



September 8, 2014

Re: School Start-up Update and Pinetree Secondary Information

Students, parents, and guardians,

We are writing this letter to provide our students and parents with some information regarding school start-up, registration day processes, and ideas to support student learning during labour dispute.

At this time we do not have a confirmed date for school start-up; the school districts are waiting for direction from the Ministry of Education. When we receive this information, our Superintendent, Mr. Tom Grant, will send an official letter to school principals to email to parents and guardians and post on our school's website.

Pinetree Secondary's website is: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/pinetree>

The school district will also post the letter on the district website: <http://www.my43.bc.ca>

Please continue to check the school's website for updates.

Over this week, we have spoken with parents and students regarding school timetables and suggestions to support Pinetree students' learning during this job action.

Student timetables: At this time we are working diligently to address multiple timetabling requirements: balancing academic courses in each semester, adjusting courses due to repeating a subject, and summer learning course work completed or not completed. At the same time, we are reviewing class size and composition. Usually this work is completed in June and August by our counsellors, learning support teachers, and administration prior to school start-up. Since this did not occur, we are doing our best to complete this work now. Therefore, we do not have any finalized student timetables and we are unable to provide them to students or parents at this time.

Concerns due to a late school start-up: We understand that for students the delay of school start-up can be very worrisome with concerns regarding completion of course curriculum in time to write provincial exams and learn the curriculum at each grade level. When school starts, please be assured that all staff will be working together to review curricular outcomes and teaching approaches to ensure that all students are able to demonstrate the necessary learning to meet their course work towards graduation, as well as their personal long term goals and plans.

Preparation prior to school start-up: Our suggestion is for students to review last year's academic courses, particularly English, Social Studies, Mathematics and Science for grades 9 and 10 students. Senior students should review past learning relevant to this year's courses that were selected. This would include the core academic courses, as well as elective courses such as French 11 or Economics 11 in preparation of the grade 12 level course. By reviewing the classroom notes, assignments and quizzes,



students will feel more confident. This preparation may help reduce anxiety and sharpen understanding of learning concepts from last year. In addition, we have received some helpful information regarding resources on-line that have been recommended for all learners. Please see the following sites:

The primary resource is the Ministry of Education Parent site, *BC Parent Info*, which includes many useful resources for all grade levels as well as *OpenSchool BC* online course material. The Learning Resources page can be found at <http://bcparentinfo.ca/learning-resources/>

We further recommend two specific resources at LearnNowBC:

- o <http://www.learnnowbc.ca/LearningResources.aspx> – includes more resources, often grade specific, including digital activities and videos
- o <http://www.learnnowbc.ca/studycentre/default.aspx> – offers free online tutoring services (beginning Sept 7th)

Pinetree Secondary School start-up: When the date for school startup is confirmed, as mentioned earlier in this letter, you will receive a message from the Superintendent and Pinetree Secondary School. With the school message, there will be further information about the **“Look of the First Day and Week”**. The first day is traditionally a one hour “Registration Day” where grade 11 and 12s meet at 10 am and grade 9 and 10 students arrive for a 1 pm for PACK (homeroom) class. At that time, we hand out agendas, fee statements, student schedules, and collect start-up information. In the meantime, students can go online and select a locker at: <http://pinetreelockerassignment.com>

The **“Start-up Package”** was emailed home to you in the *Welcome Back Newsletter* with information regarding start-up, fees, and forms to complete. If you did not receive a newsletter via email, the *School Start-up Information - Welcome Back Newsletter* is posted on the left side of the school website page under “News and Announcements”.

Please go to: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/secondary/pinetree/Pages/default.aspx>

On the first day, registration day, students are asked to bring all of the requested parent signature documents and fees to the PACK class. In the meantime, we encourage parents to go online to our school website and complete the necessary Parent eForms online. We appreciate your assistance with completing and submitting these forms and fees as quickly as possible. For further assistance please contact the Pinetree Secondary School office at 604-464-2513.

We look forward to the return of our students and staff for the 2014-2015 school year.

Warmest regards,

John McCullough, Cheryl Woods, and Mike Slinger
Administration team
Pinetree Secondary School