



PATTISON HIGH SCHOOL

Bits & Bytes

Vol. 10 No.1

October 30, 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

October

30 Parent/Teacher
Night, Midterm Report

November

03-04 Provincial Exams

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weekly report 3

10 Remembrance Day
service

11 Remembrance Day,
no classes

20 Post-Secondary Day

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December

05 Awards Day /
Graduation Day

15-17 Final Exams

19 Last day of classes

January

05 Orientation for all
students, first day of
classes

13 Last day to add/drop
classes

20 Bi-weekly report 1

19-23 Provincial Exams

Principal's Message

Welcome to the mid-point of Semester 1 in the 2014-15 school year. We are well underway with a school population that is as large as it has ever been. The fourteen nationalities, gathering beneath the flags that decorate the school, give evidence to the international flavours that characterize the high school. What an exciting place to be.

This semester is notable as the first time that the school will have both a girls' and a boys' basketball team. Practices at the Roundhouse Community Centre, and games will take place under the trained eye of Ms Stewart and Mr Rowbottom. A game schedule will start in mid November and continue into the second semester. Pattison High School wishes its players well and looks forward to being an enthusiastic audience at the games.

In addition to the flags, the school has increased its audio visual presence with flat screen television monitors in the lobby and the lunchroom. English language news streaming underscores a school value: that current events can be experienced in the one language that is common to all. Students are continuously exposed to English phonetics in the public areas of the school, as well as the classrooms.

Extra-curricular activities play a large role in the life of the school community. In addition to the basketball team, there is: a very active Student Council, the Soccer Club, the Studio Arts Club, a science club, a games club, the recycling initiative, and a movie club. Student Council has taken the lead to outfit the school for the Hallowe'en festivities. The school looks colourful, and it is fun to be here.

As I write this message, students are writing their mid-term exams. The results will be known soon, and all parents, guardians/custodians, agents and other interested people are welcome to join us for 'Parent Teacher' night on Thursday October 30. Please have your student add your name to the appointment list on the teacher's door of the class where you wish to visit.

As I have said in previous messages, administrators, staff and faculty welcome the continuing opportunity to motivate and support students through to the end of term. We wish all students the best as they progress toward graduation.

Sincerely

Daniel Chowne, Principal



Counselor's Corner

With the Fall semester well underway, I am in the process of checking grad plans and visiting the Grade 11 and 12

classes to provide the students with important information required for graduation. We have welcomed representatives from the University of Western Ontario and Waterloo University. They provided the students with very valuable information. The University of Toronto will be at Pattison on November 19th at 9:00am. On November 20th the following post-secondary institutions will attend Pattison's Post Secondary Day: UBC, SFU, University of Victoria, Langara, Kwantlen, Capilano and Emily Carr. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about entrance requirements.

That's it for now. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call or see me.



“In The Spirit of Thanksgiving”

by Kimberley Hlina



It was after school on the Friday before the Thanksgiving long weekend. You'd think that students would have cleared out pretty much immediately, ready for an extra day off, and perhaps a turkey dinner. However, about a dozen PHS students chose to stay later, gathered in the Lunch Room; they donned gloves, and got set up assembly-line style on either side of the long middle tables. Supervised by Saba and Niki, they were ready to turn some ingredients into sandwiches, wrapping them neatly in order to give to the homeless.

At one end of the line, several students, armed with spoons or knives, started by putting mayonnaise on one slice of bread. This was then passed to others who added cheese, ham, and another slice of bread (I was a ham-and-end-bread assembly-person, myself). At the end of the line, a couple of students wrapped each sandwich in plastic wrap, while others put the wrapped sandwiches back into the empty bread bags, so that they could be refrigerated until everything was ready to go. Sandwiches were handed out at a shelter, on Sunday.

In only about 45 minutes, we had over 100 sandwiches ready to go, and clean-up was complete! Thank you to an amazing group of PHS students, who were thinking about others and willing not only to stay late on a Friday, but also reassemble on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, to give out sandwiches to those who likely we're not going to have the chance to eat a traditional turkey dinner with “all the trimmings”. This was not a PHS initiative, but a student-led from idea through to completion. The students put in time, effort, and care to provide food for those in Vancouver who don't have homes and families to go home to, on a holiday long weekend.

Good job, everyone. We're proud of your heart and efforts.



Pattison High School's Global Reach

This semester Fabiano Maciel, one of our Regional Directors, worked to expand PHS's reach around the world. He visited Korea, Brazil, Italy, Japan, Vietnam, Mexico and Thailand.



