



PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
PANTHER POST

Week of January 17, 2022

“All students will learn and grow academically, socially, emotionally and physically!”

“The most important thing that parents can teach their children is how to get along without them.”

~ Frank A. Clark

Dates to Remember

- January 25: Opposite/Backwards Day
- ~~January 26: Grade 6 Band Virtual Showcase at 7:00PM~~ Postponed to Later Date
- January 27: Family Literacy Day
- January 31: PD Day -- No School for Students
- February 1: Friends of Pioneer at 7:00PM
- February 2: Groundhog Day
- February 7: School Council Meets at 7:00PM
- February 14: Valentine's Day (Silent Hearts)
- February 21-25: No School
- February 28: Pink Shirt Day
- March 7: School Council Meets at 7:00PM
- March 11: PD Day -- No School for Students
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day (Silent Shamrock)
- March 18: Report Cards Go Home
- March 23 & 24: Parent Teacher Interviews



Items of Note

As we find ourselves in another wave, schools have had to enforce some **additional COVID protocols** as they returned from the extended break. The two most challenging being less frequent mask breaks and restrictions on field trips & extracurricular activities. We appreciate your continued support and understanding as we work to ensure not just the safety of our students, but working to keep learning in-person. These measures are designed to keep schools open and operating in-person. Should we find ourselves facing significant absences amongst students or staff due to illness or self-isolation, we'd have to move back to online learning. No one wants that. Kids learn better in person and it is much better for their overall well-being, even if we have greater restrictions. That means less contact with other sites and fewer mask breaks added to our continued respiratory etiquette, social distancing, and hand hygiene.

Field trips and inter-school extracurricular activities are currently being paused while we assess the impact of the current COVID wave on schools. Local field trips that meet certain criteria and extracurricular activities that involve just Pioneer students can both still go ahead. Since basketball games against other schools are not currently scheduled, the school has decided not to charge the usual \$45 team sports fee. If you've already paid the fee, you can expect a refund shortly. If the season is rescheduled, it will likely be an abbreviated season and the school will not charge any fee for it. As the archery season is much longer, we will wait to see what the interruption will mean for archers. If we find ourselves unable to attend other competitions, a full or partial refund will be issued.

This year's **Family Literacy Day** theme is "Learning in the Great Outdoors." Spending time in nature provides many benefits, not just for bodies, but for minds too. This year, get outside and exercise both your mind and body together as a family. You can make outdoor time fun family learning time all while enjoying the wonders of Canada's Great Outdoors. To learn more about *Family Literacy Day*, visit FamilyLiteracyDay.ca. There are some great free resources for families.

COVID-19 and Children: A Perfect Storm of Stressors - Join U of A instructor and registered psychologist Jacqueline P. Leighton as she shares how adults can collectively support the children and teens in their lives with their emotional and social responses to the pandemic. Wednesday, January 26, 7 - 8 p.m. [Click here](#) to register.