

PORT MOODY SECONDARY SCHOOL
October 2020



October 8, 2020

Dear Students & Families,

As we near the Thanksgiving long weekend, and I pause to take stock of all that has transpired over the past four weeks, I am at once surprised, humbled and thankful. When I rewind to September 8th and think of the talk in most households, the focus at that time was simply whether people felt safe enough to return to schools if they opened. A month later, and most of the students have returned to our schools across the district. And they feel safe in doing so, due to the conditions created and maintained by thoughtful and dedicated staff who care about the well being of others. Using my own household as an example, our morning conversations focus more and more on “school” and less on “COVID school”. On this morning - drop off / pick up arrangements, homework, Terry Fox donations, and upcoming school photos were the focus of conversation as we hustled about our morning routine. A mere 20 school days later and in many households like mine, much needed normal has returned. I am thankful for this.

I remind myself that we need this familiarity yet cannot be lured into old habits as we continue to learn, work, and live in very atypical times. Steps added to all our routines have seemingly become normal this month. Along with lunches and books, we ensure masks and hand sanitizer is in our child’s bag before reviewing the daily health check. We remind, near nag, our children to resist what is typical and find it in themselves to wash their hands frequently, keep their distance from friends and consistently say no to social activities. And for the most part, they follow our requests daily. While different, confusing and at times frustrating, I see an unspoken collective effort by the students to take care of one another and by extension all of us. I think back a month ago when so much collective focus was on mandating rules and reprimand policies for offenders, and realize it was wasted energy because students have, true to form, been exemplary in their behaviour when educated on a topic. They are quick to understand the signs on display regarding masks and meters, is ultimately about being a good neighbour. Twenty days in, and the most consistent question we now hear on this topic relates to confirming they can get a mask because they forgot theirs at home. I am thankful for this.

I hope this weekend gives you all some time to pause and recognize your own achievements in navigating the past month of school. On behalf of the entire staff I also convey our thoughts to those families who, for a variety of reasons, need positivity the most. If there is anything we can do to support you in these times, please contact me.

While it is a stretch to state this has been an easy start up month for all involved, our community’s shared outlook and the trust extended to us has made things easier. I am thankful for this.

All the best to you and your family,

Glen Conley

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COVID Stage 2 Bell Schedule

Now that we have settled into the rhythm and routines of our unique bell schedule (Port Moody is the only district school offering both IB and ministry programs) we do wish to highlight some details on how the day works.

Block	Schedule
0	(before school)
Flex	8:30 – 8:45
AM	8:45 – 10:30
Flex	10:30 – 10:45
Lunch	10:45 – 11:15
PM	11:15 – 1:00
Flex	1:00 – 1:20
X Block	1:20 – 2:15
IB 12	1:20 – 3:50

Review of the 3 most common learning times:

8:30 – 10:45	Bundled together, the three times equal the Learning Group session. The 15-minute Flex (tutorial time) on either end of the AM time is in school support for the class a student is enrolled in at that time/ quarter.
11:15 – 1:20	Bundled together, the two times equal the Hybrid class. The 20-minute Flex is directly related to the PM class students attend. (A – L: Mon./ Thurs. & M – Z: Tues./ Fri.)
1:20 – 2:15 X Block	Class time when students can access teacher instruction for either of their two courses - typically, by way of Teams. Teachers are establishing routines and sharing calendars in consult with students as we develop this framework to address the emerging needs of teaching and learning in a pandemic. It will also be time in the day to increasingly schedule non enrolling coursework and student events.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Oct. 13 – 16 th	Fire & Earthquake drills
Oct. 16 th	Last day of classes before mid quarter switch Informal reports posted to MyEd portals
Oct. 19 th	1 st day of new Learning Groups (8:30 AM) in relation to mid quarter switch
Oct. 21 st	Parent Teacher Conferences 2 – 5pm & Meet the School @ 6:00pm
Oct. 22 nd	Student Council election results will be announced on StuCo Instagram
Oct. 23 rd	Provincial Professional Development Day – students not in session
Oct. 26 th	Student Clubs - information and registration commences
Oct. 30 th	Halloween

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Nov. 2 – 6 th	Literacy & Numeracy 10 Assessments
Nov. 9 -10 th	Student Photos
Nov. 11 th	Remembrance Day – school not in session
Nov. 16 – 27 th	Grad Photos – Artona photo trailer will be on site.
Nov. 17 th	Last day of Quarter 1

Parent Teacher Conferences / Meet the School

On Wednesday, October 21st we will be hosting a blend of Parent Teacher Conferences and Meet the Teacher Night.

Please check your email in the coming days for correspondences from teachers regarding scheduling 10-minute-long appointments. Classroom teachers will be available by phone and/or online (Teams) between 2:00 – 5:00 pm. The primary audience for this event is students and parents who currently require additional information to support their child's quarter 1 progress. While limited time is available on this day, we always encourage ongoing involvement between home and school and promote dialogue throughout the quarter and year.

From 6:00 – 7:30pm leadership students and staff will then host an online presentation that incorporates aspects of what usually takes place in September when parents and students have had the opportunity to visit the school, meet the staff and learn more about our programs and offerings. A program guide with log on details will be distributed as we near the date. The format will be a blend of pre-recorded messages and presentations, posted answers to FAQs and a live question period on Zoom hosted by administrators, counsellors and coordinators.

Report Cards: MyEd Student & Family Portals

Informal report cards will be posted to the student and family portal on October 16th. This is new for all grades this year after a trial period last year. Please remember to record your account information and to reset your password if you incorrectly attempt to log on 3x.

Additional attempts will lock you out of the system and a manual reset is required from our office staff.

Port Moody Parent Advisory Council

PAC meetings occur the first Tuesday of the month on Zoom. Notifications with the meeting time and link are posted in our school bulletin starting the week prior to the date.

Student Photos & Grad Photos

Artona photographers will be on site November 9th and 10th for student photos. Picture taking will be scheduled by Learning Groups. For those students who do not have a Learning Group a designated time will be set. Scheduling information from Artona will be shared closer to the date. Please note: a one question survey will be sent to families along with photo information. A response to the survey is only required should anyone wish to NOT have their child's picture taken.

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Grad photos will be taken starting the week of November 16th to 27th. Students will preregister an appointment time and photos will be taken in the Artona photo trailer that will be parked out by the entrance to the school. Added safety measures will be in place.

Grad booking link: <https://artona.com/schools/PMOD/programs/graduation>

Safety Protocols: <https://www.blog.artona.com/post/safety-at-our-studios>

Office Contact Information

The school phone number: 604-939-6656

Office email: 088-Office@sd43.bc.ca

Website: [http://www.sd43.bc.ca/School/portmoody/Pages/default.aspx#/="](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/School/portmoody/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

Our main office is generally open 8:00am – 4:00pm (amended hours will be posted on holidays, professional development days, summer months). Visitors to the office can access the school by first making an appointment.

COVID-19 Links

[Daily Health Check](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control](#)

[BC COVID19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#) or call 8-1-1

[Fraser Health Authority > School Exposures](#)