Summer Barbeque



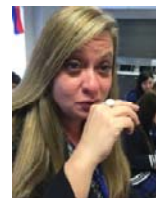
Last June teachers and students finished class early for a Student Council organized barbecue/picnic at Stanley Park. In addition to enjoying pizza and lots of other food we played soccer, badminton, cards and many people ended up soaked during the water fight.





Around the school

Some of Ms. Van's Composition 11 students brought in food for their 'how-to' presentations.



Activity Days



Summer Semester

Students, staff and faculty had a great time at Fun Land in the Pacific National Exhibition. The rides were as fast and exciting as ever and no students lost their lunch. The PNE provided a buffet of: beef, veggie and chicken hamburgers, hotdogs, salads, fruit and brownies.



Fall Semester



This semester, on Friday, November the 7th, the PHS community will visit the Richmond Olympic Oval for skating and a cornucopia of sports and then go for ten pin bowling at the Zone Bowling Center. Lunch will be at the Spaghetti Factory.



Halloween



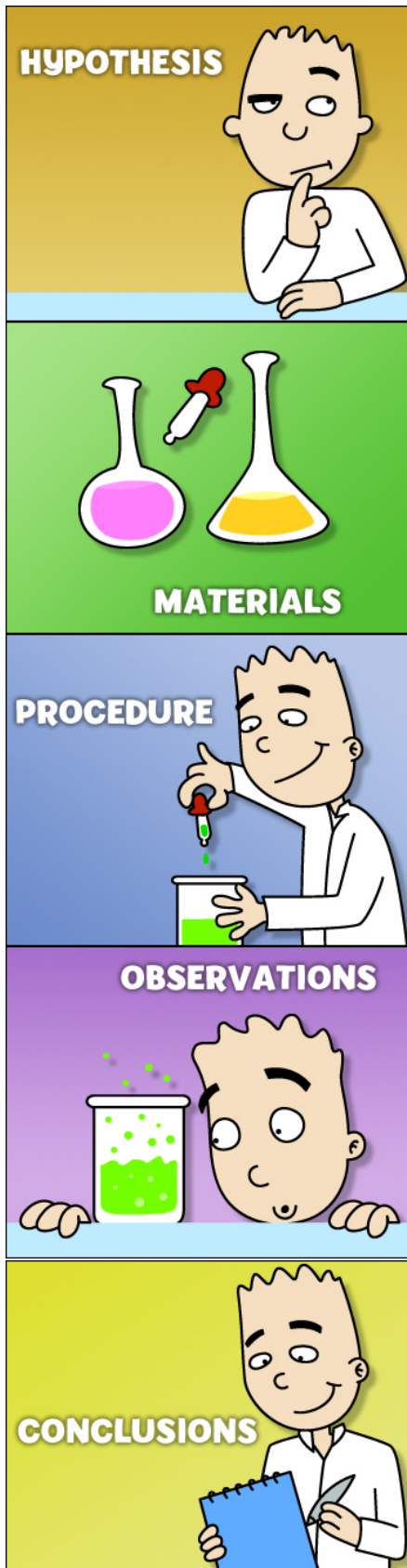
Pattison High School students love Halloween. Weeks before this spooky holiday, students stayed late after class to decorate and contribute to a festive atmosphere in the school. Special thanks to Alanoud, Anna and Lucas for their hard work!



Students organized a visit to Playland this semester to try out some of the seven haunted houses. On Halloween day, classes finish early for a Student Council led party. Everyone is encouraged to wear costumes so we'll have lots of pictures in the next issue of Bits and Bites.



Science Club



Attention!

Students, grade 9 to 12, are wanted! Do you like doing hands-on activities? Do you wish you could do more in science class? Do you enjoy the show Myth busters? Are you just plain interested in science? If so, then come join Ms. Erfan on Wednesday at noon to be fulfilled - Science Club is the club for you! We will go beyond your science class, get our hands dirty, experience 2-3 field trips, and explore all sorts of interesting science stuff.

Good News

Pattison High School Joined The Vancouver High School Science Olympics. The VHSO is a science competition run by the Greater Vancouver High School Science Association. The VHSO is the first science competition held on a regular basis for students in the Greater Vancouver region, but we're more than just another science

A New Approach on Learning

We go outside the box of a regular school curriculum. We don't believe that textbook are the only viable educational resource for students. We believe that learning is the best fostered through factors such as friendly competition, Curiosity and inquiry.

