

advanced
registration
edition
January 2010

on track

Preparing K - 12 students in a global, knowledge-based era

Workplace preparation begins in grade one

Rocky View Schools (RVS) is a premier leader in forging the pathway to success for today's 21st Century learner. We recognize our students live in a knowledge-based era that is on the verge of moving to an e-economy and e-society that will vastly change the way we live - and we want to ensure our students are active participants!

The skills required by graduates entering the workforce in the not-too-distant future range from scientific, economic and technological literacy, to higher order thinking and sound reasoning. The work to ensure Rocky View students graduate with these skills is occurring now, at all grade levels.

Rocky View Schools' Portrait of a 21st Century learner outlines the attributes needed to succeed in an e-era. We believe, students will need to be:

- critical thinkers
- problem-solvers
- innovators
- communicators
- collaborators
- globally aware
- civically engaged
- self-directed learners
- information & media literate
- financially & economically literate

Teachers across the system are focused on building these skills in our students. From elementary onward students are actively engaged in a wide range of character development programs focusing on civic responsibility, citizenship, mentorship and

environmental stewardship. Through the infusion of digital technologies, teachers are helping students learn how to think critically and creatively, build oral communication skills, and work in diverse team settings. And through technological applications such as video conferencing, blogging, podcasts and digital portfolios students are engaged in becoming "knowledge creators" or "innovators" at an early age.

We also are firm proponents of enhancing the minds of ALL students to their highest capability - those who have learning difficulties, those struggling to maintain their identity, and those students in the regular program.

In the near future, we see a workforce that will turn to Rocky View Schools' students to fill emerging jobs in fields such as knowledge management and microelectronics, and existing occupations like teaching and construction.

Preparing students with the skills to compete in a knowledge-based arena is a responsibility we have embraced and are inspired by. As a public board, we welcome you to join us.

Register with RVS

From January 25, 2010 onward, parents can pre-register their child at his/her neighbourhood school. Although registration is ongoing up to the first day of school, pre-registration helps parents and children make a successful transition. RVS' January 2010 edition of Ontrack is dedicated to providing information about the jurisdiction: our vision of the future, our progress in building 21st Century learning environments thus far, and the multitude of services and programs we provide students and families in our communities. We also have provided a complete listing of school orientation sessions, open houses and other special events planned to welcome our new and returning students! To learn more about RVS' approach to learning go to www.rockyview.ab.ca.

inSide

2

AERR Highlights

Tapping into the needs of today's 21st Century learner is both fun and rewarding. Learn of RVS' progress so far.

4

New to the jurisdiction?

Learn how to get your kindergarten-aged child off to the right start or preview many of the programming choices available in the jurisdiction.

6

Rocky View schools welcome you in style!

Find out the wealth of advanced registration activities planned by schools in January through to Spring.



Building 21st Century Schools



Highlights 2008/09
Annual Education Results Report



At the helm of RVS' new direction is a progressive Board of Trustees and Senior Executive. As directed by their 2008-2011 Three Year Plan, the team worked together to allocate available funds towards supporting initiatives and strategies laid out in the plan. In 2008/09, RVS was able to achieve a 'wireless' environment and was able purchase a MacBook for each teacher in the jurisdiction, so he/she could become proficient in 21st Century tools and software. Similarly, the Learning Department reorganized so it could afford to establish 21st C Learning Facilitators and Embedded Coach teams. As well, the Technology Department reviewed and revised its technology support model to ensure adequate technological support was achieved across the jurisdiction. Revenue under Cycle 4 Alberta Initiative for School Improvement project, too, was directed towards helping achieve RVS' 21st Century learning focus by helping teachers change, adapt, and improve their instructional practices. Over the course of the year, Trustees and the Senior Executive continued to operate on an open door policy. Parents and community members are always welcome to call:

Resource Management

al practices. Over the course of the year, Trustees and the Senior Executive continued to operate on an open door policy. Parents and community members are always welcome to call:

Ward 1 - Jennifer Avery 403.935.0083
Ward 2 - Bev LaPeare 403.236.8340
Ward 3 - Sylvia Eggerer 403.948.3926
Ward 4 - Helen Clease 403.949.3428
Ward 5 - Colleen Munro 403.932.1228

Ward 6 - Bruce Pettigrew 403.709.9991
Ward 7 - Don Thomas 403.945.0224
Superintendent - Greg Bass 403.945.4002

The 2008/09 school year marked a significant year of change for Rocky View Schools. In a ground-breaking move, RVS tapped into the needs of today's technologically astute learners by realigning its instructional practices, delivery models, and organizational structures to meet the learning styles of today's 21st Century learner.

Provided below are highlights of RVS' success in building 21st Century learning environments. A complete copy of RVS' 2008/09 Annual Education Results Report, can be found at www.rockyview.ab.ca under "publications".

