



Palmer Secondary
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Palmer News ~ Spring 2019

We hope all of our students and families have a relaxing and enjoyable Spring Break. See you on Monday April 1st!



Message from Mrs. Savory, Principal

It is hard to believe that we are now more than half way through the school year. Time certainly flies when you are teaching and learning and it has been a whirlwind of just that at Palmer. Over the past few months students and teachers have been busy with events such as Footloose, hosting our own and District Wide Richmond Japanese Exchange students for a potluck dinner, and of course, Palmer Spotlight which occurred on January 17th. Spotlight was a prime example of the quality of learning that is taking place. A wide variety of work was on display as evidence of this learning, along with a variety of performances put on by our students. This is a great example of the intersection of knowledge and skills, as students were around to reflect and talk about their learning and demonstrate their understanding. It was a privilege to be able to open the doors of our school to our community to showcase the rich learning at Palmer. This past Spotlight also included our very first Palmer Vendor Market. It was wonderful to see the variety of businesses and cottage industries that exist within our community and to be able to support them. My desire is that we can continue to build greater partnerships within our community so that our students have more opportunities to apply their learning in real-life situations. I would like to thank all the students, parents, families and community members who attended our open house to share in our celebration.

January and February have also been an important time for our Gr. 8-11 students as they begin the process of selecting courses for next year. This is an exciting time as students have opportunities to select courses that they are passionate about. We want our students to select courses that are meaningful to them so that they can personalize their learning experience. We know that student engagement is enhanced when students take greater ownership of their learning, and this in turn increases their internal motivation and interest in their learning. We encourage parents to support their children through these important decisions and remind you to please contact the school if you have any questions about this process. Students will have an opportunity to revisit their course selections in April and at that time students will be asked to make firm commitments regarding their choices. By the second week in April, our administrative team will be busy confirming our courses for next year and thereby committing staffing based on student choice and need. Please note, given the process, students will have very minimal opportunity to "change their mind" on their course selections once we are into the 3rd week in April.

As we head into Spring Break, I would like to take this opportunity to wish our Palmer Community a restful and enjoyable break. I hope you get the time to enjoy many leisure activities with family and friends and to take in some nature too! Have a safe and adventurous break and see you all back on April 1, 2019.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

All parents are invited to our next PAC meeting on Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00pm in the Library. Minutes of PAC meetings are posted on the Palmer website. [2018-2019 PAC Minutes | Palmer Secondary School](#)

Grad News

Our next grad event is the Boat Cruise on April 18th. More information about ticket sales will be announced at school, as we get closer to the event date. We have started to get organized for our Valedictory Ceremony which is at the Bethany Church on Thursday, June 13th. Our gown orders for students will be placed by the end of March. Each student will receive 2 tickets to Valedictory (students do not need one) with extra tickets going on sale in late May. Again, more information will be shared in May. Make sure your son or daughter has given the office their email address as we have been using email, announcements and assemblies to update Grads on important deadlines.

Report Cards/Parent Portal:

Term 2 Report Cards were published on the MyEdBC Parent Portal on Monday, March 11, 2019. This is an opportunity for parents and guardians to have meaningful discussions with your child regarding their learning. Report Cards are a way for us to Communicate Student Learning and are an invitation for parents and guardians to engage with teachers as well. If you haven't yet logged in and created a Parent Account on the MyEdBC Parent Portal, please be sure to do so ASAP. Instructions for this are available on the Palmer [Website](#)

Yearbooks!!!

Yearbooks are still being sold but we now have a limited number before we sell out, so get a copy for your special student today! It is a new year, new pictures and new memories! Yearbooks are \$50- and you can pay by cash or cheque to the business assistant, Ms Henry, in the office or you can pay on 'School Cash On-line'. Getting yearbooks signed at the end of the year is a big deal and you don't want to miss out on the fun!

Tech.Department Needs Your PC Computers!

