

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2025—2026

September

- 29 Orange Shirt Day:
Truth & Reconciliation
Honouring Assembly
- 30 Truth & Reconciliation Day
(School not in session)

October

- 2 Senior Sail (Gr. 12s)
4:30—10:00 pm
- 8 Interim Reports on Portal
after 4:00 pm
- 9 Club Fair @ lunch
- 13 Thanksgiving Holiday—
schools closed
- 17 Photo Retakes
Grad Photos Oct. 17—31
- 24 Pro-D Day—Provincial
- 28 PAC meeting in library
7:00—8:30 pm
- 29 Fall Concert—6:30 pm
- 31 Halloween
Last day for Grad Photos

November

- 2 Fall Back, daylight savings
time ends
- 10 Remembrance Day
Ceremony
- 11 Remembrance Day Holi-
day—schools closed
- 19 Midterms on Portal after
4:00 pm
- 25 PAC Meeting 7:00—8:30 pm
- 26 Grade 9 Day
- 27 Early Dismissal—2:20 pm
- 27 P/T Conferences
2:40—6:40 pm

Admin Team

Principal:

Janine Close
jclose@sd43.bc.ca

Vice Principals:

Catherine Aoyama (A—J)
caoyama@sd43.bc.ca

Marina Mehaj (K—P)
mmehaj@sd43.bc.ca

Mark Rao (Q—Z)
mr Rao@sd43.bc.ca

WELCOME TO PINETREE!

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>

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

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

At the end of the 24/25 school year, we said goodbye to a collection of staff members who accepted new positions elsewhere, or whose temporary contracts ended, and we also had several teachers retire, some of whom were longstanding Pinetree teachers. Retiring from Pinetree were the following teachers: **George Lin** (January), **Mario Iaccobucci** (March), **Paul Kerr**, **Mike Tyldesley**, **Craig Kachor**, and **Penny Turpin**. We wish them all the best in retirement. They had a positive impact on the culture of Pinetree, and their expertise will be missed.

With September nearly under our belts, the school year has gotten off to a positive start with students attending grade assemblies throughout the first week to learn/be reminded about school expectations, the code of conduct, and the range of supports available. Students were also reminded of the provincially mandated digital devices policy which includes the expectation that students' devices need to be put away unless they are being used for a teacher directed educational purpose. We also reminded students that devices need to remain in class when they are using the bathroom facilities, to avoid long, "device distracted" breaks. Teachers will have their own classroom policies to address their different contexts and students can use their devices during lunchtime and breaks. We have been reminding students of the policy, and we once again ask for parent/guardians' support as we implement expectations. Staff and students are also embracing a new block schedule that has Monday ending a little bit earlier (3:00 p.m.) and two ESS (enrichment and support seminars) opportunities on Tuesday/Thursday for students to seek additional teacher time and support.

Students also had the opportunity to embrace Pinetree's positive school culture when the senior leadership students ran junior and senior spirit assemblies (September 16th/18th) as well as fun dress up days to enhance a sense of camaraderie, fun, and pride. It was wonderful to observe students' choices on "anything but a backpack" day, decades day, and "dress like Adam Sandler" day. I have no doubt the Leadership crew will be planning more fun ways for students to connect, get creative, and show school pride.

On Thursday, September 25th, Pinetree hosted our Meet the Teacher/Building Connections Evening from 5:15 – 7:30 p.m. We hope you were able to drop in, meet your adolescent's teachers, stop by the Careers, Trades, and Transitions booth set up by Ben King, the district's Careers, Trades, and Transitions Principal and/or connect with our Post Secondary and Career Resource Advisor, Carmen Moorhouse. The landscape of post secondary opportunities and requirements is always shifting, so if your adolescent is in grade 11 or 12, it's worth reaching out to her if you are exploring post-secondary opportunities. Interims, which provide parents with a snapshot of students' progress, will be available on the MyEd Portal on **October 8th**.

Clubs applications are complete and on Thursday, **October 9th**, students will have an opportunity to visit booths representing each club at the lunchtime Clubs Fair. Encourage your adolescents to check it out; they may discover a new passion or interest. In addition, extra-curricular activities are well underway at Pinetree Secondary, with volleyball, boys' soccer, unified soccer, swimming, and

Principal's Message
continued....

cross-country teams in full swing; as well as volleyball intramurals currently happening during lunch.

For our grade 12 students, there will be numerous wonderful grad activities throughout the year, including the upcoming Senior Sail on **Thursday, October 2nd**. Students who purchased tickets will have bus transportation downtown and spend the evening sailing around the Vancouver Harbour, enjoying food and soft drinks, and dancing the night away to the DJ music mixes.

