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February 14, 2023 - Principal's Message, Mr. Cody Baird

Happy Valentine's Day PSC! Here are some things happening over the next couple weeks!

Banquet / Dance: We missed our Christmas banquet due to snow days... so we will be having our dance / formal banquet this Friday, February, 17th starting after lunch (12:50). We will have a full school lunch together and students can join in an afternoon dance, movie or a study area. Tickets for the banquet are sold this week for \$2 each! We are asking students to dress formally for the banquet if they are able to.

Parent Survey: If you have not already done so, please take some time to fill out our parent feedback survey. This helps guide our school / division as we start planning for the 2023/2024 school year. [Ponoka Secondary Campus Survey](#)

Valentine's Fun: We had a lot of activities happen today! Talk to your child about how their day was as we had a photo backdrop to take pictures with friends to win a prize, candy jars to guess how many items are in them, pizza sales happening as a grad fundraiser as well as a student leadership pop fundraiser!

Purdy's Fundraiser: PSC Parent Council is in full force and supporting the school with a Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser! Please get your online order in by clicking the link!

[PSC Purdy Chocolate Fundraiser](#)

Basketball Sr. Night: Broncos basketball coaches recognize Grade 12 players who are graduating on Monday, February 27th, 2023 prior to each senior game. We welcome the community to come celebrate these athletes who have given so much time and energy to help make our senior teams so successful this season.

Grad Fundraiser: Please consider supporting the Grad Class of 2023 by purchasing your potted plants, strawberry plants, cherry tomato plants or herb planters through our [PSC Country Garden's & Greenhouse fundraiser](#), also available on your Parent Portal.

Order deadline: Monday, Feb. 27th

Grad Scholarship packages: [Grad 2023 Scholarship Package Information](#) are available in the school office. All graduates are encouraged to pick up a package as there are many diverse categories where students can apply for scholarships. The Ponoka community has an incredible number of generous sponsors who wish to recognize deserving students for their success and achievements.

Parent Teacher Interviews: Thursday, March 9th from 4 to 7:30pm, parents and guardians are welcome to come visit the school to connect with your child's teachers, discuss progress and remain informed should there be any concerns.

Spaghetti Supper at PT Interviews: The PSC Parent Council has found local sponsorship from **Paul's No Frills** to provide a complimentary spaghetti supper to all parents.

Vaping Issues: Vaping in our community is becoming a large issue. Students are able to get away with vaping because vapes don't smell like regular cigarettes, they are easy to hide. Students can take a quick puff between classes, in the bathroom, or even right in their seats. In some cases, the vapor dissipates too quickly to be noticeable. In other cases, students can blow it into their clothing or hold it in their mouths before exhaling, reducing, or eliminating the vapor altogether. A few of the most common places students vape include:

- School Bathrooms: Bathrooms are private, and multiple students can use them throughout the day, making it easy to sneak a quick vape.
- Classrooms: Especially if a student sits in the back of the room, it can be difficult for a teacher to see them vaping.
- Hallways: During passing periods, students can easily blend in and vape without being noticed. During class time, they can use e-cigarettes while nobody is around.
- Locker Rooms: Like bathrooms, locker rooms are private places where students can vape without being detected.

And since these devices are so small, students can easily put them in their pockets or backpacks. Students at PSC recently completed a survey to gather information for administration to gauge the usage among our students. Please take some time to have a conversation with your child about vaping. We are working at PSC to take a proactive approach to educate students about the health risks around vaping with the help of our SRO Lenny!

No School Next Week: The school will be closed to students next week due to the Family Day holiday Monday, February 20th and while staff benefit from Staff Collaboration Days on the 21st and 22nd. Also next week, WCPS gathers for the annual Teacher's Convention on February 23rd & 24th. Regular classes resume on Monday, February 27th, 2023.

Cody

"Work hard, be kind and amazing things will happen."

Conan O'Brien