



ROCKRIDGE

ESSE QUAM VIDERI



Jan 26, 2023

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CALENDAR UPDATE	
Jan 27 - 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Bands' Victoria Trip
Fri, Jan 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ProD Day - NO CLASSES IN SESSION - Cafe Closed
UPCOMING	
Mon, Jan 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review & Completion: See details below - Cafe Open with Limited Menu
Tues, Jan 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semester Turnaround Day - see details below - Cafe Closed 7:30 pm Gr. 9 - 12 Course Planning Evening
Wed, Feb 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of Semester 2
Thu, Feb 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 - 7:30 pm AP & Cohort Program Presentation (Virtual) CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES-High School Challenge - 1:00-7:45 pm - 1305 Taylor Way Family Smart - Connect and Learn: Eating Disorders - 6:30-8:30 - Register here
Feb 3 - 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VMUN - Details coming soon!
Tue, Feb 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Block 5 - Gr. 8 Careers attend MYP PP Exhibition - Player's Hall & Cafeteria
Thur, Feb 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Youth & Vaping - 7-9 pm - Handsworth Secondary - Register here
WV Youth Services click here	

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This week's Raven Life is an amazing five pages of photos and captions that hold a significant message about our teaching and learning opportunities that comprise the end of this first semester. Over the years I have often worried that we may not be finishing strong or thinking enough about student engagement as we approach the end of the semester or year end. It is quite clear that the focus of our Rockridge school community is ensuring students are doing their best and being provided with a variety of opportunities to showcase their learning and success. The end of semester comes with deadlines for students and the challenge of striking a balance between reaching your goals and managing the

demands of four (or more) courses. For students in the class of 2023 to those in the class of 2027 academic achievement is top of mind for our Ravens. Grade 10's have added diligently writing online GLA assessments this week, an example of how the road to graduation is often top of mind for our Ravens at any grade.

At the same time, I do see and hear our staff being mindful of providing support, focusing on wellness, and inserting celebrations and even fun to highlight a balanced experience in our classrooms. This too is reflected in the Raven Life this week; although the creation of a Science project can be challenging for our Grade 8 students, the format of a fair brought energy, excitement and celebration to our learning on Tuesday. Similarly, ESP students were able to present in the formal setting of City Hall - a lot of work to prepare, but a special setting to share their proposals. Lastly, working collaboratively on a flood plan was no easy task for our Political Studies 12 Class, but getting to share it with active members of government made the work feel that much more rewarding.

Tomorrow our staff will be joining all of West Vancouver teachers and staff at WVSS for a professional development day with a focus on the theme of 'sense of belonging'. Next week I will share a few highlights from Friday's learning and the importance it will have on our work together supporting our students at Rockridge.

You may recall that last week I wrote about a topic staff and students are engaging in extra learning about recently - AI. By way of adding more perspective on this topic, I have included Superintendent Kennedy's second post on AI: [Can We Please Not Jump to Banning Stuff!](#) Our professional learning and dialogue between staff is working on how our school will adjust and adapt to this new technology. Again, more on this topic in future bulletins and blogs.

Please be sure to clarify with your student whether they should be attending one or more blocks on Monday for review and completion. Families can check with their teachers if they are uncertain as we do not want any students not successfully completing their courses. See below for more information about the structure for the start of next week:

Monday, January 30 - Review & Completion Day

We will run our regular Monday Block Rotation on this day. Student attendance for those with outstanding work is expected. Teachers will communicate with those students who are required to be in attendance for the appropriate block 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. There will be no formal attendance taken on Monday, January 30th, and though the cafeteria will be open, they will be offering a limited menu.

Tuesday, January 31 - Semester Turn Around Day

Student attendance is not required on this day and no formal attendance will be taken. Academies and District Programs that run during Block 5 (Linear) will be running as normal and families will receive information directly from their Academy or District program leaders with details about this date.

*Note the Cafeteria will be closed

2023-24 COURSE PLANNING EVENING

At the end of the month we will once again welcome parents and students to our school for our Rockridge Administration and Counsellor hosted Parent Course Planning Information Sessions. Ministry Graduation Requirements, core and elective course offerings will be highlighted along with a moderated question and answer session. We encourage you to attend the session(s) that are specific to your student's future at this time.

- **Tuesday, January 31st - In Person** Grade 9-12 Course Planning Evening 6:00-7:30 pm at Rockridge. Grade 8 into 9 and 9 into 10 parents will meet in Player's Hall and Grade 10 into 11 and grade 11 into 12 will meet in the Library Learning Commons. Here are links to FAQ at parent info evenings - Grade [8/9](#) and Grade [10/11](#)
- **Thursday, February 2nd - Virtual** Advanced Placement and Cohort Program Presentation 6:30-7:30 pm Click [HERE](#)

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. Grade 10 and 11s 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.

MYP PERSONAL PROJECT EXHIBITION: Parents of Grade 10 students

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. *You will not be disappointed by the creativity, depth of learning and variety that this exhibition will provide.* We are so excited to celebrate and share with you all that they've accomplished!

