



## PINETREE WAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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### Pinetree Way Newsletter – September 2016

*This is an important document. Please arrange to have it translated.*

*Ce document est important. On vous recommande de le faire traduire.*

*To jest wazny do kument. Prosimy of przetlumaczenie go.*

此為重要文件,請翻譯成中文。

이것은 매우 중요한 서류입니다, 정확한 번역을 부탁드립니다.

این مدارک از اهمیت ویژه ای برخوردار است لطفا ترجمه شده آن را در خواست بنمایید.

Dear parents, welcome to another promising year of learning at Pinetree Way. The following newsletter, the first of the school year, contains very important information about the school, events, as well as student safety. I have also included some information about our class placement process. Please read and review the following information carefully and again welcome to Pinetree Way for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

Jason Hewlett  
Principal

#### Calendar Dates To Remember:

September 6	First Day of school Gr. 1 – 5 students attend 8:45 am – 9:15 am
September 7	First full day of school Gr. 1 – 5 students attend 8:45 am – 2:45 pm
September 7,8,9	Welcome meetings for kindergarten parents and children
September 11/12	Kindergarten students attend half days 8:45 – 11:15 am
September 13	First full day of school for kindergarten students 8:45 am – 2:45 pm
September 22	Terry Fox Run 1:30 pm
September 22	School Open House 6:00 – 7:00 pm
<b>September 23</b>	<b>Professional Development Day – Students do not attend</b>
September 30	School Wide Zumba Performance 1:30 pm in the gym
October 3	Individual Student Photos
<b>October 10</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
October 20	Interim Reports Sent Home
<b>October 21</b>	<b>Professional Development Day – Students do not attend</b>
October 31	Halloween Parade 1:00 pm in the gym

Please check on the school website calendar for dates and times of events happening at [www.sd43.bc.ca/pinetreeway](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/pinetreeway)

#### Important Forms:

Parents, during the first two weeks of school you will be receiving a package of important forms that you need to fill out and return to your child's teacher. The information on the forms is kept at the school office in case of emergency. Please do your best to ensure the information on the forms is accurate and is returned to school in a timely manner. Thank you for your attention to this.

#### School start and pick up time

A reminder to parents that the first school bell rings at 8:40 am each school day and that school starts promptly at 8:45 am. Please ensure your child is at school on time each day as this greatly helps their learning and transition to school each day. School dismissal time is 2:45 pm each day. At the beginning of each school day and at the end of each school day we request that parents drop off and pick up their children from exterior classroom doors. Doing so will keep our hallways clear and will

facilitate critical conversations and important information being shared between teachers and students at these times of the day. Thank for your cooperation with this.

### **Planners and fridge magnets**

Next week, all students will be receiving a school magnet with important dates for the school year. Please post this magnet in a visible location in your home so you can remind yourself of important dates and events throughout the school year. Grade 1 – 5 students will also be receiving a school planner next week. Student planners are \$10 each and can be paid for via the school cash on line system that our school district now has in place. Congratulations again to Carrie C., one of our students, for designing the front cover of this year's school planner.

### **School goal**

Our school goal for Pinetree Way this school year is to increase our student levels of self-regulation. Self-regulation is a student's ability to regulate and control their thoughts, emotions and behaviors and to focus on their work or task they are engaged in. Throughout the year our staff will be engaged in professional development to address our school goal and we will provide parents with continued information on this school goal.

### **Juice boxes / pop**

Parents, please be reminded that our school is juice box and pop free. Please DO NOT send these beverages to school with your child. We ask that all parents send a refillable water bottle to school with their children each day as it is a much healthier choice, creates zero waste and helps students stay hydrated and ready to learn. Thank you.

### **Parking**

Parking is always quite busy on and around our school property. Parents please follow these helpful tips in regards to parking at our school so that our students and families can stay safe.

1. Please only park your vehicle on the street, or in the lower parking lot.
2. Please DO NOT park in the staff parking lot as this space is reserved for school staff and for those families with students who have physical disabilities.
3. When dropping off or picking up your child in our drop off loop, please stay in your car and pull forward so we can keep the flow of traffic moving. Please DO NOT park in the drop off loop as this causes congestion and backs traffic onto the street.
4. Use caution, drive slow and adhere to traffic rules
5. Walk your child to school instead. (This can be a great opportunity to connect with your child and share your day with each other)

### **Dogs**

Parents if at all possible, please do not bring your dogs onto school property. There are children in our school who are afraid of dogs and this can lead to many problems. Thank you for your assistance with this request. If you must have a dog with you please ensure it is leashed at all times.

