



PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**PANTHER POST**

Week of March 7, 2022



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

“There is no such thing as a perfect parent. So just be a real one.”

~Sue Atkins

### Dates to Remember

- March 7: School Council Meets at 7:00PM
- March 11: PD Day -- No School for Students
- March 14: Beginning of Term 3
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day (Silent Shamrock)
- March 18: Report Cards Go Home
- March 23-24: Parent Teacher Interviews 4-7:00PM
- March 28-31: Spring Break (No School)
- April 4: School Council Meets at 7:00PM
- April 9: Vimy Ridge Day
- April 14: PD Day (No School)
- April 15: Good Friday (No School)
- April 18: Easter Monday (No School)
- April 22: Look Alike Day (aka Twins Day)

### Talking with Kids About Ukraine

Here's a good article on how to talk with your kids about the war in Ukraine:

[shorturl.at/fuBJ6](https://shorturl.at/fuBJ6).

It gives details on the following tips:

1. Meet kids where they're at;
2. Encourage trusted news sources, ask questions about social media;
3. Take a break from the news;
4. Look for helpers;
5. Focus on what you can do; and
6. Be calm and compassionate.

### Items of Note

It's been nearly 2 years of pandemic schooling. Our grade 8's were in grade 6, still adjusting to middle school when we suddenly went online. None of our students have fully appreciated a true middle school experience. As restrictions lift, we hope to see the return of whole-school activities like dances, field trips, and assemblies. This will certainly improve the social/emotional states of our students.

However, it's important to note that the reality of our classrooms in an ongoing pandemic has had a negative impact on the academic achievement of our children. Transitioning from in-person and online schooling, absenteeism due to COVID-19, and the disruption to their social norms has caused many of our students to fall behind despite our best efforts.

As a result, with the encouragement of the division and the province, schools have been focusing much of their efforts on critical outcomes to ensure our students are ready for their future. Increased time on fundamental literacy and numeracy skills may mean missing less critical outcomes in some subject areas.

Students may receive targeted support on reading strategies, including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, phonics instruction, vocabulary development, comprehension strategies and fluency skills. Numeracy intervention programming supports students through small-group sessions that focus on instruction targeting number sense and basic fact fluency. These interventions may be happening in place of in-depth studies in other areas.

This may be witnessed on upcoming report cards with some outcomes remaining blank. You will definitely see this on the term 2 report cards on March 18, which is entirely normal at this time of year. But you may also see this even on the final report cards in June. Just know the logic behind it has been to ensure students have critical skills to be successful in future studies.

With many pandemic restrictions lifted from schools, it's important to note that some are still in place. Isolation requirements have not changed. Information about isolation requirements is available [here](#). Everyone is still encouraged to practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette and we should also stay home when sick. Enhanced cleaning protocols and ventilation practices are also still in place. The enhanced cleaning protocols also require us to keep the school closed to community use in the evenings and to restrict the use of fabric furniture.