To better accommodate the needs of all learners, five teams, comprised of a technology specialist, a curriculum specialist, and a student services specialist, spent 12 to 18 weeks in 24 schools, working with groups of teachers to develop units that pulled learning outcomes from multiple subject areas and strongly emphasized inquiry and project-based learning. Using the principles of Universal Design for Learning, these units focused on RVS' goal of improving learning for all students by building in accommodations to meet specific needs. A 21st Century context was

Instructional Practices

brought to life by the team demonstrating the use of technological applications such as blogging, wikis, websites, podcasting, and social networking sites, as an illustration of how schools connect learning to real world tools and experiences.

Centred on the principle that building capacity increases the collective efficacy of a group to improve student learning, approximately 208 Communities of Practice were launched in 2008/09, with over 400 postings placed on the Communities' webportal. These postings included articles, links to other sites, sample lesson plans, and discussion blogs. As a result of these Communities of Practice, staff were able to link with one another and furthered their connections by initiating classroom visitations and additional meeting times. This project work also afforded teachers an opportunity to be involved with a myriad of opportunities such as producing video conferencing courses, action research, breaking down the barriers and the one-to-one laptop project. As well, RVS continued to allocate school-based and jurisdictional professional learning days in its calendar and provided professional learning sessions related to its three-year plan, such as Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Assistive Technology, Home Logic, and Mobil Technology.

Professional Learning

Parents and teachers expressed a high degree of satisfaction with RVS' preparation of students as "stewards-in-training", with 86 percent of parents agreeing that school and jurisdiction practices facilitate active citizenship. Over the course of 2008/09, schools continued to offer students a wide range of character development programs focusing on civic responsibility, virtues, citizenship, mentorship and environmental stewardship. Programs such as Greening our World, Students for Change, Alberta Mentorship Program for Youth and Adopt-a-Country also helped link students to community environment and social programs.

Citizenship

Schools continued to do a tremendous job ensuring learning transitions were seamless for students. At all levels, schools continued to provide students and parents with opportunities to become acquainted with the school prior to the students' arrival through kindergarten drives, orientation information meetings, and meet

Learning Transitions

the teacher nights. Through programs such as We Connect and work experience, students also were provided the opportunity to either continue their studies outside of the regular program or get a taste of the world of work. Satisfaction survey results in this area reveal that 90 percent of staff and 82 percent of parents are highly satisfied with the transition assistance students receive.

The safety of students, staff, and trustees continues to be a priority for Rocky View Schools. In 2008/09, the jurisdiction contracted the services of Hour-Zero to introduce a comprehensive jurisdictional emergency response plan (ERP). Designed specifically for school boards, the ERP is based on an Incident Command System, practiced by first responders (fire/police/municipal emergency responders). System and school administrators and RVS' first responders participated in an orientation session in December, 2008. From the months of January to March, Hour-Zero met individually with schools to conduct risk assessments and customize response plans. Full implementation of the plan was concluded in June 2009. Outside of the ERP, schools reported hosting a wide array of safe and

Safe & Caring Schools

caring projects that covered topics such as anti-bullying, cyber safety, and peer support. The jurisdiction's efforts to ensure schools nurture safe and caring learning environments paid off in 2008/09 as demonstrated by high satisfaction among parents and staff that "students are safe at school, are learning the importance of others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly at school". Detailed questions derived from Alberta Education's Accountability survey and Rocky View's satisfaction survey revealed over 80 percent of parents and 90 percent of staff expressed satisfaction that there is a caring atmosphere in school and that respectful relationships are encouraged amongst all staff and/or students.

Rocky View's belief that we are all learners was illustrated in all corners of the jurisdiction. In 2008/09 RVS' Senior Executive created evidence-based portfolios for their annual performance evaluations. Plans also were hatched to create a similar process for all school-based administrators, to begin in 2009/10. Respecting the contribution of all members of its learning community, RVS built the structures necessary for all support staff and school councils to develop and access professional learning opportunities. Additionally, a University of Lethbridge cohort was established to allow staff members to attain their Masters of Education within the jurisdiction. Rocky View's efforts to demonstrate and acknowledge

21st C Culture

its role in the learning process was reflected in its new satisfaction survey that was administered in June 2009 with all staff, all students in Grades 4 to 12, and open to all parents. Of the 1000 staff members who participated in the survey, 93 percent agreed that their school/the jurisdiction promotes and operates as a 21st Century learning culture.

Rocky View Schools' efforts to build leadership capacity across the jurisdiction were rewarded in 2008/09 with over 91 percent of staff indicating satisfaction with their opportunity to lead at school or at work. During the year, capacity was built through informal networks and relationship building, as well as formal development programs, including eight Superintendent Working Committees, a new Assistant Principal Mentoring program, RVS' Administrative Leadership Development Program and the jurisdiction's new Community of Practice model. Student leadership also was a focus during the year as Bow Valley High School prepared to host the 2009 Canadian Student Leadership Conference in September 2009. All aspects of the conference were planned by students, with the support of teachers and community advisors.

