

# PLEASANT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our website: <http://schoolsweb.sd68.bc.ca/pvalley/>

Newsletter #1

September 5, 2017

6201 Dunbar Road  
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2P2  
Phone: 250-390-4027

Principal: Diane McGonigle  
[dmcgonigle@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:dmcgonigle@sd68.bc.ca)

Secretary: Teri Lobson  
[tlobson@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:tlobson@sd68.bc.ca)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new year of growth and exploration in your child's life. I hope that you all had a refreshing summer and are charged up for what promises to be another exciting and rewarding year at PVS. This year we are continuing our focus on the successful learner traits and are embarking on the first year of a Wild Schools initiative supporting outdoor, inquiry, and place-based learning. An interdisciplinary, curriculum-linked program, Wild Schools supports school communities to increase ecological literacy, outdoor field experiences and to build connections to conservation in the community. I am excited to be starting my second year at PVS and look forward to working with you, the staff and your child. Many great things happen at PVS thanks to our amazing PAC volunteers, our students and families, our staff and our community supporters. As a learning community, we are all following learning paths that inspire us. Your support and interest in your child's celebrations of learning amplifies your child's successes. We all learn from watching, modelling and encouraging each other. Our children look to us to set an example; please remember this when you are in our school. Our school-wide expectations apply to all of us! We look forward to a new year working with you to support your child's growth and progress.

My door is always open.

Diane McGonigle

## STAFF MEMBERS

*Introducing our skilled and caring staff members at Pleasant Valley for the 2017-2018 school year.*

**Classroom Teachers:** Ms. Tara Althouse, Ms. Christine Angelucci, Ms. Dianne Benedict, Ms. Sharon Cahil, Ms. Sara Craven, Ms. Christina Eivindson, Ms. Krista Endrizzi, Ms. Donna Gannon, Ms. Genny Isaachsen, Ms. Tamara Kanachowski-Biggs, Mr. Wes Lazaroff, Mr. Rob Louwers, Ms. Coleen Lycan, Ms. Wendy Phillips, and Ms. Janice Scott. **Support Teachers:** Ms. Kim Davie (Student Support Teacher), Ms. Erin Springford (Librarian), Ms. Sophia Francescutti (Music), Mr. Blake Olsen (Student Support Teacher), Ms. Ruth Sharun (Counsellor), Ms. Amy Stephen (Music and French), Ms. Becky Ziemanski (Speech), Ms. Dona Billingsley (Psychologist)

**CUPE Staff:** Ms. Wenda Allan (Child and Youth Family Support Worker) Ms. Angell (EA), Ms. Fiona Hutton (Library Clerk), Ms. Lobson (Head Secretary), Mr. Nick Marchese (custodian), Ms. M'Gonigle (Community Schools Coordinator), Mr. Barry Neufeld (Custodian), Ms. Rathburn (EA), Ms. Rollins (EA), and Ms. Thordarson (EA)

We will be welcoming additional staff members as some remaining positions are filled. Each staff member brings talent and energy to our learning community. We are excited to work with our staff, students, parents and community to establish a positive community of learners here at Pleasant Valley! We encourage you to support your child's learning by reinforcing that:

- Each new year brings a new class, a new teacher, and a new learning opportunity.
- Change is part of life, and allows our brains to respond and grow more neural pathways.
- New classes mean new relationships, new friends, and new challenges.
- Blended or split classes are a reality in all school organizations and have no negative impact on learning - the skills, knowledge, and expertise of our staff provide the appropriate learning experiences, meeting each child from where he/she is at.
- The staff at Pleasant Valley work very hard to provide a safe, and stimulating opportunity to learn.
- Being positive and working together makes a HUGE difference!

***We hope that you will participate in the Annual PVS Family Picnic on Friday, September 8th from 12:30 – 2:30 pm.***

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Due to increasing enrollment (341 students to date) and the Supreme Court of Canada ruling last year that, among other things, reduced class sizes, we are organizing into fifteen divisions this year. Our school will be getting a portable sometime later this fall and our Grade 7 class will move into the portable. In the meantime, our Grade 7 class is located in the staffroom and we are operating without a full staffroom. In addition, we no longer have a designated music room and music classes will occur in the multi-purpose room.

