

N'TSAÜW CHU' KEDTS'EDÁN KÙ



PRIDE



PASSION



PURPOSE

WORDS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello students, parents/guardians, and the Porter Creek school community,
Happy New Year!

We hope that you had the opportunity to spend quality time together, relax, and recharge during the winter holidays. We wish our students much luck in preparing for exams and finishing up the semester.

Our first day of classes for second semester is January 22, 2024. Each new semester brings new beginnings and new optimism, a fresh start and chance to re-establish good habits.

We have included several communication documents with this note to remind you of our guidelines and practices as we start this new semester. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or need clarification.

All the best,
Peter Giangrande, Candice Deo, and Jeff Hills



REMINDER

Upcoming Dates:

- JANUARY 22ND - START OF SEMESTER 2 AND TERM 3
- JANUARY 31ST - COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION NIGHT @6:30PM IN THE PCSS LIBRARY - FOR ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS GOING INTO GRADE 9-11
- FEBRUARY 1ST - COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION NIGHT @6:30PM IN THE PCSS LIBRARY - FOR ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS GOING INTO GRADE 12
- FEBRUARY 6TH - MINI ASSEMBLIES BY GRADE FOR ALL STUDENTS
- FEBRUARY 23RD - HERITAGE DAY NO SCHOOL
- MARCH 9TH - 24TH - SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL
- MARCH 29TH - GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL
- APRIL 1ST - EASTER MONDAY NO SCHOOL
- APRIL 24TH-25TH - STUDENT LED CONFERENCES
- APRIL 26TH - NO SCHOOL
- MAY 3RD - NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY NO SCHOOL
- MAY 20TH - VICTORIA DAY NO SCHOOL
- JUNE 5TH - LAST DAY OF CLASSES
- JUNE 6TH-12TH - EXAMS

How to contact a teacher!

1) Go to the school website at pcssrams.ca

2) Find the tab labelled 'teacher pages'



HOME

SCHOOL INFORMATION

TEACHER PAGES

STUDENTS

PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY

3) Click on the email or website of the teacher you wish to contact

4) If you wish to meet with you child's teacher in person, please email them to arrange a meeting or call the front office at 667-8044

ATTENDANCE LOGIN FOR PARENTS

1) Use this QR code or visit

<https://myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do>

2) Log in using your credentials. Username will be: 98-firstinitiallastname then your password. If you cannot remember your password, click "forgot my password" and you will receive an email prompting you to reset it.



3) If you are having trouble with this log in process please contact Sam Witham at 667-8044.

[THE SEMESTER 2 INFORMATION PACKAGE BELOW](#)



Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation. • Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Notice and support your students if they are showing signs of anxiety.



Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.

Revised September 2023

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!

Trip name:	
NOTICE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS: <i>Yukon Education is required to seek informed consent from parents/legal guardians for all off-site experiential trips and activities. Informed consent means that all consent forms sent home requesting parent/legal guardian approval must provide full details of the trip activity and identify any significant risks, including all measures that are being taken to address those known risks.</i>	
Staff member in charge:	Date of activity:
Anticipated departure time:	Anticipated return time:
Description of the planned activity(s):	
Is this a reoccurring trip? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Method of transportation:	

