



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

for Friday, April 19, 2024

## **Earth Day, every day!...**

One of our school goals this year is about connecting students to their place, and that includes the natural areas around our school. Our grade eights have been "Exploring the Salish Sea" and our other classes have been planning trips to the various green spaces around our community. The intention behind this is to help students feel connected and hopefully build a sense of responsibility for the care or stewardship of these natural areas.

This weekend is Earth Day, and like many of the single day events, this is just a chance to remind us of the importance of taking care of the planet and doing our part on Earth Day and the other 364 days of the year.

As I mentioned last week, we really appreciate your reminders to students to dress for the weather and to bring a water bottle as this will help them be prepared for the various outdoor activities that are planned.

Sincerely, *Mr Maxwell and Ms. Singh*

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

#### **Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- Bryne Creek Music Ensemble visits our school

#### **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** –

- Pizza sales today!- Preorder using [www.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.com)

#### **Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:15-8:35 Indigenous Drumming in the foyer
- Noon - Rainbow Ravens meet in the Art Room

#### **Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**

- Chess Club at lunch in the LLC
- SUBWAY days return for those that preordered

#### **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

- Division 1 and 4 Swimming at Esquimalt Rec centre
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### **Looking Further Ahead:**

**May 1** – Student Led Conferences and Young Entrepreneur Fair for Grade 7 students

**May 2** – Grade 6 Beginning Band festival at UVic

**May 7** – Class Photos and whole school photo in the morning



### **Pizza Note: The next Pizza Day will be Tuesday April 23.**

We have the weekly order options available online right on [www.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.com) Thanks!

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

#### **May 1 – Showcase of Learning**

This afternoon will be a chance for parents to come into the school and be toured around by your child so they can share some of the learning they have been working on this term/year. It will be an open-

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house style where parents can pop in in the afternoon and be guided around the school by your child. Details to follow next week.

## April 20 and 21 - Times Colonist book drive and book sale

The book drop-off will be held April 20-21, with the book sale two weeks later on May 4-5.

<https://www.timescolonist.com/book-drive/times-colonist-book-drive-and-book-sale-6877883#:~:text=The%20book%20drop%2Doff%20will,later%20on%20May%204%2D5>



### Save the date for 2024 Times Colonist book drive and book sale

The book drop-off will be held April 20-21, with the book sale two weeks later on May 4-5. [www.timescolonist.com](http://www.timescolonist.com)

### **From the LLC:**

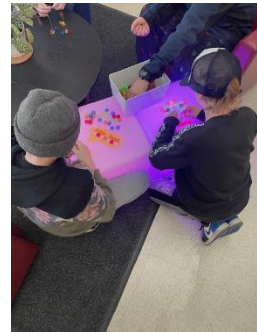
April has proven to be busy, eventful, and filled with a love for reading in the Library Learning Commons. We have jumped into a focus on poetry and our maker space. Division 2 have found joy in creating felting creatures and building spaceships using cardboard and our make-do fasteners and tools. Division 9 has also worked on building the tallest structures possible and creating rock creatures after enjoying the mindfulness of the book, *Ishi* by Akiko Yabuki.



The Library has applied for a maker grant from the Pathways and Partnerships Program in our school district. With this, the LLC has purchased light tables in the form of these super cool glowing cubes. The students are enjoying the ambient lighting and seating but also enjoy exploring and investigating all the potential of these sensory cubes.



Another exciting piece to share is that we were awarded almost **\$2000 in grant money from the Times Colonist Raise a Reader program**. We will be filling our library with beautiful and inspiring books using the students' wish lists and supporting small local bookstores. **Thank you to the Times Colonist and the annual book drive that supports literacy.**



Finally, the library is so appreciative for the student and parent volunteers who come each week and help to make it such a beautiful space. Thank you to Angel V, Emma S, Milla L, Brooklyn D, Alyssa D, Deb and Linda.

## **Community Opportunities:**

- 1. The District of Saanich's Child & Youth Division is pleased to announce that the Youth WYLD Leadership Program is now accepting applications for Summer 2024.**

This hands-on mentored placement program is perfect for youth who are interested in working with community, becoming a summer camp leader, teacher, lifeguard, fitness instructor, police officer, first responder and so much more. Students must be completing grade 8 in June of 2024 to be eligible to apply. This program is a two-year process in which youth are placed with a mentor to help them gain leadership skills to put towards future employment or post-secondary education. Youth are guided to become confident, self-aware, and empathetic leaders with a growth mindset



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all while having a blast in a summer camp or aquatic setting. New this year, we have added a partnership with the Saanich Police Department. Youth will have the chance to be a police officer for the day and see exactly what it entails. This option is great for youth who want to one day be a first responder.

In the last three years, this highly regarded program has mentored over 150 youth and helped them gain experience for employment and post-secondary education in a variety of fields. Many youth who have completed this program now work for The District of Saanich as program assistants and program leaders. If you would be so kind to please share the attached poster with your school community, parents and students through your website, school newsletter or in the classroom that would be greatly appreciated. In the link below, you can access all the details involved in applying for the WYLD program, including our youth led WYLD commercial.

**Website Information & Application :** [Leadership | District of Saanich](#)

For more information, please reach out to me directly. I am looking forward to another summer of encouraging the future leaders of our community.



**2. Also from Saanich: Learn how to Meditate with Mary Ann.** In this six-week introductory course you will learn the skills needed to practice Mindful Meditation. Research supports the benefits of incorporating regular meditation in our daily lives. Whether it is for competitive sports, coping with anxiety, or dealing with everyday stressors, being able to calm our nervous system with mindful meditation has proven to have multiple benefits. Learn the basic tools to meditate while sitting, walking, and laying down. Meditation is for all ages, and this introductory course is for youth. As a teacher for thirty-five years, I've witnessed the stress teens experience with school, friends, family, and sports. The ability to calm ourselves with breath, and quieting the mind through the practice of meditation is a power tool everyone can develop and use for the rest of

their life.

For more information about either of these programs please contact

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