The Palmer Technical Department is hoping to acquire six donated PC Computers. Minimum hardware requirements are: Windows 7 or 10 operating system, i series Intel Processor, any size Hard Drive, 4GB RAM. Please contact Mr. Thorvaldson in the CAD Lab, Room 141 or at athorvaldson@sd38.bc.ca

Palmer Scholarships

Applications for Palmer Scholarships will be posted on our website on April 12th 2019. Please complete the application and submit it by Thursday April 25th, 2019.

Palmer Student Wins Prestigious \$10,000 Scholarship Grade 12 student Liang Liu, has been honoured with winning only 1 of 10 Horatio Alger Association's National Entrepreneurial Scholar award that earned him a \$10,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington, DC to receive his award. The National Entrepreneurial Scholarships are awarded to eligible students across all provinces and territories in Canada. Entrepreneurial Scholars also receive an all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. during the spring of their terminal year of high school to participate in a conference with their American counterparts. We are very proud of Liang who is the most worthy of recipients. We wish Liang all the best in his continued studies as he graduates and takes this honour to continue his education. Go Griffins Go!

FOOTLOOSE 2019

For the past 13 years, RC Palmer Secondary School has hosted a hip-hop dance competition, FOOTLOOSE, each year. This annual event is open to all students in high school. This year, FOOTLOOSE featured 32 dance teams, 4 showcase groups (Freshh Varisty, Freshh 2.0, Unity Dance Company and KTL), a cypher circle during intermission, professional industry judges and the coveted freestyle competition at the end of the night open to anyone in attendance. Funds raised from FOOTLOOSE go towards strengthening the RC Palmer extracurricular dance program by way of dance competition registration fees and post-secondary scholarships. A portion of the proceeds from audience tickets each year is donated to a local charity. This year, Richmond Addiction Services Society has been selected. We truly appreciate the hard work of the individuals from this organization in the community at large and especially in our school community through the Peer2Peer Program with our Leadership students, parent evening information sessions and the Constructive Alternative to Teen Suspension Program for our at-risk students. The Palmer Dance Team and Ms. Naidu would also like to thank our in-kind door prize donors and acknowledge the RC Palmer Staff and Alumni for taking time out of their busy schedules to supervise and volunteer at FOOTLOOSE, Richmond School District Executive Staff, and all the individuals in the community who came out to watch and support our talented dancers. We look forward to seeing you at FOOTLOOSE 2020 on Friday, February 28!

Grad Numeracy Assessment:

The Ministry of Education has eliminated Provincial Exams in English 10, Math 10, Science 10, Social Studies 11 and, after 2019, English 12. There are 3 new provincial assessments that all students will be required to write – the GRADUATION NUMERACY ASSESSMENT (GNA) and the GRADUATION LITERACY ASSESSMENT (GLA). <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment/literacy-assessment>

The changes in the graduation assessments are taking place in order to align with the new curriculum. As part of the updated graduation requirements, students in the [B.C. Graduation Program](#) will have to complete the three provincial assessments that will focus on the demonstration and application of **numeracy** and **literacy**.

- [Graduation Numeracy Assessment – Grade 10](#) (graduation requirement)
- [Graduation Literacy Assessment – Grade 10](#) (graduation requirement starting in 2019/20)
- [Graduation Literacy Assessment – Grade 12](#) (graduation requirement starting in 2020/21)

There will be no course-based [Language Arts 12 provincial exams](#) after the 2018/19 school year. Students graduating in the 2018/19 school year will take a Language Arts 12 course and associated provincial exam to satisfy graduation requirements for the B.C. Graduation Program. All PALMER Grade 11 students and those Grade 12 students who missed writing the GNA in the 2017/2018 school year wrote the assessment on Wednesday January 23rd 2019. The next sitting will be for all Grade 10 students and any remaining Grade 11 and 12 students on Friday June 21st from 8:30-11:30am. Numeracy is the willingness and perseverance to interpret and apply mathematical understanding to solve problems in contextualized situations, and to analyze and communicate these solutions in ways relevant to the given context. The new Numeracy Assessment is not a typical “math test.” It will include 24 common questions and a student choice section (answer 2 of 4). The questions will be context placed problems that students will read, think about and then write a solution. The GNA measures 5 numeracy processes, including students’ abilities to INTERPRET, APPLY, SOLVE, ANALYZE and COMMUNICATE solutions. The GNA will not be attached to any course, but reported separately on each student’s official Transcript using a 4-point scale – 1. Emerging 2. Developing 3. Proficient 4. Extending

