



# NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY  
2026**

## PSO SECONDARY SCHOOL WELCOME BACK

Welcome back, and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a restful and joyful winter break and is feeling refreshed and ready to jump into the second half of the school year. As we settle back into routines, we're excited to build on the momentum, positivity, and school spirit that make our community such a great place to learn and grow.

Before the break, we wrapped up the semester with our hopefully annual Holiday Game Week, and what a week it was! Each day was packed with festive fun, including carnival games, morning trivia challenges, a hidden Elf on the Shelf, and plenty of random chances to earn prize entries. Students embraced the activities with enthusiasm, and the halls were filled with positivity and Christmas spirit all week long. Even our staff joined in on the shenanigans, making it a truly school-wide celebration. A huge thank you to PAC and all staff members who helped plan and run Holiday Game Week—we couldn't have done it without you!

### PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports from each of your student's classes will be distributed shortly. We encourage you to review these reports carefully and to contact the appropriate teachers should you have any concerns regarding your student's academic progress.

Please note that Semester 1 will conclude on January 30. For students in Grades 10–12 who are not successful in graduation-required courses during Semester 1, school staff may make adjustments to the student's Semester 2 timetable as necessary.

Staff email addresses can be found on our website at [www.sd27.bc.ca/pso](http://www.sd27.bc.ca/pso) under the About Us tab, or by selecting the Homework Request image under What's New.

### IMPORTANT DATES

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**JAN 12-23<sup>RD</sup> - LITERARY & NUMERACY ASSESSMENTS**

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**JAN 13<sup>TH</sup> - DRUMMING CIRCLE AT LUNCH**

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**JAN 22<sup>ND</sup> - WINTER FORMAL**

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**JAN 30<sup>TH</sup> - SEMESTER 1 ENDS**

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**JAN 30<sup>TH</sup> - ANNUAL THOMAS DUECK POW WOW**

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**FEB 2<sup>ND</sup> - SEMESTER 2 STARTS AND GR 8 ELECTIVE 5 STARTS**

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**FEB 4<sup>TH</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup> - GRAD PHOTOS**

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**FEB 12<sup>TH</sup> - LEARNING UPDATES RELEASED IN PM**

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# LITERACY AND NUMERACY ASSESSMENTS

The mandatory Literacy and Numeracy Assessments will be administered from January 12 to January 23. These assessments are required for graduation. Student classes have been scheduled as follows:

## Assessment Schedule

- Giesbrecht – Literacy 12 – January 12 at 12:30
- Tetlock – Literacy 12 – January 13 at 12:30
- Barriault – Numeracy 10 – January 15 at 12:30
- Keller – Literacy 10 – January 20 at 9:00
- Murray – Numeracy 10 – January 20 at 12:30
- Pugh – Literacy 10 – January 22 at 12:30

Grade 12 mandatory assessment catch-up sessions will be held on January 15, 21, and 22 at 9:00 a.m. in the library. Students who have not completed the assessments will be posted on the white board outside the office.

Thank you for your continued support in your student's education. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

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## SEMESTER 2 SCHEDULES

Semester 2 schedules have been distributed to students in Grades 10–12. Appointments for schedule changes have already taken place for some Grade 12 students and are now beginning for students in Grades 10 and 11. We encourage you to review your child's schedule together and discuss any potential changes that may be required prior to the start of Semester 2.

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## HIGHWAY SAFETY & GARBAGE

As you are aware, a McDonald's restaurant has recently opened across the highway from our school. We would like to extend a warm welcome to this new business as part of our community. On Tuesday, January 6, grade-level assemblies were held to review expectations related to highway safety, proper disposal of garbage, and other important considerations for students who may choose to leave campus during the lunch period to visit McDonald's. This supports our school's New Year's resolution to maintain a clean and safe campus.

We recognize that the intersection of the highway and Horse Lake Road can be challenging to navigate. We kindly ask that you take a moment to speak with your child about safe practices when crossing the highway and traveling in this area.

## PAC MEETING

The next PAC meeting is on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the PSO Library. All parents/guardians are welcome to come and see what they are all about.

## PSO PLAY

Unfortunately our school play has been cancelled.

## WINTER FORMAL

Our winter formal dance will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup> for Grade 10s-12s. Tickets will be on sale during lunch, \$10.00 a ticket.

## PSO STUDENT ART SHOW - CREATIVE TALENTS OPENING JANUARY 17, 2026 AT PARKSIDE ART GALLERY

Students from grades 8 to 12 have contributed a variety of pieces for this show. Artworks range from drawings and paintings to scratch art and prints; with a subject matter that shows the diversity of interests of our student population.

Many pieces come from the day-to-day work that happens in an art class, like drawing warmups, art activities, and project assignments. Some pieces have been done independently by dedicated students specifically for this show. These pieces demonstrate their creativity and technical skill, as well as their perseverance and hard work.

This show highlights student talents in a range of mediums and represents much of what we do in a high school art class. These examples of the student projects show their journey of skill building, developing creativity, and building their own personal style. Students practice with new mediums and different techniques before starting a large project piece. Some projects had multiple processes, and others were simply for students to play and express themselves. This student work is a sampling of who they are as artists.

Students have had a fast paced and focused art experience so far this school year. With daily practice students develop their skills quickly and their artistic progression is evident. Through these exercises and projects, they learn to persevere and work through challenging artistic struggles. They adapt, they problem solve, they suffer the frustrations that all artists do, and they grow.

We hope you enjoy this view into the PSO art program.