Finally, please note that on we will be having our school wide, student led honouring assembly on **Monday, September 29th** at 11:25 a.m. and on **Tuesday, September 30th**, schools will be closed because it is a statutory for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

It's shaping up to be a fantastic year at Pinetree. Please encourage your teens to take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities available, and reach out to their counsellor, vice principal, or me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ms. Janine Close, *Principal*

E-bikes & E-scooters

The BC government has recently updated their regulations for E-bikes and E-scooters to highlight the importance of safety. It's worth noting that E-scooters are permitted to be operated by anyone 16 years of age or older. "Light E-bikes" (max 250W) are permitted to be operated by anyone 14 years of age or older, while "Standard E-bikes" (max 500W) are permitted to be operated by anyone 16 years of age or older. There are also regulations pertaining to where E-bikes and E-scooters are permitted to be operated.

For the safety of students and staff, those old enough to ride E-bikes and E-scooters should operate them with caution on and around school district properties and use a U lock to secure them. Be aware that cable locks can be cut and thefts can occur.

You can review these updated regulations here:

[Electric kick scooter rules and safety - Province of British Columbia](#)

[E-bike requirements - Province of British Columbia](#)

STUDENT TUTORS

Pinetree is home to many students who have performed strongly in several courses, especially academic ones. Beyond being knowledgeable, these students are also patient, cooperative, and welcoming. We have compiled a list of students who are willing to be student tutors for the year. This is a resource in addition to ESS and the Homework Club at Pinetree. Students are charging \$18 an hour for tutoring in all academic subjects offered at Pinetree. If you feel your child could benefit from this, please contact Mr. Sharma (vsharma@sd43.bc.ca) or Mr. Nelson (kenelson@sd43.bc.ca) for more information.

Student Verification Forms—now available for parents/guardians to view through the MyEd Parent Portal. If changes are required, print the form, indicate changes in red (or a colour), sign and return it to the office ASAP. If an address change is required, complete the Change of Address form found [here](#) and submit to the office, along with the 3 required documents. If you are unable to print the Student Verification Form, advise the office and we will print it for you. Need help with the Portal? Click [here](#). Note: demographic information for new students may not be fully updated as it is currently being edited. Thank you for your patience.

Emergency Release Forms—were sent home the first week with students. Complete, sign and return the form to the office by the end of this week. Please contact the office if you did not receive this form.

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

STUDENT PARKING



Students driving a vehicle to and from school, they **must** obtain a valid 2025—2026 Pinetree Parking Pass from the main office.

- Students must park in the designated student parking lot (over the overpass, Lot A)
- Vehicles parked in the student parking area without a valid pass will receive a parking ticket from the City of Coquitlam and may be towed
- Students may not park in or enter the staff parking lot
- Students may not enter or park in the Community Centre lot — front or back — between 8:00 am & 6:00 pm

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.

POST SECONDARY & CAREER ADVISOR

Are you a parent who wants to be kept in the loop about upcoming career and post-secondary resources for students? On the Pinetree webpage, go to the "Programs & Services" tab and click on "Career Centre". At the bottom of the page there are six tabs, including: Opportunities, Post Secondary, Employment/Volunteering, Financial Aid, Trades & Apprenticeships, and District Career Programs. The first four tabs pertain to the Pinetree Post Secondary/Career Centre site and the other two buttons will navigate you to district-based information. Check back regularly and, if you have any specific questions, feel free to reach out to our Post Secondary & Career Advisor, Carmen Moorhouse, at cmoorhouse@sd43.bc.ca or call the school at (604) 464-2513 and ask for Carmen.

PARENTS AS EDUCATION AND CAREER COACHES: EducationPlannerBC with SD 43 Coquitlam invites parents, families, and student supporters to join a virtual presentation on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025 (6:30pm-7:45pm)

Learn about post-secondary education and career opportunities, as well as tools to best support your student in planning for their future. The information will be especially helpful for families with students in grades 10- 12. Come explore our website! Search thousands of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, and the Glossary. Learn how to create an account; save programs, paths, and careers to My List; and apply to post secondary in B.C.

Registration is required. The session will be on MS Teams.

Link to register: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

GRAD 2026 & GR 10/11 TEAMS

TEAMS FOR STUDENTS

You child is invited to become a member of a TEAM to get alerts of upcoming post-secondary resources, career events, volunteer/employment, experience information, and resources. To become a member, students should email Ms. Moorhouse at cmoorhouse@sd43.bc.ca and put either Grad 2026 or Grade 10/11 in the subject line. This is the most comprehensive manner to receive timely information.

MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

Please do not phone or text your child during class time. Urgent messages can be delivered 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 Center, are "smoke free" environments and there is no smoking of any kind (cigarettes, cannabis, e-cig, 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!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All upcoming events will be posted on the [school calendar](#)