Students can score a 0 for not attempting to answer questions and must score at least 1 to graduate. Students will be allowed to rewrite the GNA two times over their high school years (3 total attempts). Students can “practice” the exam online now. For more information, parents are encouraged to read the information contained in the link here:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/graduation-numeracy-assessment-brochure.pdf>

Student Transfers

For students that submitted Round 1 Transfer Applications, the final deadline was on Thursday February 28, 2019. Parents/legal guardians will be informed of the status of the transfer application by Friday, March 15, 2019. Round 2 Late Transfer Applications began on Friday, March 1, 2019 and the final deadline for submission is Friday, May 17, 2019. For further information regarding student placements request criteria and timelines, please go to the Richmond School District Website at:

<https://www.sd38.bc.ca/services/student-registration/Pages/default.aspx>

Parent Survey

Every year the Ministry of Education asks parents of students in Grades 4,7, 10 and 12 to complete an online survey about what they think about their child’s learning at school. Parents of Palmer students in Grade 10 and Grade 12 are asked to click on the link below and complete the survey. The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and is available in 18 languages. Once you log on, go to DIRECT ACCESS in the bottom right corner, choose SD38 RICHMOND for District and RC Palmer SECONDARY for school, choose your language (English is the default language) and answer the questions. Thank you!

<https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>

Program Planning

Palmer counsellors and Vice Principals have met with Grades 8-11 students over the past few weeks so all students could receive Programming Information and a personalized course selection form. They learned about options for courses, new graduation requirements and post-secondary prerequisites and got prepared for choosing courses for next year. Our timetable and staffing for 2019-2020 is determined based on student enrollment and course requests, so students must select carefully, taking into consideration their summer school and online learning plans. It is difficult to make course changes later in the process. Grades 8-11 students will have an opportunity to check and confirm that their course selections are accurate later in the spring. We hope that together, students and parents had an opportunity to read the online course descriptions, discuss options with their classmates and current teachers and choose courses thoughtfully. Please read the 2019-2020 Palmer course descriptions online at:

<https://palmer.sd38.bc.ca/students/course-planning> completed forms were due February 25th. If you have any questions regarding the course selection process, contact your counsellor - Ms. Gill for students with the last name beginning with A-M and Ms. White for students whose last names begin with L-Z

Reminder to Students and Parents/Guardians – VAPING/Smoking By Law

At Palmer, we value the health and safety of all of our school and community members. There have been issues with smoking/vaping in our school building and on our school grounds by members of our Palmer community, both school based and in the larger adult population. We have prioritized educating our school community on the effects of smoking/vaping in various formats throughout the last few years. With this in mind, we wanted to remind students and parents of the City of Richmond Public Health Protection bylaw #6989 (Subdivision Six: Smoking Control and Regulation; Part 6.3.1 effective date March 13, 2000), as detailed below:

PART 6.3: PUBLIC PARK, SCHOOL GROUND AND OUTDOOR RECREATION REGULATIONS

6.3.1 A person must not **smoke**:

(a) in a **public park** or **school ground**; or

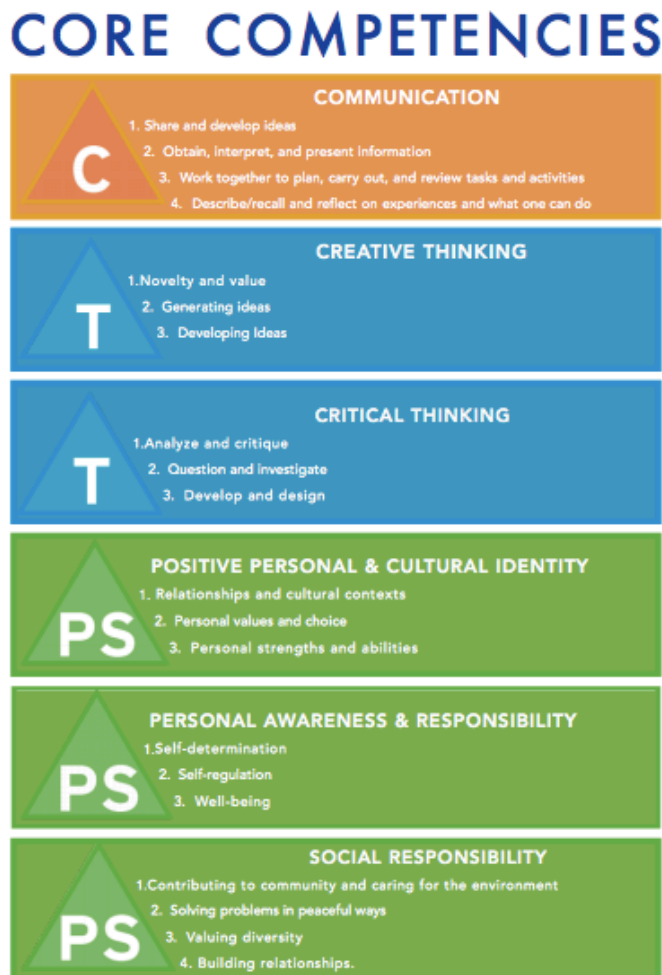
(b) on or within twenty-five (25) meters of any **outdoor sport facility** or **playground**

In this bylaw, **smoke** or **smoking** means to inhale, exhale, burn or carry (a) a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, or other smoking equipment that burns tobacco, cannabis or other substance or (b) an activated e-cigarette. Enforcement of this bylaw may include the issuance of violation tickets by the Richmond RCMP. Please note, these tickets come with **monetary fines**. Thank you for your cooperation in making Palmer a safe, caring and healthy environment for our students to learn. Please contact school administration with questions or concerns.

Griffins That Give Griffins that Give has been helping out with multiple community and school events for the past season. Students have been fostering a sense of belonging and a desire to look beyond and lend a helping hand during this lively season. Family Day has been one of the most hectic days for community centres; thus, students have actively reached out and volunteered at a number of Family Day events around Richmond, including activities in Steveston. Moreover, opportunities like Coldest Night, Chinese New Year at Cambie Community Centre, and Richmond Olympic Experience have our students involved in their community. Our club members not only volunteer in their community, but they also help out with school events like Spotlight on Palmer and Ecolution! Once spring break approaches, students will be volunteering at a few spring break day camps. such as, Nature Detectives at Richmond Nature Park. In addition to our short-term volunteer opportunities, we also offer long-term opportunities. There are several resume-building volunteering positions that have come up. Students have volunteered as a reading buddy at Brighthouse library and helped out with the Imagineering After-school Club at General Currie. But it doesn't just end there! Students have participated as gallery attendants at the Gulf of Georgia cannery and some have applied to become a community garden volunteer at the Richmond Food Bank. We still have many more opportunities waiting in store for students, so encourage your son/daughter, to attend our meetings during lunch! The club meets every Wednesday at lunch in Mrs. Calaciura's room. New members are always welcome!