Leadership Capacity

Rocky View Schools' Three Year, Four Year, and Five Year High School Completion Rates reveal that over 6 percent more students are attaining their high school diplomas than the provincial average. For the 2008/09 school year, 77.1 percent of high school students earned their high school diplomas, as compared to the provincial average at 70.7 percent. Equally as impressive is the jurisdiction's Drop-Out Rate. Only 3.4 percent of RVS students are not completing high school, as compared to the provincial average of 4.8 percent. Similarly the jurisdiction's 2008/09 Diploma Exam results illustrate that RVS students continue to exceed provincial expectations in almost every subject area.

High School Completion

The use of technology as an instructional tool is gaining great momentum with 75 percent of students and 77 percent of staff indicating satisfaction with the use of technology in their school. In addition to the plethora of digital technologies such as smart boards being used more widely through the jurisdiction, the use of technological applications such as video conferencing are helping teachers make learning relevant to the world 21st Century learners live. In addition, through the use of suites such as Premier Literacy and iLife, teachers are giving students the ability to learn on an even playing-field and helping them to represent their learning in digital formats.

Technology

Schools are to be applauded for the high degree of satisfaction with parental involvement at their schools. Eighty-four (84%) percent of parents responding to RVS' survey believe they have opportunities to be involved in school decision-making processes, while 89 percent believe they have the opportunity to be involved in school activities. Eighty-nine (89%) percent of staff members also stated they believe their school council plays a meaningful role in their school.

Parental Involvement

Beginning 2008, a new Accountability Framework was developed to align schools to Rocky View Schools' new "made in Rocky View" Three Year Plan. The framework outlined a series of reports and consultative activities that helped to demonstrate the jurisdiction's progress towards achieving its progressive outcomes. To measure its progress quantitatively, students in Grades 4 - 12 and all parents and staff were surveyed in June, 2009. Efforts in this area led to the development of RVS' own Accountability Pillar, presented in its 2008/09 Annual Education Results Report.

Improvement



Getting off to a great start!

Kindergarten is one of the most exciting times in a child's life. Rocky View Schools' goal is to ensure children make successful transitions from home to school.

Rocky View's Kindergarten programs build on what your child has already learned at home and in your community. They allow children to explore and experiment with their surroundings and to learn how to interact with other children.

Based on Alberta Education's Kindergarten Program Statement, student programming focuses on seven areas of learning and assessment practices:

Early Literacy - Language is the basis of all communication. Early literacy engages children in acquiring language and building an understanding of how oral and written language works. Children

listen to stories. They draw and tell about their own experiences. They also form recognizable letters, learn to print their own names and experiment with new words and terms.

Early Numeracy - Through the exploration of numbers, shapes and patterns, early numeracy helps children understand the processes of mathematics. By learning to count, measure and compare objects, and through identifying and building patterns and shapes, children begin to develop problem-solving skills that they will continue to expand throughout their schooling.

Citizenship & Identity - Citizenship and identity help to build a child's self-esteem, sense of self, and sense of belonging. In Kindergarten, children explore what makes them unique and how they are connected to other people. They are encouraged to express themselves by sharing personal stories. Through their interactions with others, children learn to be sensitive, interested and responsible for their actions.

Environment & Community Awareness - Using their five senses, children investigate their environment and their community. Through role play and hands-on activities, such as building simple structures with sand, blocks and other materials, they become aware of the relationship between cause and effect and generate ideas to make personal sense of the environment.

Personal & Social Responsibility - Kindergarten helps children learn how to work and play with others. By taking turns in activities and discussions, working cooperatively, giving and receiving help and taking part in group activities,

children develop social skills necessary for effective learning.

Physical Skills and Well-Being - Physical activity is vital to all aspects of normal growth and development. In Kindergarten, children learn about habits, behaviours, and decisions related to healthy daily living and well-being.

Creative Expression - Children explore and express their thoughts and feelings through visual arts, music, drama and movement. They experiment with media to represent their ideas. They listen to music and explore a variety of instruments. They also participate in dramatic play and movement. Each activity aims to help develop their imaginative and creative thought.

Assessment - Assessment is a natural, ongoing and important part of each Kindergarten child's learning. Through questioning and talking to children, listening to the language they use and observing their behaviour, teachers gain information about children's levels of skill and understanding. Through oral and written reports, parent evenings, classroom visits and/or conferences, teachers and parents exchange ideas and discuss the progress and achievements of the child. In some programs, children participate in conferences, allowing them to reflect upon and celebrate their learning.

Rocky View teachers know that what young children learn at this stage of their lives will have a major impact on their educational journey, their personal development and their participation in society.

Help your child get his/her journey off to a GREAT start; enrol in one of Rocky View's Kindergarten Programs. Advanced registration activities are outlined on pages 6 & 7.

\$25/child

Kindergarten Registration Fee

Parents enrolling their child in one of Rocky View's Kindergarten programs are required to pay a \$25 enrolment fee per child, per school.

