



From the Raven's Nest...

for Friday, October 7, 2022

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 your child each and every day. One aspect of our community is that we are incredibly fortunate to have community partners such as the Rainbow Kitchen 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 10th - Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Tuesday, Oct 11th - FSA's continue this week

- Lunchtime Intramural Soccer starts
- RMS PAC Meeting in the Library Learning Commons

Wednesday, Oct 12th

- Noon - Music Pizza sales & Rainbow Ravens

Thursday, Oct 13th –

- SUBWAY Lunches for those that ordered
- Indigenous Student lunch

Friday, Oct 14th

- School Wide event at the Naden Base

Looking Further Ahead:

Wednesday October 19 and 20 – Parent Teacher Communication evenings

Thursday October 20 – Great BC ShakeOut Earthquake Drill

Friday October 21– 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. Yaxley, Ms. Donich, Mr. North and Mr. MacInnis 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 maharris@sd61.bc.ca



Who are we...

Last week, I had the pleasure of introducing you to our school counsellor, Ms. Showers. This week I am happy to introduce Taily Wills, who is our Indigenous Educational Student and Family Advocate.

Taily is a Saulteaux woman from Berens River Treaty 5 and was born in Winnipeg Manitoba. Her father is Irish and Scottish and her mother is Saulteaux. She was fortunate to receive some of her education on an isolated reserve in Berens River, as well as here in Victoria. She was also advised by her Indigenous stepmother from Kingcome Inlet. Taily has been a supportive mother for many and has two children of her own and one grandchild. Taily has worked in the mental health field and for the Greater Victoria School District for 16 plus years. She is best described as an educator and truth teller with resilience and persistence. Her motivation for everything that she does is based on the opportunity to give a child a student a person a voice.



Taily will advocate and provide cultural and holistic support, resources and initiatives for Indigenous students in our schools, Nations and communities. We are very fortunate to have Taily available to support our Indigenous students and families and help us ensure this is a welcoming place for all members of community. Our first event will be on Thursday October 13 which will be a lunch for our Indigenous students. We look forward to seeing you then!



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 excited for our



students to demonstrate how far they have already come. See you soon!

SAVE THE DATE -

Parent Teacher Communication

We will be hosting our parent Teacher Interviews on October 19 and 20. On the 19th it will be regular dismissal and on the 20th 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 booked online and conducted in person or over the phone, so you will have a chance to indicate your preference using the online booking system.



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 on Tuesday October 11** and hope you can join us at the school in the Library Learning Commons.

For Grade 6 families: Immunization consent packages for grade 6 students will be sent home shortly. Follow the instructions inside the consent package and return the signed consent form to the school. Students in grade 6 will be offered immunizations in school-based clinics November 25, 2022 with the consent of a parent/guardian/representative. Covid-19 and influenza vaccines WILL NOT be offered at the school based immunization clinic. If you would like your child to receive these vaccines please register through <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/> Contact Esquimalt Health Unit at 250-519-5311 if you have any questions.

On Friday, we will have another whole school event where we will be walking down to the Naden Field to learn about the armed forces and to support them as they have a friendly competition. We are very fortunate to have these types of opportunities to connect students with their community, **but as always, if you would prefer that your child not take part please contact me directly so we can make alternative arrangements for them.**

Thank-you, for your ongoing support and communication as we work our way through the school year. I hope you have a great long weekend. Happy Thanksgiving! Sincerely, *Mr. Maxwell*