



FAMILY BULLETIN

VOLUME 004

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<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/prince-wales>

January 19, 2025

Dear Prince of Wales School Community,

We want to take this opportunity to welcome staff and students back from what we hope was a restful winter break. In the coming week, we will see the conclusion of Semester One and the start of Semester Two. This transition often brings new opportunities, along with a sense of excitement for what lies ahead. We wish our students every success as they complete current coursework and begin the new semester.

Research consistently shows that parent/guardian involvement is one of the strongest predictors of student success. Alongside engagement from home, students who get involved in school life through clubs, music, athletics, volunteering, or other extracurricular activities often develop skills, connections, and habits that contribute to long-term achievement. Regular participation, along with simple habits such as arriving on time and being prepared for classes, helps students make the most of these opportunities. We encourage families to support their children in engaging fully while remaining involved in their learning journey.

Participation in events such as information sessions, teacher conferences, and extracurricular showcases offers another meaningful way to support and celebrate our students' accomplishments.

In this edition of our newsletter, you'll find key updates on school events, important information for course planning, learning updates, and upcoming dates to keep in mind.

At PW Secondary, we strive to empower families to reach out with questions or concerns—our staff contact list is available on the [school website](#), and we welcome your communication.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the PW Secondary school community.

~ Prince of Wales Administration



Important Information – Please Translate

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Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika
Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch
ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ
महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें
Información importante - Por favor traducir
重要な情報-翻訳してください

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Mon, Jan 19	PAC Meeting – 6:30 pm Library
Wed., Jan 21	Band Concert, @ 7:00 PM (Auditorium)
Thurs, Jan 22	Experience Day Literacy Assessment- Grade 12
Fri, Jan 23	Experience Day Literacy Assessment- Grade 10 End of Semester 1
Mon, Jan 26- Tues Jan 27	Semester Turn Around Days (Credit Recovery Days_
Tues, Jan 27	Course Planning & Information Night for Grade 10 & 11 Families @ 6:30 pm (Library & Auditorium)
Wed, Jan 28	Start of Semester 2 FIT FREEZE: Students must attend their Period 1 class during FIT (8:40 AM- 9:20 AM) for important information
Thurs, Jan 29	Course Planning Assembly: Gr. 11 (Grads of 2027) FIT (1:22- 2:02 PM, Auditorium)
Fri, Jan 30	S1 Learning Update: Summary of Learning posted to MyEd
Mon, Feb 2	Course Planning Assembly: Gr. 10 (Grads of 2028) FIT (1:22- 2:02 PM, Auditorium)
Wed, Feb 4	Course Planning & Information Night for Grade 8 & 9 Families @6:30 pm (Auditorium) Grade 7 Information Night @6:30 pm (Library)
Fri, Feb 13	Professional Development Day - Classes not in Session
Mon, Feb 16	Family Day – Schools are Closed
Thurs, Feb 19	Gr. 12 Assembly, (Grads of 2026) FIT (1:22- 2:02 PM, Auditorium)
Fri, Feb 20	Clubs Day- Semester 2 (Extended Lunch)
Wed, Feb 25- Fri Feb 27	School Play: The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today (7:00 PM, Auditorium)
Fri, Feb 27	AM Collaborative Day- Students Arrive at 10:00 AM

Visit our school website for the full year calendar: [LINK](#)Sangeeta Kauldher (she/her),
Principal (Grades 8,10,12)Joel Nelson (he/him),
Vice Principal (Grades TREK,9,11)

PAC INFORMATION

**We invite all parents/caregivers of PW students to join us for PAC meetings!**

PAC meetings are an opportunity for folks to hear from, and ask questions of, the school administration and we welcome suggestions for topics for future meetings. More information can be found on the [PAC webpage](#) along with notes from previous meetings. To sign up for PAC newsletters please visit <https://www.pwpac.org/contact/>



PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR NEXT PAC MEETING:
Monday January 19th @ 6:30 pm in Library
(virtual option available- [LINK](#)).
Contact info@pwpac.org
**All are welcome, we are always
looking for new members!**

PAC Fall Direct Donation Drive

Prince of Wales Secondary PAC wants to remind you of our biggest fundraiser of the year with our annual Direct Donation Drive to parents and

caregivers.

