****

**Jan 19, 2023**

[Rockridge Secondary School website](http://westvancouverschools.ca/rockridge-secondary/)

[WV School District Website](http://westvancouverschools.ca/)

[Follow Rockridge Secondary on Twitter](https://twitter.com/RockridgeSS)

[Morning Announcements](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQbp5w3LPw3eE66VkeWIXM4q0tNWhe4Rx0GUve2RdTkn6quHDjmRV8VAANQr4lS1EyGouFgjvS0hBxO/pub)

| **CALENDAR UPDATE** | |
| --- | --- |
| Fri, Jan 20 | * Economics (ESP) Class to City Council |
| Sat, Jan 21 | Celebrate Lunar New Year 2023 @ West Vancouver Community Centre - see attached |
| **UPCOMING** | |
| Jan 23-26 | * GRADUATION LITERACY ASSESSMENT (GLA 10) - see details below |
| Tues, Jan 24 | * 1:15 – 2:50 pm Gr. 8 Science Fair |
| Thur, Jan 26 | * 12:40 Dismissal - MYP Collab - School Bus leaves at 12:-00 * DEADLINE for course selection and/or changes for Semester 2 |
| Jan 27 - 29 | * Senior Bands’ Victoria Trip |
| Fri, Jan 27 | * ProD Day - NO CLASSES IN SESSION |
|  | |
| Mon, Jan 30 | Review & Completion: See details below |
| Tues, Jan 31 | * Semester Turnaround Day * - 7:30 pm Gr. 9 - 12 Course Planning Evening |
|  | |
| Wed, Feb 1 | * First Day of Semester 2 |
| Thu, Feb 2 | * 6:30 - 7:30 pm AP & Cohort Program Presentation (Virtual) |
| Feb 3 - 5 | * VMUN - Details coming soon! |
| Tue, Feb 7 | * Block 5 - Gr. 8 Careers attend MYP PP Exhibition - Player’s Hall & Cafeteria |
| Thur, Feb 9 | * Semester 1 Final Reports Posted to MyEd Parent Portal * Block 5 - Gr. 9 Careers Attend MYP PP Exhibition - Player’s Hall & Cafeteria * 6:00 – 8:00 pm MYP Personal Project Exhibition - Player’s Hall & Cafeteria * Semi Formal @ Pinnacle at the Pier 6-10pm |
| WV Youth Services click [here](https://www.westvancouver.ca/parks-recreation/youth) | |

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

The third Wednesday of the month can be a busy meeting day for me and this week was no exception. After school I hosted our January Staff Meeting in the Learning Commons and then followed that up with our first PAC meeting of 2023. In both cases, it is important for me to share that I actually look forward to these busy meeting days and the leadership skills that I get to use with my colleagues and parent leaders.

After 20 years of being a school administrator, I am well aware of the sentiments some folks may have about the dreaded faculty meeting or parent advisory meeting. At this point in my career, I recognize these gatherings as opportunities that need to be considered as special events. With this in mind, I have already begun planning for February’s Staff Meeting so that our time together can be as effective as possible focusing on the things that are going to influence and impact our teaching and learning at Rockridge. Yesterday’s best example to help communicate the kinds of thinking we were doing as a staff included an opening presentation from two teachers about OpenAI. If you are unfamiliar with this technology, I have included Superintendent Kennedy’s post for you to read below. Next week I will continue some further thoughts on this topic from our work together as a staff.

I cannot say enough about the positive things our PAC is doing to support our students and school. Yesterday’s special - *on the road PAC meeting at The Orchard* was not only well attended but included a fantastic parent education session (see the Raven Life attachment) as well as, updates on our Outdoor Gather Space. Other committees have events they are planning or volunteering for, so the next minutes and updates from our PAC will be an important read for all school community members. Like our staff meeting, the PAC meeting is very much a collaborative effort with many voices included in the planning and presentation to provide a rich time together that helps to move our school forward.

Superintendent Kennedy’s Post on AI: [Could AI Replace School Superintendents?](https://cultureofyes.ca/2023/01/09/could-ai-replace-school-superintendents/)

Today’s Raven Life attachment includes a few photos from this week and still includes the special event invitations for next week’s Gr. 8 Science Fair, February’s Gr. 10 Personal Project Exhibition, and district wide TedX event.

**SEMESTER END DATES and DETAILS**

We would like to make special note of the Semester end dates, transitions and routines for January 30 and 31. They are included in the calendar above as well as some more detailed description below.