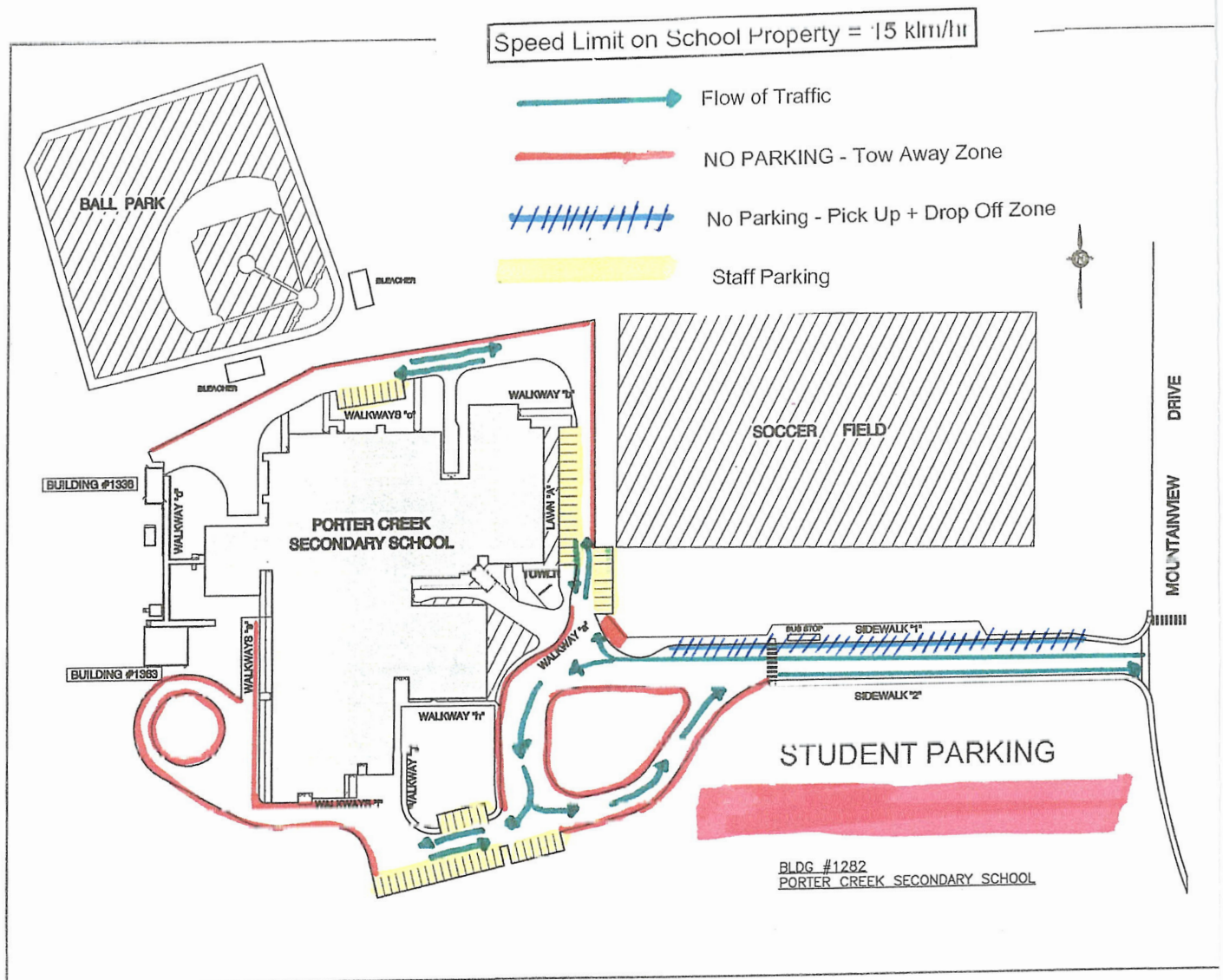
I've read and understand the above information on the proposed off-site experiential learning trip. Detach and return to the school.	
Trip Name:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>I understand that in the event that my child's participation in the trip is terminated early due to behavior that I am responsible for any associated costs.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<i>I consent for photos of my child from this trip to be used for school-related activities, such as school displays, local media, reports, newsletters, etc.</i>
Student Name:	Date:
Parent or Legal Guardian, please print:	
Signature:	

PCSS SCHOOL MAP FOR VEHICLE PARKING

DO NOT PARK IN: fire lanes, on sidewalks, Pick-Up & Drop-off Zones, School Bus Zone, No Parking Zones, **ANYTIME.**

Drivers not obeying these regulations, vehicles will be **"TOWED"** at the driver's expense.

Students in violation of the **Yukon Motor Vehicle Act:** Dangerous Driving, Stunting, or not obeying parking signs will be prohibited from bringing a vehicle to school.



Porter Creek Secondary

1405 Hickory Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4M4 Phone: 1-867-667-8044 Fax: 1-867-667-8953
Principal: Mr. Peter Giangrande Website: www.pcssrams.ca Email: pcss@yukon.ca

January, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Since implementing a more uniform cell phone policy/limits for our Grade 8s in August, 2023, we've had feedback from staff, parents, and even students, that this is working well and has been a welcome change for our school community.

This is a reminder that we will continue to implement a no cell phones in class guideline for all Grade 8 classes. Students will "park" their phones in cell phone "parking lots" provided by us at the beginning of class and will pick them up at the end of class. They will still have access before class, at breaks, and lunch times. For your information, our classes are approximately 80 minutes in length.

If there is a family emergency when your child does not have access to their phone, please reach out to our main office at 667-8044 and we'll call down to the classroom.

Please note: if your child needs access to their cell phone for a medical reason (such as to monitor their blood sugar for a child with diabetes), please contact me or a Vice Principal to let us know and we will note this for their teachers.

