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A Tradition of Excellence

October 25, 2011

School Information for Distribution

To students and parents or guardians,
Please find below some important dates, activities and information.

Grade 12 Parent Information Night –Wednesday, October 26th at 7pm in the Multipurpose Room

On Tuesday, October 25th our grade 12 students met with the counselors, the career resource coordinator and the administration to map out the next 8 months of the grade 12 school year. At the block 4 assembly, the students received the "Big Picture Book" and the "Monthly Checklist" which included information on: Graduation Requirements, Provincial Exams, Scholarship Dates and application, Financial Aid, Career Path Planning, Post-Secondary Institute Choice Form, Post-Secondary Academic Requirements and application information, English Assessment Tests (TOEFL, etc.), Guidelines for Transition from Secondary to Post-Secondary, Dinner and Dance, AfterGrad and Commencement.

A Grade 12 Parent Graduation Information Meeting is being held on Wednesday, October 26th at 7pm in the multipurpose room. This presentation will be hosted by the administration. We welcome all parents or guardians and students to attend. Hand-outs will be available for parents at the meeting or on the website, www.pmssblues.net.

Dare to Care Presentation for Grade 9 & 12 Students –Wednesday, October 26th, blocks 1 and 2

P.M.S.S. is excited to welcome back the Dare to Care Program and the curriculum it has been using for the past several years. Four years ago the Parent Advisory Council, UBC, the school district and the school collectively sponsored the Dare to Care Program at our school and it's been a great addition to our school ever since. This program is presented by Mr. Dwayne Peace who is well known for his work with students in our school district and also around the world. On Wednesday, October 26th, Mr. Peace will spend the morning (blocks 1 and 2) with our Grade 9 and 12 students to talk about the damage we can and do inflict on others when we interact. He looks at the different issues, biases and learned behaviours that does damage in school, home and community relationships. This session is very interactive and students have been profoundly impacted positively in the past. Mr. Peace asks the hard questions on bullying. Our school Code of Conduct, our school vision-common purpose, and way of doing business at Port Moody secondary coincides with the Dare to Care philosophy.

This year Moody Middle and Port Moody Secondary are hosting a Parent Information Session regarding the Dare to Care Program. This parent session is being held at **Port Moody Secondary on Tuesday, October 25th from 7pm – 8 pm in the multipurpose room.** All parents and guardians are welcome.

Halloween Day –October 31st

Halloween activities will be hosted by the Student Council at PMSS on Monday, October 31st. This day is an Assembly Bell Schedule, where the "second" block 2 is for the Halloween Day Spirit Assembly. We have a haunted house, costume parade and several presentations by our students. This is a fun day for everyone and we are reminding our students that appropriate costumes are expected at school so everyone can enjoy the day. Students will need to sign up at the end of this week and Monday the 31st for the costume parade and receive a participation ticket. Sign-up will be in the multipurpose foyer. Listen to the PMSS Times for further information and times.

Last year we had many students create their own Halloween costumes. This was a big hit and students were awarded for their creativity. Due to the concern of inappropriate student Halloween costumes, the school district in partnership with the **Children of the Street Society**, are sending home a letter regarding this concern. This is the fourth year that this letter has been distributed and talked about at our school. Students in our school are aware of the practice of appropriate costumes at school. We thank parents and guardians for having this conversation with their son or daughter.

The letter from the "Children of the Street Society" has been attached for you to read on page 3 of this information letter. **We are asking students to select costumes that do not glamorize the sex trade or gang lifestyles (Playboy Bunnies, pimps, French maids, car racing flag girls or other similar costumes, gang-like costumes, etc.). Also, students are asked not to wear "masks" that cover the face or carry "toys that replicate weapons".** If students are unsure if their costume or accessories are acceptable, please see Mr. Fridge, Mr. Bradbury or Ms. Jensen.

Students who wear inappropriate costumes will be asked to remove their costume or modify the appearance of the costume. We appreciate everyone's understanding and thoughtful response to this very serious issue.

Fireworks –A safety concern.

Every year students get hurt in our community due to the misuse of fire crackers. Fireworks are being sold all over our neighbourhoods, and sometimes, our students have access to this material through illegal purchase or access through an adult. We are reinforcing at school that students are not to purchase or be in possession of fireworks, and this is paramount at Port Moody Secondary. Fireworks are not to be brought to school, sold at school or set-off at school. This is a safety concern. Each municipality has their own bylaws on Fireworks, but they are generally very similar. Please discuss our school's expectations and safety regarding fireworks with your son or daughter. We want our school and our neighbourhoods to be safe place for our students.

Academic Student Assessment and Reporting to Parents

Teachers are continuing to focus on teaching and learning in the classroom during the job action. Teachers are assessing work daily and providing feedback and scores on student learning. As we are reaching the midterm point of semester one, teachers will begin to provide percentages or letter grades to students and parents. This will be done in a variety of ways depending on the teacher. Our teachers are communicating with parents regarding your son or daughter's academic progress or personal needs. If you have any concerns about your son or daughter's progress, please email or call the teacher at school, 604 939 6656. In addition our teachers shall be providing course marks and percentages for our Grade 12 students to assist with early admissions to university, post-secondary applications, scholarship applications, transcripts or graduation verification. Grade 12 students should see their counselors for assistance.