**Monday, January 30** (Student Review & Completion) We will run our regular Monday Block Rotation on this day. Student attendance is expected for students with outstanding work. Teachers will communicate with those students who are required to be in attendance for the appropriate block rotation on this date. As a parent/guardian, if you are not sure if your student should be attending on this date, please contact the teacher directly. Please note there is no formal attendance taken on Monday, January 30th.

**Tuesday, January 31** (Semester Turn Around Day) Student attendance is not required on this date and no formal attendance will be taken. Academies and District Programs that run during Block 5 (Linear) will be running as normal on Tuesday, January 31st. Families will receive information directly from their Academy or District program leaders with details about this date.

**COLLAB BLOCK SCHEDULE & EARLY DISMISSAL -** See Schedule Below Please note: buses will leave at noon so that students can catch the 12:35pm Bowen ferry.

To give the teachers the opportunity to fully focus on their MYP collaboration, we ask that if students remain in the building, they quietly work/study in the common area learning spaces available around the school. The classrooms and library will be off limits.

|  |
| --- |
| **Thurs, Jan 26** |
| **Block 3 - 8:30-10:10** |
|
| **Break - 10:10-10:15** |
| **Block 4 - 10:15-11:55** |
|
| **Bus Departs -12:00pm** |
| **Block 5 11:55-12:40** |
| **Lunch 12:40-1:20** |
| **MYP Collab - 1:20-2:50** |

**2023-24 COURSE PLANNING EVENING**

At the end of the month, we will welcome parents and students to our school. We have a great teaching and learning story to share. Rockridge Administration and Counsellors will host Parent Course Planning Information Sessions. Ministry Graduation Requirements, Core and Elective course offerings will be highlighted along with a moderated Question and Answer session.

**Tuesday, January 31st** - Grade 9-12 Course Planning Evening 6:00-7:30 pm at Rockridge

**Thursday, February 2nd** - Advanced Placement and Cohort Program Presentation 6:30-7:30 pm (Virtual)

In preparation for course planning, please help your **grade 9-11 students to login into MyEd**. This is where they can view their current schedule and report cards and make course requests for next year. Instructions were emailed to all grade 9s on Wed. Jan 18th. Grades 10 and 11 will receive updated instructions on Jan 30th. Grade 8s will complete course selection on paper so do not need to log into MyEd unless they want to.

**LOCKDOWN DRILL - held January 17th**

A school lockdown is a rare occurrence. However, in the event that there is an imminent threat to the safety of staff and students in the building a lockdown will be initiated.

The purpose of a full internal lockdown is to avoid harm to students and staff and maximize their protection. The three key objectives in these situations are to:

• Hide oneself from plain sight

• Remain quiet at all times

• Remain still

The WVPD Officers in attendance were impressed with all aspects of our drill and commented on the respectful and professional tone of teachers EAs and subsequently the students.

**AWARDS 2022-23 - Held on June 26th**

It is time to start nominating yourself for a major Rockridge award- **Principal’s Awards of Merit, Rockridge Prestige Award (Athletics or Fine Arts), Caulfeild Village Merchant Community Spirit Award, Morgan Backhouse Award, Rock Solid Award and Service Award**. To prepare for future scholarship applications, we are asking grade 8-11 students to fill out the appropriate forms (linked [HERE](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oXyMRfC68YdjfDa1NkTRCn0PlsSyRVrQ/view?usp=sharing)) in order to be recognized for a major award for the 2022-23 school year. Teachers will continue to nominate students for subject recognition awards but will no longer nominate for major awards but instead review the applications to determine the rightful winners. You will find descriptions of the awards and links to the application forms [HERE](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12La-htRSP57g-G2qpuSlc7rltbDDdEf7/view?usp=sharing). Applications are due **May 28th @midnight**.

As inspiration and to recognize them again - here are the 2021-22 school year winners - CONGRATS!!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Principal's Award of Merit** | |
| 8 | Kimberly Cheng |
| 8 | Kate Stewart |
| 9 | Baran Chahardovalee |
| 9 | Alexandra Hui |
| 10 | Alina Jarvis |
| 10 | Finnan Jones |
| 11 | Katelyn Jewell |
| 11 | Caroline Ren |
| **Prestige Awards - Athletics** | |
| 8 | Daveigh Valleau |
| 9 | Anson Chen |
| 9 | Shane Spicer |
| 10 | Charlotte King |
| 11 | Callie Taylor |
| 11 | Noah Lund |
| **Prestige Awards - Fine Arts** | |
| 8 | Audrey Salager |
| 9 | Kathy Wang |
| 10 | Kate Gardner |
| 10 | Jessica Mao |
| 11 | Penelope Patterson |
| 11 | Adelina Pocock |
| **Caulfeild Village Merchants Community Spirit Award** | |
| 10 | Marin Elvin-Jensen |
| 10 | Jason Berzins |
| **The Morgan Backhouse Memorial Award** | |
| **9** | Kisely Barbic |
| **Rock Solid Award** | |
| 8 | Lucy Hille |
| 8 | Eldon Pang |
| 9 | Yuumi Yamauchi |
| 9 | Lilia Babapour |
| 10 | Robert Blaney-Zuniga |
| 10 | Lauren Merrick |
| 11 | Nick Collier |
| 11 | Phi Zhang |
| 11 | Talulla Cox |

