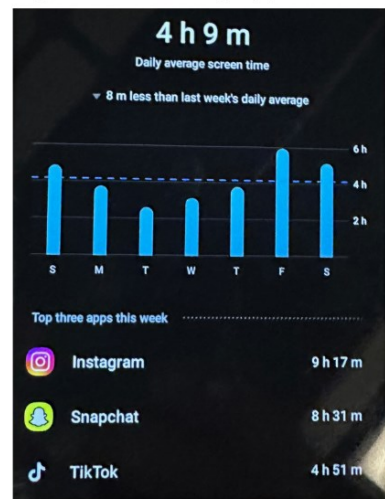
**Student #2**

In one week, this student spent **40 hours** on Snapchat, TikTok and Instagram.



**Student #3**

In one week, this student spent **17 hours** on TikTok and Instagram.



**Student #4**

In one week, this student spent **22 hours** on Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok.



## How to Check Your Child's Screen Time



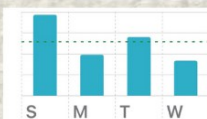
### iPhone



Goto Settings then:  
click on **Screen Time**



**Screen Time**



Then click on  
**See All Activity.**  
This will bring you to the examples you see above.



### Android

**<--or-->**

**Digital Wellbeing and parental controls**  
Screen time • App timers

Goto Settings then  
click on  
**Digital Wellbeing**  
Then click on  
**Most used apps**

This will bring you to the examples you see above.





# SD43 Trades Info Session

PAGE 8

Parents, guardians & students are invited to attend the **SD43 Trades Programs Virtual Info Session on November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.** Learn more about 'Train in Trades', an opportunity for students to gain level I technical training while still in high school. All the training programs are dual credit, meaning students gain high school and post secondary credits.

You can also learn more about 'Work in Trades'. This program is for students who already have a paid job in trades and complete coursework online through Coquitlam Open Learning. Students who work in an apprenticeship trade can earn high school credits toward graduation (up to 16), learn skills while getting paid, earn hours towards trade certification, and qualify for a \$1,000 award from the Ministry of Education.



**Registration is Required.** Visit our School Website for more information, or click [here](#).

## Protect children from respiratory illnesses this winter

Respiratory illnesses tend to increase as we spend more time indoors. Common colds, the flu and COVID-19 spread through tiny droplets as people who are sick breathe, talk, cough or sneeze. When other people touch these droplets and then their eyes, mouth or nose before washing their hands they may become sick.

There are a handful of steps both children and adults can take to protect themselves and limit the spread of respiratory illnesses:

Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water is not available.

Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, mouth and nose.

Cough and sneeze into your elbow.

If you have symptoms, stay home and stay away from people at higher risk of serious illness.

## Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations

The best way to protect others and reduce the risk of getting sick with the flu and COVID-19 is to [get immunized](#). The flu and COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and available for free to anyone aged six months and older.



It is much safer to get the vaccines than to get the illnesses. Register your children with the Get Vaccinated system so that you can be invited to book their vaccinations when they are due. Learn more here: <https://ow.ly/5WWe50PYIYC>

**School Closure  
No Classes  
Friday, Nov. 10**

## STUDENT MESSAGES

Please do not phone or text your child during class time. Urgent messages can be distributed through the office if needed. Thank you for cooperation.



## Pinetree ~ A Smoke Free Environment

Please be aware that Pinetree and all other schools in SD #43, Douglas College and the Coquitlam Community Centre, are all "smoke free" environments and there is no smoking of any kind, e.g. cigarettes, cannabis, e-cig or vaping, etc. on any of these properties at any time. This applies to all staff, parents, students and visitors.

Please respect this expectation. Thank you!