### **Zumba – School Wide Performance Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm**

Many thanks to Gigi Yong, a parent in our school community, and a certified Zumba instructor. Ms. Yong will be instructing Zumba classes September 26 – 30th for all of the students in our school community. A final school wide Zumba performance will happen in our school gym on **Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm**. All parents and families are invited to attend.

### **Terry Fox Run – Thursday September 22 – 1:30 pm**

Our annual Terry Fox Run happens on Thursday September 22nd at 1:30 pm. Information about the run and about pledges will be sent out to families the second week of school. Again this year, we will be looking for parent volunteers to assist us as marshals on our run course.

### **School Open House – Thursday September 22 – 6:00 – 7:00 pm**

Our annual school open house is scheduled for Thursday September 22nd from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. All families are invited to tour the school, see their child's classroom and to meet their child's teacher.

### **New staff**

We welcome the following new staff to Pinetree Way.

Ms. Leighs	Primary Teacher
Mrs. Bellamy	Student Services Teacher
Ms. Khong	Student Services Teacher
Ms. Salituro	School Counsellor
Mr. Bent	Morning Caretaker

### **PAC – Parent Advisory Council – First Meeting Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.**

Our first school PAC meeting will be scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in the Music room. I just wanted to take this opportunity to invite any parents, who want to be involved in our school, to attend our PAC meetings and to get involved. Our school PAC helps our school by engaging in fundraising initiatives, organizing school events and activities and assisting with the development of our school Action Plan for learning. If you can spare a few hours or only a couple of hours of time please get involved with our school PAC. For more information please contact the Pinetree Way PAC at [ptwpac@gmail.com](mailto:ptwpac@gmail.com)

### **School Portraits – Monday October 3rd**

Individual school portraits are taking place on Monday, October 3rd. Parents please mark this on your calendar.

### **After School Programs**

Our after school programs coordinated by the PAC and through the City of Coquitlam will commence sometime in October. More information on available programs will be sent home to parents in late September.

### **School Cash Online**

As you may know, our school district has introduced a new online payment system that will allow parents to view and pay for your child's school fees, planners and field trips safely and conveniently online. We encourage parents to register your account online now! Additional information will be sent home with parents the second week of school.

Here's how to get started:

1. Go to <https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com>
2. Click on "Get Started Today"
3. Create your account
  - i. Enter your first and last name; click continue
  - ii. Enter fields: address, phone number, e-mail address; click continue
  - iii. Choose a password and security question
  - iv. Make sure to OPT IN to receiving e-mail notifications for updated school information

For further inquiries call the School Cash Online Support Line #1-866-961-1803

## **School Organization and Class Placement for September 2016**

As we begin the school year parents often have questions about school organization, class placements and opening week procedures for the start of school in September. The following information will hopefully help to provide parents with insight on:

- School organization and student enrolment
- Blended classes
- Class placement of students

### **School Organization and Student Enrolment:**

All elementary schools are allocated staffing by the school district based upon projected student enrolment for September. Since staffing levels (how many teachers a school is given) depend upon student enrolment, it is very important that schools hear from parents if their child/ren will not be attending the same school again in September, or if families will be on extended holidays anytime in the first two weeks of school. Similarly, it is important for people moving into a school community to contact the school about registration as early as possible.

If a school receives many more registered students than anticipated for September this can mean that class size limits stipulated in the collective agreement may be in violation and the school would have to add a division and reorganize all classes during the first week of school. Reorganization of all classes can also happen during the first week of school if a school has a lot less students than expected for September and usually means that a school will lose staff.

As you can see, the first week of school can present several challenges for organizing an elementary school, making up classes and placing new students. Our procedure on opening day of students returning to last year's teacher on the first day of school and again returning to an alternate teacher the first week of school allows staff time to see which families may have moved out of Pinetree Way over the summer, check to find out why some students from last year have not shown up on the first day and continue to register students new to the school. The same process occurs at all elementary schools with changes in student enrolment.

### **Blended Classes**

Blended classes have students from two grades in one class. The realities of student enrolment, staffing allotments and contractual class size limits dictate that there will be blended classes at Pinetree Way and all elementary schools and middle schools across the school district. Regardless of whether your child is placed in a blended class or a straight grade class numerous studies indicate that they will do as well in one setting as in the other.

### **Class Placements**

Your child's teachers, along with other teachers your child may have had last year, consider many factors in the process of recommending a student's placement for this year's class. The process is very thorough and many hours of discussion and consultation focus upon the educational needs of students which may include the following factors:

- academic ability
- maturity
- social relationship with peers
- work habits and attitude
- learning style
- academic relationship with peers

We trust this information will be helpful and increase understanding about some of the issues and realities of school organization and class placement. We also seek your cooperation and support for our start up this September 2016.