**WEBSITE CALENDAR**

The Rockridge Website Calendar is currently under repair and should be reinstated soon. In the meantime, please refer to the calendar above for upcoming important dates.

**MYP PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION: Parents of Grade 10 students**

We would like to mark your calendars for the **Personal Project Exhibition** taking place February 9th, 2023 from 6 – 8 pm! The students have been exploring, planning, developing, and producing lots of amazing projects that speak to their ingenuity, perseverance and passion. We are so excited to celebrate and share with you all that they have accomplished!

Please see today’s attached Raven Life for our Poster Invitation.

**GRADUATION LITERACY ASSESSMENT (GLA 10) - January 23-26**

All Grade 10 students must complete the Graduation Literacy Assessment (GLA) the week of January 23-26. The tests have been scheduled and students can find their exact time and location on a list shared through the **Grad class of 2025 google classroom**. In addition, gr 12s that did not complete the GLA 12 in November or gr 11s that did not do the GLA 10 last year have received an email with their test date and time. If students have a conflict or any questions, please contact Ms. Towers [jtowers@wvschools.ca](mailto:jtowers@wvschools.ca)

ASAP.

For assistance with preparing for this assessment, students should refer to [this document](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oL0zTEiC5cvbZNGd7wR-m-djSRuf_cCLw1YHsJIPAIA/edit?usp=sharing) - with links to practice assessments. If a student wishes to rewrite the GLA10, GLA12 or GNA10 assessment, they must contact Ms. Towers.

**RAVENS ATHLETICS:**

This week it is time for a winter sports update from our current team coaches and managers to help keep you updated on the success of our Raven athletes and teams.

**Grade 8 Ski Trip**

Rockridge is offering a ski trip to grade 8 students on Wednesday **February 1st in Whistler.**

The bus leaves Rockridge at 6:30 am and returns by 5:30.

* Students are in lessons with similar level skiers and snowboarders. No experience necessary.
* Space is limited please join the google classroom to see how to sign up **zwo6xh5**

**The Ski and Snowboard team - see photos in Raven Life attached**

The Rockridge Ski and Snowboard team has been preparing for 2 races at Blackcomb. We will be racing against all the Highschool teams from the North Shore. There are races for novice and experienced skiers and snowboarders. If we do well at these races, we will travel to Sun Peaks for the Provincial Championships. Rockridge has been crowned BC Champions 3 times in the school's history.!

**Ravens Basketball**

The Senior Boys basketball team has been preparing for the second half of the season. Coming off a pre-Christmas tournament in Chilliwack, the team has a busy week ahead with Games @ West Vancouver on the 17th, Pacific Academy the 19th and a tournament at Collingwood School.

Senior Girls had their first win of the season defeating Seycove 37-34 at Home last week. This week the girls are playing at West Vancouver on the 17th, and then will have the rest of the week to prepare for their next home game Jan 24th

Juvenile Girls have been working hard as they learn the sport of basketball. They played in a tournament at Sutherland in early January and head to Sentinel this afternoon for a game.

**Raven Ice Hockey**

The North Shore High School Hockey League is a local league created and run by 2 teachers in West Vancouver since 2019. We started this grassroots high school hockey program to allow our students to play with and against their friends at rival North Shore high schools. The season will begin late March and run through mid-May. Most games start at 2:15 PM and will be held at the West Vancouver Arena with some limited games at Canlan Ice Sport North Shore and Hollyburn Country Club. Past participants include students at Rockridge, Collingwood, West Vancouver, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Windsor, Handsworth, and Carson Graham.

This is a non-contact league for both males and females in grade 8-12. There will be an informational meeting on the team's selection process and terms of participation. If you are interested, go to the Google Classroom and add the class code **owc2sjg** You will then be notified of the upcoming events. Please register as we are still looking to put in a team this year. Deadline January 31, 2023.

