



# From the Raven's Nest...

for Friday, October 8, 2021

Dear Families,

**THANKFUL...** Indeed this is a great weekend to reflect on how thankful we are to be a part of this wonderful community. We are very fortunate to be able to live, learn, and play on the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. We are also blessed to have a strong school community here at Rockheights and it is a pleasure to welcome you each and every day. One aspect of our community is that we are incredibly fortunate to have community partners such as the Rainbow Kitchen, the Miche Café and Backpack Buddies that provide food for our children so that they are able to focus and learn with a full stomach. This is truly a special place and we appreciate your ongoing support and contributions to making it so. Thank you!



## What's happening at Rockheights next week:

**Monday, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> - Thanksgiving Day Holiday**

**Tuesday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> - FSA's continue this week**

- RMS PAC Meeting via ZOOM

**Wednesday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup> - JERSEY DAY**

- Noon - Music Pizza sales
- 3:15pm GOLF club session at Gorge Vale

**Thursday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> -**

**Friday, Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**

- Noon - Anime/Manga Club in the Learning Commons

## Looking Further Ahead:

**Wednesday October 20 and 21** – Parent Teacher Communication evenings

**Thursday October 21** – Great BC ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

**Friday October 22** – District Pro D Day

**Athletics** Congratulations to all of the students that took part in Cross Country, Touch Rugby and Ultimate Frisbee. Also a big thank you to Ms. Pelletier, Ms. Elliot, Mr. Harris and Mr. Snider for volunteering to coach our school teams. The students did an amazing job, not only competing in their respective sports, but also representing our school community through sportsmanship, teamwork and cooperation. We are very proud of our young ravens and look forward to the next group of athletes that will represent us. That being said, the next sport of the year is basketball, so please encourage your child to listen for the announcements to sign up for one of our teams. No experience is necessary, and we expect we will be fielding multiple teams, so if you are interested/ willing to help out with coaching please let our athletic director, Mr. Harris know. He can be contacted by email at [mharris@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:mharris@sd61.bc.ca)



## **What is “Backpack Buddies”?**

Growing children require regularly available food, but many B.C. families struggle to put food on the table every day. That’s why Backpack Buddies helps to fill the weekend hunger gap - a time when children go without the support of school breakfast and lunch programs - by providing meals and snacks for the weekend directly to those who need them. Each bag is ready to eat, non-perishable and contains 9 meals, a beverage, and snacks.

The Backpack Buddies program is coordinated through teachers, administrators and social workers who advise us on the needs of their students and help identify the children who could benefit most from receiving a bag of food for the weekend. Backpack Buddies drop off the bags of food (packed in a recyclable plastic bag, that does not need to be returned) on a weekly basis to the schools. The deliveries are met by school administrators who take them to the school counsellor’s office or another location for discrete and confidential distribution to students as they leave for home Friday afternoon.

There is no cost to the school or families and we are mindful that children receiving support never feel singled out and that no one is made to feel like there’s something wrong or abnormal about their family’s circumstances.

Get Involved- From schools to donors, staff to volunteers, Backpack Buddies is a grassroots organization that recognizes the power of our collective action. Whether it's packing bags, delivering food to different neighborhoods, or donating as little as \$20 to feed one child for the entire weekend, there are many ways to get involved.

Visit [www.backpackbuddies.ca](http://www.backpackbuddies.ca) or reach out to our Program Coordinator, Laara Losier ([laara@backpackbuddies.ca](mailto:laara@backpackbuddies.ca)) to learn more.

### **SAVE THE DATE - Parent Teacher Communication**

*We will be hosting our parent Teacher Interviews on October 20 and 21. On these days students will be dismissed at 1:50pm and the interviews will be starting at 2pm. Interviews will be 15 minutes in length and booking details will be sent home by your child’s Advisory teacher early next week. This year the interviews will be conducted virtually (via teleconference) or over the phone, so your child’s teacher will be asking your preference prior to scheduling the times.*



Music Update... We are thrilled that students are getting into the routines of their regular Band, Strings and Choir classes. We are planning our first concerts of the year and are very hopeful that we will be able to host them in person, rather than via Zoom.



Thank you, for your ongoing support and communication as we work our way through the school year. Please remind your child to wear their mask, dress appropriately as the weather gets cooler, and to bring a water bottle that can be filled throughout the day. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely, *Mr. Maxwell*

## **RMS PAC News: PAC Meeting this Tuesday**

RMS PAC is a way to stay connected and involved in your child’s education. **We will be meeting, via Zoom on Tuesday October 12** and hope you can join us at the following link:

<https://gvsd61.zoom.us/j/67088204741?pwd=eDhDd2w0Z2tWVVBjeDdIYUJBMUpNUT09>