For those who need a little extra attention

Preschool

Intervention Program (PIP)

RVS' Preschool Intervention Program (PIP) supports children aged 2½ to 5 years old with severe developmental needs and 3½ to 5 year olds with mild/moderate needs. PIP currently operates at RJ Hawkey in Airdrie and at Glenbow Elementary in Cochrane.

PIP was developed to provide specialized service for preschool-aged children with special needs to be supported within their own community. It provides children with small adult-child ratios, language enriched environments, family orientated programming sessions, and transitions to the next year. Using a collaborative approach, practi-

tioners integrate services and strategies functionally in the classroom on a daily basis. The areas of need addressed within the program include services offered by specialists trained in: speech and language; fine and gross motor skills; social skill development; and school psychology. PIP team members collaborate with the Alberta Children's Hospital, medical personnel, outside agencies, private preschool programs, as well as the Calgary Health Authority to help support families by gathering information to understand and support their child.

The majority of children who access PIP must meet criteria set by Alberta Education. The first step in the pro-

cess requires parents to complete a PIP application form, available at the two schools or through the Education Centre's Early Intervention Team. Two information sessions will be held in January for parents who want to learn more about the program and begin the application process. January 2010 dates are:

- January 27 - RJ Hawkey, Airdrie, from 9 am to 11 am
- January 28 - Glenbow Elementary, Cochrane, from 9 am to 11 am

Applications are ongoing. Watch for ads in the paper in April or for more information contact Lynda Hemsworth at 403.945.4026.

Special Need Services

When necessary, Rocky View teachers develop Individualized Program Plans (IPP) to accommodate a student's unique learning, social/emotional, and behavioural needs within the classroom and school settings. Unlike most school jurisdictions that provide programming based on diagnostic categories, Rocky View identifies and serves all students according to their needs. Interventions provided are based on a continuum of classroom accommodations, specialized settings and individual instruction through the child's teacher, a team of specialists and/or external agencies.

For more information contact Denise Clovechok at 403.945.4033.



CHOICES, CHOICES, CHOICES

Maximizing students' learning potential

RVS boasts a wide range of programs that meet the needs and interest of parents and students. Complementing the core subject areas of language arts, math, social studies and science, learning opportunities include:

French Immersion & Languages

At Rocky View, French Immersion is more than just a language - it's a total educational and cultural experience. Beginning in Kindergarten, French Immersion program allows students with non-French speaking backgrounds the ability to become highly proficient in French, both oral and written. In Kindergarten to Grade 2, students are instructed mostly in French. More formal English instruction is incorporated into the program at the Grade 3 level to Grade 12 level. Extra-curricular activities, including music, theatre, and dance, create a well-rounded experience for French Immersion students. A Kindergarten to Grade 12 program exists in Airdrie, Cochrane, and Springbank. For 2010/11, Chestermere's current K- 1 FI program will expand to be available for Grade 2 students. In addition to Rocky View's French Immersion program, various schools offer courses in French, Spanish, German, Japanese, and English as a Second Language.

Christian Education

For families who want their children taught in a spiritually nurturing, intellectually challenging, and disciplined environment, Rocky View offers a Christian education program in Cochrane and in Chestermere. Mitford Middle School's "Cochrane Christian Program" offers Kindergarten to Grade 6 students the chance to complete Alberta's program of studies in a non-denominational Christian classroom environment with bible instruction. Rocky View's Prince of Peace Lutheran School in Chestermere also welcomes all families, regardless of faith background, who desire a Christian education that encourages students to learn Biblical truths and live them out while receiving a solid, engaging education, all within the public school system.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) Programming is designed for highly motivated and academically astute students who require a more rigorous and diverse educational experience. The AP pro-

gram is an internationally recognized enrichment program that provides the opportunity for students (grades 10 to 12) to become enriched in one or more subject areas. The program is ideal for students who find learning stimulating and exciting, are excelling in one or more subject areas, and enjoy a challenge.

Off-Campus Education

Rocky View Schools offers an extensive "off-campus" education program, which includes registered apprenticeship, work-study, work experience, cooperative education, and job shadowing opportunities to all students from Grade 7 to 12.

The Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) is offered to students, age 15 and up, who are interested in splitting their time between school and the industry as paid registered apprentices in one of Alberta's 50 designated trades.

Work Experience 15, 25, and 35 is another offering for students 15 years and older, who are interested in gaining hands-on job experience, while earning high school credits. Other workplace learning opportunities, such as work-study and job shadowing, also are open to junior and senior high school students who want on-the-job experience or who want to explore a particular career area.

Rocky View's Green Certificate Program, which is administered by Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, is available to students 15 years and up. It is delivered off-campus and consists of the following areas of specialization: cow/calf beef production, dairy production, feedlot beef production, field crop production, irrigated field crop production, sheep production, swine production, and bee keeper production. Students earn high school credits upon completion of the program.

