

January 30, 2023



Dear Parents/Caregivers & Students,

Below we have identified some important upcoming dates and informational reminders as we begin our second semester.

For students at Port Moody Secondary – Tuesday is the first day of attendance for the semester and it is a day 2 for those classes running on a yearlong day 1/ day 2 schedule. Please take note that it is also an assembly schedule and there is no Flex block.

Term 4	
Monday, Jan. 30	Semester 1 Report Cards available on MyEd portals (all grades).
Tuesday, Jan. 31	<p>Semester 2 classes begin: <b>Day 2 – Assembly Schedule</b></p> <p>Block 1            8:30-9:30</p> <p>Assembly        9:35-10:45 (Students report to Block 2 class for attendance)</p> <p>Block 2            10:50-11:45</p> <p>Lunch (3)        11:55-12:50</p> <p>Period 4         12:55-1:55</p> <p>Period 5         2:00-3:05</p>
Wednesday, Feb. 1	After Grad Parent Meeting @ 7PM (Library)
Friday, Feb. 3	<p>District Cross Catchment application forms available @ 9 :00AM.</p> <p><a href="#">DISTRICT CROSS CATCHMENT INFO. PAGE</a></p>
Tuesday, Feb. 7	<p>Current Grade 9s: Course Selection Assembly; 8:30AM (Small Gym)</p> <p>Current Pre-Diploma 9s: Assembly; 8:30 (Drama Room)</p> <p>Grade 11 <a href="#">YDI Survey</a> in class. Data collection window closes Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup></p> <p>Parent Information - Evening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future IB Grades 10 – 12: Parent Presentation; 6 – 7PM</li> <li>• Future Grade 9s to 11s: Parent Presentation; 6 – 7PM</li> <li>• PAC Meeting @ 7PM (Library)</li> </ul>
Wednesday, Feb. 8	<p>Current Grade 10s: Course Selection Assembly; 8:30AM (Small Gym)</p> <p>Current Pre-Diploma 10s: DP Assembly; 8:30AM (Drama Room)</p> <p>Grade 9 Immunizations (Library Learning Commons)</p> <p>District Cross Catchment applications due no later than 4:00 PM</p>
Thursday, Feb. 9	<p>Current Grade 11s: Course Selection Assembly; 8:30AM (Small Gym)</p> <p>Note: Current IB 11 students will review course programming in CORE</p> <p>Photo Day: New students and retakes; 9 – 11AM (MPR)</p>

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Tuesday, Feb. 15	Grade 9s – Digital Literacy Assembly #3; 8:30 (Small Gym)
Wednesday, Feb. 16	Grade 9 Immunizations (2 of 2 sessions)
Monday, Feb. 20	BC Family Day – School Closed
Thursday, Feb. 23	Grad Students – Commencement gown info. & Comments due Grades 11/12 Winter Dance; 6 – 9PM (Gym)
Friday, Feb. 24	District Professional Development Day – Schools not in session
Friday, March 3	Grad Class Assembly; 8:30AM (Gym) Term 4 Ends: Informal reports sent home

### **Semester 2 Student Schedules**

Please make sure that you have accessed the most up to date schedule in the MyEd portal. Counsellors have made changes to some schedules since September to balance classes in terms of class size and composition. Even if you have not requested a course change, your child's timetable may have been affected and therefore it is important to access MyEd for the latest schedule. Student schedules can be accessed through both the parent and student portals.

### **Course Programming for the 2023.24 School Year**

Students will make course selections for next year in the Student Portal under the 'Requests' tab, found on the lower left side of the Student Portal welcome screen. It is important for students to attend their current grade level assembly and to review the course selection programming information available on our website [HERE](#) . Students will be able to revise their course selection online until February 17. After the 17<sup>th</sup>, changes can only be made by the counsellors and IB coordinator.