## ***SCHOOL PHOTOS – SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>***

School individual photos will be on Tuesday, September 26th. Notices from Mountain West Photo Company will be sent home the day before.

## ***FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL***

Our focus during the first week of school is to build a sense of community and learn about the attributes of generosity, independence, mastery and belonging through our multi-aged, family clan groups (the Eagle, the Whale, the Bear & the Wolf). We will continue to build on these attributes throughout the year. See the attached notice for an outline of the first week's activities.

The students have a lot of fun catching up with their school friends and meeting new students spending some time in grade groupings. The week is a great opportunity for building a sense of community.

Kindergarten students attend a welcome interview with their parents the first week and begin gradual entry on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and start full time on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We plan for Grade 1 to 7 students to start their new classes on Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

## ***STUDENT EXPECTATIONS/BEHAVIOUR***

During the first few weeks of a new school term, it is important for students to review and to understand what will be the expected behaviour both in the classroom and on the playground. Throughout the year the following will be emphasized so that a safe and positive learning environment is present.

- **Safety:** Act in a safe and responsible manner.
- **Responsibility:** Develop the use of self-discipline. Achieve your best.
- **Respect:** Recognize and respect the rights of others as well as yourself.

## ***PAC MEETING – SEPT 11<sup>TH</sup>***

We appreciate all of the fundraising and assistance with school activities our PVS PAC does. New members are always welcome! Please come to the first meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

## ***OPEN HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>***

Parents/Guardians are invited to Pleasant Valley's Open House on **Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**. This is an opportunity for your child(ren) to introduce you to their teacher and show you their classroom. We look forward to seeing you then!

## ***PAYMENT BY CHEQUE***

Please make cheques payable to School District #68 (SD#68) to pay for anything supplied by or through Pleasant Valley School. The **ONLY** exception to this is PAC sponsored events. Cheques are then written to Pleasant Valley PAC.

## ***NEW WEBSITE***

Our website will have a new look sometime in the next few weeks. You will be able to find all the same information once you navigate through the website.

## ***NEWSLETTERS AND NOTICES HOME***

In an effort to be environmentally friendly, we are distributing all newsletters electronically. We will share newsletters in three easy ways: 1. An email will be sent with the link to the electronic newsletter. 2. The newsletter will be posted on our school website. 3. The newsletter will be posted on the PAC Facebook (search Pleasant Valley Parents on Facebook) site. Please ensure that the school has your email address so we can send the newsletter link to you. We will always have a few paper copies of the newsletter in the school office.

## ***PVS STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK***

We are currently making some final revisions to our parent/pupil handbook and Code of Conduct. They will be reviewed with our students and will be on our website. Paper copies will be available upon request. Basic school policies, procedures and programs are outlined in our school handbook. We hope that this will be a useful reference throughout the school year.

## ***SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND PLANNERS***

The planner is \$6. This is **included** in the \$30.00 school supply monies for Grades 1 – 3. Students in grades 4 – 7 will pay \$6 to their teacher. Please don't send any monies to school until the second week of school.

## ***ABSENTEE INFORMATION***

If your child is going to be away, please call the school **before school begins**. If the answering machine is on, please leave a message stating your child's full name, grade and teacher's name and the reason for the absence.

## ***BELL SCHEDULE 2017-2018 (same as last year)***

### ***Mondays***

8:40 am	Warning Bell
8:45 – 10:00	Morning Session
10:00 – 10:15	Recess
10:15 – 11:45	Morning Session
11:45 – 12:20	Noon Recess
12:20 – 1:37	Afternoon Session

### ***Tuesday - Friday***

8:40 am	Warning Bell
8:45 – 11:45	Morning Session
11:45 – 12:20	Noon Recess
12:20 – 1:20	Afternoon Session
1:20 – 1:35	Afternoon Recess
1:35 – 2:37	Afternoon Session

