

École Rockingham School

September

 2023 Newsletter

**Admin. Team Note**

Welcome Back! A special ‘Bienvenue’ goes out to new families joining our community this September and to all returning students and their families. Good home-school communication is key, so, we will endeavour to work as closely as we can with you to ensure your children are continuing to receive the best education possible. We are partners in your child’s education, and you will have many opportunities to participate in your child’s learning. Please never hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or any other member of the Rockingham Team.

Thank you for working with us to make our start to the day/drop off run as smoothly as it has. Parking enforcement will be there both in the morning and at dismissal. In the morning, with your help, drop off has been quick and effortless. A reminder that there is no driving through the staff parking lot to drop off or pick up your child at the end of the day – this becomes dangerous to the many little bodies we have coming and going!

Student safety is our top priority. If you are picking up your child during the lunch hour, please check in with the office always. We always need to know where your children are.

Also, keep in mind that it is extremely important that students be in class and on time! Routinely **picking students up early or arriving late is disruptive to the learning routines.**

We are sending home a newsletter and several forms to fill out. These forms help keep our children safe and the lines of communication open. Please send the forms back to us as soon as possible. Curriculum Night is September 20th, so that would be a good time to return them to your child’s teacher. Normally our Newsletters are sent out via the messenger system and will be posted on our website as well. In September, we are sending home paper copies. October’s Newsletter will be going home on Sept. 29. All newsletters will be sent home electronically starting in October. If you need a paper copy, please tell your teacher. To meet your team, please visit our website: <https://rkh.hrce.ca/>

Every school has a School Advisory Council. We are looking for parents/guardians and community members to join our council. If you are interested in learning about the important role SACs play in schools, please see the attached document. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to either myself or Ms. Parker.

A big ‘Thank you!” to our PSA for welcoming our new primary parents on the first day of school. It made this important ‘first’ a little easier for parents!

**Cell Phones:** In most cases, students do not need cell phones in elementary school. If you need to speak with me about this, please call the school at 902 457-8986 to discuss.

**Play Equipment:** We’ve purchased a class set of equipment that our children can use throughout the day. Students should not bring their own soccer/basket balls. Space is limited.

**Orange Shirt Day:** Saturday September 30th is Truth and Reconciliation Day. On **Friday, September 29, our school will observe Orange Shirt Day** – a national movement to recognize the experiences of residential school survivors and to demonstrate a collective belief that every child matters. This day calls for all Canadians to wear orange in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. Leading up to Truth and Reconciliation Day, all schools will participate in various learning opportunities about Canada’s history of residential schools. If you are unfamiliar with the story behind this movement, [click here](https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/what-is-orange-shirt-day). Wela’liek/Thank you for your support to reconciliation, actively ensuring that “Every Child Matters.” There will be no classes on Monday October 2nd which is Truth and Reconciliation Day Observed.

**Curriculum Evening:** Please join us in person on Wednesday, Sept. 20 6:30-7:30. We’ll be having 2 (30 minute) sessions so that parents with multiple children can visit their children’s teachers.

**HRCE Homework Hub:** This is such a useful a resource for students (and parents) as they go through the public school system.  Students sign in on their GNSPEs account. Content is continuously being added at the lower grades (4-6), including immersion 🙂.  Just a couple of features available include:

* Material organized by Unit
* Clear videos explaining topics
* Free tutoring (1-on-1 with a NS teacher)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vvcw-HLL4TeSFEy4D8ttrbD-r_5Y6QZA/view>

**Hot Lunch Program:**   

As of September 25th, our school’s hot lunch program will be up and running. This year, families will have the opportunity to purchase lunches for their child on Wednesdays(The Lunch Lady) Tuesdays (Subway) and Friday (Kennys Pizza). All orders will be made and paid for online by clicking on the “Healthy Hunger” and/or Lunch Lady visual on our school’s main webpage (as seen above). When registering, **please ensure that you are selecting the correct classroom teacher for your child – as this is where the food will be delivered!** Parents will need to send any required utensils. Also, pay close attention to the “cut off” times when ordering (i.e., the system will not let you order Pizza for Friday the night before). The online system is set up and ready to go now – feel free to start placing your orders!

**Breakfast Program** We will continue to offer a little snack/breakfast for students who would like or need to fill their little bellies when they arrive. Our program has already started. Snacks will be replenished weekly and are stored in classrooms.

**Water Bottles:** Your child needs a water bottle to stay hydrated. Please ensure you are sending one each day!

**Picture Day:** October 5 and October 6 (classes/days TBD) are our picture days. Many toothy smiles! Retakes TBA.

**X (Twitter) Follow** us on Twitter @rockinghamelem

**School-Wide Safety Procedures:** We will be practicing school wide safety procedures this month, including fire drills. The first procedure will be on Tuesday**,** September 19. The procedure is called a **Lockdown**. We will be practicing the **Hold and Secure** procedure on Monday, Sept. 25. A lockdown procedure involves teachers securing their students in classrooms, out of sight lines and locking classroom doors. A hold and secure involves the locking of all exterior doors. Regular teaching continues throughout the hold and secure drill. No one is permitted to enter or leave the building during both drills. Both types of drills last approximately 7 minutes. Teachers will be chatting with their students about the drills before and after the drills are completed.

**Important Dates:**

Monday, Sept.18: Newsletter and forms go home in paper format.

Tuesday, Sept. 19: Lockdown Drill #1

Wednesday, Sept. 20: Curriculum Evening

Thursday, Sept. 21: School Forms due (Inclement Weather, Close Proximity, Media Release)

Monday, Sept. 25: Hold and Secure Drill #1

Friday, Sept. 29: Orange Shirt Day (in honor of Truth and Reconciliation)

Monday October 2 : **No Classes** (Truth and Reconciliation Day Observed)

**Rockingham is a peanut/nut free and scent sensitive school. We have several students who have life threatening allergies to nuts (Nutella included) PLEASE ensure that you are not sending anything containing any type of nut 😊**