The Teachers are planning an amazing school year for our children! Our goal is to reach **\$50,000** which would enable us to support the many teacher and club requests that can only be accomplished by your generous participation. **Semester one** requests total over \$48,000 and include items such as new track and field jerseys, a long list of student books requests, debate club, graduation committee, the theatre production, the garden club and many more. While we have been making progress in reaching our goal, we need full support from all he

families of Prince of Wales to get there. Please click the link and donate if you haven't already done so. \$30 per student is the recommended amount, but any donation is welcome. Please access anytime from within [SchoolCashOnline homepage](#): "Donate" - "Fund Destination" - "Prince of Wales SecondaryPAC". *If you would like to direct the funds to a initiative, please write it in the "Message"box.

Fundscrip Fundraiser

The holidays are upon us and Fundscrip is an easy gift

(and last minute gift idea!) idea that also supports the Prince of Wales PAC in reaching our funding goals to support the teachers. You can buy gift cards as a gift for your teen, your family or others in your life. As well, you can purchase gift cards for your every day essentials and every sale gives back a percentage to the school. You get the full value of the gift card and Prince of Wales also benefits. Use the code: 68X9QW or go to: <https://www.fundscrip.com/support-a-group/68X9QW> You can purchase digital or physical gift cards to be delivered directly to your home!

LEARNING UPDATES (STUDENT REPORTING)

Students will receive an **electronic** Semester 1 Summary of Learning published to their [MyEducationBC](#) account on January 30. This report includes a proficiency or percentage assessment and comment from each Semester 1 teacher and a mid- semester assessment for linear (full-year) courses. **It is recommended that you download and save a copy for future reference.**

If your child receives an **Insufficient Evidence (IE)** or **Emerging** grade in any class, it is important to carefully review the teacher's comments. At the grade 8 or 9 level, an Emerging grade may indicate that summer learning could be recommended. Please note that all work must be submitted before the end of the semester to be included in the Semester 1 Summary of Learning, unless the teacher has indicated otherwise. If you have any questions about your child's progress, you are welcome to contact the teacher or your grade counsellor directly. Click [HERE](#) for our staff directory.

Learning Update Dates:

Semester	Learning Update: Interim Report	Learning Update: Mid-Semester Report	Learning Update: Parent-Teacher Conferences	Learning Update: Summary of Learning
1	October 10, 2025	November 14, 2025	November 20, 2025	January 30,2026
Linear Courses	November 14, 2025	January 30,2026 April 23, 2026	November 20, 2025 April 30, 2026	June 25, 2026
Core Competencies (Self Reporting)	November 14, 2025	April 23, 2026	n/a	June 25, 2026

COURSE PLANNING

Course planning is an important opportunity for students to make choices in their learning, explore interests through electives, and meet graduation requirements. For the 2026–27 school year, this process will begin in late January. Students will work with our counselling team to receive key information through elective information sessions, graduation requirement assemblies, and Family Information Nights, where parents are encouraged to participate and support their child's planning.

The final step in the process will be for students to submit their course requests for next year using MyEducationBC. Students will complete this step in a scheduled session in the computer lab with a member of our counselling team to provide guidance and support.

A detailed schedule was also emailed out to families and posted on our website. Students can also access this information on their Grade Channel on the PW Student Hub.

