



From the Raven's Nest...

for Friday, December 2, 2022

Dear Families,

Did someone say WINTER? As we get into December, the weather definitely is getting colder. We could use your help with reminding/ecouraging your child to be dressing for the weather and, if anything, bringing an extra layer for the end of the day. We have included our district "Inclement Weather Protocol" as some forecasts continue to mention a potential for snow! Please review it on page two of this update.

What's happening at Rockheights next week:

Monday, Dec 5th –

- Legend of Zelda club at lunch

Tuesday, Dec 6th

- Pizza Day- (Please preorder by Sunday night)
- Dungeons and Dragons Club at Lunch
- 6:30pm PAC Meeting in the LLC

Wednesday, Dec 7th

- 3pm- 5pm Ravens Club
- Winter Concerts and Art exhibit

Thursday, Dec 8th -

- Chess Club at Lunch

Friday, Dec 9th

- Drama Club at Lunch

Looking Further Ahead:

December 12-16 – Winter Festivities Week

December 13 – PAC Meeting

December 14 – Young Entrepreneur Fair

December 16 – Report Cards Home
- Last Day Before Winter Break

RMS PAC News:

Don't forget about the December PAC meeting on Tuesday December 13 at 6:30pm in the LLC.

Changes for the New Year...

So, with a new year comes some changes here at the school that we wanted to share with you. We have three staff that will not be returning after the break. The first is **Ms. Guy who will be headed off to a position with VIHA** and has been a foundation of support for many of our most vulnerable learners. We wish her all the best with this new career. We know that this opportunity will be a positive move for herself and her family.

The second change is the **Ms. Pelletier will be heading off to a position at the district level** with our Inclusive Learning Department. We know that the time she has spent in our community has changed this place for the better and we look forward to her sharing her incredible skill set at a district level. For the remainder of the year Ms. Gibson will be taking on a "Teacher In Charge" role to help out with some of the administrative tasks around the school.

Lastly, **Ms. Mann will be retiring** at the end of December. She has been a part of this middle school since its transition from an elementary school and has been foundational in the growth of this school. Her legacy will continue on and we are thrilled that she will be able to pursue

some of her other passions and interests. We look forward to hearing stories of her adventures as she heads off on travels to exotic destinations. Enjoy!

Greater Victoria School District Inclement Weather Protocol

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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
- Local media outlets
- Social media channels
 - Twitter: [@sd61schools](https://twitter.com/sd61schools)
 - Facebook: [@sd61schools](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterVictoriaSchoolDistrict)
 - Instagram: [@sd61schools](https://www.instagram.com/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/>

Report Cards – Yes, report cards are coming. As mentioned there will NOT be letter grades this year as we transition towards the new Ministry reporting order. This is to put the focus on the students learning rather than just the symbol of a letter grade. Hopefully, you can start to have conversations with your child now about how they feel they have done this term. Simple questions like “What areas do you think you have improved the most this term in?” or “Are there areas that you think you need to focus on for next term?” are simple prompts that might help foster conversations leading up to the reception of reports on Dec. 16.

Lastly, a big thank you to those that have been helping minimize the congestion with morning drop off and afternoon pick up. We appreciate you not blocking driveways or trying to turn around in front of the school. In fact, I have noticed some families dropping children around the corner or down by our field and that has helped a lot. Dropping students off away from the main entrance helps everyone as they get a little exercise and the reduced congestion improves everyone's safety. We really appreciate that.

Sincerely, *Mr. Maxwell*

Winter traditions at Rockheights:

We have a couple of very important traditions that we have at Rockheights that allow students and families to explore the spirit of giving and sharing with those less fortunate.

The first is a **Clothing Drive** which is happening from now until the last day of school. Students can drop off clothing items at the office and for every item contributed they will get a ticket to enter their name for a draw for prizes. Clothing will be used both in our school clothing room and also donated to local charities.

The second “drive” is a **non-perishable food drive** that is taking place in all of our classes. The classes are competing and the class that brings in the most items will win a prize for the class. The deadline for food items is on Wednesday, Dec 14! All items will be used in our Christmas hampers that will be distributed to families in our school community.