

PINETREE SECONDARY SCHOOL

3000 PINEWOOD AVENUE, COQUITLAM, BC V3B 7Y7 PH: 604-464-2513 FAX: 604-937-8056

NEWSLETTER

2025-2026

Accepting Challenges Together

Principal's Message

Dear Pinetree Families:

Calendar of Events

January

- 19 - 23 Graduation Assessments
- 23 Grade 8 Walkabout
- 23 End of Semester 1
- 23 New Student Orientation
- 26 Semester 2 Begins
- 27 PAC meeting, library
7:00 - 8:30 pm
- 29 Semester 1 Learning
Updates on Portal after
4:00 pm

February

- 11 Club Day
- 16 BC Family Day, schools closed
- 18 Grade 10 Day
- 24 PAC meeting, library,
7:00 - 8:30 pm
- 25 Pink Shirt Day
- 27 Pro D Day, school not in
session

March

- 4 Interims on Portal after 4:00 pm
- 5 Spring Concert, Jazz & Java,
6:30 pm
- 9 Spring Concert, Non Jazz,
6:30 pm
- 13 Last day of classes before
Spring Break
- 14 - 29 Spring Break
- 30 Schools Reopen

It feels like the Winter Break is a distant memory and perhaps it's because we hit the ground running when we returned to finish the first semester. With only one regular week of classes and last week made up of double blocks on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, students have had a small window of time to finish off classes, demonstrate their learning, and finish the semester strong. This week there is an adjusted schedule (see previous email) to accommodate Ministry assessments, CLC presentations for early grads, and several important sessions for various grade groups.

On Monday, grade 9's worked on their digital literacy curriculum and participated in course information and selection for their grade 10 school year. Grade 10's and 12's have at least one Ministry assessment to complete in literacy and/or numeracy, and grade 11's participated in a presentation with a focus on AI and research. Teachers will also have periods of time available for students to come in and make-up work, should they not quite be meeting the curricular outcomes in their courses.

Semester two will commence on Monday, January 26th, which will be a wonderful opportunity to "start fresh" with a host of new classes. This is a great time to encourage students to mindfully set attainable goals and/or study schedules, so they have a successful second semester. Students can log on to the MyEd student portal to access their schedule at any time (they can see their vice principal if logging on is a challenge).

ADMIN TEAM:

Principal: Janine Close, jclose@sd43.bc.ca

Vice Principals:

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

Marina Mehari (K - P) mmehari@sd43.bc.ca

Mark Rao (Q - Z) mrao@sd43.bc.ca

While starting semester two course work is in the immediate future for students, counsellors and administrators are working on the school organization and planning for September 2026, which involves course planning with all returning students.

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.

Current grade 9's received their course selection presentation on Monday; the grade 10's will work on course selection in ESS on Tuesday, February 3rd; and grade 11's will complete their presentation on Tuesday, February 10th during ESS. Reminder to all parents/guardians and students that this course selection process is very important. We use the student selections to plan the variety and number of classes that are offered at Pinetree for the upcoming school year. Families need to make mindful, informed decisions around students' course selections, as there is limited ability for the school to make changes in September.

In other news, **Colleen Lee**, who has been a leader and Japanese teacher extraordinaire at Pinetree Secondary since September of 1997, is retiring at the end of the semester. Colleen has brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role, made many connections with students and staff, and exemplified caring and enthusiasm in every initiative she undertook. While we wish her well with her retirement plans, she will definitely be missed. Joining the staff to teach Japanese and art is **Lynn Song**. We have also added an English/business education position, and welcome **Kendra Footz** to the role. Finally, we have added a social studies/ELL position, and we welcome **Bonnie Welch** as the successful applicant. We also welcome back **Beeta Jafarzadeh** and say goodbye to **Sophia Lightbourn** who replaced Beeta during her leave.

In sports, the boys' basketball teams, the ski and snowboarding team, and wrestling team seasons have commenced, and, for the first time in a very long time, rugby is being offered, with tryouts starting this week. A big thank you to all coaches and sponsors who volunteer so much of their time to make these opportunities available to students!

Finally, once again, we would like to remind parents to respect the parking signs and directions in and around Pinetree Secondary School. Parents/guardians should NOT be entering the staff parking lot at the north side of the school to drop off students. There is a drop-off lane at the west side of the school that should be used. In addition, please avoid dropping off or picking up students in the community centre parking lot to the south of the building. The best strategy is for parents/guardians to drop off their adolescents in the town center parking lot close to the pedestrian walkway. The walkway provides a direct route into the school and enables everyone (students and drivers alike) to be safe.

