

# Polar News

Prince George Secondary School  
2901 Griffiths Avenue, Prince George, BC V2M 2S7  
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www.pgss.sd57.bc.ca

## From Your Admin Team:

Winter already appears to be drawing to a close and spring is just around the corner. By now, students should have started to settle into their second semester classes. As a friendly reminder, we have a variety of supports available to students who may need some extra help in their classes. Please reach out to our staff to find out about these opportunities.

Transitions for our new Grade 7 Polar Cubs is now well underway! We have been visiting our feeder schools to introduce ourselves and our programs to incoming students.

Our counsellors have also been busy with course selection visits to our current students. PGSS is fortunate to have some new courses being introduced for the 2020-2021 year, such as Fly Fishing 12! Check out the Programming Information page of our website to see the latest Course Selection Guide and your child's grade course selection sheet.

One notable change this month is that PGSS has a new Principal! Mr. Manhas has accepted a position at the School Board Office as Assistant Superintendent and we are delighted to have Mr. Chris Molcak here as our new Principal. Mr. Molcak was last at PGSS in 2001 and has filled a variety of administrative positions throughout the district over the years. Please give Mr. Molcak a warm welcome when you see him around the school!

Please continue to check our website for updates and important information on the events and successes at PGSS~

Sincerely,

PGSS Administrative Team



## Administrative Team

Mr. Chris Molcak Principal

Ms. Aubrey Mitchell VP (A-G)

Mr. Harmen Kailay VP (H-O)

Mr. Neil Busby VP (P-Z)

Ms. Tracey Sullivan, Business  
Manager

## Office Hours

Monday to Friday  
8:00am to 4:00pm

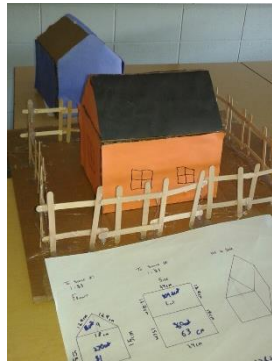
*Respecting the beautiful  
unceded ancestral lands,  
culture and people of the  
Lheidli T'enneh, McLeod  
Lake Indian Band and  
Simpw First Nation.*

## News from PBL and Montessori!

December and January have been busy! Montessori hosted a tea and biscuits for the Elders from Simon Fraser Lodge. Monti students served and visited with the residents – extending our PGSS community and creating relationships that we hope to foster in the next year! Mr. B's Math 8 class constructed homes and yards for a special and realistic math project – students enthusiastically designed and created their homes while covering math concepts (who knew Math could be fun!) Grade 8 and 9 students of Jr PBL created dream catchers before Christmas, instructed by Louise Creyke, one of our very own PGSS Aboriginal Social Workers. Ms. Creyke is also hosting a Thursday lunch beading group for any PGSS students who want to join. Also in Jr PBL, we were very fortunate to have 4 guest speakers come in (parents of our students in the program) to talk about their career path and the challenges and the joys their journey has given them.



*Tea hosted by the Montessori student in the upper levels of the library*



*Houses designed and built by the students of Mr. B's Math 8 class*



*Dream catchers made by students of the Junior PBL program*



### Important Dates

- Feb. 17 – Stat (Family Day)
- Feb. 21 – PAC Meeting 7pm
- Feb. 26 – Quarter 5 Ends
- Feb. 27 – Quarter 6 Begins
- Mar. 2 – Interims #3 Home
- Mar. 11 – Parent Teacher Interviews
- Mar. 13 – Last day before Spring Break
- Mar. 30 – First day after Spring Break
- April 9 – End of Term 3/Q6
- April 10 – Good Friday
- April 13 – Easter Monday

## Welcome, Practicum Students!

PGSS is delighted to have several UNBC practicum students joining us from February 3 to April 8, 2020. See below for the teams! Be sure to say hi to them when you see their smiling faces around our building.