### **Grade 12s**

While not an exhaustive list, here are some things to review and anticipate in the coming months:

- ✓ Your requirements for graduation are on track to be met by June 2023 [Certificates of Graduation](#)
- ✓ [Student Transcripts Service \(STS\)](#) account created, and information is updated regularly.
- ✓ Career 12 coursework is up to date and regular check ins with teacher-advisor have already occurred.
- ✓ IB12s: CAS coursework is up to date and documented on ManageBac
- ✓ Review applicable application requirements and deadlines for both post-secondary institutions and their degree specific programs
- ✓ Review scholarship and bursary opportunities
- ✓ Request reference letters as early as possible
- ✓ Update your resume
- ✓ Grad photo and yearbook "grad write up" information is due Feb. 23
- ✓ Payment of outstanding school fees and IB exam fees
- ✓ Budget for end of year celebration expenses

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PLEASE NOTE: Post secondary schools, vocational programs, and scholarship applications increasingly request more and more information from high school staff in supporting their selection process, and we happily do it on your behalf. It is not uncommon for some programs to expect 30 to 45 minutes to complete the reference portion of a student's application and an individual student can generate upwards of 8 reference letters, often from the same teacher. Considering we have a grade 12 class of over 275 students please be mindful of your teacher's time and competing demands by:

- First requesting whether you can use them as a reference.
- If yes, do your homework on what is expected from your reference(s) and give them an update.
- Provide an appropriate amount of time for letters to be written in advance of the application deadline.
- Provide your reference some supporting information, a 'brag sheet', on yourself. Be sure to make it specific to the application requirements.
- Do not make email requests late in the evening or on weekends.
- Do not expect the information to be submitted/ returned in under 48 hours.

### **PMSS Library Learning Commons**

[Library Learning Commons - Port Moody Secondary School \(sd43.bc.ca\)](https://sd43.bc.ca)

Hours: 8:30-4:00 most days.

Contact us: [088-Library@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:088-Library@sd43.bc.ca)

Follow us: [@pmsslearningcommons](https://twitter.com/pmsslearningcommons)

Visit the Library Learning Commons in person or online to:

- Access over 300,000 physical and eBooks
- Print your documents for school
- Get help with your assignments
- Find a quiet place to study

Wishing you a successful second semester,

Mr. Birch, Ms. Swistak, and Mrs. Huculak

### **Staffing Update**

The mid-year is a time when we see some staffing changes, and we have a few updates to share as we begin the second semester. New to our teaching staff for the semester ahead, we welcome: Mr. Martin Bilan and Ms. Tobi Foster.

Saying goodbye to the first semester also meant we said goodbye to our long standing colleague, and your music teacher, Mr. Andrew Clark. We wish him all the best in his retirement and expect to see him regularly as he continues with the Inlet Jazz Band.

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**Traffic & Drop Off Reminders**

Drivers:

- The area after the Port Moody Secondary sign is designated for school and district staff and for families who have approval from the office.
- The upper laneway and roundabout after our sign is not a public parking area as emergency vehicles and district trucks need access.
- Student and visitor parking is in the lower lot by the tennis court.
- Drop off/ pick up is at the lower roundabout at the entrance to the student parking lot.

Pedestrians:

- Bus stops are located on St John's. Use the [Trans Link](#) scheduler for times and route numbers.
- Be safe and aware of your surroundings as you walk off of curbs and cross the streets.
- Use the crosswalks on St John's and up by the school sign. At high volume times, go around the drop off roundabout rather than across it which slows down the cars exiting.

Arrival Time to School:

- After the past few years of having very specific access times to the building, it is nice to be back to school life beyond the bell schedule. While students this year are often here early or leaving late in relation to practices, clubs, our music program or teacher led study sessions, we are seeing an increase of students arriving very early and staying into the evening to study or socialize. I believe this has to do with our sunny disposition, cost of gas, Skip the Dishes and streaming of free Wi-Fi.
- For arrival time, we ask students to be dropped off no earlier than 7:30AM. For the hour before class (8:30) please use the MPR and/or library to study. Classrooms are not to be accessed ahead of a teacher's arrival.

It has been a refreshing flurry of activity this past semester and we look forward to all that PMSS has to offer in the second half!

Yours truly,

Glen Conley, Brent Taylor, Denise Nembhard & Tara Marinkovic