Inclusive

We don't discriminate students based on skin, race or academic standing. We include every student wishing to compete within the Vancouver High School Science Olympics in the spirit of friendly competition.

Upcoming event:

Lasers



Basketball at Pattison!

Pattison High School is looking forward to cheering on TWO basketball teams during the upcoming season. For the first time EVER Pattison will enter a Senior Girls basketball team into the Greater Vancouver Independent Schools Athletic Association league! Go Girls! And, once again, Pattison will also enter a Senior Boys team into the league. Go boys! Let's show our support to these athletes with high fives and encouraging words as you see your classmates in the hallways! League play runs from the last week of November until the first week of February. Ms. Stewart will be coaching the girls' team and Mr. Rowbottom will be coaching the boys' team. We are really looking forward to a fun and rewarding season. Remember to always practice good sportsmanship!



Experiential Learning Opportunity!

On October 30th, Ms. Stewart's Economics 12 class will be participating in a province-wide Economics conference for BC high school students. This conference, entitled "Why Do People Behave the Way They Do? An Introduction to Economic Reasoning", is organized and presented by The Fraser Institute. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to network with their peers and to have exposure to an alternate learning experience. The conference is a full-day event and we are very excited to attend!



The PHS Recycling Initiative

by Ms. K. Hlina

Last September, we started a new program, at PHS. Since our students purchase a LOT of bottled drinks, we wanted to make sure that the empty containers (glass and plastic bottles, soft drink cans, and juice boxes) were recycled, instead of ending up in the garbage.



You will notice there are big orange and blue boxes in the PHS hallways; this is where drink containers go, when they are

empty. Please do NOT throw garbage into these bins – it creates a big mess for our volunteers. Also, please don't put your Tim Horton's or Starbucks cups in the bins: they make puddles in the bags, which get stinky and moldy before the next recycling day.

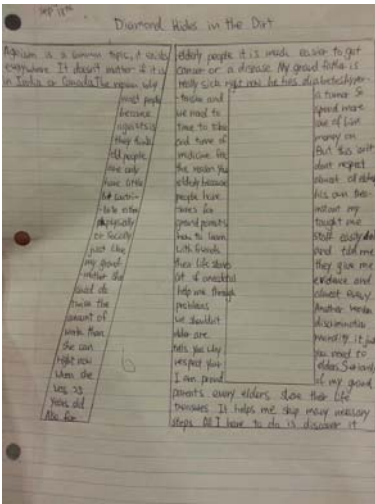
Each week, on Wednesday during X-Block, student volunteers put on gloves to collect, empty, sort, and count the containers that have been placed in the big orange/blue bins, as well as those in the smaller blue bins in each teacher's classroom.



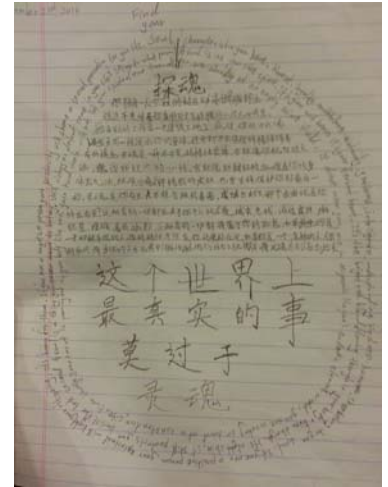
It's a messy job, but our volunteers – Sam, Lucas, and Frank, and sometimes their friends – know how important it is to keep containers out of the trash and landfills, recycling them instead of having them litter the streets and end up in lakes, rivers, or oceans.

In addition to helping the environment, our Recycling Initiative was able to donate almost \$300.00 during the 2013-2014 school year, to local non-profit causes. Each and every beverage container that is put into the recycling bins at PHS gets taken to the depot, cashed in, and the money is donated to charitable organizations, such as the Vancouver SPCA (which helps find homes for abandoned animals). You're doing good work PHS!

Creative Students



Mr. Williams always encourages creativity in his classes. In English 12 students Alec Cai and Frank Zhao excelled in a project to present written composition in a visually meaningful way. Frank talks about ageism and the importance of respecting elders in his composition, “Diamond Hides in the Dirt” (left), while Alec explores spirituality and meaning in “Find Your Soul” (right). Mr. Williams is also one of our most vocal proponents of English Only in the school. His student, Niki Oveisi, wrote the following essay:



Why it is important to speak English in Pattison High School?