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO MATH CONTESTS (Pascal, Cayley, and Fermat Contests)

These contests will take place on Wednesday February 22nd from 8:30 – 9:30 am (1 hour) in the Library. These math contests challenge students from around the world with a range of abilities to grow valuable problem-solving skills.

If any student is interested in writing one of these contests, please pay \$6.00 on [School Cash Online](#) by February 6th at 8:00 am.

For practice, please see past contests at: https://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/past_contests.html

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](#)) 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](#). Applications are due **May 28th @midnight**.

WEBSITE CALENDAR

The Rockridge Website Calendar is currently under repair and has not yet been repaired by our IT department. In the meantime, please refer to the calendar above for upcoming important dates.

2023-2024 CARPENTRY: YOUTH TRAIN IN TRADES APPLICATIONS OPEN

The West Van School District's Carpentry: Youth Train in Trades is for students who are keenly interested in acquiring industry recognized skills and certification in carpentry, construction and related trades. By completing this program students receive 16 credits (4 courses) towards high school graduation, in addition to Level 1 Carpentry Training. Students learn lifelong skills, participate in work experience, and have the opportunity to learn right on the job site! To learn more about the program [visit this site](#) and to [apply click here](#). If you have any questions, email Parnaz Kashani: pkashani@wvschools.ca & Akina Weitzel: Aweitzel@wvschools.ca

RAVENS ATHLETICS:

It is time for a winter sports update from our current team coaches and managers to help keep you in the know on the success of our Raven athletes and teams.

Ski and Snowboard Team

The ski and snowboard team travels to Whistler on January 27 for a Terrain Park GS (Ski-Cross type course) race against other schools on the North Shore.

Ravens Basketball - Our student athletes should be members of their team's Google Classroom for full team schedules and messages.

Mon., Jan 30	Bantam Boys Game at 4:00 pm Vs. Sutherland
Tue., Jan 31	Juvenile Girls' Game at 5:30 pm
Thu., Feb 2	Junior Boys' Game at 4:30 pm Vs. Howe Sound Senior Boys' Game at 6:00 pm Vs. Howe Sound Sr. Girls' Game at 7:30 pm Vs. Bodwell College
Mon., Feb 6	Playoff Games
Wed., Feb 8	Senior Boys' Game at 7:30pm Vs. Argyle
Fri., Feb 10	Grade 7 Vs 8 Games 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Stay up to date on Raven Athletics:

- Follow Rockridge Secondary on Twitter: [Rockridge Secondary Twitter](#)
- Follow Rockridge Secondary on Instagram: [@rockridgess](#)
- Contact Mr. Ian Armstrong IArmstrong@wvschools.ca if you have questions regarding our winter Athletics program.

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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](#)

BLOCK 5 UPDATES

Our Tuesday and Thursday schedule provides ongoing opportunities for students to use their time to focus on their individual curricular needs.

SEMESTER TWO Gr. 8 & 9 Careers Dates for Block 5	
Tuesday	Thursday
Feb. 7 (Gr. 8 only)	Feb. 9 (Gr. 9 only)
Feb. 21	Mar 9

Teacher locations during Block 5: 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

Med-Ed 2023 - Pathways Through Medicine - Feb 18, 2023 @ the HOpe Centre

1337 St. Andrews Avenue, North Vancouver

High school students interested in a career in the medical field are invited to attend the 5th Annual Med-Ed conference hosted by Lions Gate Hospital Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee.

This annual conference brings together experienced health care professionals and students for a morning of information and insight into medical careers. There will be an incredible line-up of panelists for this year's event who will share their personal experiences and provide advice and information on the many career pathways available.

Tickets: Get your Early Bird [Ticket](#) for \$25 before February 12 (Regular Tickets \$30 after Feb 12)

Parents as Education and Career Coaches - March 8, 2023 - 6:30-8:30 pm - MS Teams

EducationPlannerBC and SD 45 West Vancouver invite parents, families, and student supporters to join our virtual workshop: Parents as Education and Career Coaches (PECC) on Wednesday March 8th, 2023 from 6:30pm to 8pm.

Learn how you can help support your student in planning for their future. All parents and supporters of high school students are welcome, but the presentation is especially helpful for those with students in Grades 10-12.

The session is engaging and informative, and includes a Q&A.

Topics include:

- B.C.'s post-secondary education landscape, including institutions & credentials
- Program and admission requirements & key dates
- Financial assistance options & scholarships
- Navigating resources and the application process through our website www.EducationPlannerBC.ca

Hosted on MS Teams webinar. [Registration](#) is required.

For more information: support@educationplannerbc.ca

Contact: Leesa Alldred: LAlldred@wvschools.ca

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](#)

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 Returns to Linear

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](#)

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 and signage is complete. We have noted to students and staff that the neighbouring bathroom on the 2nd floor, east wing 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 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](#) 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.