

## **Metchosin Muse – September 2021 Edition**

### **Header: Here's Hoping for Health, Wellness and Near-normality!**

*By Brian Geary, Pearson College UWC*

With the 2012-22 school year hurtling towards us, staff and faculty at Pearson are working hard to ensure our campus is again safe for students, residents, employees and visiting goods and service providers. During the last school year, not a single reported case of COVID-19 was detected on campus, and we're working to keep that record intact.

We know things can change with little or no notice but, as of this writing (August 17), we are anticipating all enrolled students will begin the new academic year after Labour Day. International students, vaccinated or not, will still be required to quarantine at an off-site facility during which they will participate in an online "Quarientation" (quarantine + orientation). Vaccinated Canadian students will not be required to quarantine.

We anticipate teaching will be in-person, in classrooms and using larger facilities or outdoor spaces on campus as much as possible and with appropriate protocols in place at the time. Everything will be done in accordance with Public Health Office, WorkSafeBC and any other government guidelines. As of today, we are in line with Step 3 of [BC's 4-step restart program](#). Should this change, or regional measures be put in place, we will act accordingly.

Our Campus Health Centre has enhanced its capacity to support students in all their physical and mental health needs. The "lockdown" 2020-21 school year was challenging for students (and Houseparents!) but we hope the ability to safely and regularly go off campus this year helps alleviate that.

If you have been down Pearson College Drive lately, you've noticed that our "essential visitors only" signs are still up. Until we get the school year rolling, and we get a better read on the impact of the COVID Delta variant and how this affects BC's Restart Plan, we will ask casual visitors, even those passing through to use trails, to avoid our campus.

In the meantime, we will continue to be prudent and mindful of the health and safety of our campus and our neighbours in Metchosin, Beecher Bay and across the Westshore.