### ***STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM***

The “Student Information Forms” will be sent home next week along with other important documents. Please check these over carefully, make any changes and return it to your child’s teacher right away. It is imperative that this form be completed accurately, and signed, by an adult as it ensures our ability to contact parents in case of an emergency. If there are any special instructions regarding custody or visitation arrangements for your children, it is very **important** that you let the teacher and the school office know. If, during the course of the school year, any of the information should change, please contact the school to update. Please remember to fill out and sign the back page as well! Also medical forms and walking permission

### ***COMMUNITY SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR***

My name is Susan M’Gonigle, and I have the pleasure of being Pleasant Valley’s Community School Coordinator. I will bring members of the community of Pleasant Valley and beyond into the school. Together, the community and I will provide various programs that will enrich your child(ren)’s learning experience. Please, if you have any ideas for programs, or have something that you are passionate about and would like to share with Pleasant Valley School, come to see me and we can put together a plan. You can reach me by email: sm’gonigle@sd68.bc.ca, or by phone at 250-816-5201. I look forward to meeting you in the coming days and weeks. *Submitted by Susan M’Gonigle*

### ***FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM***

We are pleased to continue to be part of the BC School Fruit & Vegetable Nutritional Program sponsored by the BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation & ActNowBC. This is part of a province-wide healthy initiative. We will receive fresh produce approximately fifteen times throughout the year for the entire school (at no charge)! A reverse consent form will be sent home, and only needs to be returned if you DO NOT want your child to participate or if there are allergy concerns. We hope that all of our students and staff enjoy the vegetables and fruits provided.

### ***SCHOOL SAFETY AND SUPERVISION***

Morning supervision does not start until 8:30am. Please do not send your child to school before 8:30am unless they are attending a school sponsored activity. This year we will have morning supervision at the front of the school as well as the back. There is no after school supervision except for bus students. Students are asked to leave the school grounds right after school unless they are supervised by an adult picking them up.

### ***LUNCH HOUR EXPECTATIONS***

At PVS, we have an active play time at recess; students will eat in their classrooms. During the eating time, students will be actively learning as well. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds, at any time, unless accompanied by a parent or authorized adult. This includes the noon recess and lunch period. Expectations for students during recess are as follows:

- Play outdoors from 11:45am until 12:20pm, Monday through Friday. Spending their breaks outside provides students with the opportunity for movement and fresh air.
- Eat lunch in classrooms (this is teacher-supervised instructional time).
- Very infrequently, on very stormy days, we may declare an “inside day”, where we will keep students inside during the noon recess.
- Please encourage your child to dress for the weather as we like to encourage our students to be outside as much as possible.

### ***PARKING***

We have limited parking availability at our school and are welcoming even more families this year! We encourage families to use active transportation (walking, biking, other wheels), an 8:30 drop off, and car pooling to help cut down on the congestion in our parking lot and the roadway at the bell time. Here are some important safety reminders:

- There is **ABSOLUTELY NO PARKING** in the bus pull-through or where there are red lines in the school parking lot (with the exception of pre-approved daycare buses dropping off or picking up students). We are very concerned for the safety of our students. The pre-authorized vans and school bus are the **only** vehicles allowed to stop in the drive-through in front of the school. The exit is very narrow and the bus is unable to exit safely if there are any other cars stopped in the parking lot (and parked at the right hand corner on Dunbar by the first street light as you exit the parking lot). We need cooperation from everyone.
- Only park in the designated Handicapped parking if you have a valid handicap sign.
- Please respect our neighbours, including the Pleasant Valley Community Hall and Woodgrove Pines Clinic.
- Please take extra pre-caution driving in and out.

**Please set a good example of patience & calm driving/parking along with following the rules! We really don’t want anyone to get hurt.**

## **CYCLING & WALKING TO SCHOOL**

We encourage our students to cycle, use any form of wheels, or walk to school. We hope to see fewer cars in our congested parking lot, and a healthier active start to the day by our students! Students need to remember to **walk** their wheels on the school grounds (from 8:00am - 3:30pm). If your child rides wheels to school, please review the rules of the road with him/her and ensure he/she has a bike lock. Bicycle helmets are **mandatory** for all riders. Also, students walking to and from school must use designated sidewalks and crosswalks. When crossing the fields, please walk along the trail on the sides of the playing field.

