



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER

A New School Year...

We were very happy to see the return of River Valley students to the building this week, and would like to extend a warm welcome to all new students and their families as well.

As a school community we continue to be highly committed to seeing all students succeed, and know that the foundation of the Chinook's Edge School Division mission statement that focuses on challenging, encouraging and believing in students, is the best way to accomplish this. Academic rigor and strong relationships form the basis for our work, and we are excited to move learning forward in these areas.

If you have any questions or concerns, please connect, and together we can work toward success for all this school year!

Cheers,
Leslie Cooper-Shand
Principal



Land Recognition

We acknowledge that we work, live and play on the ancestral and traditional lands of the Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 nations. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for generations. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us. We recognize the land as an act of reconciliation and gratitude to those whose territory we reside on.

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL GUIDE

STUDENT/PARENT INFORMATION
SEPTEMBER 2023

PRINCIPAL: MS. LESLIE COOPER-SHAND
VICE PRINCIPALS: MRS. TANYA BRAYBROOK, MR. IAN MULHOLLAND

ADMIN SUPPORT: MRS. KAREN OLSON, MS. SONJA LOGAN , MRS. SHELLY MATCHETT

TELEPHONE: (403) 638-3939

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff of River Valley School, I would like to welcome all of you. We hope that our time together this year is an exciting learning adventure for us all.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL

Our school strives to help students learn the knowledge and skills necessary for living in today's world. This includes the social skills necessary to build solid relationships with other students and adults. Such skills include co-operation, leadership, a strong concept of self, acceptance of responsibility, and an honest understanding of strengths and areas of challenge. We have a responsibility to help students learn respect for one-self, others and property and to become the citizens that will lead our community in the future.

We never want students to lose the sense of curiosity and wonder that drives us to learn, explore and discover. We wish to help students pursue excellence in order that they can take pride in accomplishments when best effort has been put forth. Each student should experience the pride that comes with having met challenges that are exciting and stimulating.

The following pages include a significant amount of information about River Valley School and the processes that make the school world go-round. Please do take time to read through the information when you are able. It is very important to us that key messages around behavior are clear and consistent for students, staff and families. Staff took significant time this fall to review and come to a consensus on key rules, routines and consequences in order to provide consistency for students. Below you will see a "Coles notes" version of some of these aspects that we often find ourselves giving numerous reminders about. We appreciate your support as parents in also reminding your children about some of these expectations, noted on the following page.

Please note that there will be a document capturing the most important components of school behavior sent home later this week, which requires a parent signature. This helps us work together as stakeholders committed to the success of all children - thank you.

RVS Rules/ Routines - Key Messages

Hats & Hoods

- Can be worn to & from your locker in the morning, and in & out for recess times
- Cannot be worn in classrooms or at Middle School nickel breaks
- Hats are stored in their locker, not in classrooms

Phones & Ear Buds

- Cannot be used in commons spaces: hallways, library, bathrooms
- Can be used in classrooms with teacher permission
- During class time phones are stored within the classroom or in lockers, not on students
- Phones may be used outside at recess -staff may ask to see what students are accessing on their phones at recess

Energy Drinks - should not be brought to, or consumed at school

Late to Class/ Wandering - students are to be on time for class or consequences will be in place

Hands On/Off

- Hands off is generally the best rule...but sometimes with consent a “handshake, high 5, or hug” are good ways to physically connect. These options are often coached in primary grades. As we move into Middle School the idea of consent can be trickier to navigate, as often students are not comfortable with a hug etc. from peers but are not confident enough to say so. We have seen an increased desire for many students to connect physically at this age, but also discomfort for others. Hugs between some for example have become extra long, hands here & there and so on. It can become a very ‘gray’ area to navigate. So...at this time we are asking that in Middle School in particular we respect one another’s boundaries through generally a “hands off” approach. High 5s & elaborate handshakes - A- Okay, but no hugs, hand holding and so on. As we move further into the year we may be able to re-negotiate this, particularly after some consent teaching and a gauge on the level of maturity we are seeing amongst students.
- Play fighting is a No - 80%+ of the time this ends up in a real fight
- Deliberate physical aggression/ fighting has significant consequences

Vending machine - no access for any grades during class time

Language - clean, kind, appropriate. Swearing, crude or hurtful language will not be tolerated

Vaping - is illegal, addictive and unhealthy. Significant consequences are in place for possession and/or use at school. This can be a challenging “without a reasonable doubt” offense, as students can find interesting places to conceal them. Continued reports of vaping connected to a student could result in suspension, even if there is no confiscation or admission of use.

Defiance & Disrespect - Following the direction of all adults quickly and quietly helps teaching & learning move forward. If a student has a concern with an adult request they should ask for a quiet moment to speak to the adult to respectfully discuss their concern, recognizing that moment may not be able to happen immediately.