If you have any feedback as we continue to implement this, don't hesitate to reach out. In the meantime, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

Peter Giangrande,
Principal



Pride, Passion, Purpose

Porter Creek Secondary

1405 Hickory Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4M4 Phone: 1-867-667-8044 Fax: 1-867-667-8953
Principal: Mr. Peter Giangrande PCSS Website – pcssrams.ca

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Because emergencies can occur which require us to evacuate the school, we want to remind you that, in the case of such an event occurring: the following procedures will be in place:

**IN CASE WE NEED TO EVACUATE PCSS IN AN EMERGENCY, OUR
ALTERNATE SITE IS JACK HULLAND SCHOOL.**

We are prepared to care for students in the case of a critical situation, or if parents/guardians are not able to reach the school or alternate site. We have a number of people with first aid certificates, and we will be in a communication with local emergency services. Our school is equipped with emergency supplies that will allow us to tend to our students.

We do ask you to help in the following areas:

*turn your radio to one of these FM stations: CBC (94.5), CKRW (91.5) or CHON (98.1) – information / direction will be given over the radio;

*please do not call the school; lines must be open for emergency calls;

*following an earthquake or other city-wide emergency, do not immediately drive to the school; streets and access to our school may be cluttered with debris and the school access route must remain clear for emergency vehicles.

PLEASE keep this letter in a safe place so you may easily refer to it in the case of an emergency.



"Pride, Purpose and Passion"

PCSS

Food Program



Through a partnership with Yukon First Nations Education Directorate, Jordan's Principle and Yukon Food for Learning, Porter Creek Secondary is able to provide all of our students access to food daily.

NEW IN 2024

We will switch from disposable plates and cutlery to re-useable. Along with this change, students are required to eat lunch or snacks that are in re-useable containers in the cafeteria.

The cafeteria provides breakfast food at first break and a variety of options for lunch. Snacks like fresh fruit and granola bars are available in classrooms.



**FOOD PROGRAM
AT PORTER
CREEK
SECONDARY
SCHOOL**



"GOOD FOOD WARMS THE HEART AND
FEEDS THE SOUL"



*The cafeteria will not be
open for full service until
February 5, 2024.*



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Re: Yukon Threat Assessment Program

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The safety of our children is a top priority for everyone. The tragedies that have occurred where students commit violent acts against other students and educators in Canada and in the United States have caused government officials, educators, parents, students and other community members to assess how we make our schools and communities safe for our children and students.

Public Schools Branch staff members have been involved in an intensive safety training program with our community partners, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Yukon Department of Health and Social Services, and Yukon Department of Justice. From what we have learned in this training we know that student acts of violence are not random; individuals do not suddenly snap and commit serious acts of violence. In cases where serious acts of violence have occurred there have been many indicators and escalating signs that these individuals are on a path to commit serious harm to themselves or others. The training has helped our professionals to recognize these signs, assess them, and put in place interventions to support and reduce the level of risk. Together with our community partners, Public Schools Branch has developed a plan to respond to situations in which students may be demonstrating behaviours that pose a risk to themselves or others.

We wish to advise parents that we have adopted a policy which requires schools to undertake a Threat Assessment in all cases of students making threats to harm themselves or others. These threats may be physical, verbal or written; they may be gestures or messages posted on the Internet. The purpose of the Yukon Threat Assessment Program is to determine how best to support students considered at risk so that their behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive to themselves or others.

Parents can play an active role in keeping our schools safe by advising the school of any information communicated to them from their children concerning threatening behaviours that their children may have been subjected to, in or out of school, and continuously monitoring their children's use of the Internet and Internet chat lines.

This letter is intended to provide you with fair notice that all Yukon schools will respond to all threats in a professional manner that provides for safe, healthy, and caring learning environments. Any threats or threat making behaviours will be taken seriously and assessed accordingly. Parents will be informed if their child is part of a threat assessment.

We are pleased to be able to provide this level of support to our school communities and appreciate having the ongoing support of our community partners.

PCSS Administration Team



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MEMO TO ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS IN SCHOOL WITH VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

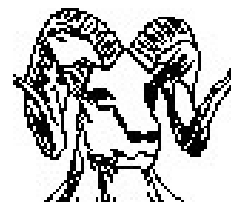
Video Surveillance Policy

This is notice that Porter Creek Secondary School is equipped with a video surveillance system to provide protection for the well-being and security of individuals, and as a deterrent to vandalism, criminal acts or other illegal activities.

All information obtained by video surveillance is confidential and will only be transmitted to Education or police authorities when criminal or other illegal acts are suspected.

All recorded information will be destroyed within 30 days of being recorded unless they are used as part of an investigation.

Any personal information collected through the use of the Video Surveillance Cameras at this site is collected and managed under the authority of s. 29(c) of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPP) and s.6(1)(h) of the Education Act.



Pride, Passion, Purpose