Practicum Student	PGSS Teacher
Mr. Shaw	Mr. Hauk and Mrs. Kennedy
Mr. Bokvist	Mr. Nelles
Mr. Hecimovic	Ms. Branco
Ms. Broadhead	Mr. Thakkar
Ms. Rustad	Mr. Jeffery and Mr. Bordeleau
Mr. Kellington	Mr. Hauk and Mrs. Larson

## Exciting Changes to the Languages Department

The Languages Department is proud to announce some exciting changes for the next school year. In September of 2020, you will now be able to choose between four different language options at PGSS: French, Spanish, Italian, and German.

For the 2020-2021 school year only, you will have two options for Spanish. If you are a senior student (going into grades 11 or 12) and you want to take Spanish, choose the Spanish 1 Program. If you are going into grade 9 or grade 10, choose the Spanish 2 Program.

The brand new option is the Italian program. If you want to take a language course but do not really intend to use it as a university entrance requirement, then Italian might be for you. Introductory Italian 11 is not a university entrance requirement, but it is a Ministry curriculum. You must be in grades 10, 11, or 12 in order to take this course.

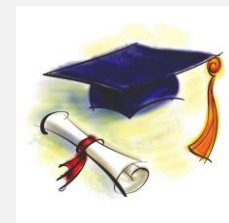
The Languages Department recommends a grade of C+ or better in French 8 in order to go into other language courses.

If you have any questions, see the following teachers for more information about the specific program:

Mr. McFayden: French, Spanish, Italian, Language for Travel (room 627)

Mrs. Truant: French (room 625)

Ms Kennedy: German (room 634)



## Grad Fees

Valedictory Ceremony fees are to be paid at the office - \$120 - cash or cheque only!

Includes:

- Valedictory Ceremony Facility Rental
- Rental of Gown and Stole
- Cap and Souvenir Tassel
- 6 Tickets to Ceremony
- 5x7 photo and certificate

## “Languages Build...” Video Contest

As Canada celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Official Languages Act, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) invites you to share your thoughts and experiences on how Canada's official languages can enrich, empower and enable all Canadians. CASLT-supported research shows that languages shape people, societies and cultures in extremely profound ways. Languages Build is an exciting contest that provides Canadians of all ages with an opportunity to share their stories of how learning one or both of our official languages has impacted or changed their lives.

### Contest Details

What does “*Languages Build...*” mean to you?

Create a video (maximum 3 minutes) to tell your story.

- Share your personal thoughts and experiences on how learning one of Canada's official languages has changed your life.
- Videos must be recorded in a second/additional language, or as a bilingual presentation.
- Your video must clearly reflect what the expression “*Languages Build...*” means to you.  
For me/For us, the expression “*Languages Build...*” means...
- All participants must complete the “*Languages Build...*” Video Contest Consent Form.

See Mr. McFayden for further details (room 627) or go to the following link: <https://www.caslt.org/en/why-learn-languages/resources/video-contest>

## PGSS Polar Performers “You Can't Take it With You”

PGSS Polar Performers are currently rehearsing for the spring show “You Can't Take it With You”. It is a quirky family farce from 1939. We are seeking a dedicated, hard-working individual who will commit to stage managing the show. If your slate is clear and you are looking for experience and a challenge, please see Mr. O. to apply. This involves lots of work and effort. The right person could be you.

PGSS Improv group meets on Fridays at lunch and most T- Blocks on Wednesdays. Come play. Come watch. Come learn the games. All welcome. Room 682

Thursdays after school: 3:30-5:00 production team for the spring show. Vanier Hall stage.

## Name Change

Learning Support Centre (LSC)  
is now



Same academic program;  
new name

## Travel Opportunities

Attention all Grade 8 and 9 students who were enrolled in French, if you'd like to travel to Quebec to go to the Quebec Carnaval 2021, do some dog sledding, go to a sugar shack and much, much more. Please see Mrs. Truant for more information in Room 625.