Knowledge & Employability

Beginning in Grade 8, the Knowledge and Employability program aims to develop entry-level vocational skills through practical hands-on learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom. This program is more accurately described as a selection of courses, matched to work-related and occupational studies. It is primarily designed to help students gain the academic and workplace skills necessary for direct, post Grade 12, entry into the workplace.

Outreach

Set in store-front locations in Airdrie, Cochrane and Chestermere, Rocky View's Outreach programs are housed under the Rocky View Learning Con-

nection. These programs serve as an alternative placement for students experiencing academic or personal challenges, but who wish to achieve a high school diploma. With assistance from certificated teachers, students can focus on upgrading their academic skills and/or concentrate on building self-worth and a positive attitude to learning. Students applying for outreach programming must be recommended by the school at which they would normally be attending.

Home Schooling

The Rocky View Learning Connection (RVLC) provides flexible and innovative learning options for students in Grades 1 to 12, through the use of distributed, print and blended programming. There are three physical campuses in Airdrie, Chestermere and Cochrane, as well as an online campus found at < <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/>>. Up to \$1500 in supplemental funding is available for students enrolled in RVLC. In addition to its strong core and complementary program offerings, RVLC provides many opportunities for students to interact with other students and/or teachers. Field trips, on-site classes, science labs,

picnics, and physical education activities are some of the ways the school community is brought together. The school also uses state of the art technology and software to allow for interaction over the Internet that was never possible before.

We Connect

High School students wanting greater access, choice, flexibility, and authentic learning experiences in their local school achieve so through "weConnect" classrooms. Under the helm of Rocky View Learning Connection, weConnect classrooms allow students to connect with learners and teachers at other school sites through the use of a variety of synchronous technologies, like video conferencing and elluminate, and asynchronous tools, such as D2L, moodle, email and wikis. Such connections afford student the opportunity to enroll in a variety of courses, either not available at their home school or those which do not fit into their individual timetable. To find out more about Rocky View's weConnect program go to: < <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/>>.



All aboard

Rocky View Schools operates one of the largest regional student transportation systems in the province. Student bus services are provided to all K - 12 students who reside more than 2.4 kilometers from their designated school site. Parents wanting to send their child to a school other than his/her designated school must complete an "Out-of-Attendance Area Application" form, available at all schools. School bus fees are set in March for the upcoming year.

First Ride Program

Rocky View Schools views your child's safety and security as a number one priority. To ensure a child's first bus ride is a positive experience, the jurisdiction's Student Transportation Department runs a "First Ride Program" in early spring and again in the fall. Through the program, parents and young riders are given the opportunity to learn their roles and responsibilities, school bus facts and information, school bus safety rules and enjoy a positive first bus ride. The program is FREE to all Rocky View students, compliments of RVS' bus contractors. Dates, times, and locations are announced early in the spring and are posted to Rocky View's public website under "Transportation" at < www.rockyview.ab.ca>.



Did you know?

School supplies for students in Kindergarten to Grade 4 are supplied by your child's school.

Register procedures... as easy as 1, 2, 3

Schools have arranged for a wide number of advanced registration activities to welcome new and returning students. See full details below!

Principals make arrangements for registration in their schools. Students new to the Division must register at their designated school. If you are unsure of your student's designated school, call 403.945.4009.

In order to register a student, parents/guardians will be asked to provide the following information:

- Proof of the child's age and legal name. Documents accepted are: birth certificate, adoption certificate, student authorization visa, Canadian citizenship papers, passport, or permanent landed immigrant/residence documentation;
- Alberta Health Care Card number (not mandatory);
- Notification of special medical conditions or medications for the child;
- Caregiver name, if the child is in care of an adult other than parent/guardian for part of day;
- House number and street address if you live in a town or city; the legal

land description (section, township and range, found under the land description on your gas bill) if you live on a farm or an acreage;

- Home and business telephone numbers (e-mail if available); and
- Name and address of child's previous school (applies to students moving into the system).

For the 2010/2011 school year, Rocky View will accept children entering kindergarten who will be five years old on or before the last day of February, 2011.

Likewise, students who will be at least six years of age on or before the end of February, 2011 will be admitted into grade one.

Advanced registration activities

All RVS schools will be accepting 2010/2011 registrations from January 25, 2010, onward

AIRDRIE

A.E. Bowers (K-4)

403.948.4511

A.E. Bowers Kindergarten registration begins at 8:30 am, Jan. 25, in the school office. Doors open at 8 am; coffee and donuts will be served while you wait. Pick up a registration form, meet the school staff, and enjoy a school tour. Tours begin at 9 am.

Bert Church (9-12)

403.948.3800

Students entering or returning to Bert Church will want to note the following:

- Gr. 9 Orientation, Mar. 9
- Gr. 10 Orientation, Mar. 31

Students and their parents are encouraged to attend these sessions, which will be held in the theatre at 7 pm.

École Airdrie Middle* (5-8)

403.948.5969

Parents will have the opportunity at the August Open House to tour École Airdrie Middle, meet the teachers and learn of the many programs at the school. Details will be available on the school's website at <plone.rockyview.ab.ca/airdrie> in the spring.