Students' learning update (summary of learning/report card) for semester one will be available on the MyEd student and parent portals on Thursday, January 29th, after 4 pm.

Sincerely,

Janine Close
Principal



Cross Catchment Process

General Information:

The cross-catchment process begins on February 6 at 9:00 am and ends on February 11 at 4:00 pm. A student's catchment is determined by the parent and child's residence (permanent home address in which the family is residing at the time they make application). The cross-catchment application can only be completed online. Information about the process can be found on the district website at:

SD43 Cross Catchment Information

Parents should:

- Ensure that any changes to student data, especially address changes, are in the current school's student record system.
- Ensure they have the correct information to be listed as their child's "catchment" school by utilizing the school district school locator with their current address which should be the address on file in the student records at the school.
- Ensure they have their child's personal education number (PEN) which is required on both the Programs of Choice and the Cross Catchment applications. The PEN number can be located on their child's report card or by accessing their MyEd parent portal.
- An automated email is sent to confirm application has been received.

Sibling status: children, who have a sibling at a school outside their catchment, will be accepted at the sibling's school (provided the sibling will be in attendance when the incoming student begins their schooling at the out of catchment school). Parents of children in grades 1-12 need to fill out the sibling part of the online cross catchment application process (February 6 – 11) confirming sibling status.

- Families that live outside SD43 catchment boundaries and would like to register for the next year at an SD43 school need to go through the cross-catchment process. Once the cross-catchment process is completed, then principals will determine acceptance based on availability.

Forms

Student Verification Forms—It is important that the information in our system is accurate. Parents/Guardians are asked to review the Student Verification Forms through the Parent Portal yearly and advise of any information updates:

- Changes required
 - print and clearly indicate changes required
 - sign and return to the office
 - include copies of required documentation as mentioned in the notification
- No changes required or the form is not visible and needs to be reposted
 - email Ms. Carlin, Student Records Secretary, ccarlin@sd43.bc.ca

Emergency Release Forms—These forms were sent home at the beginning of the school year with students. If you have not already, please send the forms in as they are now past due.

Medical Alert Forms—If your child has a medical alert and it has not yet been submitted, please complete the appropriate Medical Alert Forms found accessible on our school website or [here](#).

Counselling Department News

Counsellor	Last names	Email
Ms. Courtney Bishop	A-I	cbishop@sd43.bc.ca
Mr. Kevin Nelson	J-O	kenelson@sd43.bc.ca
Ms. Meena Dhillon	P-Z	mdhillon@sd43.bc.ca
Mr. Vinay Sharma, International Student Contact		vsharma@sd43.bc.ca



COURSE PROGRAMMING FOR SEPTEMBER, 2026

Counsellors have started the course planning sessions for the next school year!

Current grade 9 students attended course planning sessions with Counsellors on January 19th, 2026. In addition, a Parent Programming Information Session was held on January 13th in the evening for parents to learn more about the course selection process, graduation requirements, and post-secondary entrance requirements. If you were unable to attend, information regarding course planning and the PowerPoint will be available on the school website under [Course Planning Information](#).

Course selection dates and deadlines:

Current grade 9's: January 19, 2026. Due date - January 26, 2026

Current grade 10's: February 3 - 11, 2026, during ESS block. Due date - February 11, 2026

Current grade 11's: February 10 - 20, 2026, during ESS block. Due date - February 20, 2026

All students will be inputting their course selections themselves via MyEd BC and parents can ask their child to show them their intended courses for next year. We encourage parents to be involved in their child's course selection and planning process. It is important for students to be asking questions now to make good choices with their selections, as making changes later in the fall can become difficult and, in some cases, impossible.

We encourage all students to meet with their counsellor if they have questions about which courses to select and expect all current grade 11's to meet with their counsellor before inputting their courses into MyEd BC.

Counsellors are available to answer any questions you may have about your child's course planning and future goals, as is Ms. Moorhouse, our Post-Secondary & Career Advisor, cmoorhouse@sd43.bc.ca. Please email or call us.

Transcript Order Reminder for Graduating Students

Students applying to post-secondary institutions for September 2026 entry must sign-up for a BCEID and register/activate the Student Transcript Service. This process gives permission for the Ministry of Education to send official transcripts to post-secondary institutions. Student must also follow college and university grades reporting instructions to receive a conditional offer of admission. Different methods and deadlines must be adhered to.

