

PSII Parent Update – June 2016

Heading into Summer...

While much of the information below was included in our last update, I know how we all suffer from information overload, especially from schools toward the end of the school year. So here is a much smaller number of items, and only those that people are beginning to ask about:

Report Cards

Report cards will be issued in early July, once all final marks have been verified. The June report card will include final marks for all courses that have been completed in the school year. For courses that have begun and that may be completed next year or even over the next several years (that happens sometimes in our interdisciplinary, inquiry-based school), An approximation of how much of the course has been completed and a depth indicator will be included in the report.

For learners completing courses with provincial exams, final marks will not be known until exams are marked and the marks released by the Ministry of Education. This typically happens toward the end of July. In the meantime, the school-based portion of the mark will be included in the June report.

Graduating learners will also receive confirmation of their graduation status in late July or very early August after exam marks have been entered and transcripts have been verified and updated.

Tuition Information

Tuition is normally paid either in a lump sum or in twelve monthly installments. If paying in a lump sum, payment is due by July 1st, as on our tuition page on the school website, and as per the last update sent in early May.

If paying in twelve installments, the first payment is due by July 1st, and we prefer receiving all 12 post-dated cheques at once, to avoid confusion or having to remind people through the year.

For most people (those who have already paid the \$100 deposit), the monthly installment will be \$575.00 for 12 months.

Some parents have also been using the e-Interac payment method, and this is also fine. Please contact Jeff at jeff.hopkins@learningstorm.org if you want to use the e-Interac method instead of cheques.

Cheques, made out the “Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry,” can be mailed to the school at:

Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry
100-808 Douglas St.
Victoria, BC
V8W 2B6

Or they can be dropped off in our mailbox just inside the front door of the building (on the wall right across from the security desk) between the hours of 8:30 and 4:30.

Please see the [school website](#) for detailed information on tuition payments schedules, taking into account discount for lump sum payments, sibling discount, and any other variations.

For those who wish to purchase their own laptops, please inform Jeff by email as soon as possible. Please also ensure that laptop matches all requirements and recommended specifications. Tuition payments will remain the same, but a refund cheque for \$300 will be issued in September.

School Supplies List

While we can supply items that are forgotten or lost from time to time, we require all learners to provide the following school supplies for themselves:

- Indoor shoes or slippers
- A binder (1” rings)
- 3-hole punched, lined paper (50 sheets)
- 3-hole punched graph paper- 1cm squares (50 sheets)
- One USB memory stick with at least 8 GB of memory
- One scientific calculator (we recommend the SHARP Advanced D.A.L. EL-531XG, available for about \$20.00 at places like Staples) ***THIS IS REQUIRED FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL OF MATH AND SCIENCE AND IS APPROVED FOR USE ON THE PROVINCIAL EXAMS**
- Pens and pencils

Normally, the school will supply a laptop computer, with a replacement schedule of two years. The laptop is **OWNED BY THE LEARNER** and any repairs required are the responsibility of the learner’s family. The laptop is required at PSII, as we use it for planning, collaborating, accessing

research sources, uploading items to an electronic portfolio, and more. For learners who feel that they need a specific kind of laptop for an area of study or production (e.g. advanced 3D animation), learners may supply their own laptops and will receive a refund of \$300 for every year that they do supply their own laptop. Please see the website for more information on the [laptop policy](#).

August Open House – Wednesday, August 31

For all PSII learners, but especially to welcome the new ones for 2016-17, the school will be hosting an open house on Wednesday, August 31 from 1:00 to 3:00. A chance to connect/reconnect and to ease into a new school year over some lemonade and goodies.

First Day of School – Tuesday, September 6

The first day of school is Tuesday, September 6. It will be a half day (dismissal at 12:30), giving people a chance to get settled, get acquainted with some of our systems, and reset their internal clocks after a summer that usually includes later nights and later morning. School starts at 9:30 each day, and we expect learners to be at the school before that, ready to go at 9:30. Doors open at 8:45.

Staff Changes

We will be saying goodbye to **Ross Banister** and to **Rachel Mason** at the end of this school year. Rachel is going to be spending time with her soon-to-expand family, and Ross is going to be pursuing opportunities to build on his teaching experiences that he had here at PSII. We will miss them both, and we are glad to have had a chance to work and learn with them.

As we are growing slightly in number, PSII will see three new fulltime additions to the teaching staff. They are:

- **Morgan Boenke** - Morgan is a recent arrival to BC. He comes to us with Masters Degrees in Biology and in Teaching and Learning from McGill University. Morgan has developed curriculum and taught at the K to 12 level and at the post-secondary level, and he has also taught English abroad. He has also coached several sports and plays music recreationally.
- **Morgan Sargent** – Morgan comes to us with a Bachelor of Arts from UVic and a Bachelor of Education from Trent University, with qualifications in English and Mathematics. He also has a Masters from St. Francis Xavier in adult education with a focus on community development. He currently teaches English, Computers, and Math at Camosun College,

and he also works with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and Our Place. He writes as a hobby and is an accomplished ballroom dancer.

- **Madelaine Elia** - Madelaine comes to us from Nakusp Secondary School. She studied at North Island College and Emily Carr University of Art and Design before getting her teaching degree and certificate at UVic. She brings experience in art, design, languages (she is fluent in both Italian and French), Indigenous studies, and working with the greater community. She has also recently been the sponsor for her school's Identity Alliance club.

So now we have three J's and three M's (two of them Morgans!) comprising our wonderful team of teachers. As in 2015-16, Harry Brown and Judith Bellis will continue to support our international ELL learners who come to Victoria to study at the Victoria Academy of Ballet. Harry and Judy are also both certified and experienced teachers who offer much to PSII.

There will be more information coming with report cards and through the summer. Please also check our website regularly, as that is where the answers to many of your questions will be found. It is www.learningstorm.org. Twitter is at @psiivictoria for late-breaking, emergent information.