



Jan. 27th, 2025

To Palmer Families,

As we look to start-up of semester two classes, we would like to welcome the newest Palmer staff members:

Yvonne Sun (ELL)
Kyle Cumming (Tech)
John Williamson (Tech)
Bree Dulay (Science)
Mark Westerlund (Socials)
Young Lee (Resource)

Please also note that Mr. Plut will be on parental leave. During this leave, Ms. White will be supporting students with the last names R-Z. Mr. Westerlund will be covering the Social Studies courses for Ms. White.

Finally, Ms. Sidhu will be working on her counselling practicum, and her classes will be covered by Ms. Sun.

Below please find some information that may answer some of your questions about semester 2.

STUDENT SCHEDULES SEMESTER TWO

Students will want to verify their Semester 2 schedules, and we would like to direct students and parents to MYEDBC to be able to check student schedules. We will not be printing schedules in the office. To access student schedules, please visit:

[Student Schedules Semester 2](#)

PALMER COUNSELLING SEMESTER TWO

With Mr. Plut's leave, our Palmer counselling team will be supporting students as follows:

Ms. Gill	Last Names A-Hu
Ms. Lai	Last Names Huang - Q
Ms. White	Last Names R-Z

PROGRAM PLANNING 2025-26

We are also starting to get underway with our program planning/course selections for 2025-26. Students will be receiving information about this in coming weeks, program planning assemblies will be held on Feb 6th. Counsellors will be handing out program planning sheets to students, but it is very important to make sure that courses also get entered in MYEDBC. This can be done at any time between Feb 6th and Feb 13th. The window will close on Feb 13th.

Please make sure students are using their own accounts, parents are not able to do this on behalf of students. If you have password issues with student accounts, please email us at palmer@sd38.bc.ca



SCHOOL START TIME

As we start this school year, as a school community, we would like to continue to focus on supporting our students' learning and emphasize the importance of punctuality to ensure a successful and productive day for everyone. Classes at our school will begin promptly at 8:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays and 9:30am Wednesdays and Thursdays. To support our school's goal of maintaining a structured learning environment, we kindly request your assistance in ensuring that students arrive at school on time.

Here are a few key points to remember:

- School starts at 8:30am on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays or 9:30am on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please plan your morning routine accordingly.
- Allow extra time for traffic or unexpected delays. With the expected traffic on St. Albans Road, we encourage students to be dropped off at school 30 minutes before classes start. Students may work on homework in the lounge. Students can study in the lounge from 7:30am onwards. Dropping students off at 7:30am allows students and families a nice start to the day.
- Arriving on time helps students settle in, focus, and make the most of their learning experience.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Your commitment to punctuality contributes to a positive educational environment for all our students. If a student arrives late at school during the start of the day, we ask that students check in with the office for a late slip.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our school office. For any student lates or student early dismissals, we ask that parents inform the office staff by calling us at 604 668-6288.

SCHOOL PARKING LOT

We encourage all students to walk or cycle to school as often as possible. Not only is this the healthy and environmentally friendly alternative, but it also reduces traffic congestion around the school each morning and afternoon. If you are driving to drop-off or pick-up students, use the roundabout in front of the school and avoid the peak rush times (8:15am to 8:30am and 2:45pm to 3:00pm) as much as possible. Please refrain from dropping off and picking up your student from the staff North and South parking lots. Avoid staff designated lots including the front lot located at the main entrance to the school. Vehicles in violation are subject to removal at the driver/owner's expense. Thank you for your co-operation.

STUDENT PARKING FOR SEMESTER TWO

We encourage Palmer senior students and families to explore alternative transportation options for school. Due to limited parking availability for our staff, we kindly ask that you avoid driving to school if possible. Carpooling, biking, walking, or using public transportation are great alternatives.

There will be a school lottery to win the chance of a student parking pass for one of our limited student parking spots at the front of the school – please note that any of our students found to be parking without a pass or in a non-student parking space will be towed. More information will be shared with senior students during first few days of semester two classes. The lottery for student parking passes will be held on Feb 5, 2025.

2024/2025 STAFF COLLABORATION DAYS:

During the below dates, staff will be engaging in professional development activities from 8:30am to 9:25am. **Classes will start at 9:30am on these days.** The remaining staff collaborative days are:

February 4, April 1, May 6 and June 3

PERSONAL LEARNING TIME (PLT)

It is a period of Instructional time each week set aside as “self-directed” time for students to learn with teacher support. Students are given choice and ownership over their learning. Staff facilitate a responsible learning environment by providing support if the students need help and encouraging undistracted / independent learning. Through PLT (Personal Learning Time), students will develop skills such as questioning, communication, short-term and long-term goal setting, organization and time management, self-regulation, and self-awareness. The goal of PLT is **for students to develop** the skills necessary to use unstructured time in a way that benefits their individual learning.

In some cases, teachers may also require some students to attend and be present in school to receive individual or small group instruction. For more information around Palmer PLT – please visit: [Palmer PLT](#)

Our first Palmer PLT for semester 2 classes will be scheduled for Wednesday Feb 5 and Thursday Feb 6. Please see the school website for the bell schedule for our PLT days.

PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES

The Richmond Board of Education passed a motion to update Policy 105: District Code of Conduct, effective July 1, 2024. This update includes the addition of language restricting the use of personal digital devices by students to enhance online safety and ensure a focused learning environment. Students’ use of personal digital devices at school will be restricted, including during instructional time or learning related activities, to promote online safety and a focused learning environment, unless use is permitted by supervising staff. We will support the acceptable use of student personal digital devices for accessibility and accommodation needs, medical and health needs, and to support equity of learning outcomes. Students and parents are encouraged to review these policies by visiting the school website: [NEW Policies: Personal Digital Devices](#)

Also, we remind parents and students that, sadly, the theft of cell phones and personal music devices sometimes happens. School **cannot be** responsible for the **safety** of cell phones and personal music devices. We advise students and parents that these devices should be left at home, locked in lockers, or kept in students' possession, but turned off during instructional time.

GRADUATION PHOTOS- FEB 14- 20 & GRADUATION FEES

Attention Graduating Griffins! A reminder to all Grade 12s, graduation photos will take place in the mobile studio at the back of RC Palmer from February 14th to 20th 2025. Please note that students will also be measured for their grad gowns. Finally, all grade 12 graduation fees are due by April 30, 2025. Palmer families are encouraged to visit Schoolcash online: <https://schoolcashonline.com/>

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)- FEBRUARY 12@ 7PM

Our PAC (Parent Advisory Council) group meets monthly to provide input regarding school programs and initiatives. Our next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, Feb. 12th at 7pm in the library. New members are welcome.

BEST WISHES

Please take the time to review the contents of this semester 2 start up newsletter, highlighting many of the key dates and details that will assist in supporting a successful start-up for your student. It is also a good idea to monitor the school website for changes and additional start-up information.

Sincerely,
Herj Ghaug
Principal