Pattison high school is located in Vancouver, British Columbia. It is mostly filled with students that are English second language (ESL). This makes it very important that all students use English throughout their time in high school. However, many students do not abide to this rule. They chose to speak their native language because it is more familiar and comfortable for them. Unfortunately, they seem to forget that obeying this rule will make them more fluent in English, will make the school more united, and will increase their chances of fitting into society in the future.

English is not as simple as native Canadians may think. It is filled with many verbs and grammar rules, and of course, many exceptions. Although this is the case, Canada's population is a mosaic of different backgrounds, all of which have learned the English language in their own pace. No matter how this complicated language is learned- nothing is perfected without practice. One must speak it every day in order to gain control of the flow and slang of the English language. This is one of the reasons why it's so important to continue speaking English throughout the student's time in Pattison.

Moreover, Pattison is a school that promotes unity. All of the students are required to wear a uniform with Pattison's logo on it. Anyone that does not abide to this rule is promptly kicked out of class and told to not come back until they are in proper uniform. Clearly a school with this kind of strict regime towards unity does not want the students to be speaking dozens of different languages. For example, if a group of students are speaking Mandarin, the pupils that do not speak Mandarin will automatically feel left out. This will cause cliques and make the school even less united than others. As Pattison is extremely immersed in being united, this is definitely not an acceptable attitude.

Why it is important to speak English in Pattison High School?

The majority of teachers in Pattison are fluent in English, hence making it frustrating for them to try to communicate and care for students that are not willing to speak the same language. There are going to be 2 English provincial exams and many other English exams in the average Canadian student's lifetime. This means that being fluent in English is extremely important to their education. Receiving a high average in this subject is something that universities are very keen on, therefore making English the only subject that has a provincial exam in grade twelve. In the future, students will infinitely have to communicate with English-only speaking peers, colleagues, and teachers. Although they can escape the need to speak the language now, it will become inevitable in the future. Communications has become a large part of success in the average persons career, hence making the ability to speak fluently and persuasively vital to finding a place in society. Whether it is gaining a place in personal relationships, career, or school, speaking English is endlessly important.

Speaking English during ones time in Pattison is extremely important because of the schools unity, speech fluency, and success in society in ones future. Once a student begins to fully understand the importance of these reasoning's, perhaps it will encourage them and their peers to promote Pattison's number one rule- English only!



During the Summer semester 2014, Pattison High School students and staff collected 476 pounds of food to donate to The Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society (GVFBS), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing food and related assistance to those in need. The GVFBS collects and distributes food to over 25,000 people a year.



Last semester Ms. Erfan's class enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate contributing more items than any other class. Congratulations Ms. Erfan's students!

The student council is responsible for organizing the food drive. Talk to them to find out when it will begin this semester. Please bring only non-perishable food items to your third period class and drop it in the food bank box. The most generous class will win a pizza party. GVFBS will make sure all the food gets to those most in need.

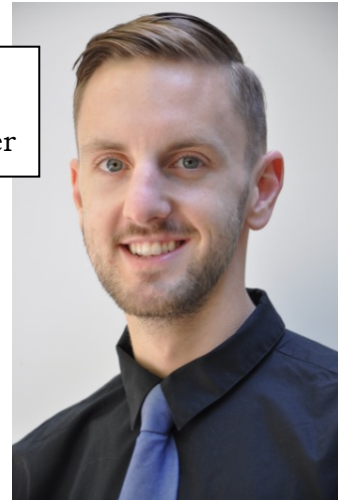
Welcome to Pattison High School

We are pleased to welcome new members of our Faculty and Administration staff:



Mr. Rockwell
Math /Science Teacher

Mr. Armstrong
Biology Teacher



Provincial Examinations

November 2014 Schedule

Date	Subject	Administration Mode	Time
Monday November 3, 2014	English 12	E	9:00 am – 11:00 am
Monday November 3, 2014	Social Studies 11	E	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Tuesday November 4, 2014	English 10 and Communications 12	E	9:00 am – 11:00 am
Tuesday November 4, 2014	Math 10 and Science 10	E	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

***Remember: bring photo ID to write the exam, if you are more than 30 minutes late you cannot take the exam, there are no bathroom breaks allowed**

artSUMBRELLA™ dance company presents:

mixed nuts

a holiday dance performance



December 12 at 1:00_{pm}

Pattison High School teachers and students will enjoy a modern retelling of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker"

Vancouver Playhouse

- 600 Hamilton St

