

SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
EDITION
SEPT 6TH,
2024

Tel: 250-395-2461 Email: psoinfo@sd27.bc.ca

DAILY SCHEDULE

A Block 8:50-10:15

B Block 10:20 - 11:40

Lunch 11:40 - 12:30

C Block 12:30 - 1:50

D Block 1:55 - 3:15

Welcome back, students, parents and guardians! We are excited to kick off the 2024-2025 school year with energy, enthusiasm, and a commitment to excellence. Let's make this year one to remember as we embark on a journey of learning, growth, and achievement together. Here's to a successful and rewarding academic year ahead!

Course Change & School Counselling Information

PSO is currently starting the school year without a school counsellor. Staff are working hard with outside agencies to support students and their mental health. Youth Engagement Workers are available to connect with students about urgent concerns and assisting with referrals for more urgent support.

Course request changes are being processed by Administration. Please understand that in the first few weeks of start up, new registrations and Grade 12 students have priority.

There are 2 ways to request a course change:

1. A student can visit the counselling area and fill out a course change form with the reason for request and Administration will process and make contact with student.
2. Parents can phone and request a course change and Administration will make contact with the parent.

PLEASE understand that we are dealing with a high volume of requests at this time. We will process your request as fast as possible, however it may take a few days. Students **ARE** expected to attend their current class schedule.

Photo Day

School photo day is coming quick on Sept 20th. Your student should have received a photo order form. Please read over and follow the instructions. If your student did not receive one or has lost theirs, there are extra forms on the student info board across from the office. Retake day is Oct 10th. Grad photo dates are Jan 14th, 15th & 16th.

Report Card Dates

Report card dates for the year are as follows:

November 28th

February 11th

May 6th

June 26th

Important Dates

Sept 10th - Assembly for Grade 8-10

Sept 11th - Assembly for Grade 11 & 12

Sept 20th - Photo Day 9am

Sept 23rd - Pro-D Day

Sept 30th - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - No School

Oct 10th - Retake Day

Oct 14th - Thanksgiving - No School

Oct 23rd - Parent Teacher interviews 5-7pm

Oct 25th - Pro-D Day

Safe Arrival Information

With Safe Arrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The first time you use the app, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report on Absence.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select Sign Up to create your account. Select Attendance then Report an Absence.
3. Call the toll-free number 1 (833) 582-6944 to report an absence using the automated system.
4. You can call the school at 250-395-2461

These options are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time. The automated notification system will contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was **NOT** reported. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points. (email, phone and text) **UNTIL** a reason is submitted for the absence.

Please note that calls from the automated system will be in the afternoon after teachers have entered the attendance for the day.

Student Verification Forms

Student verification forms will be sent out next week. Please review them and make changes where needed by crossing out the old information and writing the new info. Alternatively, you can log into MyEducation Parent Portal and update this information. However we ARE aware some parents cannot access their parent portal at this time, so please watch for the paper copy.

Bussing Information

As many of you know, there has been changes to the bussing system this year.

PLEASE inform your students that bus line up and departure times have changed, please check in with your student that they know their Bus #. If you do not know your number, please call the bus garage at 250-395-2230.

This year students who have registered for the bus will receive a bus pass card from their homeroom teachers. Students will **NEED** this bus pass to ride a bus. This will be coming into effect soon, as of right now **students will still be able to ride the bus.** The passes have a \$30 replacement fee, so please keep them safe.

Cell Phone Policy

Please refer to the FAQ document regarding cell phones in schools, that was sent to all parents before start up. You can also find our updated PSO Code of Conduct on our school website - www.sd27.bc.ca/PSO

Entry Doors (NEW INFO for 2024-2025)

To increase student and staff safety at PSO and to promote positive school culture as students arrive at school, we have adjusted entrances to school this year.

Students can gain entry at the following locations:

- Front door/Main Entry is open at all times.
- Gym Foyer Entry from bus loop
- Parking Lot lower level entry - access from student parking lot

Welcome New Staff!

We would like to extend a welcome to all returning staff and introduce you to new staff member this year.

- Mr. MacDonald (Vice Principal)
- Mr. Beeson (Science)
- Mrs. Morris (English)
- Mr. Pichette (Outdoor Ed and PE)
- Mrs. Sepkowski (EA)
- Mrs. Kreschuk (EA)
- Ms. McCallum (EA)

Lockers

Lockers will be assigned by a students homeroom teacher. Please do not bring your own lock, one will be provided by the school.

PAC Parent Meeting

The first PAC meeting of the school year will be on September 24th @ 5:30pm in our school library.

Please consider being apart of this amazing group.

Food Programs

PSO offers breakfast, lunch and snack programs daily at **NO COST** to students.

Breakfast runs at 8:20 to 8:45 in our cafeteria. Breakfast consists of hot and cold grab and go items such as yogurt, bagels, toast, cereal and occasionally pancakes.

Lunch runs from 11:40 to 12:10 in our cafeteria. Lunch consists of soup and sandwiches with cut up veggies.

Snacks are available during morning and afternoon breaks and consist of yogurts and fruits.

Parent Parking

Reminder to parents picking up or dropping off to please keep our fire lane clear and accessible bus lane parking clear. Please also be mindful not to park at our neighboring businesses. Thank you.

Clubs

Our student clubs will be starting up soon.

Gaming Club: Everyday at lunch

Fiber Arts Club: Starts Friday Sept 13th at lunch in the library. All things knitting, crochet, needlepoint - new members welcome!

GSA Club: Mondays at lunch, room 147 starting Sept 9th.

Climbing Club- Lunch on Mondays and Thursdays and Tuesday 3:30-5:00

Film Club - Starting next week - stay tuned

Amnesty - Starting Sept 18th at lunch

Drama Club - TBA

Sports

Soccer - Starts Sept 9th, every Monday and Wednesday 3:30 to 5:00

Rugby - Starts Sept 5th, every Tuesday and Thursday at 3:30 to 5:00
located at the bottom field