

# ***POLAR NEWSLETTER***



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**Principal** Chris Molcak

**Vice Principals** Aubrey Mitchell A-G, Katie Marren H-N, Keith Wood O-Z

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December / January 2021

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Welcome back to all of our PGSS Polars! A huge well done, and thank you, to the students and staff in our community for their hard work since September 2020. This year has brought several challenges and opportunities for PGSS; it will be a year to remember! We want to extend our gratitude to our PGSS parents who continue to have patience with the school as we make our way through this unforgettable year. Quarter 1 has finished and we are fast approaching the end of Quarter 2 (see Important Dates on page 2). We look forward to seeing student commitment and dedication to success continuing throughout Quarter 3 and 4. We also wish to remind all students to work hard towards achieving their academic goals as they progress towards fulfilling their graduation requirements. It is at this time that we wish to encourage students with their parents/guardians to reflect upon their time at PGSS to date and set some goals for the remainder of this year and next.

Spring break is also quickly approaching! The first day of the break will be March 22 and students will return on April 6th. Upon returning from this break, students only have three months remaining in the school year! For Grade 12 students and parents/guardians, the Valedictory ceremony will also come in no time. Remember to watch the PGSS website, Twitter and Facebook accounts closely for updates on important deadlines and information on scholarships and bursaries.

We would like to celebrate the success of our grade 12 students who presented their Capstone Projects to members of our PGSS community in December. Thank you to Ms. Hannigan for organizing this massive event which included presentations on everything from "The Importance of Kindness" (Gage Bird) to "Horseback Riding" (Brook Larsen), and numerous other unique and interesting topics exploring student passions. Congratulations to all of our grade 12 PGSS Polars! The event was enjoyed by all who were able to attend.



Your PGSS Administration Team

## Athletics

PGSS managed to safely run volleyball practices for grades 9 to 12 during the fall. Mrs. Bernard also organized grade 8 volleyball intra murals during lunch, with the help of Mr. Massini. With no competitions allowed between other schools, the volunteer coaches did their best to keep the kids motivated and having fun. A big THANK YOU goes out to all that helped coach our students. We are attempting to organize basketball for January. Announcements in the coming weeks.

Mr. Barwise organized and coached our Cross-Country team during the pandemic. A Virtual competition was held within the province and we had three runners compete a 3.0 Km course. PGSS runners placed in their respective divisions

Amneet Toor 43rd out of 453, Dalton Barwise 63rd out of 529, and Brenden Shewchuck 236th out of 529.

Congratulations on all the hard work!

My name is Ms. Stelmaschuk and I am the Indigenous graduation coach for PGSS. My role is that of support and to help you get the materials and resources you need for graduation and for your post-secondary planning. I look forward to getting to know you and helping you transition from high school to whatever grand adventure awaits you :)



IT'S YOUR YEAR!

## MRS STELMASCHUK IS YOUR 2020/2021 INDIGENOUS GRAD COACH

### HERE TO HELP WITH:

- ✓ TRANSITION PLANNING (AKA WHAT DO I DO NEXT YEAR?)
- ✓ SCHOLARSHIPS – FINDING AND APPLYING
- ✓ POST-SECONDARY APPLICATIONS
- ✓ MENTORING AND CONNECTION
- ✓ ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

Come Visit! Rm 674 (Upstairs Library)  
Email me: [LSTELMASCHUK@SD57.BC.CA](mailto:LSTELMASCHUK@SD57.BC.CA)  
Join our Grad "Team" on Office 365:  
[bit.ly/3oukq8w](https://bit.ly/3oukq8w) OR scan the qr code



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Jan 12** Independent Online Registration Opens

**Feb 2** Independent Registraton closes

**Feb 3** Online Transfer Opens

**Feb 4** Last day of Quarter 2

**Feb 5** NID

**Feb 12** Report Cards

**Feb 15** BC Family Day

**Feb 18** PAC Meeting 7pm

**March 2** Online Transfers Close

**March 17** Parent teacher

**March 19** Last day of classes before Spring Break ☺

### Counsellors Department

Lynn Switzman A-G  
Gaylene Clark H-N  
Ryan McIndoe O-Z  
Mary LaMarre  
Hockey/Performing Arts  
Pamela Holat Secretary

### Learning Commons

#### Teacher Librarians

Steve Nunez  
Rebekah Rustad

#### Library Clerk

Jenean Akerhurst



## PGSS EAGLE CENTER NEWS

Hadih,

The Eagle Center at PGSS is a cultural hub for the school, we acknowledge the importance of education. We also acknowledge the important role parents play in our student's lives.

We would like to celebrate and assist parents in that role.

If you are interested in joining the Eagle Center Parent Group, please contact one of our Indigenous Education Workers, via email or by phone. We plan on at least 1 meeting a month to start.

Let's gather and talk about all of the possibilities we can put in place to support your child(ren)!

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Megan Zacharias [mzacharias@sd57.bc.ca](mailto:mzacharias@sd57.bc.ca) ext. 681

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**Due to COVID-19, graduation information is regularly being updated.**

The School District #57 Awards Program, FluidReview, is open for applications between January 7 - February 18, 2021. Information and instructions are

at: [https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Students/DistrictAwards/Pages/default.aspx#/=](https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Students/DistrictAwards/Pages/default.aspx#/)

If you are interested in receiving email updates and information about scholarships & bursaries, as well as information from post-secondary institutions, please email Mrs. LaMarre at [mlamarre@sd57.bc.ca](mailto:mlamarre@sd57.bc.ca)

Nomination forms for 2021 class valedictorian and recorded ceremony performances are available in the counselling centre. Currently, PGSS is scheduled to film valedictory footage on May 26, 2021, and the Valedictory Ceremony video will be released on the last weekend in June 2021.