École Edwards* (K-4)

403.948.5922

Parents interested in enrolling their child in French Immersion should take note of a special K/Gr. 1 Information Meeting, slated for Jan. 19, 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Opportunity will be provided to talk to FI teachers and learn specifics of the program.

Edwards' Kindergarten registration will be held on Jan. 25 from 7:30 am - 4 pm. A lottery system will determine priority for AM or PM placement. A parent orientation/school tour is scheduled for May 11, 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the school gym. Mark these dates on your calendar!

George McDougall* (9-12)

403.948.5935

Parents of students entering Gr. 9 in Sept. 2010 are invited to an information evening at George McDougall, Mar. 17 at 7 pm in the auxiliary gym. Further information on the activity will arrive through the school newsletter and website. Watch for it!

Meadowbrook Middle (5-8)

403.948.5656

A Gr. 4 student orientation is planned for May 20 from 1-2 pm at Meadowbrook Middle, with a parent information meeting to follow from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. More details available in school's May newsletter, available online at <http://plone.rockyview.ab.ca/meadow>

Muriel Clayton Middle (5-8)

403.948.2445

Parents of students new to the area are encouraged to contact the school to book a school tour. Tours for the Gr. 4s from feeder schools will be held in June.

Nose Creek (K-4)

403.945.1001

Pick up a Nose Creek Kindergarten registration package for the 2010/11 school year from Jan. 25 onward. Beginning at 8:30 am, packages can be signed out and will be numbered to assist in determining AM or PM placement. Kindergarten parents' orientation and school tour is slated for May 13 from 6 - 7 pm.

R.J. Hawkey (K-4)

403.948.3939

R. J. Hawkey's Kindergarten registration begins Jan. 25, with doors open at 7:30 am. Registration continues the week of Jan. 25-29 and is ongoing thereafter, operating on a 'first come, first served' basis. Parents should also plan to attend the Kindergarten Info. Evening, May 13, from 7 - 8:30 pm, to meet the Kindergarten teachers and receive program information.

Ralph McCall (K-8)

403.948.7030

Kindergarten registration for the 2010/11 school year will be held on Jan. 26, beginning at 9 am in the Ralph McCall school library.

Learning Connection - Airdrie Campus (1-12)

403.948.4360

Looking for an alternative education program for your child? Find out what Rocky View Learning Connection can offer through virtual, print, blended, and homeschool programs across the jurisdiction. Registration for Gr. 1 - 12 programs is ongoing. Visit the school's website to check it out at <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/> or call for an appointment.

BEISEKER**Beiseker (K-6/9-12)**

403.947.3883

Beiseker's Gr. 9 Orientation/Information night will be held May 19 at 7 pm. Parents and upcoming Gr. 9 students will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and tour the school. Parents of Kindergarten students are invited to meet the staff and tour the school during the Open House on June 2 at 7 pm.

CHESTERMERE**Chestermere High (9-12)**

403.272.8868

Chestermere High will be showcased at the School Information Meeting and Open House, Mar. 11 from 7 - 8 pm in the south gym. Students new to the area will be introduced to Chestermer High on May 18 from 7 - 8 pm when school tours will be offered.

Chestermere Lake Middle**(5-8) 403.273.1343**

Each Thursday, from Apr. 1 - June 10, Chestermere Middle will offer school tours beginning at 3:30 pm. Call the school to register your child for any Thursday during those weeks and arrive at the school before 3:30 pm.

Prairie Waters* (K-4)

403.285.6969

Plan on attending the Kindergarten Registration Kick-Off at Prairie Waters, Jan. 25, from 12:30-2:30 pm. There'll be face-painting, treats, balloons, and an introduction to photo booth for future K students. That evening has been set aside for interested parents to learn of the K-Gr. 1 French Immersion program. The presentation "Is it the right choice?" is slated for 6 - 7 pm in the common area.

Prince of Peace (K-9)

403.285.2288

Circle Feb. 25 on your calendar as Prince of Peace Lutheran School's Open House. Parents will have the opportunity to explore the school and learn more about the Christian program. The event is from 6 - 8 pm.

Rainbow Creek (K-4)

403.569.6919

Rainbow Creek's Kindergarten Registration begins Jan. 25, 9 am - 2:30 pm, in the school office. The Open House, complete with tours and curriculum overview, is slated for May 13 from 6:30 - 8 pm.

**Learning Connection -
Chestermere Campus (9-12)**

403.235.0294

Looking for an alternative education program for your child? Find out what Rocky View Learning Connection can offer through its virtual, print, blended, and homeschool programs. Registration is ongoing.

COCHRANE**Bow Valley (9-12)**

403.932.9005

Come celebrate all that Bow Valley High has to offer when it holds its Open House, Feb. 24 from 7-9 pm.