CHILDREN OF THE STREET SOCIETY

October 11, 2011

Dear School Administrators and Educators,

Re: Appropriate Halloween Costumes:

Halloween is fast approaching and once again Children of the Street Society is raising awareness about inappropriate Halloween costumes, which glamorize the sexual exploitation of children and youth, the gang lifestyle and costumes which sexualize children and youth.

Dressing up as a "pimp" or "ho" glamorizes the sexual exploitation of children and youth, which is a form of abuse and modern day slavery. In reality, the sexual exploitation of children and youth leads to multiple, long-term disadvantages to the victim including homelessness, mental illness, drug and/or alcohol addiction, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS, drug affected babies, post traumatic stress syndrome from physical, emotional and sexual abuse, social stigma, and barriers to future employment.

Recruiters often attempt to lure children and youth by making false promises and offering gifts or intangible things such as popularity, love, and belonging. Children and youth can be recruited *anywhere*, including school grounds, shopping malls, and online through social networking sites and chat rooms.

Once again this year, the Society would like to take this message one step further. ***Not only are we asking the community to be socially responsible by wearing Halloween costumes which do not glamorize the sexual exploitation of our children and youth, we're also asking children, youth and adults to take the notion of social responsibility one step further by not wearing costumes which glamorize the gang lifestyle.***

With troubling similarities between recruitment into a life of sexual exploitation, youth who are recruited into the gang lifestyle are also made false promises of money, power, respect, a sense of family, and protection – promises which lead to violence, criminal activity, and the risk of death. The issues of sexual exploitation and gangs not only have similarities, they can also be connected. Girls can play a variety of roles in a gang, including participating in criminal activity, and being sexually exploited by male gang members.

This year, the message is simple: it's not socially acceptable to dress up as a 'pimp,' gangster, or sex trade worker this Halloween. Earning a profit off of the buying and selling of children and youth, glamorizing the sex trade or a gangster lifestyle, is only further contributing to our false perceptions about these harsh realities.

Please encourage your school community to choose socially responsible Halloween costumes that do not glamorize the sexual exploitation of children and youth, sexualize young people, or glamorize gang involvement. Instead, please encourage children and youth to choose appropriate costumes that represent their own individuality and creativity.

"Children of the Street Society" is a provincial Society and federal Charity dedicated to the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and youth since 1995. The Society's mission is to take a proactive approach through public awareness, education and early intervention strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth while offering support to families. The Society's vision is a world where children and youth are safe and free from all forms of sexual exploitation. For more information, please visit childrenofthestreet.com.

We wish your students a safe and fun Halloween. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at 604-777-7510 or at info@childrenofthestreet.com.

On behalf of Children of the Street Society,



Diane Sowden, Executive Director

Career Day –Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011

Again this year we are holding our school wide Career Day. Our Career Day is part of an initiative from our school vision or common purpose. This is our third year and we are proud to say that this year we have another Career activity with interesting presenters, workshop topics and activities. The Career Day activities by grade are:

- Grade 9s: "Take Your Kid to Work" –student go to work with their parents for the day. This is a National Career Day activity on November 2nd. Our grade 9 students will be bringing more information home so you can understand the objectives of the day so you can discuss this with your employer. Please sign the forms and return to the school.
- Grade 10s: "Economics of Staying in School" is put on by Junior Achievement Organization. Our students will participate in an action packed curriculum in four workshops. Students will be at dismissed at 12:30 pm.
- Grade 11 and 12 students will be meeting with the 21 year old who tried 90 jobs in 90 days, followed up by workshops for the grade 11s and different workshops for the grade 9s. Students will be dismissed at 2:40 pm.

Parent Email Subscription List –pleases sign-up to receive school information

Our school has a communication tool called the "Parent Email Subscription List" that can be found on our website. To sign-up please go to www.pmssblues.net. You will see a "rotating or moving words" in a box that says, "Click here to receive electronic newsletters and announcements. Please click this box and the "PMSS Communication Request Form will appear. Please fill out your child's name, grade, parent or guardian name, relationship to the students and your email address. This information will then be sent to our vice principal, Mr. Bradbury, who will review the information and activate the subscription.

Please note that our IT Department at the Coquitlam School Board has been working on school website and the PMSS Email Distribution List as parents are having difficulty registering on the "Email Distribution List, nor are parents receiving all of the school documents. It is now in working order and parents or guardian can subscribe again for school information, newsletters, etc. We apologize for the inconvenience and any school communication that did not come your way. We shall be resending some key school messages that were sent earlier. For some parents this information will be duplicates. Please accept our apologies for the disruption of service.