



Home of the Mighty Voyageurs

PITT RIVER NEWS

Principal: Todd Clerkson
www.sd43.bc.ca/pittriver

Vice-Principal: Carmel Smith
Phone: 604-942-0267

Community School: Heather Roemer
Phone: 604-464-0207

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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- Please no U-turns on Tyner Street; significant accidents have been the result of u-turns in previous years.

Please feel free to contact myself, or the Vice-Principal, Mrs. Smith, if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Mr. T. Clerkson
Principal

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DATE: Sept. 10, 2010

CALENDAR 2010 - 11

(Reminder to check your Fridge Magnet regularly)

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- *Principal's Message*
- *General Information*
- *Neighbourhood Happenings*
- *Other information*

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As those of you who have kids in sports may know, equipment does not last long especially when put to the test by an adolescent. The same goes for our equipment and uniforms here at Pitt River. The fee is to assist us in the replacement and upkeep of our athletics equipment, as well as paying referees, ribbons/trophies and cost of team parties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Cirillo, Athletic Director.

Next school year we will include this \$10 (optional) as part of the Activity Fee schedule.

Electronic Device Policy

Context:

Last year we implemented a new policy around Electronic devices, such as iPods and cell phones. The rationale behind this was that these devices have become a mainstay in today's society, for youth and adults. These devices can be useful tools in the classroom in that they can be used for such things as web browsing, information sharing, voice recording, calculating, and so on. Many experts predict that in the next few years all students will use some form of handheld device in their classes as an integral part of their learning.

Our new school will be built with the capacity to maximize the use of technology so it only made sense for us to start to move in the direction that many other middle schools have gone and relax our policy around the use of electronic devices.

Also, students had expressed frustration at not being able to utilize these devices before school and during break times. Students work hard in classes for the majority of the day and want some freedom to choose their activities during their free time. Furthermore, some students maintain that they find listening to music to be helpful in terms of focusing during independent work. Providing students with the opportunity to utilize these devices in a positive, responsible way just seems like the right thing to do! It also provides us as educators with the opportunity to actively teach the socially responsible use of these tools.

Results: Students responded to this new privilege/responsibility amazingly. There were very few issues.

If your child is new to the school or you would like to refresh them on the policy, please review the following information with them:

POLICY:

Electronic devices (iPods and cell phones) can be carried at all times, but only be used in classrooms at teacher discretion. During break times, students can use the devices as long as it is in an appropriate manner.

General Expectations (Cell Phones): should not be used for social calls; ringers must always remain on silent; any texting during break times should be in the form of information sharing or positive social messaging.

General Expectations (iPods): volume must not distract others; earphones must be removed when speaking to an adult.

Inappropriate Use:

Not following teacher instructions/classroom policy.

Using the device in a negative way towards others

Absolutely no photos/videos without teacher permission.

Progressive Consequences for Inappropriate Use:

The first instance will result in the device being sent to the office where it can be picked up at the end of that day.

The second instance will result in an office referral and confiscation for a brief period; parents will also be contacted.

The third instance will result in loss of the privilege for a longer period of time (the length will depend on the circumstances).

*Any incident deemed serious enough could result in the immediate loss of this privilege for an extended period of time.

** As we are not mandating that students bring electronic devices to school, they do so at their own risk. The school assumes no responsibility for damage, loss, etc..

Changes to Driver Volunteer Forms

The School District has asked us to pass on the following information on behalf of the Coquitlam RCMP, regarding changes to completing the volunteer forms. Because of the process involved, if you plan to volunteer to drive for field trips, please come in to the office as soon as possible to get a package so all the paperwork will be done when an occasion arise:

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without the letter, and does not wish to return with a letter, they are charged \$60 regardless of the reason they are getting the search done.

2) **Fingerprints:** Due to enhancements to the Vulnerable Sector search, the RCMP is casting a broader net, and fingerprints MAY be required to verify information on applicants, even if they have had a clear record in the past. Results from fingerprinting can take from 30 to 120 days. Please note that the requirement for fingerprints does NOT imply any criminal activity. Rather, it is a way to help us eliminate the applicant from any such activities. This is particularly important for people who will be working with children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

3) **Hours of Operation:** Coquitlam RCMP front counter is open Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays/Stats 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

4) **Identification:** Applicants MUST present current Government-issued photo ID, and proof of where they live. A BC Driver's Licence is perfect if it contains their current address. If the applicant's address is not current, please recommend that they have it updated before attending the RCMP. If the applicant does not possess a BC Driver's Licence, they can also present BCID with their current address, OR a current valid passport and a piece of computer-generated mail, such as a bank statement, that has their current address.

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All signup take place in -the Band Room - Room 116

Class Placement

A lot of time and consideration goes into organizing the class placement for the students and it can often take a few weeks for a child to settle in with his/her new teacher and classmates. Please allow some time for your child to adjust to the new routines, teacher and classmates. If you would like some suggestions for helping your child adjust to his/her new class, please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teacher or our Counsellor, Ms. Luddu.

Planners & Locks

Please take a moment to read through the planner and talk about various sections (i.e. Code of Conduct, electronics policy, dress code, etc.). We try to provide a safe and caring environment for the students at Pitt River Community School and this is made possible when students are familiar with the expectations. Also, please remind your child not to share his/her locker combination with any other student.

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Passing the torch of remembrance

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