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November 23, 2020 - Principal's Message, Mrs. Kathy McTaggart

We are well into quarter 2 and already nearing the end of November. Time always flies at school and this year is no exception.

Unfortunately, we did have 2 new covid cases this weekend so we are in the position, once again, of having students away from school self isolating. Hoping for a speedy recovery for everyone in our community, these students included, who are ill with covid-19. Our teachers are working hard to reach out to students having to be away to keep them caught up in their studies. Please help us keep these students connected by continuing to ask your child about their school work; ensuring they remain engaged during their time away from the building will help them stay on track during the quarter.

Boston Pizza Student of the Month

Ponoka Boston Pizza reached out to Ponoka Secondary earlier in the school year to offer us an opportunity to be part of their student of the month groups. Every month Boston Pizza is providing a free pizza lunch to 18 lucky students who have been nominated by their teachers as student of the month.

October's Students of the Month are:

Grade 7, Ainsley McArthur, Sarah Whyte & Ava Morency

Grade 8, Liam Bailey, Jayla Kinnaird & Ayden Hansen

Grade 9, Caleigh Taylor, Shaylee Trimble & Cierra Williamson

Grade 10, Brayden Lubach & Nate Sluggett

Grade 11, Tory Blanchard, Colby Reed & Naomi Edwards,

Grade 12, Braydon Auvigne, Presley Cardinal, Mikayla Hoffman, & Emma Shanks



A huge Thank You to Boston Pizza!

Lockers

All students have now had the opportunity to get a locker if they wanted one. If any students still want a locker and were missed, please come to the office to request one.

Grad 2021

We have had our first meeting with all of our graduates. Since we can not meet as a large group, I have visited all grade 12 classrooms to start a discussion about Grad 2021. As you can imagine, planning a sit down event for 1000 people is a huge undertaking with planning, bookings and logistics so we start months and months in advance.

Based on current restrictions and trying to predict what June will look like we have decided we will not be having a 1200 person ceremony at the curling rink nor a 1000 person sit down banquet buffet meal in the arena. We do not feel this will be possible by June, thus are working to plan a different event. Currently we are working with the idea of a drive-up graduation ceremony, much like what we did in October for our grads of 2020. The event worked really well in terms of social distancing and it also allowed us to recognize students individually for their accomplishments.

A survey has been sent to all of our graduating students in regards to choosing a 2021 logo for swag and gathering names for the fundraising and decorating committees. If you want to purchase a grad hoodie, crew neck sweater, or sweatpants for your child for Christmas please ensure you call and put in your order by December 3.

Grad 2021 is going to be on Saturday June 5, 2021.

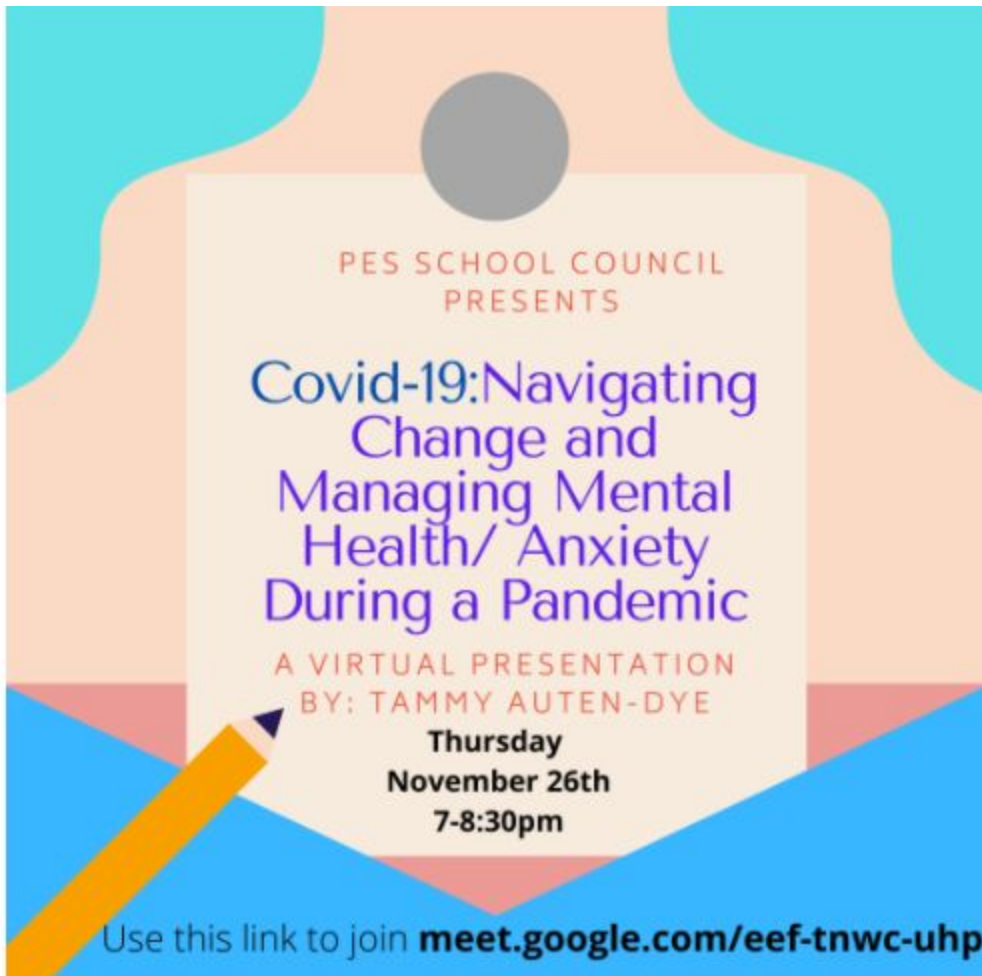
School Council

Thank you for those who attended our virtual school council meeting on November 17th. I am pleased to announce we now have parents who are going to take on a leadership role on our school council. A huge thank you to Robin O'Connell, Naomi McKinney and Rose Nicholson for stepping into the roles of co-chair, co-chair and vice chair respectfully. If you would like to talk with any of these ladies or have a topic put on our school council agenda, please reach out to them. You may contact the school to get their information.

Community Information

Ponoka Elementary School Council is hosting a virtual session by Tammy Auten-Dye on Navigating Change and Managing Mental Health/Anxiety During a Pandemic.

See the poster below for the [link](#).



Community Education Services is hosting a one hour virtual session on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 from 6:30-7:30pm on boosting the resiliency of our children and families. This session is free and you just need to register to attend.

Sincerely,

Kathy