

From the Raven's Nest...

for Friday, December 22, 2023



A time for love, peace, and joy... We know that the holidays mean different things to each of our families. For some it is a time of family traditions and gift giving. For others it may include travel. For some it may just be a time to rest and recover as we enter the New Year. Regardless of what the next two weeks brings to you, and your family, we really hope that you are able to take time to celebrate the joy of the season and have the hope to look forward to the opportunities that 2024 may bring.



For all of us here at Rockheights it is a time for gratitude. We are incredibly grateful to have the privilege of working with your children as they navigate their adolescent years. We are grateful to work in a community with like minded adults who really believe that **we use our unique strengths and challenges to build an empowered community**. We are grateful that we have engaged parents that read weekly updates even though they have a million other things that they could be doing! And lastly, we are grateful that our student's continue to challenge themselves to show up each day, to do their best on their assigned tasks, to take on leadership roles, and to make this a very special place for each of us to come to each day. In January we will be focussing on connectedness as we know that strong connections are crucial for students to be successful.

It is also a time of change, as Ms. Cumming (Home Ec), and Ms. LaPrairie (Division Three) leave our community, for now, to explore other adventures. I wanted to take this chance to thank them both for their contributions and wish them all the best with their new adventures. We also look forward to them returning to our community in the future. Thank you and all the best to each of you. We also look forward to welcoming back Ms. Fineberg and Mr. North in the new year!

What's happening at Rockheights next week:

NOTHING!

Well truth be told, facilities will be continuing to paint our school but it should be pretty quiet for them!

On behalf of all of the staff here at Rockheights we wish you a happy, restful and peaceful holiday season.

Looking Further Ahead:

January 8th – School Reopens

January 19th – PAC Family Fun Night

January 26th – Middle School Pro D Day

Pizza and Subway are finished for this year. We will have ordering opportunities available again in January

WE STILL NEED YOUR INVOLVEMENT: I wanted to ask that all families spend some time connecting with your children about their social media presence and especially those students that are using Snapchat. There are several group chats that consist of students from our school that are places where inappropriate language, threats and cyber bullying are taking place. There are even fake accounts being created (including at least 3 "Mr Maxwell" accounts) that are being used to provide anonymity for this negative behaviour. This is incredibly dangerous and a good reminder to be connecting with your children and actively monitoring their social media interactions to ensure they are safe and healthy especially as students may be connecting with their peers virtually over the holidays.



SAVE THE DATE! - RMS PAC Family Games Night:



On January 19 from 6pm until 8:00pm there will be a special event for all families from Rockheights Middle School. The RMS PAC will be hosting a Family Fun Games Night with food, fun, and friends. We hope that many of our families will be able to join us!



The Esquimalt Lions will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs (by donation- suggested minimum donation of \$2 per hamburger or hot dog). There will be games, crafts, and activities for people of all ages. All proceeds will be going to support our grade 8 recognition events. We hope that you can join us for this special community building event.

Volunteers are NEEDED! – Please attend the RMS PAC meeting on Tuesday at 6:30pm if you are able to help out for an hour or more at this event. We can not do this without your help!

We will also be selling Krispy Kreme donuts in the new year that will be able to be picked up at this event – STAY TUNED!

Rockheights Human Library Event – Wednesday Jan 31

Do you have a unique hobby or an interesting job? Are you an entrepreneur, an artist, or do you have a fascinating life story that you would be willing to share? Rockheights is planning a Human Library Event! We are looking for “Human Books” who would be willing to have a conversation with our students.

If you answered yes to any of the above questions then we need you! (Or if you have a friend or relative that you think would be interested then please share this with them as well – The holidays are a great time to ask friends and family as well.)

We know that middle school is a time for students to explore and try new things. Many of you were probably inspired by people you met when you were the age of our students and this is a chance to maybe pass that on to our students. The “Human Library” is an activity where people are the books and students get a chance to meet some adults that are willing to share some of their experiences. It is not about doing a formal presentation about your experiences but rather having an informal conversation with our students about what you have experienced or what inspired you in the direction of your life. Participants can come for a couple of hours, for the morning or afternoon or for the full day depending on your availability.

If you have an artifact(s) that is related to what you do, or have experienced, then you can have them displayed and students will be touring around and asking questions to hear your story.

I have been involved in this activity several times and it has been great to see parents, the public, and even former students share their experiences and hopefully plant the seeds of inspiration for our students. If you are willing/interested in taking part in this event, then please complete the form found at: <https://forms.gle/ep4mjzcHcjGjogd9> and I will connect with you to get you more details. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to email me directly at amaxwell@sd51.bc.ca Thanks!

Please see the attached holiday messages from the school board and superintendent and we look forward to seeing everyone back in 2024!

Sincerely, *Aaron Maxwell and Tania Singh*