



PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL
PANTHER POST

Week of February 24, 2025

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

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

~ Sydney J. Harris

Dates to Remember

- February is "D" is for Diligence Month
- February is Black History Month
- February 17: Family Day (No School)
- February 18-19: No School
- February 20-21: Teachers' Convention (No School)
- February 24: Ski Chaperone Crim. Checks Due
- February 26: Pink Shirt Day
- February 28: Beginning of Ramadan
- March 11: Gr. 6 Basketball Divisionals
- March 12: Ski Trip
- March 13: Gr. 7/8 Basketball Divisionals

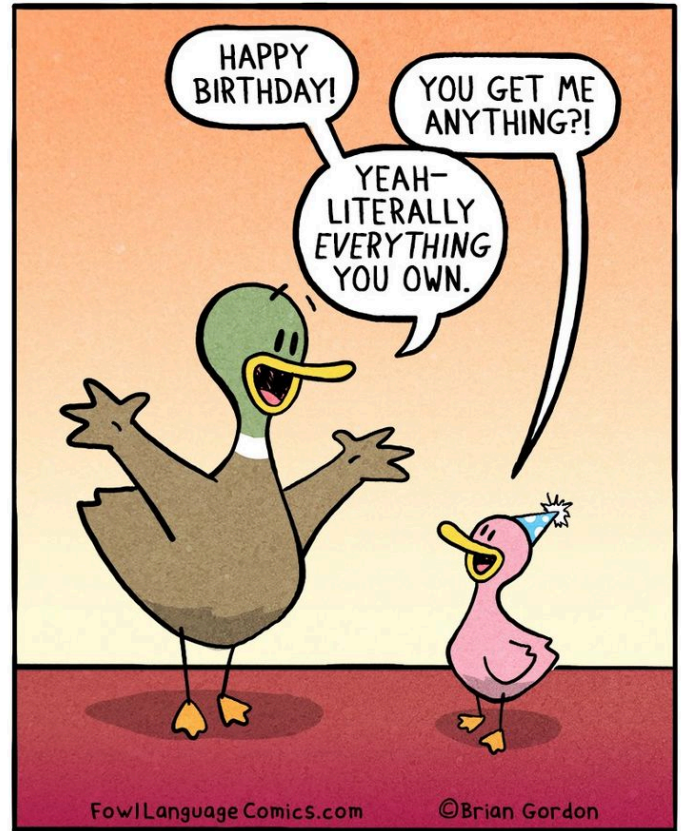
Items of Note

We are experiencing a **shortage of substitute teachers** not just at Pioneer, but across the province. So far, we have been able to manage this shortage by using school administration (Ms. Morrish, Mr. Wilbur, and Mrs. Chatwood) to cover for absent teachers. Other staff are pitching in as well by giving up prep. time to cover and many teachers have given up professional development opportunities to stay in school. Some are coming to school in circumstances when they should not (e.g. illness, family matters, etc.). All these situations have a ripple effect that negatively impacts the operation of the school. Administrators fall behind in their duties; teachers fall behind in marking & preparing lessons; sick staff make others sick; and stress levels increase. The staff have been rock stars in supporting one another and in minimizing the impact on students. Just be aware of the situation and be patient with us.

Pioneer welcomes and encourages parents and guardians to **volunteer in the school**. Not only is the help appreciated, sometimes it's critical. It also shows children that the adults in their lives value what the school does. Volunteers working on a regular schedule or those working with students without direct staff supervision are required to first submit a criminal record (with vulnerable sector) check. This would include regular classroom volunteers, overnight field trip supervisors, coaches, the ski trip, etc. One-off event volunteers working under the direct supervision of staff do not require a criminal record check. This would include skating supervisors, dance chaperones, and other short field trip support volunteers. So, if you'd like to get involved without committing to a schedule, there are volunteer opportunities for one-off events where your help would be greatly appreciated.

The annual **ski trip** is scheduled for March 12 at Nakiska. All forms and payments we are able to take have been received. Completed chaperone criminal record checks must be in the office by February 24.

Pink Shirt Day is Wednesday. We hope to see a sea of pink standing up against bullying.



**PINK SHIRT
DAY**