Key Dates:

Date	Event
January 22	Grade 10 &11: Elective Information Session (Exp. Day, Session 1: 8:40- 9:40 am, Auditorium)
January 23	Grade 8 & 9: Elective Information Session (Exp. Day, Session 1: 8:40- 9:40 am, Auditorium)
January 22 & 23	Grade 8 & 9: Course Information Session & Grade Assembly (Exp. Day, Session 1: 8:40- 9:40 am, Auditorium)
January 29	Grade 10: Course Information Session & Grade Assembly (FIT : 8:40- 9:20 am, Auditorium)
February 2	Grade 11: Course Information Session & Grade Assembly (FIT : 1:22- 2:02 Pm, Auditorium)
January 27	Grade 10: Parent Information Session, 6:30- 7:30 pm, Auditorium Grade 11: Parent Information Session, 6:30- 7:30 pm, Library
February 4	Grade 8 & 9: Parent Information Session, 6:30- 7:30 pm, Auditorium
February 2- 17	Students Course Requests Input OPENS (Sessions during FIT)
February 20	Course Request CLOSED for student input

Elective Information Sessions

Departments will share information with students about all the options for electives. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions. All Grades 8-11 will be expected to attend their scheduled sessions.

Course Information Sessions- Grade Assembly

Counsellors will be meeting with grade groups during scheduled time during Experience Days of FIT sessions. The purpose of this presentation is to learn about course offerings, graduation requirements and an opportunity to ask questions. All students in Grade 8-11 are expected to attend their grade presentation in the auditorium.

Parent Information Sessions

The PW Counselling Department will be hosting one-hour sessions for parents and families (students are welcome to attend) to learn more about the course offerings for the 2025-26 school year and the course selection process. This is a great opportunity to learn about available classes, grade requirements, and post-secondary information (particularly for current grade 10 and 11 students) and to ask questions.

February 2- 17: Course Request Input

Grades 8-11 will be scheduled alphabetically during FIT to input their course requests into MyEd. They will meet a member of the counselling team in one of the computer labs.

As a reminder, a detailed course planning schedule, based on grade, has been emailed to student & families.

Counselling Update

Please note that Mr. Morgan's appointment as acting Vice-Principal at Gladstone Secondary has been extended until May. We would like to thank Mr. Kevin Land for his work with PW as an interim counsellor during Semester 1; his term concludes on January 28, 2026.

At this time, an interim counsellor has not yet been confirmed for Semester 2. Until staffing is finalized, we will be adjusting counsellor caseloads to ensure continued support for students. We recognize that this presents challenges, and we are actively working with the district to identify a longer-term solution.

Counsellor Name	Grade	E-mail
Julie Baerg	8-10 (A-L), TREK (A-M) and 12	jbaerg@vsb.bc.ca
Chris Tse	8-10 (M-Z), TREK (L-Z) and 11	ctse@vsb.bc.ca

EXPERIENCE DAYS

On Thursday, January 22 and Friday, January 23, 2026, students will participate in Experience Days. These are **instructional school days** focused on Career Education and experiential learning beyond the traditional classroom. There will be no regular classes on these days. Instead, students will engage in a wide range of workshops, presentations, and hands-on learning opportunities, many shaped by student interests. Grade 10 and Grade 12 students will also complete their Literacy Graduation Assessments during this time.

Students have begun selecting their choice sessions, with over 150 workshops and guest speakers offered across the two days. Depending on grade level, students will participate in a combination of grade-wide activities and choice sessions focused on enrichment, life skills, and real-world learning.

Students must complete their choice selections in FIT Planner by **Monday, January 19**. Attendance will be taken through FIT Planner, and each grade will complete a required assignment connected to their Experience Day activities. These assignments fulfill Career Education and Ministry Core Competency Reflection requirements and are attached for your reference.

If students need support with sign-up, please see Mr. Nelson in the office.

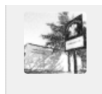
SEMESTER TURNAROUND DAYS

Monday January 26 and Tuesday January 27, 2026 are our "Semester Turnaround Days". Although these are days of instruction, no new material will be taught by your child's semester 1 teachers. Students are welcome to attend classes (during their regular semester 1 schedule class times), but attendance will not be taken on MyEd. **Teachers will request specific students to attend their class for academic recovery.**

As well, the Counselling Team will be available for course changes by appointment.

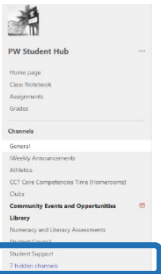
Note: Last day for course changes for Semester 2 is Friday February 6th, 2026 @ 3 pm

STUDENT COMMUNICATION



The **PW Student Hub** has been created for student communication. This is where students will find school announcements and important information. All students have been added to this team- if not, please ask them to come to the office.