Cochrane High* (9-12)

403.932.2542

Students entering or returning to Cochrane High in Sept. 2010 will want to attend an Advanced Registration meeting, slated for Jan. 21 at 7 pm, and Jan. 22 at 2 pm, in Room 102. Program highlights include honours, advanced placement, special needs, language, CTS and extra-curricular. Parents are encouraged to attend with students.

**Learning Connection -
Cochrane Campus (7-12)**

403.932.6131

Looking for an alternative education program for your child? Find out what Rocky View Learning Connection can offer through its virtual, print, blended, and homeschool programs. Registration for programs is ongoing. Visit the school's website to check it out at <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/>.

Elizabeth Barrett* (K-4)

403.932.3151

Parents considering a second language program for their child will want to attend Elizabeth Barrett's K to Gr. 1 French Immersion (FI) Information Meeting, slated for Jan. 20 at 7 pm. Registration for both English and FI Kindergarten programs begins Jan. 25, 9 am - 2 pm & 5 pm - 7 pm, and is ongoing from that day forward from 9 am - 2 pm. A Kindergarten Parent Orientation will be held May 20 at 7 pm and will include highlights of the programs, bus information and a tour of the school.

Glenbow (K-4)

403.932.4922

Do you live in Cochrane's Heritage Hills, Sunset Ridge or south of the railroad tracks and west of Hwy 22? Then register your Kindergarten child at Glenbow School, Jan. 25-28, open from 8:30 am - 5 pm each day. An information package will be provided.

Kindergarten parents are invited to a Parent Orientation Meeting, May 26 at 7 pm, to learn of Glenbow's Kindergarten philosophy and program. Attendees also will meet the teachers and get a school tour.

Manachaban Middle* (5-8)

403.932.2215

Manachaban will host an Open House on Aug. 27, from 11 am to 1:30 pm. All parents and students (old and new to the school) are welcome to come, meet the staff and tour the building!

Mitford Middle (5-8)

403.932.4457

Cochrane Christian Program's Open House/Kindergarten registration is scheduled for Jan. 21 at 7 pm.

Mitford Middle is planning a Gr. 5 orientation for June 2010. Check the school's website for specific date and time later in the spring at plone.rockyview.ab.ca/mitford.

CROSSFIELD**Crossfield Elementary (K-5)**

403.946.5696

Crossfield Elementary invites parents to its Kindergarten Registration, Mar. 17, beginning at 7 pm in the school library. This information session is for parents only, please.

Student registration for the 2010/11 school year will begin March 18 during regular school hours (8:40 am - 3:40 pm). Parents who would like a school tour are requested to call ahead.

W.G. Murdoch (6-12)

403.946.5665

Join W.G. Murdoch Mar. 18 for its High School Orientation for Gr. 9 students, beginning at 6:30 pm, with information provided on high school courses and graduation requirements. May 20 has been set aside for the Parent Information Session for students going into Gr. 6. There will be opportunity to meet the staff and learn of program opportunities. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm.

MD of ROCKY VIEW**Bearspaw (K-8)**

403.239.9607

Bearspaw's Kindergarten registration packages will be ready for pick-up from Jan. 25 onward. Office hours are M-Th, 8 am to 4 pm, and Fri. from 8 am to 2:30 pm. The spring open house for Kindergarten is slated for May 4, at which time students can get a feel for school life by participating in the First Ride program sponsored by RVS' Transportation Dept.

Banded Peak (K-8)

403.949.2292

Parents are invited to learn about the adventures in store for Banded Peak Kindergarteners when the school hosts 'Take a Peak', Jan. 20 at 7 pm. The meeting will take place in the student gathering area at Banded Peak - 'where learning is mountains of fun!'

Elbow Valley* (K-4)

403.242.1117

Parents wanting their child to learn a second language will want to attend Elbow Valley's French Immersion Info Evening, Jan. 19 from 7-8:30 pm.

Kindergarten Open House at Elbow Valley is slated for Jan. 21, running from 9 to 11 am. Meet the teacher, tour the

school, and learn of the exciting educational experience that awaits your child!

Indus Elementary(K-7)

403.936.5855

Indus' Kindergarten Orientation Meeting is slated for May 26 at 7 pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and receive program information. Note that for 2010/11, a full day Kindergarten program will be offered. Child care will be available at the May 26 evening meeting.

Langdon School (K-8)

403.936.4579

Langdon's Kindergarten registration for the 2010/11 school year runs Mar. 22 - 26, 9 - 11:30 am and 1 - 3 pm in the school office. Parents also can register their child at the "Showcase Evening" on Mar. 25 from 4 - 8 pm.

**Kathryn School (1-8)**

403.935.4291

Grade 1 Orientation at Kathryn School is slated for the first week of June. New Gr. 1 students will spend the day with current Gr. 1s to learn the ropes of school life. A parent orientation meeting will be held in the afternoon of the same day. Please call the school for more details at 403.935.4291.