Core Competencies:

As they did last year, all Grade 8 and 9 students in British Columbia will complete a self-assessment of a group of core competencies. These are a set of intellectual, emotional, social and personal proficiencies that every student will need to develop. They include: Communication Skills, Critical Thinking Skills, and Personal/Social Responsibility Skills. Teachers will highlight and teach these competencies in all classes during the year, and they will complete a self-assessment of growth in these areas. For detailed information, check out <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies>



Dates to Remember

Please check out our WAAG (Week at a Glance): [Week At A Glance | Palmer Secondary School](#)

Helpful Websites

Palmer Web Site	http://palmer.sd38.bc.ca/
Career Centre	http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews/
Richmond School District	www.sd38.bc.ca/
Ministry of Education	www.gov.bc.ca/bced/
BC Coalition of PACS	www.bccpac.bc.ca/
R.C. Palmer Email:	palmer@sd38.bc.ca

Career Centre News – February/March 2019

District Career Centre Website - New This Week - provides weekly updates on post-secondary, career and scholarship information: <http://sd38careercentre.weebly.com>

Ms. Mayer Career Centre Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ms-Mayer-Career-Centre/333673583360594>

GRADE 11's:

If you are considering studying in the USA for your post-secondary education, now is the time to register for and to write your SAT or ACT exams. This will ensure that you are ready, with your exam results, to apply for American schools in the early Fall which is when they would like to receive Canadian applications.

GRADE 12's:

Grade 12 students should have finalized their post-secondary applications. Make sure applications are received by the institution's stated deadlines.

Students Transcripts Service (STS). Students will need to register with STS in order for the post-secondary schools they are applying at to access their marks for offers and acceptance. Students need their PEN number to register.

The Ministry of Education has launched the *Student Transcripts Service* (STS), an online application for students to view their marks, scholarships and transcripts, and send transcripts to post-secondary institutions and third parties. To access the service, visit the Ministry of Education's *Order Transcripts and Certificates* website at www.StudentTranscripts.gov.bc.ca and follow the instructions found there.

1. **Register for a BCeID** (a BC Government account that provides you with access to B.C. Government online services)
2. **Register for the Student Transcript Service** using your BCeID
3. **Log in** to your **Student Transcripts Service** using your BCeID.
4. **Follow the steps in order to have transcripts sent electronically to post-secondary institutions.**

***Note:** Some Post-secondary institutions may require your grade information earlier than available through this process. Ensure you are familiar with each institution's requirements regarding grade submission. If required, order an official hardcopy transcript from the main office (\$5.00 per transcript).

Document Deadlines:

Many universities & colleges require additional information such as transcripts or supplemental applications or profiles, this is called a "document deadline". This is separate from the application deadline and varies depending on the institution. Please check each institution's website for details.

Offers of Admission: Grade 12 students who have applied to a university/college for entry in Sept. are reminded to regularly check the institution's secured student service (student account) website/portal for new messages. Many sites require students to use the Identification Number that was noted on their confirmation letter along with a password. These sites contain important details regarding: transcript submission, self-reporting, admission offers, course prerequisites, registration, deadline dates, contact information, grades, etc.

FEB 8/19 – SFU has extended the application deadline for Undergrad applicants.

FEB 28/19 – UVic- Final application deadline

MAR 31/19 - Capilano U. - Final application deadline (Career & Limited Enrollment check website)

Be sure to check:

- application deadlines
- scholarship deadlines
- housing and document deadlines

Deadline dates vary so check carefully!

Self-Reporting Dates For BC Institutions:

Students may log-in to their university account and report their interim marks for the following BC institutions:

SFU – Now to Feb 28 (except Beedie School of Business & Sustainable Energy Engineering – Document & Self-reporting deadline Feb 8)

<https://www.sfu.ca/students/admission/admission-requirements/admission-questions/already-applied.html>

UBC – No longer require students to self-report directly. However, students must have completed their STS forms by Jan 31 for UBC to gain permission to access marks from the BC Ministry of Education. Feb 15 – UBC deadline to submit required admission documents (IELTS/TOEFL/LPI)

UVic - Feb 15 - March 31 - (In order to be considered for UVic's entrance scholarships based on marks alone, students must self-report their Grade 12 marks, no separate application is required. Visit their website for further information <https://www.uvic.ca/index.php> There are also scholarships that have other criteria;