**Rockridge Wrestlers going to Port Alberni Feb 3 - WV**

Rockridge Wrestlers are headed off for a 2-day Wrestling tournament in Port Alberni. There will be wrestlers from all over the province making it a very competitive and demanding event. Wrestling is not an easy sport, and this event will be a great test of a wrestler’s ability. Good luck to our Rockridge team:

• Maxx Z

• Wyatt P

• Giovani N

**Stay up to date on Raven Athletics:**

* **Basketball Home Games:** check the website calendar for schedules [**HERE**](https://westvancouverschools.ca/rockridge-secondary/events/)**.** Our student athletes should be members of their team’s Google Classroom for full team schedules and messages.
* Follow Rockridge Secondary on Twitter: [Rockridge Secondary Twitter](https://twitter.com/RockridgeSS)
* Follow Rockridge Secondary on Instagram: [@rockridgess](https://www.instagram.com/rockridgess/)
* Contact Mr. Ian Armstrong [IArmstrong@wvschools.ca](mailto:IArmstrong@wvschools.ca) if you have questions regarding our winter Athletics program.

**YEARBOOK UPDATE**

The deadline to pay for the 2022-2023 Rockridge yearbook is February 28th! This item has been added to all students’ SCO accounts. Payment ($50) can be made here: [School Cash Online](https://westvancouver.schoolcashonline.com/)

**BLOCK 5 UPDATES**

Our Tuesday and Thursday schedule provides ongoing opportunities for students to use their time to

focus on their individual curricular needs.

January 17th - Course Selection Planning. This was a very helpful and informative session to assist students with their preparation for Gr. 9 and 10 course selection.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SEMESTER ONE**  **Gr. 8 & 9 Careers Dates for Block 5** | | **SEMESTER ONE**  **Gr. 8 Advisory Dates for Block 5** | |
| Thursday | Tuesday | Grade 8 Advisory #7 | Thurs. Jan. 12 |
| January 5 | January 17 | Grade 8 Advisory #8 | Tues. Jan. 24 |

Teacher locations during Block 5: [bit.ly/rrFITlocations22](https://bit.ly/rrFITlocations22)This list will help students plan their effective use of their flexible instruction time.

Automated phone calls/emails are sent home when students are absent from a class. This includes Block 5 for grade 8 students and Careers for grade 8 and 9. The automated call system does not specifically explain which block a student missed, so we do ask that parents/guardians discuss any unexpected absence calls with your student first, then call our office if you have further questions or inquiries.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

Celebrate Lunar New Year 2023 @ West Vancouver Community Centre Jan 21st- see attached

**CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES - High Schools Give Life - Thurs, February 2nd 1:00-7:45 pm**

**West Vancouver Donor Centre - 1305 Taylor Way - See attached for details**

Join the challenge – and serve up some inspiration. Make a difference to patients across Canada by donating as a team. Create your own team, donate and share your donation stories. Let’s inspire the community together.

### **YOUTH & VAPING: Information, Considerations, Impacts - Thurs, Feb 9 from 7-9 pm - see attached**

Location -**Handsworth Secondary 1033 Handsworth Road North Vancouver, BC V7R 2A7**

Let’s talk

* Products
* Stats
* Health
* BC Legislation
* Local Supports
* And More...

### **Register** [**here**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-vaping-information-considerations-impacts-tickets-517009949677)

**RECURRING NEWS ITEMS**

**Annual Winter Weather Reminder:** Use this link for information about the communication of weather closures and procedures: [**SCHOOL DISTRICT WINTER WEATHER PROCEDURES**](https://westvancouverschools.ca/news/weather-closures-and-procedures-3)

**District Affordability Fund**

The Ministry of Education has provided West Vancouver Schools $650,000, a one-time funding grant for us to make the 22/23 school year more affordable for students and families in need. We have now received the funding for our 18 schools and have allocated the money based on the specific needs of each of our school communities. Our allocation:

* Will allow schools to cover costs for school fees, school supplies or other school related costs for students in need
* Some funds will be used to benefit large groups of both elementary and secondary students

Families are encouraged to reach out to Mr. Kolkea if any financial support is needed for school-based supplies, fees or activities.

**2023-24 Secondary Timetable**

The current “Transitional Secondary Timetable” was designed to provide flexibility and support for students, schools, and programs as we navigated COVID 19 restrictions, guidelines and uncertainty. As part of the 2023-24 timetable planning process, the school district used feedback from the Spring 2022 Student, Parent and Staff timetable surveys, and conducted a series of timetable focus group conversations. These focus groups have included conversations with the teachers, staff, students, parents, as well as representatives from our district programs, courses and departments.