There are several "channels" that are set up to organize the information. Please check "hidden channels" as they might not be shown. There are specific channels for grade groups, clubs, athletics, the library, general announcements and more!



We encourage families to remind their child to make sure they are checking TEAMS and the PW Student Hub as a regular part of their day.



PROJECT BACKPACK



Our Leadership students are supporting *Project Backpack*, led by H.E.L.P. for Youth Canada Society, an initiative that provides essential items to homeless youth in Vancouver. Backpacks filled with necessities like toiletries, warm clothing, and gift cards are distributed to shelters such as Directions and Covenant House. The class is collecting donations after the break as well in the front hall or room C213. Thank you for helping us make a difference—visit projectbackpack.ca for more information!

Here is a list of items that are needed:

- New razors & shaving cream
- Pre-loaded compass cards
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Socks & underwear
- Toques & gloves
- Dental supplies
- Water bottles
- Gift cards to local coffee, shops, restaurants, pharmacies, grocery stores
- Sewing kits
- Toiletries/tampons
- Deodorant
- Rain gear & small umbrellas
- Art supplies
- Batteries
- New pajamas
- Hand sanitizer
- Hair accessories combs & brushes
- Scarves & warm clothes



Watch a short clip from the Leadership Class [HERE](#)

ATHLETICS

~Update from Mr. Josh Coblenz, Athletic Director (Acting) ([jacoblenz@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:jcoblenz@vsb.bc.ca))

The Winter has been an exciting season for PW athletics, as our athletes have been competing in a multitude of sports.

The swim team competed at the Provincial Championships over the weekend of November 14, with several athletes advancing to Saturday's finals. In the Saturday finals, Ema A. (Grad 2026) raced in the Girls 100 SC Backstroke, while the mixed relay team competed in the 200 SC Medley. The girls relay team took part in both the 200 SC Freestyle and Medley relays.

December marked the beginning of Basketball season, With PW hosting Bantam, Juvenile, Junior and Senior teams on the boy's side, and a Juvenile and Senior team on the girls side.

The Bantam Boys continue their season following a loss to Eric Hamber. They open the new year with a home game against King George at 3:45 pm on January 14th. The Juvenile Boys carry a strong start into a vital home matchup against Lord Byng on January 12, 3:45 pm. The team is coming off an impressive 49–25 win over Point Grey, following a successful tournament in South Delta where two athletes earned tournament all-star honors, Cayden P: (Grad 2029) first-time all-star; Daniel S. (Grad 2029): second-team all-star. The Junior Boys now set their sights on University Hill after a finalist finish at the highly touted Jokers Classic in December, while the senior boys will also open the new year against University Hill, looking to build on their 4th place finish in the senior division of the Jokers Classic.

On the girls' side, both programs have opened the season with strong energy and commitment. The Juvenile Girls began league play with an impressive 2–0 start and opened the New Year on January 6 against Kitsilano Secondary, competing hard in a 46–29 loss that reflected continued growth and development. The Senior Girls also returned to action on January 6 against Eric Hamber, gaining valuable early-season experience as they continue to build chemistry and momentum heading into the heart of the season.

Table tennis also kicked off in December. Matches were competitive in losses of 4–1 and 3–2 against Point Grey and University Hill. They returned to action on January 7 against Van Tech, picking up their first win of the season, 5–0.

With spring approaching quickly, Keep an eye on team postings and your ears open for announcements regarding sign-up lists. A wide range of sports will be available this spring, including Senior Rugby, Golf, Ultimate Frisbee, girls' Soccer, boys' Volleyball, and Track and Field!

Thanks to Yearbook Club for a sneak peek of photos from the Fall Athletic Season!



Stay Informed!

You can find PW news at:

www.vsb.bc.ca/princeofwales

[@pwsecondary](https://www.instagram.com/pwsecondary)



princeofwales@vsb.bc.ca



PW STUDENT HUB