Grade 12s need to complete gown order forms (available on the grad bulletin board and in the counselling centre) and hand completed forms in to Ms.Holat, the counselling secretary, by March 2021.

If you did not book your grad photo when WD West was at PGSS, please contact WD West at 250 563 1277 to book an appointment.

Please email baby/toddler photos for the valedictory slide show to [gclark@sd57.bc.ca](mailto:gclark@sd57.bc.ca).



## PGSS Montessori PBL

Some of the projects we completed in December included letters to military troops, homemade cards with personal messages for every senior at Simon Fraser Lodge, uplifting messages of gratitude on magnets for health care workers, clearing PGSS staff cars after snowfall, and making soap carvings for admin, support staff and custodians. The students worked incredibly hard on these projects, and they got to see the positive ripples they created. Way to be the change!

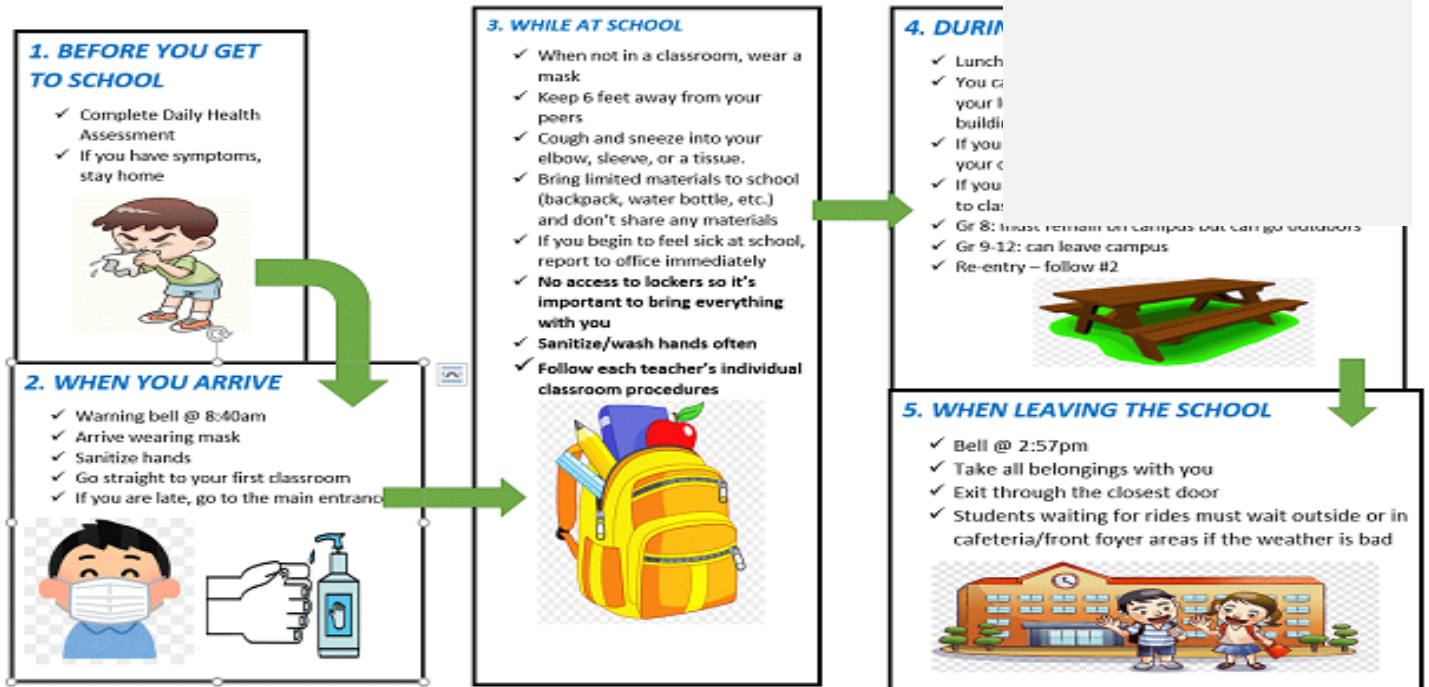


Quote from message sent from the hospital workers:



**PS- the last picture is our fridge in the respiratory department with the magnets alongside my favorite quote about small things that have the power to change the world. Today, those magnets changed our little world and made us believe in ourselves and power thru just a little bit longer. That's a powerful impact for "mere kids" to make- I hope they know how BIG they truly are ❤️**

## COVID REMINDERS



## ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is a critical component of student success. Parents are strongly encouraged to ensure that their children attend school except in the case of unavoidable absences such as sickness and family emergency. If you know that your child will be away, please call the school so that their attendance can be corrected.

## ARRIVING LATE/ LEAVING EARLY PROTOCOL

If your child is going to be late or needs to be excused early, please send a note with your child. The note can be brought to the teacher to make sure attendance is correct.

This will ensure that classes are not interrupted.

## Grade 2021 Capstone Presentations

December 16 & 17<sup>TH</sup> The Grade 12 class showcased their Capstone projects. Capstones are a requirement for graduation and must focus on the graduates learning journey, career exploration or passions. Well Done Class of 2021!