After careful consideration, to best meet the needs of our students, schools, and diverse programs, West Vancouver Schools will be transitioning to a Linear Secondary Schedule that includes flexible instructional time for the 2023-2024 school year. In a linear timetable students will take eight courses for the entire school year instead of the current two semester timetable, where students take four courses at a time for half the year. Flexible instructional time provides students with time and flexibility to engage in personalized learning. This may include additional support, guidance with specific curriculum and interests, the opportunity to collaborate with others, and time to complete assignments, assessments and projects.

Over the next few months, the school district will work closely with schools to design a linear timetable that is responsive to the needs of our diverse programs, and enhances student choice, experiences, and opportunities. Final timetable details will be communicated before Spring Break.

**Health & Safety**

We want to ensure all our families know that the wellness of our Rockridge community is always top of mind. There are three simple reminders we continue to share with staff, students and caregivers:

1. Hand hygiene is an effective means to prevent illness.
2. Wearing a mask is always an option for members of our school community.
3. If you are not well, stay home, rest and return when you are better. Students can use Google Classroom, contact their teacher or classmates to keep up with assignments.
4. **Cold & Flu Season -** When to keep your child home from school - click [here](http://www.vch.ca/Documents/when-to-keep-sick-kids-home-from-school.pdf)

**UNIVERSAL BATHROOM UPDATE**

In a collaborative effort with our GSA student club and Rockridge staff we have expanded the availability of universal bathrooms so there is now one on each level of our school. One of the upstairs staff bathrooms is now a Universal Bathroom. We have noted to students and staff that the other bathroom is still for staff use only. In our morning announcements the following message has also been shared with our school community over the past few weeks: The new Universal bathroom will be shared between staff and students, and is open to anyone. However, we ask that students who feel comfortable using other bathrooms please do so, and leave the Universal Bathroom open for students and staff who need it. Please be respectful of the space and your peers. Feel free to bring any questions or concerns to the GSA club, which meets on Tuesdays at lunch in G201.

**Traffic Safety at Rockridge**

Our traffic and safety committee will be meeting again in the new year to review action items and messages to improve traffic flow and safety around our school.

**SchoolCash Online - Student Fees**

Rockridge uses School Cash Online for school items requiring payment. This system is utilized throughout the West Vancouver School District, and you and your child will continue to receive payment requests in this manner. If you are new to the WV School District and have not yet registered for SchoolCash Online, we can provide you with a temporary PIN number to be used the first time you log in, then you will be prompted to create a login and password for future access. Please email [rockridge@wvschools.ca](mailto:rockridge@wvschools.ca) with your student’s name and grade to request this PIN if you are not yet set up with an account.

**Excused Absences and Early Dismissals**

If a student will be late for school or missing a block, parents are requested to inform the school by sending an email to rockridge@wvschools.ca . Please include the student’s full legal name and grade, time of Absence and Reason for Absence. Students arriving ‘late’ for class should proceed directly to their class and check in with the teacher who will modify the attendance to indicate ‘late’ rather than ‘absent’.

**Policies & Procedures Form 2022-2023** -<https://eforms.sd45.bc.ca/Form/PandP>

This online verification and consent form requires a parent login and must be completed for all students each year. If a parent previously created an account to complete the 21/22 form, the account is the same. If you have forgotten your password, you can follow the instructions to reset it. Once logged in, parents have the option to either update a P+P form created last year or start a new one.

Please be aware that a new P+P consent form MUST be completed for each student, each school year. Without a completed consent form, students are not permitted to access their Google classrooms, have their photos included in the yearbook etc. Permissions expire on August 31 each year.

**Student Verification & Emergency Release Forms**

These forms were sent home with your child at the beginning of the school year. Please return as soon as possible so that we can complete our Emergency Preparedness Plan.

**MyEducation BC & BC Services Cards**

MyEducation BC has developed a new feature that provides BC students and parents with the choice to connect their BC services card to MyEducation BC and use the BC services card app, rather than the district issued username and password. Please see the [MyEducation BC Family Portal](https://westvancouverschools.ca/family-portal#1582137227642-38c8a1cb-8ca3) on the West Vancouver Schools Website and select ‘Student Portal Guides’ or ‘Family Portal Guides’ as appropriate for further information.

**2021-2022 Yearbooks Available (Last Year’s Books)**

If you missed your chance to buy a yearbook last year, we have a limited number available! You can purchase them from the office for $50 by credit or debit.