Consequences - where possible we try to develop natural consequences. For example, using your phone when you shouldn’t results in your phone being taken for the remainder of the day, the never-off-your-head hat is stored at the office for the day, swearing = a cleaning duty, and so on. Repeat offenses result in increased consequences.

At times, consequences need to be quite significant and can include in-school and out-of school suspensions, and in rare circumstances a move to expulsion. Good school-home communication and similar expectations generally help us avoid getting to serious levels of consequence.

The complete [RVS Information Guide.](#)



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Important Demographics Updates

You will have received a Re-enrolment email in August. It is integral that we work together to ensure the safety of our children, so please ensure you have updated demographic information through the PowerSchool Parent Portal <https://powerschool.cesd73.ca/public/home.html>

(click on School Engage from the menu on left at the bottom)

Please note that unless we have legal documentation indicating otherwise, both parents noted on a birth certificate should be included as legal guardians in PowerSchool. If you have a unique situation, please connect with the office staff and they can guide you through this.

**Picture
DAY**



September 27, 2023

Monday/Wednesday Kindergarten

September 28, 2023

Tuesday/Thursday Kindergarten to Gr 8

KM Club

Starts September 6, 2023
During lunch recess Gr 1 to Gr 8
Parents may join their students
outside at their designated
recess time



If your child needs cutlery for their lunch, please send a set to school with item as we are not able to provide cutlery from the office or Growly - thank you! Styrofoam cups for water are also not available, and we would encourage all students to have a reusable water bottle at school for daily use.





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Welcome Back Open House

Sept. 7th 5:00 - 7:00

Please feel free to stop by the school to check out your child's classroom and meet their teacher and Educational Assistant staff next week during the Welcome Back Open House.

This is also the time where registration for many community extra-curricular activities occurs in the community gym, and student work from last year is submitted for the school fair and is up for viewing in the RVS gym. Feel free to make your way that direction following a visit to classrooms. You may also see an information booth about the School Council, and I would encourage you to connect with the folks there. The School/Parent Council provides a great opportunity to be connected to your child's school, and meet once a month to hear all about the RVS goings on and to have a chance to provide feedback from a parent perspective.

RVS is happy to have a BBQ concession table at this event, and all proceeds go to support various school programs and activities

We hope to see you there!



GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Stay tuned for information from your child's homeroom teacher on how to access Google Classroom. This is a great tool that allows students to manage ongoing review of challenging concepts or to study for tests, and for parents to see what concepts are being covered each week in class. If students need to be away from school, but are well enough to manage some school work, this is the way to do it :)

School Council News / September 2022

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL CHAIR, WENDY MURPHY

Welcome back to another year at River Valley School! I hope you had a fantastic summer with family and friends. I look forward to another year on RVS School Council, supporting our kids and teachers with their school and education goals! You can get in touch with us any time at rvsschoolcouncil@gmail.com

BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Come say hello on **September 7** at 5pm. There will be food, friends, school staff and school council members there to chat!

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next council meeting will be on **September 19** at 4pm at the school. Childcare will be available.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ☒ School Council meeting **September 19**
- ☒ School Council AGM on **October 17**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT COUNCIL

- Attend council meetings
- Join the volunteer list. Tasks may include picking up or dropping off items, helping with administrative tasks, making calls, etc.
- Participate and help with fundraising activities including **Casino Jan 2024**





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Attendance Matters

Your child's success is important!

We want to partner with you to build that success. One key action you can take is helping your child attend school regularly.

Research tells us that when children are in school at least 90% of the time - including in the early years - there is a direct impact on their success in school in all of the grades.





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Important September Dates to Remember...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		30 Professional Learning Day No Students	31 Professional Learning Day No Students	1 Professional Learning Day No Students
4 Labour Day No Staff No Students	5 Day 1 First day of School KM Club Begins Gr1-8	6 Day 2 Km Club Begins Grade 1 to Grade 8	7 Day 3 Welcome Back School Open House & School Fair Viewing BBQ Concession 5-7PM	8 Day 4 School Fair Viewing 11AM-1PM No Classes / No Students
11 Day 5 Growly Starts Subway Orders Close	12 Day 6	13 Day 7	14 Day 8	15 Day 1
18 Day 2 Pizza Orders close	19 Day 3 School Council 4:00PM Subway Day	20 Day 4	21 Day 5 Terry Fox Run	22 Professional Learning Day No Students
25 Day 6	26 Day 7 Pizza Day	27 Day 8 Picture Day: Mon/Wed Kindergarten	28 Day 1 Picture Day: Tue/Thur Kindergarten Gr 1 to Gr 8	29 Day 2 Orange Shirt Day Every Child Matters