See <https://www.uvic.ca/registrar/safa/entrance-scholarships/specific/index.php>

Capilano U - self-report Jan 15 to March 31 <https://www.capilano.ca/advising/apply/>

Langara College invites students to register and attend an information session on programs that are of interest. <http://langara.ca/news-and-events/information-sessions/index.html>

Langara College Course Planning Sessions - For new 'Arts and Science Transfer Applicants. Designed to help students understand university entrance requirements, as well as the requirements for faculties and majors. The Langara Counselling Department requires that new Arts and Science students attend a Course Planning Session before receiving individual assistance. See website for the next available session: <http://langara.ca/student-services/counselling/workshops-info-sessions/course-planning-sessions.html>

Scholarships:

There are many scholarships available to apply to with deadlines each month, so be sure to check out the Career Centre website and the Ms. Mayer Career Centre Facebook page (links above) and also the Scholarship bulletin board at the career centre.

Important Upcoming Dates:

FEB 7/19 - Douglas College Music Technology Diploma Open House

FEB 7/19 - University of King's College (Halifax) Information Night.

FEB 9/19 - KPU Open House (Surrey: 11am-3pm) <http://www.kpu.ca/kpu-surrey-open-house>

FEB 9/19 – Capilano University Film and Animation Open House (11am-3pm) <https://capilano.ca/programs>

FEB 11/19 - UCalgary visits Palmer - in the Library at Lunch.

FEB 12 & 13/19 - University of Calgary Meet and Greet in Vancouver - <https://choose.ucalgary.ca/events/index.do>

FEB 15/19 (1-2:30) and FEB 22/19 (12-1:30) - UBC Sauder BCom Information Sessions - sauderundergraduateoffice.eventbrite.com

FEB 20/19 - BCIT Big Info Event Burnaby (4:30-7:30) <https://commons.bcit.ca/biginfo/>

FEB 28/19 - Study and Go Abroad Fair at the Vancouver Convention Centre <http://www.studyandgoabroad.com/>

MAR 6/19 - Explore CapU Info Night (5:30-8) <https://www.capilano.ca/programs--courses/get-started/visit-capu/explore-capu-info-night/>

Register to write the TOEFL and/or the LPI if you are required to do so. Many universities recommend you submit your results early. Contact the Career Centre or the individual post-secondary institutions you are applying to for requirements, exemptions and how to register.

Richmond School Board 'Career Programs' Apprenticeship Website

APPRENTICESHIP "YOUTH TRAIN in TRADES" (formerly ACE IT) PROGRAMS.

Students in grade 10 to 12... are you interested in expanding your skill-set? Would you like to get a head-start on a promising career in demand? Are you ready to begin post-secondary courses while you are still in high school (with the tuition paid by the school district)? Are you hard working, and do you enjoy challenges and working with your hands? Applications are now being accepted for students interested in one of several district Youth Train in TRADES programs. Students in these programs can earn high school credits, college credits, as well Level 1 Certification from the Industry Training Authority (ITA). See the Careers Programs Website for more information: <http://careerprograms.sd38.bc.ca> or visit your Counsellor or Career Advisor

ATTENTION GRADE 8-12 STUDENTS!

REGISTER FOR WORKSHOP CAREER PROGRAMS EDUCATION IN ACTION

Spend a morning (9:00 – 11:30am) to get an idea what it would be like to take an ACE IT Program. Choose one workshop from the list below:

Cooking – March 6th (appl. deadline Feb 27), at Richmond Secondary

Plumbing – March 6th (appl. Deadline Feb 27), at Palmer Secondary

Priority given to Grades 10/11 students. Students must register a week in advance.

To register, call or email Suzanne Mah at: sumah@sd38.bc.ca or 604-668-6000 at Ext. 3766. Very limited spaces available...call right away if you are interested

MAR 16-31/19 – HAPPY SPRING BREAK!