### ***ANAPHYLAXIS – IMPORTANT INFO***

**Anaphylaxis** is a severe allergic reaction that can become life threatening, causing airways to close, swelling, numbness, etc., and leads to a coma and death if not immediately treated. While Anaphylaxis is usually brought on by insect bites, exposure to peanuts, tree nuts, dairy products and latex, there are many other triggers. An Anaphylactic reaction can only be tempered by the immediate injection of adrenalin in the form of an EpiPen.

This year, Pleasant Valley Elementary School has several students who are allergic to peanuts and nuts and who can experience anaphylactic reactions. We ask that you not send any products containing nuts to school. The students in classrooms with students with allergies have been sent a notice home regarding the specific peanut/nut aware zone.

It is important to us at Pleasant Valley Elementary School that all our students remain safe and healthy, so please take the time to speak with your student about the seriousness of Anaphylaxis.

For more information about Anaphylaxis, please go online to <http://www.anaphylaxis.org/>

### ***ENTERING AND EXITING THE SCHOOL***

To minimize the amount of traffic in the front foyer, the students are to enter and exit the school through the assigned doors. Announcements are finished at approximately 8:55 am. If your child is arriving at school later than that, they will need to come in the front door and get a late slip from the office. During recess breaks, the students are to use the exterior doors by the gym to use the washrooms. Parents are to drop off and pick up their child(ren) at their designated doors. If you are visiting the school for any reason, please check in at the office (even if you are only going to be here for “a minute”). As a safety measure the office needs to know who is coming into the school. If you are here during the recess breaks and will be looking for your child on the playground, check into the office and please put on a visitor’s pass. By doing this, the people on duty will know that you are an authorized visitor.

## **PLEASANT VALLEY ELECTRONICS POLICY**

All student cell phones and other electronics are to be turned off & placed in the student’s backpack between the hours of 8:45 am to 2:37 pm. These items are to stay out of sight and turned off throughout the day. Students may use their devices under the direction of their teacher & with their teacher’s permission. If a student needs to use a phone during the day, the student phone is available in the office area. If a parent needs to contact a student, please call the office.

Electronic gaming devices are not to be used at school. It is not permissible for students to use electronic devices to video/record/photograph other students on the school property or field trips, unless under the direct supervision of their teacher for a learning activity. Electronic devices should only be used in the classroom, under the direct supervision of the teacher, with the teacher’s permission.

Pleasant Valley School is not responsible for any electronic device that is lost, stolen, or damaged while on school property.

### **BREAKFAST BISTRO and LUNCHES**

Missed breakfast? Forgot your lunch? Stop by the Pleasant Valley Bistro any school day from 8:30 to 9:00 and we will be happy to fill up your tummy and make you something to take with you for lunch.

### ***DATES TO REMEMBER***

Sept 6-8	Clan Start Up activities and Kindergarten Interviews
Sept 8	Family Picnic 12:30-2:30
Sept 11-12	Kindergarten Gradual Entry
Sept 11	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm
Sept 26	Individual School Photos
Sept 28	Open House – Meet the Teacher
TBD	Terry Fox Run & Assembly
Oct 2	PAC Meeting 7:00pm
<b>Oct 6</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED – Pro-D Day</b>
<b>Oct 10</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED for Thanksgiving</b>
Oct 16-19	Early Dismissal – 1:27 pm for Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct 19	Great BC Shakeout Earthquake Drill
<b>Oct 20</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED – Pro-D Day</b>
Oct 27	Individual Photo Retake Day
Nov 6	PAC meeting – 7:00 pm
Nov 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
<b>Nov 13</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED Remembrance Day</b>
Dec 4	PAC meeting – 7:00 pm
Dec 21	Christmas Concert – afternoon and evening performances
Dec 22	Last Day of School before winter Break
<b>Dec 23 to</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
<b>Jan 7</b>	<b>Winter Break</b>
Jan 8	School Re-opens and PAC Meeting at 7:00pm