[Order transcripts and certificates - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov2/education/postsecondary/grades_reporting)

REMINDER

Student Drop Off/Pick Up

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

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.

Drivers are also 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.



Drop-off/pick-up safety for our students

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 NOT enter the Community Recreation Centre's parking lot.



Student Parking

If a student is 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 Visitors

SD43 schools have a no student visitor policy during instructional time, unless visitors are participating in approved activities that include supervision (athletic events, concerts, etc.).

All secondary schools have large

student populations and are responsible for the supervision and safety of their own students. Non-supervised visitors pose supervision concerns as well as potential safety concerns. As a result, students visiting other schools could face disciplinary

measures. Likewise, students should not be inviting other students to come to their schools during the school day.

Thank you for your support in helping to ensure that our school is a safe place for learning.

Ways to Support Coaches

Coaches are the guiding figures and play a crucial role in developing our athletes

Respect is a fundamental aspect of any successful and harmonious relationship, and this holds true in the realm of sports as well. Coaches, the guiding figures on the sidelines, play a crucial role in the development of athletes both on and off the field. Treating coaches with respect is not only a matter of common courtesy but is also integral to fostering a positive and constructive sports environment.

To treat coaches with respect, it is essential to understand the multifaceted nature of their role. Coaches are not merely instructors; they are mentors, motivators, and leaders. They invest time, energy, and expertise into shaping athletes not only as competitors but as individuals with character, discipline, and a strong work ethic. Recognizing the dedication and responsibility coaches bear is the first step toward treating them with the respect they deserve.

In essence, athletes can show respect for coaches by being attentive, punctual, positive, communicative, appreciative, committed, and responsible. Fostering a culture of mutual respect contributes to a positive and fulfilling sports experience for both coaches and athletes.

Parents can express appreciation for high school volunteer coaches in various meaningful ways, fostering a positive and supportive coaching environment. One impactful way is through direct communication—expressing gratitude verbally or in writing. A heartfelt thank you note or a simple conversation after practice or games can go a long way in acknowledging their efforts.

Organizing a collective effort within the parent community can also be powerful. Collaborate to create a group card or gift, pooling resources to show a united front of appreciation. This could be a personalized coach's plaque, a gift card to a favorite restaurant, or a sports-themed item. Volunteering time and assistance can lighten the load for coaches. Whether it's helping with equipment, organizing events, or coordinating team logistics, parents can contribute to the smooth functioning of the team and demonstrate their appreciation through action. Supporting team events and activities, attending games and cheering enthusiastically are other avenues for parents to show gratitude. This involvement not only fosters a sense of community but also reinforces the value placed on the coach's contributions.

In essence, parents can show appreciation by combining genuine expressions of gratitude, tangible gestures, active involvement, and respectful communication. Together, these actions reinforce the collective acknowledgement of the coach's dedication, fostering a positive sports experience for both athletes and those guiding them.

In the world of sports, treating coaches with respect is not just a courtesy; it is a crucial component of a successful and fulfilling athletic journey. Through effective communication, and acknowledgment of expertise, athletes and parents can contribute to a positive and respectful coach-athlete relationship. By fostering an environment of mutual respect, athletes not only enhance their own development but also contribute to the overall success and camaraderie of the team.

Luke Ireland, Athletic Director

Grad 2026

Grad fees for 2026 are \$65.00. This fee helps pay for the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (venue where commencement is held), cap and gown (which students get to keep) and other expenses related to graduation. This item is available NOW on School Cash On-Line. As always, if your family is experiencing financial hardship and is unable to pay fees, please reach out to your adolescent's vice principal.

EVENTS

Commencement Ceremony

Date: Monday, June 1, 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Where: Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver

Dinner Dance

Dinner/Dance

Date: Saturday June 13, 2026

Time: 6:30 - 11:00 pm

Where: Westin Bayshore, Vancouver

After Grad

After Grad

When: Saturday June 13 2026

Time: 11:00 pm - 3:30 am

Where: Silver City, Coquitlam



Celebrating Inclusive Employers in the Tri-Cities

We are proud to recognize inclusive employers across the Tri-Cities who support our District Work Experience Program. Their commitment helps students of all abilities grow into capable, connected, and contributing members of their communities.

