



Palmer Secondary
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Palmer News ~ December 2019

Happy Holidays!

The staff at Palmer wish you all a wonderful Winter holiday. We hope you find time to relax and enjoy time spent with your family and friends. We will see our students back at Palmer on Monday, January 6th.



Music

The Palmer Music Program had a full month in November under the directorship of Ms. Iris Chan. We are busily preparing for our **Winter Concert** on **December 19th** at Palmer. The choir and senior band represented our program well at the Remembrance Day ceremony in our school as well as at the Richmond City Hall Commemoration on Remembrance Day. In addition, Palmer Band has been invited to perform at the Richmond Leadership Team's annual Winter Social which is occurring on December 18th. This is a private event to which only Palmer has been invited and we are very proud of this opportunity for our students. Hope to see you all on December 19th.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) – Next Meeting – January 14th 2020 at 7pm

Palmer PAC meets the second Tuesday of every month in the Library. It is an opportunity for parents to hear about the exciting things happening at Palmer and to connect with Mrs. Savory, Principal of Palmer, along with other Palmer parents. The next PAC meeting is on January 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Minutes of PAC meetings are posted on the Palmer website. [Parent Advisory Council | Palmer Secondary School](#)

Term 1 Report Cards

Palmer no longer prints hard copies of Report Cards. Term 1 Report Cards are available to view and print on the MyEd Parent and Student Portal on Friday February 13th 2019. For instructions on how to access the portal, please see the [website](#) for detailed information.



Collaboration Morning – January 7th 2020

A reminder that teachers participate in Collaboration meetings on the first Tuesday of every month. This is an opportunity for teachers to learn and plan together to improve their instructional practices. These meetings occur during the first hour and twenty minutes of the school day. On these days, classes begin at 9:40am and the dismissal is at our regular 2:50pm. Have a nice sleep in on January 7th. We will see you at 9:40.

Japanese Annual Student Exchange – May 12th to 17th 2020

From May 12-17, 2020, our Palmer community will be helping to host a group of students and teachers from Wakayama, Japan. The annual exchange between Wakayama and Richmond has been happening for over forty years. Last May we had the privilege of sending fourteen Palmer students to spend a week in Wakayama and we hope to offer the same opportunity to Palmer students in the 2020-2021 school year.

To help facilitate the best experience for our visitors, we are looking for families to help host the students who are visiting in May 2020. Families who host homestay students are given top priority when selecting which students get to visit Japan in future years of the exchange. If you are interested to find out more information about this homestay opportunity, please contact Ms. Epp via email (sepp@sd38.bc.ca) or via phone (604-668-6288 and ask to speak to Ms. Epp).

Open House: Spotlight on Palmer January 23rd

The staff and students of Palmer invite you to sample a bit of why we love to work and learn here. This special evening has been designed to give you a small taste of some of the wonderful things that are happening at our school. So take some time and see the displays, presentations, and entertainment. Feel free to ask questions and participate. Above all, enjoy sharing in our Palmer Pride!

The time line for the evening is:

6:30pm	Grade 7 Parent information Session
7:00pm	Spotlight Begins
7:30pm	Incentive/Pre-Advanced Placement Information Session

Griffins That Give

Are you looking for a place that connects you to your local community? Do you want to gain volunteer experience? If so, then Griffin's That Give is the club for you! We offer students opportunities to get involved locally. Not only do we provide short term volunteer positions, we also link volunteers to long-term opportunities. Long-term volunteer experiences are great for building your resume while allowing you to build connections within your community. For example, from September to November, students signed up to become homework mentors at General Currie, Anderson, or Cook Elementary once per week. Another position that was offered was serving as a reading buddy at the Richmond Public Library. Also, some of our members become a buddy for children with disabilities through the Building Bridges with Music program at the City Centre community centre. Furthermore, we also participated in various short-term events such as the Richmond Nature Park Wild Things setup, helping at the Britannia Shipyards, as well as at the Christmas Craft Fair. Wait, there is more! With Christmas just around the corner, the City of Richmond is organizing various events to boost the holiday spirit such as Breakfast With Santa at Cambie community centre, Brunch With Santa located at the Hamilton community centre, and an event at the Winter Tram in Steveston. If what we do is something that you are passionate about, please join us at our meetings that take place in Mrs. Calaciura's room every Wednesday at lunch! New members are always welcome!

Grad News

The grads had a very successful Winter Formal this past November. In early February we will be asking all grads attending the commencement ceremony for their approximate height to facilitate us in the ordering of the grad gowns for Valedictory. Our ceremony is not until June but our planning starts early! The grad committee will shortly be working on a Spring Grad Event so stay tuned for updates!

Dates to Remember

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

Grade 10 Literacy and Numeracy Exams

Just a reminder to **all Grade 10 students** that you will have to write the **Graduation Numeracy and Literacy Assessments** as part of your Graduation program. All Grade 10 students will write the Numeracy Assessment on **January 24, 2020** and the Literacy Assessment on **April 20, 2020**. The exam will be written online, and students can prepare for these assessments using the resources provided online available on the Ministry of Education website link below. These resources include sample tests and other advice on how to prepare for these exams prior to their assessment sitting. For more information about the BC Ministry of Graduation Education Literacy and Numeracy Assessments, and how to effectively prepare for these exams, please see:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment/literacy-assessment/grade-10-literacy-assessment>

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment/grade-10-numeracy-assessment>

Flu Season

The Flu season is upon us and it is important for everyone to take care of themselves. The illness is caused by the highly contagious influenza virus that can spread rapidly among people. Viruses can live for up to 48 hours on surfaces like doorknobs, phones and computer keyboards. It can take up to a week for flu symptoms to appear and in that time, you can infect others. To reduce the risk of the disease spreading, always cough or sneeze into your sleeve, and wash your hands often with hot water and soap. Staying home when you are sick with flu symptoms and getting yourself vaccinated also helps protect those around you. If you have concerns, call the **HealthLinkBC** line at 8-1-1, or call a Public Health Nurse at 604-233-3150.

www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/facts-about-influenza

Snow protocol

As the days continue to get shorter and colder, we need to be prepared for the possibility that snow may come to Richmond in the weeks and months ahead. Parents are reminded that RC Palmer Secondary School **WILL BE OPEN** unless the School District decides to officially close all schools due to the roads being unsafe. If it is snowing, please do not phone the school. Listen to the radio and check the school district website for updates at:

<https://www.sd38.bc.ca/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx> - /=

RC Palmer Expectations on Teens and Vaping

E-cigarettes and vapes have become popular throughout North America and around the world. Emerging medical research is also demonstrating that vaporizers contain harmful chemicals that can cause serious respiratory damage. All students have been informed that vaping is not welcome on or around the school property of Palmer Secondary School. The Richmond School District Code of Conduct declares that everyone has the right to learn in a safe, smoke-free environment. Students who choose to use vapes in the school will be suspended and their parents will be contacted. Parents are urged to speak with their teen about this health issue and learn more at: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/vaping>

We hope you all have some wonderful time with family and friends over the Winter Break. We will see all of our students again on Monday January 6th 2020.

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