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BINARY POST

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Important September Dates

September 16, 2022

- MFA enforcement on casual and sub accounts goes into effect

September 23, 2022

- Division-wide PD Day

September 30, 2022

- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Student Enrollments finalized
- Cyber Security mandates must be finalized for insurance compliance

Welcome to the Inaugural Edition of the Binary Post!

First of all, I'd like to welcome everyone to the start of another school year! This is always an exciting time of the year when staff and students return from their summer breaks recharged and abuzz with expectation. I wish everyone success.

Now, on to the Binary Post. What is it? The Binary Post is a monthly newsletter put out by the Technology Services Department with the goal of keeping staff and students aware of what is happening in the fast paced world of Technology within Palliser. This is the Department's first crack at it, so bear with us as we try and figure out the best way to deliver the content (the goal right now is to be informative without being too "techy").

I welcome any feedback you may have on the Binary Post. Now, on to the content!

-Simon Sorensen, Technology Services Supervisor

New Tech Team Members

I'd like to introduce you to 3 new team members that have joined the Palliser Tech Team.

Vince Francis

Supporting Calgary Christian Schools and CIS: Akram Jomaa

Josh Cookson

Supporting Vulcan, Champion, Carmangay, Barons and Nobleford along with PaperCut (print management system)

Zach Nicholson

Supporting Coaldale, Picture Butte and Huntsville along with supporting Palliser VoIP phones

Vince, Josh and Zach are looking forward to working with staff and students and contributing wherever they can to the learning experience.

Welcome to the team guys!

Guest Wireless Reminders

- All student, duplicate and staff no longer with the Division's guest wireless accounts have been deleted during summer maintenance - students requiring access will have to re-register and be approved by school based guest wireless approvers
- Did you know that you only need to register for a guest wireless account once? It's true! Registering for a guest wireless account in any school will allow you to connect to guest wireless networks in any of our schools (except for Trinity and Masters). Simply search for the school's guest network (xx-Guest where xx is the abbreviated school name) and use the same password to connect
- For more details on guest wireless, check out the [Tech Wiki How to Section](#)

Suggestions or Comments?

If there is something you would like to see in the Binary Post or you just have some general comments or questions about it, please send an email to Simon Sorensen at simon.sorensen@pallisersd.ab.ca

See you next issue!

Multi Factor Authentication (MFA)

Palliser is now enforcing multi factor authentication (MFA) on all staff accounts in the Division.

Why we are doing this:

- Insurance providers are now mandating MFA be implemented in order to receive coverage for claims resulting from "cyber security breaches"
- MFA works
 - According to Microsoft, MFA can "prevent 99.9 percent of attacks on your accounts."
 - Google's data shows that having a text message sent to a person's phone prevents 100% of automated bot attacks that use stolen lists of passwords against login pages and 96% of phishing attacks that try to steal your password.

We appreciate everyone's efforts in getting their accounts setup and getting used to the "new normal" when it comes to logging in to their accounts.

New Student Information System (SIS) Software

Our new Student Information System (SIS) software, **Edsembli**, is now in live production.

We are still working out some of the kinks in the software (a big one is sorting out all of the other software that Edsembli has to interface with; School Messenger, Edsby, Dossier, etc). We appreciate all of the work that everyone is doing in learning the new system and reporting the issues being encountered. Your patience is also appreciated as we work through the technical issues. We will be updating you on the status of Edsembli and its integrations as they become available.

I want to take a moment to thank Sherryl Loman and Mike Auger for all the work they are doing behind the scenes to get Edsembli working. We'd be lost without them. Sherryl is learning along with the rest of you and I'm sure that in short order she will be a master of Edsembli just like she was a master of PowerSchool. Mike is slowly making headway in using Edsembli data to create Clever badges and Google Classrooms for teachers and students. Slowly but surely as they say....

The Palliser Tech Wiki

Did you know that the Palliser Technology Department has a Tech Wiki? Check it out: <https://tech.pallisersd.ab.ca>

The Tech Wiki is still a work in progress, but it is a great resource if you are trying to find information about technology in the division. You can find:

- Technology Services **Standard Operating Procedures**
- Tutorials and How To's
- A convenient button to submit a service request
- Team contact information
- What the tech department is working on
- Front page banner for current issues

