



# *From the Raven's Nest...*

for Friday, December 10, 2021

Dear Families,

**Tis the Season...** Well it is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of 2021. This has truly been a year unlike any other and on behalf of everyone in the RMS school community we want to wish you and your family the happiest of holidays. On Friday we will be sending home the term one report cards and hope that you take the time to review them with your child. As much as letter grades may have been the focus when we were in school, I really hope you take the time to read the comments as they contain the keys to success in the second term.

The last week of school before the break is an important time but also can be a busy time as we celebrate our progress this term and the upcoming holidays. Please note that there are events/activities happening each and every day. We also have a tradition here at RMS where each day there are elves hidden around the school so you may hear about the search that your child has been involved in to try to earn special treats for their classmates. As you can imagine the energy of over two hundred excited students is quite palatable and it

We realize it has been a busy term, and that everyone is ready for a break, but we wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your work to help keep everyone calm, kind, and safe as we have progressed through the year.

Happy holidays from all of us to all of you!

## **What's happening at Rockheights next week:**

**Monday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – Cosplay Day** – Students are welcome to dress up as their favourite fictional character

- Gingerbread house building contest starts

**Tuesday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> - Twin Day**

**Wednesday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> - Be Jolly on Your Roof Top** – Feel free to wear a Santa Hat, elf ears, bobbles, bells or any other winter celebration accessory

- Noon - Music Pizza sales and Gingerbread house judging
- Young Entrepreneur Fair 1-4pm in the gym

**Thursday, Dec 16<sup>th</sup> - Holiday Sweater Day**

**Friday, Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - PJ Day**

- Dollar Dog Day – Hot Dogs and Freezies on sale for \$1 each
- Report Cards go home

## **Looking Further Ahead:**

**January 4<sup>th</sup>** – School Reopens

**January 20<sup>th</sup>** – Lockdown Drill

**January 24<sup>th</sup>** – Middle School Pro D Day

### Food drive Hampers

One aspect of our school community is that we are incredibly fortunate to have the support of so many of our community partners. This is also a time of year when we like to give back to those in need, and one way that we do this is through a food drive.

Over the course of the week we will be collecting non-perishable food items in each of our advisory classes. If you are able to donate then your contributions will be greatly appreciated. All donations will be forwarded on to families in need, either in our school community or through the Mustard Seed.

### **Young Entrepreneur Fair- Wednesday from 1-4pm**

On Wednesday Dec 15, students in grade seven and eight will be setting up for the "Young Entrepreneur Fair". Over the past few weeks, students have been going through the process of designing, prototyping, producing, packaging and promoting their goods. These goods range from art items - such as posters and stickers, to household items - such as soap or cleaning items, and even personal items such as bracelets or skateboard wax. Most items range from \$1 to \$3 and I know that some students have already been planning their shopping for family gifts for the holidays.

Parents are welcome to come and join us over the course of the afternoon and we are asking that you enter the school through the doors at the end of the access road along the side of the school (the same as the entry for rentals or voting) and you will be asked to sign in and sanitize as per our safety protocols. We hope to see you there.



### JUST A REMINDER....

The Atom Smashers Robotics Team at Esquimalt High School invites ***YOU*** to the Flying Squirrel on December 12 from 3-7pm for a Jump For Bucks fundraising event! 50% of ticket profits associated with their event will go to their team. **SHOW THE ATTACHED POSTER TO THE FRONT DESK OR VERBALLY INDICATE YOU'RE THERE FOR THE ESQUIMALT ROBOTICS TEAM JUMP FOR BUCKS EVENT BEFORE PAYING, FOR VALID CONTRIBUTION TO OUR FUNDRAISER.** By coming to Jump for Bucks you are supporting STEM oriented opportunities for the youth in your community. You get to have fun while they financially benefit. They can't wait to see you there!



### **Travel Requirements**

As the winter break approaches, the District would like to remind families and staff about travel requirements when leaving and returning to the country.

All travelers returning to/entering Canada must follow the testing and quarantine requirements.

For all details, including 72 hour or less trips, please visit: [www.travel.gc.ca](http://www.travel.gc.ca).

There are some exemptions for fully vaccinated travelers who are permitted to enter Canada. We recommend that you review travel requirements prior to travel as advisories or guidelines may evolve.

Students, staff and other adults who are not fully vaccinated and have travelled outside of Canada **CANNOT** attend school for 14 days after arrival, as part of federal requirements. This includes children under 12 who are travelling with their fully vaccinated parents.

**Sources:** Government of Canada (2021). COVID-19: Requirements for fully vaccinated travellers and unvaccinated children less than 12 years of age. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/fully-vaccinated-travellers-without-covid-19-symptoms-returning-canada.html>

BC Center for Disease Control (2021). Self-isolation and Self-monitoring. <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation>

## SD 61 Inclement Weather Communication

It is a priority for the Greater Victoria School District to communicate effectively to parents, students and community partners during inclement weather. With cooler temperatures in our forecast, the District would like to remind families of its inclement weather protocol and where to find information about the determination of school closures. The District assesses weather conditions on a daily basis and puts every effort into making a determination by 6:30 a.m. of whether or not schools will remain open. The status of schools and transportation is then provided to local media and communicated to our community.

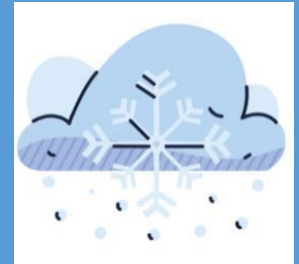
**Inclement Weather Updates are provided through the following:**

- School District website: [www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca)
- Local media outlets
- Social media channels

o Twitter: @sd61schools

o Facebook: Greater Victoria School District, @sd61schools

o Instagram: @sd61schools



The District is regularly monitoring local weather conditions and Environment Canada's forecast, and will continue to do so over the weekend. Please stay connected with us for regular updates.

The Greater Victoria Region is broad and we understand that some areas may be more difficult to travel than others. It's always a parent's decision if you choose to keep your child home due to road conditions.

**For more information about notification of school impacts due to inclement weather:**

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/inclement-weather-notifications-2/>



## SD 61 Educational Assistant Training Program

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM

JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup> TO FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

- *Are you looking to be part of a team that helps students reach their greatest potential?*
- *Do you want to make a difference in the everyday lives of children?*
- *We have an opportunity for you!*

The Greater Victoria School District is offering a three-week condensed training program designed to get aspiring Educational Assistants classroom ready!

Please visit the Employment page on the SD 61 website for more information about the program, including requirements for acceptance into the program and the application process.

Deadline to apply is **Friday, December 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**

***So on behalf of all of us here at Rockheights Middle School, we truly wish you and your family a safe, restful and peaceful holiday season.***

Sincerely, *Mr. Maxwell*