By welcoming students into their workplaces, these employers foster confidence, skill development, and meaningful experiences of inclusion. Their support strengthens both our youth and the broader community.

We encourage families to show their support by choosing to do business with these inclusive employers who are making a real difference in the lives of our students.

Central Elementary Community school – breakfast program
 The Boathouse restaurant- Port Moody
 Anytime Fitness – Port Coquitlam and Coquitlam
 Canuel Catering – Port Moody
 Cakes and Sweets -Coquitlam
 Lordco Parts – Port Coquitlam
 Kin's Market – Port Coquitlam and Como Lake
 Dairy Queen – Shaughnessy Street, Port Coquitlam
 PoCo Bowl -Port Coquitlam
 Mind Games – Coquitlam Center
 The Children's Place- Coquitlam Centre
 Cassandra Cakes- Port Coquitlam
 Hawthorne Seniors Lodge – Port Coquitlam
 Eagleridge GMC Service Department – Coquitlam
 West Wood Honda - Port Moody
 The Madison Care Centre – Coquitlam

Shoppers Drugmart – Shaughnessy Station, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Westwood Plateau, Burke Mountain
 IGA - Westwood Plateau
 Dog Patch – Port Coquitlam (site visit)
 Gabi and Jules- Port Moody
 Crossroads Thrift store – Coquitlam
 Cost Meridian Hardware – Port Coquitlam
 Big Box Outlet Store – Burquitlam
 Vancouver Brake and Wheel – Port Moody
 Rona- Coquitlam city Centre
 Fabricana – United boulevard
 Climb Base 5- United Boulevard
 Port Moody Arts – Port Moody
 Donut Love – Coquitlam
 City of Coquitlam – volunteer programs
 City of Port Coquitlam – Volunteer programs
 Port Moody Museum- Port Moody





JOIN THE TRI-CITY EAGLES FIELD HOCKEY CLUB - REGISTER NOW

U10 MINI & MITE FIELD HOCKEY

The U-10 Mini & Mites Field Hockey Program is open to girls and boys born between 2016 and 2021 and is a great way to learn, play, and have fun on the field.

The season fee is \$155 — register before February 1 and **save \$20** on your season fee! Registration for the Spring season closes March 31.

All games and practices are held at Cunnings Field at Town Centre in Coquitlam.

U11 - U18 JUNIORS

Girls born 2008-2015 can join U-11 to U-18 teams in the Greater Vancouver Junior Field Hockey League, playing a fun, exciting, and competitive season from late March to June.

Sign up before February 1 and **save \$20** on the \$190 season fee!

U11 - U14 BOYS

The Junior Boys Program is open to players born 2012 – 2015, while younger boys born 2016 - 2021 can join our Mini & Mite programs.

REGISTER NOW

REGISTER NOW AT TCFIELDHOCKEY.COM

Early Bird Pricing:
Save \$20 if you register by February 1, 2026
Regular Price:
\$155 for Minis/Mites and **\$190** for Juniors
 Practices begin immediately following Spring Break

Don't wait – secure your spot and join the fun this season!



SCHOOL Spirit



EXTRAS FROM PREVIOUS SEMESTERS PINETREE SECONDARY ATHLETIC

On sale \$30 each item until sold out
Limited items and quantities

EVERYTHING
MUST GO

ORDER NOW:



Small hoodies - 7 available



Small Sweats - 9 available
Medium sweats - 7 available
Large sweats - 1 available
X-Large sweats - 1 available



Small Sweats - 1 available
Medium Sweats - 2 available
Large sweats - 17 available

PINETREE SECONDARY ATHLETIC CLOTHING PRE-ORDERS

On sale January 14th to 30th

LOGO & LETTERING WILL BE BLACK ON WHITE CLOTHING
AND WHITE ON DARK-COLOURED CLOTHING:

LOGO #1
Available on CENTER CHEST on
T-Shirts



LOGO #2
Available on CENTER CHEST
on T-Shirts



LOGO #3
Available on LEFT CHEST
of Hoodie



LOGO #4
Available on BACK SEAT
of Sweats



LOGO #5
Available on BACK CENTER of Hoodie
and LEFT FRONT LEG of Sweats



PRE-ORDER NOW!



2026 YEARBOOK

REMEMBER IT, BY BUYING A YEARBOOK!!!

Available at <https://sd43.schoolcashonline.com>



\$60 Reserve yours now! SOLD OUT last 4 years even though we ordered extras!