



As we near completion of our first semester, there are some important dates and events to highlight and informational reminders to share.

Upcoming Calendar

Jan. 29	End of semester 1 report cards distributed in Phoenix
Feb. 5	Course Programming Information Evening (7pm)
Feb. 6	Course selection assemblies
Feb. 6	PAC Meeting (7pm)
Feb. 9	School not in session
Feb. 12	Family Day holiday
Feb. 13	2018.19 Course selection forms collected
Feb. 15	Anecdotal report cards
Feb. 20	Future IB Registration Evening (7pm)
Feb. 23	Professional Development Day
Feb. 26	Term 5 (of 6) begins

Course Selection

While we are just about to start our second semester, the district is already into the planning stages for next year. At Port Moody, we recently concluded our acceptance of new IB applications and in February, we have a series of school events relating to student course planning, graduation planning, school transfer requests, and timetabling.

Parent information sessions and student assemblies outlining the timelines and process for next year's course offerings will start the week of February 5th. A very important step in the process is receiving completed student request forms on February 13th. This information is then collated and we begin to build our timetable. During our student assemblies, we stress to make requests with one's personal high school pathway in mind (rather than peer based decisions) as it is difficult to make changes come September.

An added complexity to the timetabling process is the increasing number of students taking summer learning. To assist the office between now and June, please let your counsellor know when you register for a summer course that is the same as a course you requested with us for the following year. The summer program regularly communicates their registration information with us, but by directly letting us know we can make timely adjustments before the end of the school year.

I would like to remind families that when planning course pathways, we have an excellent resource in Mrs. Truax. She is our Career Resource Facilitator and students can get assistance in planning beyond high school by visiting the Career Centre; by accessing information from the *Career Centre* page on our website; and by following the channel on our app.

Cross Catchment

Cross catchment is the district process (Feb. 9th to 15th) for applying to a school outside of your neighbourhood catchment school. In order to request a September school change, you must be first registered at your catchment school and then submit an application to the district. If you know someone who is considering transferring into PMSS, please suggest they review the information on the district website at:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Schools/Pages/CrossCatchment.aspx>

International Baccalaureate

As an IB school, we are regularly evaluated (a 5-year cycle) to ensure that the standards and practices of the programme are maintained. As part of our self-study year, we will be sending out an IB parent survey in the coming weeks. We thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the survey, as the feedback is very valuable in shaping our future focus.

January 2018

Contact Information

At the start of every school year, we send home a verification sheet to confirm your address and contact information. Please email 088-Office@sd43.bc.ca with any updates to your phone numbers or email addresses. If your home address has changed, then we require updated proof of residence paperwork along with your notification.

Parent Forms & Fees

On Monday, January 29th, families who have not submitted their policy & permission forms will receive a notice along with your child's report card. Please assist our office staff by promptly completing the online form. It is accessible by selecting the *Parent eForms* tab under *Quick Links* on the right-hand side of our school homepage.

A reminder that student fees and payment records are viewable under your account at School Cash Online <https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com/>

For our grade 12 families the Dinner Dance & After Grad information will be posted in the coming weeks. Early payment does not prioritize seat selection at dinner dance. This is a separate process in the spring and by making the payment option available earlier, we hope it allows families more time to budget accordingly.

Staffing

The mid year mark is also a time in the district when some staffing changes occur and we welcome the following to Port Moody:

- Ms. Heather Gray will be teaching math, science and student support this upcoming semester.
- Ms. Stephanie Watson recently joined us and is our Aboriginal Support Worker (Mondays and Wednesdays)
- Ms. Jody Moss is currently acting principal at Glenayre Elementary (by way of vice principal of Heritage Woods Secondary) and will be joining our administration team in February.

We have two staff leaving Port Moody and we wish them well in their future assignments and thank them for their committed care to the students, staff and families of PMSS.

One of our counsellors, Mr. Mike Wiskar, is moving to a district "to the west of us" after years of living and working in Coquitlam. For the past two school years, Mr. Wiskar has been a very valuable member of the office team and his contributions to our school and community will be missed.

Ms. Jill Reid's last day with us is this Friday as she moves to Heritage Woods Secondary as vice principal. As a brand new teacher out of university, I was fortunate to be hired in late August to my first teaching contract at Maple Creek Middle School. As I stood in my first classroom, days before the school year was to commence, and completely unsure of what to do next, Ms. Reid walked in and extended her hand to me while cheerfully introducing herself as a teacher at the school. Immediately she told me everything will be fine, she offered me her time, support and encouragement, which was very much needed and appreciated. Since that first introduction years ago, I have repeatedly watched Ms. Reid demonstrate this same genuine approach in welcoming and helping others. I have no doubt she will continue to make a difference at Heritage, and thank her personally for so often being the first welcoming "hello" to those of us who at one time were the "new kid" in school.

On behalf of the staff, thank you to all the students and families for making this past semester memorable, and we look forward to many new experiences in the coming months.

Mr. Glen Conley
Principal