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June 24, 2020 - Principal's Message, Mrs. Kathy McTaggart

The end of the 2019/20 school year is almost here. It has been quite the year, full of new situations and lots of new learning about society. Those interested in anthropology have so much to study lately.

Last Day of School

The last official day of classes for students was June 19th.

Any textbooks or other materials that need to be delivered back to the school can be deposited in the mail slot located just right of the main doors. Chrome books dispersed for on-line learning DO NOT need to be returned, they are yours to keep.

As per our process the past couple months, if you need to pick anything up for the end of the year, you can pop by the school weekdays between 9:00-3:00 until June 25th, a staff member can meet you at the front doors for pick up in the foyer.

Report cards will be **mailed home** during the last week of June.

Information About School Next Year

We are very busy planning for next year. The government has released 3 possible scenarios for the fall and as of June 10th, indicated that they are currently aiming for scenario #1 which includes all students in class daily with additional health and safety measures.

It is the additional health and safety measures that we are working through right now, as such, I would like to communicate a few items so that you and your children are aware for the fall.

- 1) The schedule you see in powerschool may change based on government regulations, based on the information we have this week, we have done our best to give you correct data. This may change over the next 2 months.
- 2) Junior high students: you may notice that you are in the same classroom most of the time, but have different teachers. This has been done so that you are with the same group of students most of the time to ensure reduced exposure to many people as much as possible by eliminating transitions.
- 3) Next year at PSC, the school will have two different lunch breaks in an effort to reduce the number of students and staff in the common areas at the same time. Your lunch time is indicated on your schedule.
- 4) When you return in September, there will be strict guidelines in place to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff. Please expect to wash your hands more often, access to hand sanitizer, guidelines in regards to attendance when not feeling well and limitations on where and when you can use spaces.
- 5) Every student will be assigned a locker with a 3 number combination lock. It is expected that students use their own locker to keep their items separate from others and keep them locked for security.

The first official day of school is Tuesday, September 1st, this will be for new students only. Returning students will begin Wednesday, September 2nd

First day of School for returning students is : WEDNESDAY September 2, 2020

Students will begin with their Teacher Advisor. We will spend part of the morning assigning lockers, teaching safety protocols, going through schedules and a few 'must knows' at Ponoka Secondary. Following this, students will move into a condensed 'regular school day' so that everyone can run through the flow of a day.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone again in September. Should Alberta Education change school plans, they will be communicated with parents and students as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued understanding and patience as we work through these unknown and quickly changing realities.

Registration & Course Selection for the 2020-2021 School Year

Most of our new students filled out the questionnaire to pick options and classes, thank you for attending to this.

The official Registration Online Form still does need to be completed for every student.

This mandatory registration is due to be released August 21 through our PowerSchool Parent Portal and you will receive an email notice so that you can attend to this.

Please ensure you have your Parent Portal set up to be able to access the 2020-2021 registration form

Career Exploration Opportunity

Careers the Next Generation - is offering an online Health Science Academy August 10-12. The program connects you with a behind the scene look at what it means to work as a healthcare professional. Presenters from around the province will share their knowledge and answer your questions about health care careers. Click <u>HERE</u> to sign up.

Emily Carr University Teen Program - The Summer Institute for Teens runs July 6-31, 2020. This hands-on program prepares high school students for post-secondary education at an art + design university. Students spend four weeks engaged in intensive studio practice, where they develop their skills and technique and create new work for their portfolios. Click <u>HERE</u> for more info.

Recruiting for Alberta's Legislative Assembly Page Program. Pages are high school students who work in the Chamber during Session and assist Members of the Legislative Assembly as they debate in the House. Pages also work to support other branches of the Legislative Assembly Office by participating in ceremonies and assisting with administrative tasks. This year the Program's recruitment process has been delayed due to COVID-19. The deadline for applications has been moved to September 30th. The Page Program is open to all applicants entering grades 10, 11 and 12 who will be 15 by September 1st. The Page Program, while centered in Edmonton, is open to students all across Alberta, granted that they be able to come to Edmonton for shifts.

Indigenous Grad 2020 Page

A site dedicated to the celebration and recognition of indigenous graduates. Click Link to check it out and feel free to share your own graduates picture in celebration.

Take care and enjoy your summer!

Kathy