

From the Raven's Nest...

for Friday, September 8, 2023



Dear Families,

Well it is has been a great first week! All students have settled into their permanent classes and we capped off the week with a whole school trip to Esquimalt Gorge Park. We really appreciate your support helping your child settle into the routines of middle school and I know that getting back into morning routines can be a struggle.

Next week will be another busy week with regular classes, our first PAC meeting, and the start of our Exploratory programs, Music Programs and athletic teams. This coming week we will have opportunities for students to sign up for Athletic leadership (Grade 7 and 8 students), our Media team (that does our daily announcements), Cross Country and Ultimate Frisbee teams. There are so many different activities and opportunities that it is sometimes hard to keep track. Once schedules are created, I will do my best to include practice, rehearsal, and meeting times in this update but please encourage your child to also listen to the daily announcements for reminders.

The energy in the school is palatable and we are looking forward to a great year. We continue to endeavour to share timely and specific information with you so that you can stay informed and updated about the various events and happenings here at RMS. Please also visit our website, and specifically the Parent Info page, in case you have missed any of these updates.

What's happening at Rockheights next week:

Monday, Sept 11th -

Tuesday, Sept 12th

6:30pm RMS PAC meeting in the library

Wednesday, Sept 13th

Thursday, Sept 14th

Friday, Sept 15th

School Photo Day in the morning

Looking Further Ahead:

Monday, Sep. 19 Deadline for returning Student Verification Forms

Thursday, Sep. 22 Meet the Teacher Night

Thursday, Sep. 22 Terry Fox Run (toonies for Terry)

Friday, Sep. 23 Professional Development Day (No School for students)

School Forms and Parent Connect As it happens every year, we need to ensure that we have updated information for your child and the emergency contacts in their lives. That is why we have sent home the package of forms this week and ask that you to review and complete them this weekend and return them with your child before Monday September 18. These forms include **The Student Verification Form, Our School Code of Conduct** and the **Student Emergency Release Form**.

In an effort to reduce the amount of paperwork, the district has also moved to an online system for many of the student permissions. This can be done through Parent Connect which is an online tool that allows you to give permission for a variety of reasons from field trips, to Photo permissions, to Google accounts and volunteer driver forms. Many of these documents have been uploaded so permission can be given without the cumbersome forms. Please go to <https://parentconnect.sd61.bc.ca/> , create an account and the documents should be there to complete. For more information about signup and use of Parent Connect, please visit <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-connect/>

Rockheights Daily Bell Schedule



Warning bell:	8:35am
Start time:	8:40am (in class)
Nutrition Break:	9:48-10:03am
Lunch:	11:55am -12:40pm
Dismissal:	2:50pm

Information for our new RMS families! – A refundable deposit of \$20.00 is required from all new Rockheights students. This deposit is for educational resource materials. This deposit is refundable when students leave the school provided all materials have been returned. If families do not request the return of this deposit, it is used for the maintenance and expansion of the learning resources available to students.

This deposit can be sent in by cash, cheque (payable to Rockheights Middle School) or online using the School Cash Online system at <https://sd61.schoolcashionline.com/>

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES!

With fall approaching, I wanted to share some Parenting Programs offered by the Boys and Girls Club of South Vancouver Island. Here is the schedule so you are aware of what they have to offer. All of the groups are first come, first served. Right now, their current program lineup includes:

1. **Parents Together – Tuesdays** 12-1:30 pm or 6:30-8pm – Focus on **13+**
2. **Parents in the Know – Wednesdays** - 6:30-8pm (waitlist) Focus on **13-18yrs**
3. **Parenting Without Power Struggles – Thursdays** - 6:30-8pm - Sep 14th-Nov16th Focus on **9-12 yrs**

All programs are via zoom. Parents can secure their spot by registering on our website or by using this link: <https://bgcsvi.org/programs/parenting/>

Please join us for the first Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting this week

Parent involvement and student success are strongly connected. One of the best ways to become involved at Rockheights is to participate in the school Parent Advisory Council. We extend an invitation to come out to the first meeting of the RMS PAC which is THIS Tuesday (September 12th) here at the school in the Library Learning Commons.

We hope you will be able to join us.

Thank you again for your support this week and we look forward to seeing you in the school soon. We hope that if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 250-384-7125.

Sincerely,

Aaron Maxwell
Principal

Tania Singh
Vice-Principal