Lianne Heales –PSO Art Teacher



Elizabeth Copley



Isabella Bailey



Danae McDonald

## ETHICAL USE OF AI

This week in grade assemblies, we talked to students about the use of AI. After a brief show of hands, it appears that roughly 2/3 of our students have tried using ChatGPT for schoolwork, which is inline with national averages. The crux of the matter is that we want them to learn how to use AI responsibly. We talked to students about the potential assistance AI can offer for schoolwork, but also the potential pitfalls. For example, AI is great for brainstorming or idea generation. However, if a student uses it to generate sections of writing which they then claim as their own (ie./ plagiarism), it is a serious issue. Students were encouraged to have discussions with their teachers if they are confused or would like some guidance. Since the rise in popularity of AI has happened very quickly, the school is adapting so that we can best help prepare students for the future.

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## CODE OF CONDUCT

Our School Code of Conduct is a living document that we continually amend and adapt to ensure our school is safe and student expectations are clear. We encourage feedback from parents to ensure our Code of Conduct is clear and helps guide student behaviour. Please become familiar with our Code of Conduct and contact school administration with any questions or comments:

[PSO CODE OF CONDUCT LINK](#)

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## ERASE IT TOOL

ERASE = Expect Respect & A Safe Education: Students can report a problem or find help; parents can explore resources and access training, and school staff can find resources for their classrooms and the school. ERASE posters are in classrooms and posted around the school. <https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/>

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## SCHOLARSHIPS 2026

As some of you are aware our scholarships season is in full swing right now. Back in November we had our Grade 12 scholarship meeting and informed the students of our scholarship process and the importance of applying for free money. Students were given our Scholarship Handbook along with application forms. If they are needing more forms, students can come to the office or the counselling office to get more. The deadline for scholarships is March 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

We also have a list of external scholarships that we find that are available Canada wide. Also, please check out StudentAid BC to explore additional post secondary funding options.

[PSO LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION LINK](#)

[EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS LINK](#)



## GRADE 12 - FUTURE READY SERIES

We are working on a few series sessions for Grade 11 and 12 students. Our Future Ready Series is designed to give students practical skills they can use immediately—and carry with them beyond high school.

Through engaging sessions, students will learn how to study smarter with proven habits, manage stress through effective test prep and time management, and build note-taking strategies that actually stick. The series also covers essential life basics like balance, budgeting, and wellness, along with guidance on using AI ethically and responsibly. We'll wrap up by helping students build confidence and clarity as they prepare for post-secondary pathways. Together, these sessions support academic success, well-being, and readiness for what comes next. These sessions will be after school and pizza will be provided.

Stay tuned for upcoming dates in second semester.

### Future Ready Series

1. Learn Smarter: Study Habits That Work
2. Stress Less: Test Prep & Time Management
3. Capture It: Note-Taking That Sticks
4. Life Basics: Balance, Budgeting & Wellness
5. AI Smarts: Ethical & Responsible Use
6. What's Next: Confidence for Post-Secondary Life

## CAREERS NEWS

Ethan Piccolo (pictured first photo, far left) working on his Heavy Duty Mechanic Foundation Course at TRU. Alex Smith and Nathan Koch attending the Residential Construction course. We are proud of you!



### Administration Team

Caitlin Currie, Principal  
Shawn Meville, Vice Principal  
Robert MacDonald, Vice Principal

### PSO Indigenous Support Workers

Angel Smith  
Sharmaine Grimes

### Clerical Team

Nicki Jackson, Front Office Reception  
Shantell Silvey, Accounting  
Sylvia Zailo, Records

### Counselling

Jodi Wium, School Counselor  
Nicki Hansen, Youth Engagement Worker  
Heather Wood, Careers Counselor



# GRAD NEWS



Grad Counsel still have lots of raffle tickets to sell before the Grad Vs. Teachers and Parents Hockey Game. If you have sold tickets please hand them in with the money to Grad Counsel.

Please contact Clare Fast for more tickets.

**Grad Meeting next Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in the Cafeteria at 11:45am.**

**Graduate Ceremony Fee: \$50.00** -This fee covers the costs of the rental of the grad gown, the cap and tassel, the mini composite picture, the folder for holding mini composite and diploma, flower, picture of acceptance of diploma with an administrator.

**Grad Photo Sign up** - Grad photo sign up sheets are across from the office. Please sign up for a time.

Photo dates are Feb 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Please remember to take a pamphlet when you sign up as it has important information!**

GRAD

2026

## **CLUBS**

GSA CLUB: MONDAYS @ LUNCH RM 147

LEADERSHIP CLUB: TUESDAYS @ LUNCH RM 120

GAMING CLUB: EVERY DAY AT LUNCH RM 118

FIBRE ARTS CLUB: FRIDAYS AT LUNCH IN LIBRARY

DRAMA CLUB - TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM  
3:30 TO 5PM IN THE CAFETERIA ROOM

POETRY CLUB - PLEASE SEE MS. WIUM FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

CLIMBING CLUB: THURSDAY AT LUNCH AND TUES  
AFTER SCHOOL 3:30-5PM

ALSO THE GYM IS OPEN TO ALL IN THE MORNING  
BEFORE SCHOOL AND AT LUNCH

# PSO STUDY HALL



**Join us in Room 137 - Every Tuesday and Thursday @ Lunch**

- Drop in peer tutoring (free!)
  - Homework help
  - Exam prep
  - Make friends
  - Boost your grades
- Make your parents proud
- Get ready for college/university

**What to bring? Your textbooks, notes, & any questions you have**







