

December/January Parent Council Report

In such a changing environment, there is a lot to report this month. First though, thank you to all of you for helping work through these changing times with the schools. We know how incredibly difficult it can be to work, shift schedules and look after your children on such short notice. This is all a part of how we are trying to ensure that your kids can stay in school as much as possible over the next month or so.

- 1) The decision to delay the start of school was made by the Alberta Government through the Minister of Education. We found out when you found out. There were general concerns that staffing (all staffing – bus drivers, Support staff and teachers) will be an issue due to Omicron. The week has allowed schools to check in with staff, plan and generally prepare for shortages. To help prevent Omicron spread, the provincial government has: updated the daily Health Checklist, will be providing better quality masks (8 weeks' worth) and rapid tests for all students and staff. This PPE as I like to think of it, is for your discretion. They are not mandated but are tools that are being provided to help keep schools open.
- 2) January Diploma Exams have been cancelled but PATs are still planned for this year. We are sending a letter requesting they be cancelled for the school year. Dates are available on the Alberta Education website for June PAT's.
- 3) The Minister of Education has responded to concerns over the curriculum. We thank everyone who helped share their views. Much more feedback from teachers and other stakeholders will be forthcoming before implementation. Resources will also be acquired to assist with implementation and a phased approach is most likely. More will be shared as these decisions are confirmed. Should have more information at our next meeting.
- 4) RVS has been busy updating initiatives that are a part of the Four-Year Plan. Training for teachers on Blueprint Technology, participation in Literacy and Numeracy Assessments and clarification of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports in Schools. More will continue during the second half of this school year.
- 5) RVS is pausing meetings and PL that require substitutes and/or casual support staff in order to maximize availability of staff in preparation of staffing shortages.
- 6) The Board of Trustees will be doing School Tours starting in February – two days per month until the end of June. Schools in our area will be toured March 1 and 2nd, 2022. It is an opportunity for us to showcase our Schools. It provides information to all the Trustees about each local area and their school needs.
- 7) AHS will not be contract tracing or posting information about alerts and outbreaks in schools.
- 8) RVS is launching a new website as of Jan 28 – new platform and all new looks.
- 9) A motion was put forward “That effective January 3, any staff member who has refused to be vaccinated be provided at Board Cost, free rapid testing.” The motion was not passed.
- 10) As your Trustee, I sit on the following Committees: Appeals, Langdon Advisory Stakeholders, Budget, Transportation and School Councils.
- 11) I will have more information today about the IGOTMIND program if you are interested in it for your \$500.00 Grant. If I can help find more information, for other presentations, please let me know, I would be happy to assist.



MindUP - Universal
Social Emotional Trair

- 12) Programming being offered through Stepping Stones to Mental Health through the school division are as follows: Student Mental Fitness Program for Parents – Mind Up. Dates are February 7th, 2022 (in person) and March 7, 2022 (Virtual) Please register <https://register.rockyview.ab.ca/> . for both programs. As well Fourth R Training (Strategies for Healthy Youth Relationships) will also be available. Healthy Relationships Plus for 2SLGBTQIA and Youth Small Group Training. Small Group Training is this Jan 18 and 19th These programs are free.
- 13) Free Online Tutoring for Grades 4 – 9 will come online next week. To start with they will be prerecorded but as times goes on, live sessions in all subjects encompassing all grades 4 and up will be added. Look for these on www.learnalberta.ca .
- 14) Our Joint School Councils Meeting will be held on March 10th – 6:30 – 8:00. We have booked IGOTMIND as a portion of it. School Council Chairs and their Executive will be able to attend.
- 15) I will be attending the Alberta Rural Education Symposium in early March.
- 16) The Board invest 8.63 million in Schools and supports. Infrastructure, repairs and maintenance and CTF equipment for schools.
- 17) RVS lifts bans on tournaments.
- 18) Would Councils be interested in sharing their email with other Councils.
- 19) Watch for a letter from the Superintendent about Christian Schooling opportunity moving to Chestermere from Prince of Peace Schools. Information session the week of February 7th.

Do you have any questions?

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