

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023—2024

### September

- 22 Pro D—District
- 26 PAC meeting—7:00—8:30
- 27 Terry Fox Run
- 28 Meet the Teacher Night  
7:00—8:30
- 29 Orange Shirt Day
- 30 Truth & Reconciliation Day

### October

- 2 School not in Session  
(Truth & Reconciliation)
- 4 Senior Sail  
4:15—10:00 pm
- 9 Thanksgiving
- 11 Interim Reports on Portal  
after 4:00 pm
- 16 Photo Retakes
- 17 PAC Meeting 7:00—8:30
- 20 Pro-D Day
- 26 Grad Photos  
Oct 26—Nov 7
- 31 Halloween

### November

- 7 Last day for Grad Photos
- 9 Remembrance Day Ceremony
- 10 School Closure Day—no classes
- 13 Remembrance Day Holiday—schools closed
- 21 PAC Meeting 7:00—8:30
- 22 Midterms on Portal after 4
- 29 Gr. 9 Day
- 30 Early Dismissal. 2:00 pm
- 30 P/T Conferences 2:30—6:30

### Admin Team

Principal:

Janine Close  
[jclose@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:jclose@sd43.bc.ca)

Vice Principals:

Chris Martin (A—J)  
[chmartin@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:chmartin@sd43.bc.ca)

Mark Rao (Q—Z)  
[mrao@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:mrao@sd43.bc.ca)

Kelly Zimmer (K—P)  
[kzimmer@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:kzimmer@sd43.bc.ca)

# WELCOME TO PINETREE!

## *Accepting Challenges Together*

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<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/pinetree>

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**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

My introduction to Pinetree Secondary has been so positive and the staff and students have been friendly and welcoming as I have worked to get up to speed on what the routines of the school look like. I'm hopeful that any new students, including our grade 9's, have also had a positive experience as they navigate new courses, friendships, and schedules. On the first day of school, our grade 9's had their digital literacy boot camp/orientation which enabled them to get set up for our "bring your own device" practice and get a little more familiar with their new school. Until the middle of October, we have asked that grade 9's remain on campus during lunch so that they can further acquaint themselves with all this school has to offer.

All students had their photos taken on the first day of school which is used for the year-book as well as Student Id cards, which will be given out in PACK tomorrow. If students missed getting their photo taken, retakes will be on **Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Our enrolment has increased again this year, and for the past two weeks, counsellors have been hard at work getting schedules set up for new students and looking at the course change requests students made. At this time, no further course changes will be made for this semester; however, prior to the commencement of semester two, students will have an opportunity to make course change requests.

A big thank you to our parent community for your patience as our secretarial team worked to get our School Cash Online up and running for the collection of school fees and forms. The delay was outside of their control, but, once it was fixed, the team wasted no time in ensuring it was accessible by parents.

Students have already begun getting involved with extracurricular activities such as athletics and clubs; in fact, our volleyball teams have already participated in tournaments over the past weekend! If students are keen to create a new club, there is currently a "Club Creation" form (due by September 21<sup>st</sup>) available and there will be an opportunity to check out all of Pinetree's club offerings at our Club Fair on **Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>** during lunch. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to find extracurricular activities that support their interests.

This **Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**, Pinetree will be trying something new by holding student-planned senior and junior Spirit Assemblies to get students excited about the new school year and being a part of the awesome Pinetree Timberwolves!

Principal's Message  
continued....

For our grade 12 students, there will be numerous wonderful grad activities throughout the year in which to engage, including the upcoming Senior Sail on **Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. This event will provide grade 12's the opportunity to board a boat and spend the evening sailing the Vancouver Harbour. Interested students can purchase their tickets in the office or on School Cash Online. Tickets are \$80 and include bus transportation to and from the event as well as the cruise. Students who would like to attend, should purchase tickets ASAP as there is limited space for this event.

Please be aware that school will be closed to students this **Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**, for a district-based professional development day.

On **Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**, our first PAC meeting for parents will be hosted in the school library from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. All parents are encouraged to attend and/or get involved with PAC initiatives.

Finally, Pinetree will be hosting a **Meet the Teacher** night **Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for parents to tour the school, visit each of their students' classrooms, and hear a little bit about the expectations and content of each course (this is NOT a time to discuss your teen with their teacher(s)). Feel free to reach out via email if you have specific questions or concerns pertaining to your youth's progress. On Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> students will be sent home with a schedule for their parents to follow on Thursday evening. We look forward to seeing many of you in the building!

It's shaping up to be an exciting year at Pinetree Secondary. Please encourage your teens to take advantage of all the positive opportunities available to them this school year!

Sincerely,

**Ms. Janine Close**, *Principal*

## FORMS

Student Verification Forms— Available for parents/guardians to view through the Parent Portal this week. A notification will be sent out as soon as they are ready. If changes are required, parents/guardians are asked to print the form, indicate changes, sign and return it, along with copies of the required documentation mentioned in the notification, to the office ASAP. If you are unable to print the form, advise the office and we will print it for you. 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—These forms were sent home last week with students. Please complete, sign and return the form to the office by the end of this week.

Medical Alert Forms—If your child has a medical alert, please complete the appropriate Medical Alert Forms found *on our school website* or [here](#) (not on School Cash Online).

## TERRY FOX RUN

Our annual Terry Fox Run will be held on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Please consider donating to support the Terry Fox Foundation. Every donation matters! All money raised goes directly towards cancer research. Donations can be given to block 2 classroom teachers or made through School Cash Online:

<https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/107351/108/False/True>

Dear Terry,  
 Because of you we have HOPE.  
 You make it possible for kids with  
 cancer to keep going.  
 Thank you, Terry. ♡

## STUDENT PARKING

If a student is driving a vehicle to and from school, they **must** obtain a valid 2023—2024 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



## 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.

## BC Demographics Survey

We all deserve to live in a province where we have equitable opportunities to thrive. But many of the systems and structures our society is built on turn a blind eye to the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples and racialized people. That's why the B.C. government is running two important initiatives. They're asking everyone in B.C. to fill out the BC Demographic Survey to help identify and eliminate systemic racism from government programs and services. The survey is available online in 15 languages until Oct. 15 and will take about 15 minutes of your time. It is available at:

<https://antiracism.gov.bc.ca/bcdemographicsurvey>

The B.C. government is also asking for public input in developing anti-racism legislation that will hold government accountable for addressing systemic racism within its programs and services, and to provide supports to those who have been negatively impacted. No matter what your experiences or background is – your input matters! The public questionnaire is available until Oct. 15 in 15 languages and takes about 10 minutes to complete. It is available at:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/antiracism>.

So, don't wait! Your feedback is anonymous and will help us make our province work better for everyone. Every person's perspective counts.

### **NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS FOR SD43**

SD43 is looking for casual Noon Hour Assistants to supervise students for one hour per day during their lunch break! (This is a paid position and previous experience working with children is an asset.)

Please submit your resume through the following link <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/District/JobOpportunities/External%20NonTeaching%20Positions/Casual%20Noon%20Hour%20Assistants%20-%20Ongoing%20Recruitment.pdf> if you would be interested in becoming a Noon Hour Assistant for one of our sites!

**MEET THE  
TEACHER NIGHT**  
Thursday, Sept. 28  
7:00—8:30 pm

### **STUDENT MESSAGES**

Please do not phone or text your child during class time. Urgent messages can be distributed 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 Centre, are all "smoke free" environments and there is no smoking of any kind, e.g. cigarettes, cannabis, etc., e-cig or vaping on any of these properties at any time. This applies to all staff, parents, students and visitors.



Please respect this expectation. Thank you!