Springbank High* (9-12)

403.246.4771

Students entering or returning to Springbank Community High in Sept. 2010 will want to note these dates:

- Mar. 23: Gr. 9 Open House
- Mar. 24: Gr. 10 Open House
- Mar. 25: Gr. 11 & 12 Open House

All meetings take place in Room 150 at 7 pm. Students and parents are encouraged to attend.

Springbank Middle* (5-8)

403.242.4456

Come 'Celebrate Springbank', Mar. 25 from 4 - 6 pm. The open house will feature student work, Q & A, and refreshments. Don't miss it!

Families new to the school are invited to Springbank Middle's New Student Orientation, scheduled for Aug. 25 at 1:30 pm. The event will take place in the forum at the school. Parents and students are encouraged to attend.

Westbrook School (1-8)

403.932.5443

Westbrook School welcomes its prospective kindergarten students and their parents to its Kindergarten Open House, Jan. 27 at 5:30 pm. Call the school for details.

ENGAGE, ENRICH, EMPOWER

Supporting students' unique needs & aspirations

Rocky View prides itself on providing students with programs and initiatives that meet their unique needs and aspirations. With the help of parents, businesses, social agencies, and volunteers, Rocky View enriches students' lives. Here is just a taste of what makes RVS unique:

Healthy Eating Initiative

In partnership with the Calgary Health Region, Rocky View has developed a set of Healthy Eating Guidelines, which provides schools with specific recommendations to support optimal nutrition practices. Approximately 90 percent of schools are engaged in specific activities related to this initiative, such as purging food kiosks and vending machines of high-sugar, high-fat food choices and replacing them with pita sandwiches, pita pizzas, fresh fruit and veggies.

Before & After School Care

Families residing in Airdrie, Springbank, Bragg Creek, and Cochrane will want to enquire about the availability of Before and After School Care. Several programs operate in the jurisdiction by either independent or public entities, such as The Boys and Girls Club. With an eye on caring for the basic need of students, Rocky View continues to look at expanding these services in both existing and new communities in the jurisdiction.

Social/Emotional Health

As a student's social/emotional health can be directly tied to their academic success, Rocky View continues to support programs that focus on building strong bodies and minds. New programs being offered include "Mind-Matters", a very successful program with roots in Australia, which focusses on developing characteristics of resiliency. Many schools also employ "Circle of Courage", a program originating with the Reclaiming Youth organization that supports students experiencing some difficulty in the social/emotional arena.

Family School Liaison Workers

Available in communities throughout Rocky View, Family School Liaison Workers provide a wide range of supports to parents, family members and schools in working together to optimize the student's learning experience. Assistance includes personal counselling, problem-solving, program planning and referral to community-based agencies.

Mental Health Workers

Assessments, consultations, and referral to specialized services are available through Rocky View's Mental Health Workers. Working with the student, his/her parents and the school, the workers help to ensure each student can get the most from their learning environment. Unique to Rocky View, two doctoral level practitioners joined these workers to offer their expertise and gain experience in the educational environment.

Stepping Stones to Mental Health

In partnership with the Alberta Mental Health Board and the community, Bert Church, George McDougall, and Chestermere High Schools offer their students access to "Stepping Stones". Through the program, students access integrated, on-site support including the services of a success coach, an addictions counsellor and a cultural diversity specialist.

Big Brother Big Sister/MPower

Operating at the middle and senior high school levels, Big Brother Big Sister/MPower offers students the opportunity to spend time with a caring adult one hour a week during the school day. Focusing on empowering youth in decision-making rather than deciding what youth need, these adult mentors offer a sincere desire to encourage and listen to a young person.

Gifted Programming

Every child is a gift, but a small portion of the population is what psychologists and educators consider 'gifted'. Simply put, it means that gifted students have the ability to, or are displaying, an exceptionally high rate of learning, depth of knowledge, and cognitive reasoning for their age group. To better accommodate gifted students, Rocky View psychologists and program specialists work closely with schools to implement strategies that meet these students' needs, such as clustering, grouping by ability, and acceleration and enrichment opportunities.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit

To enhance educational opportunities for Aboriginal learners, Rocky View offers programming founded in Alberta Education's First Nation, Métis and Inuit Framework. Throughout the year, aboriginal learnings are brought into the classroom through cultural advisors, storytellers, educators, dancers, singers, drummers, artists, and more. The aim is to enhance the understanding of Aboriginal traditions and worldview among students and educators.

Baby Think It Over

Rocky View was the first school division in Western Canada to incorporate a program in the curriculum designed to teach students about the huge responsibilities that go along with being a parent. The "Baby Think It Over" program gives Grade 8 & 9 students a chance to become parents of a "life-like" new-born baby for four days. The 'babies' are equipped with a computer chip, programmed to simulate a number of actions that a real-life baby does. Student-parents wear a specialized wristband to ensure only they can care for baby. The computer chip records the baby's care to determine how successful the student has been at parenting.



on track

On-Track, is a publication of Rocky View Schools. It is published twice a year for parents, guardians, students, staff and members of the community.

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