



PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**PANTHER POST**

Week of September 3, 2024

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

*"Work hard, be kind, and amazing things will happen" ~Conan O'Brien*

### Dates to Remember

- September is Panther P.R.I.D.E. Month
- September 3: First day of school for grade 6
- September 4: First day for grades 7 & 8
- September 7: Meet the Teacher & Spaghetti Dinner 4:30-6:00PM
- September 9: School Council & Friends of Pioneer meet at 7:00PM
- September 13: School Picture Day
- September 20: PD Day - No School for Students
- September 30: Nat. Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Orange Shirt)
- October is "P" is for Positivity Month
- October 1-3: Grade 8 Gull Lake Band Camp
- October 7: School Council & Friends of Pioneer meet at 7:00PM
- October 11: PD Day - No School for Students
- October 14: Thanksgiving (no school)
- October 23 & 24: Grade 6 Des Crossley Field Trips
- October 25: PD Day - No School for Students

**There are 2 types of kids  
on the first day of school**



### Items of Note

**Welcome Back!** Teachers have been working hard to prepare for your child's return to school. If you're new to Pioneer, it is important to note that keeping your child **safe & cared for** is our top priority. If your child is not feeling this, please let us know.

Our **Meet the Teacher and Spaghetti Dinner** is scheduled for Thursday, September 5 from 4:30 - 6:00PM. Everyone is welcome. The dinner is by donation. Proceeds go to extra-curricular. Give what you can.

**School Council** has their first meeting on Monday, September 9 at 7:00PM in the school library. Taking part in these monthly meetings represents a minimal commitment for the benefits of having input into the governance of the school, learning about school events, and taking part in your child's education.

**All fees run through SchoolCashOnline.** As they are assessed, parents should receive a notification of the fees. Fees include: Band Students have a \$60 fee to cover consumables; Grades 7 & 8 Band students are also assessed a \$25 fee for consumables in Complementary courses (e.g. Foods, Woods, Art, etc.). Non-Band grades 7 & 8 students take twice as many Complementary courses and are therefore assessed a \$50 fee. Students playing on team sports pay a \$45 fee per sport and individual/pairs athletes (e.g. badminton, track & field) pay \$15 per sport. There is also a refundable \$5 deposit for combination locks.

#### STAFF PROFILE

Patrick Wilbur  
Principal

Your principal grew up in the Maritimes. He graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Education in Secondary Business in 1996 and took his first teaching position in High Level, Alberta in February 1997. By 2000 he was made principal of Fort Vermilion Public School and moved on to Hillcrest Community School in 2003. He earned a Master of Education in Leadership from the University of Calgary in 2007 before moving south to David Thompson High School in 2014. The following year, he became principal of Pioneer School, where he's been ever since.

The son of a building contractor, Patrick grew up around construction sites. He tried his hand at both mining and the Navy. Neither worked out so he went back to school where he discovered his passion for teaching. While a student, he drove taxi, tended bar, managed a small computer network, and took any job that would help get him through school.

He met his future wife, Kerstin (also a teacher), while in university. Together, they have raised two boys they are very proud of.

His father instilled in him a love of the outdoors, where he tries to spend most of his time fishing, hunting, hiking, boating, and quading. He got his sense of humour from his mother and loves to laugh and not take life too seriously.

He appreciates a good story, with Issac Asimov and Mark Twain being two of his favourite storytellers. He also enjoys good historical biographies as well.