The Travel Club is just in the process of organizing their next out of country trip for Spring Break 2021. Please see Mrs. Truant for more information. Peru, Spain and Belize are the choices and Mrs. Truant would like to find out where the interest is ASAP so we can finalize the decision.

## MyEdBC Family Portal

At PGSS, we recently introduced a new way to access your child's school information directly online. On Monday, December 2, 2019 we officially launched the MyEducation BC (MyEdBC) FAMILY PORTAL.

Each parent/guardian will have their own separate account, and can view the following:

- Class Attendance Information
- Contact Information
- Student Demographic Information
- Student Schedules
- Published Report Cards
- Transcript Information

On December 2, 2019, you should have received an email from "sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca" with your login ID and password. Instructions on how to login and navigate the Family Portal will be found on the SD57 District Learning Commons Discovery Portal.

With your login ID and password, you can access the Family Portal at: <https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do>

For your mobile devices, the site is available at:  
<https://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do?mobile=1>

Accounts have been created using email addresses previously provided to the office. If you have provided an email and do not receive an invitation in your inbox, please check the "junk mail" folder in your email. If you did not provide your email address or need to update your address, please send an email to school clerical email. In the message include the following:

- Student's Full name
- Student's Grade
- Parent/Guardian Name
- Parent/Guardian Email Address.

MyEducation BC is a secure student information system used in most school districts in the Province of BC. Security is guided by the rules and regulations of the School Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 250-562--6441.



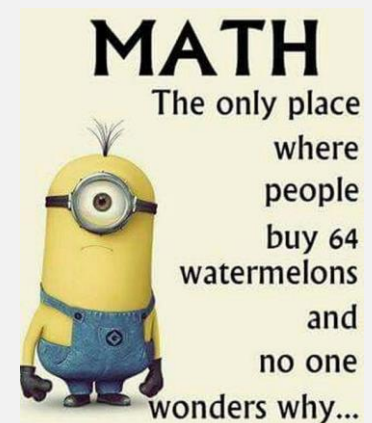
### Grade 8 Basketball

Any girls or boys interested in playing on the Grade 8 basketball team, please see Mr. Wittmeier in room 531



### Senior Girls Soccer

Senior Girls Soccer open gyms are Monday mornings at 7am unless it is a holiday day. Any questions, see Mr. Wood room 705.



### Math Pun

Why do plants hate math?

Because it gives them square roots.

## Upcoming Opportunities from the Careers Department

### STEAM CAFE - FEB 24!

For Grade 11, 12 students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math.

An afternoon interactive session speed-interviewing professionals in a range of STEAM careers. Applications due February 19th

### Rotary Adventures in Health Care Program - May 4th- 7th

For Grades 10 & 11 interested in a career in Health Care. Spend 4 days experiencing and learning about Medical Radiology, Sonography, Dental, Medical Laboratory, Nursing, Psychology and the Brain, Rehabilitation Services, Anatomy and Physiology, Gene School, and touring the Rotary Hospice House, AiMHi and University Hospital of Northern British Columbia. Applications are due February 20th.

### PG Fire Rescue - Applications available February 19th

For Grade 11 and 12 students. This program provides 60 hours of job shadowing with a fire/rescue crew out of their main fire hall in downtown Prince George. ~Students interested in a career in structural firefighting are encouraged to apply. ~Students are assigned to a fire crew and follow their daily regime of training and attending calls. ~Students are accepted into this program through an application/interview process.

**Mrs. Hannigan's office is located upstairs in the library. Please stop by and see her for information about these or any other programs.**

## From our Twitter Feed



*Grade 8 Robotics with Mr. Jeffery – February 6<sup>th</sup>*



*Emotional Literacy Charters in Humanities 8 – February 3<sup>rd</sup>*



*Farewell, Mr. Manhas. Congratulations on your new position as Assistant Superintendent – January 31<sup>st</sup>*