ROCK CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Rock City Elementary Website Link – **http://rc.schools.sd68.bc.ca/**

Principal's Message

February has been another busy month at Rock City. We always have a lot of fun around Valentine's Day and discuss the importance of working together to help address the issue of bullying during February's Pink Shirt Day. The theme this year is *Be Kind*.

On February 2nd, we celebrated Family Literacy Night and over 100 students and families joined in the fun literacy activities arranged by our Teacher Librarian, Ms. Fowler. A wonderful time of reading, games and socializing was had and all students went home with a book of their choice. A big thank you to Mrs. Bradley, Ms. Fowler, Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Robertson and Ms. Welsh for hosting the Family Literacy Night and helping to make this evening a great success!

Our Grade 5-7 athletes have been practicing their skills in basketball and the games started this week.

At Rock City we try to help others as part of our Global Citizenship initiatives. At the end of January, we participated in Jump Rope for Heart; this year we raised over $4770. Events like this remind us of the opportunities we all have to make a difference in other people's lives.
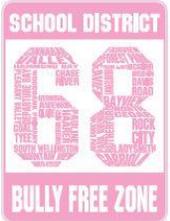
Sincerely,
Eileen Jubinville

Important Dates to Note

Drop-in Lacrosse Session for Girls	Feb 23
Parenting Session	Mar 2
Gr 7 Parent Night at Wellington Sec.	Mar 14
Paint Night (PAC)	Mar 16
Last Day before Spring Break	Mar 17
School Re-Opens	April 3
Good Friday *(No School)*	April 14
Easter Holiday *(No School)*	April 17
School Track & Field Meet	May 8
ProD *(No School)*	May 12
Victoria Day *(No School)*	May 22
Zone Track Meet	June 1
District Track Meet	June 8
PAC Fun Fair	June 9
Last Day of School	June 29

Anti-Bullying & Pink Shirt Day

February 22nd was Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Day. Students were encouraged to wear pink shirts on this day to both show school spirit and to help raise awareness of the importance of having the often-silent majority stand up against unhealthy and bullying behaviours.

School Spirit & House Teams

The following students had their names drawn during our recent Tiger Roar Draw. Thanks for making Rock City a great place to learn and play:

Div. 1: Kody	Div. 2: Landon
Div. 3: Robbin	Div. 4: Maxine
Div. 5: Benji	Div. 6: Tristan
Div. 7: Amy	Div. 8: Noah
Div. 9: Jayden	Div. 10: Mary
Div. 11: Liam	Div. 12: Ben
Div. 13: Lauren	Div. 14: TBA

Spirit Day: Look Alike Day

This month's spirit day is on Friday, February 24th. Students are encouraged to show their school spirit by dressing the same as someone or as part of a group).

Sharing Cupboard

We have a Sharing Cupboard at school for students to meet various needs that may arise at school (students getting wet at recess breaks, slipping in mud puddles, etc). We like to have on hand - shirts, socks, pants, jackets, mittens, gloves, shoes and boots of various sizes.

Presently we are very short on boys' pants in the sharing cupboard. We are looking for donated pants sizes 6x-10/12 to include in our sharing cupboard for when kids need to change pants at school.

Kindergarten E-Registration 2017-2018

Registration for Kindergarten for September 2017 continues to be open! Families are encouraged to register **online** as soon as possible.   http://www.sd68.bc.ca

Coding at Rock City Elementary

What? Programmers write scripts of code to make a computer or piece of technology perform a task. Every piece of technology you use everyday was programmed through scripts of code to perform for you, including your car, phone, microwave, t.v., even your refrigerator, heat and cooling systems, not to mention the technology used to create your clothing, furniture, flooring, lighting and even your food.

Why do we teach this? Computer Science is the fastest growing employment sector in the world. We will have a serious shortage of people able to program and run the world of technology if we do not help prepare our students now. We used to prepare our students to work in various industries. Programming is the industry we now need to prepare our students for. "The Next Big Blue-Collar Job is Coding" (Thompson, 02/08/17 in Wired, https://www.wired.com/2017/02/programming-is-the-new-blue-collar-job/)

How? Code is a computer language and there are many different coding languages. At Rock City we teach the basics of coding which uses many skills such as computational, critical and creative thinking. Coding is about identifying a problem or situation and determining how to solve it. We do this through a "play-based" environment. So rather than teaching step-by-step, students learn the basics, play and then jump in to create programs. We use both tech and non-tech approaches to teaching coding. The technology we use is Scratch developed by MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) which is accessed via the computer, various Apps for the iPads and iPods and simple robots called Spheros. All students K-7 can learn to Code using these tools.

When? Four of our classes participated in Coding Quest through the Learning Partnership, all our intermediate students have been working with Code using Scratch and the Spheros during their "Tech" blocks in the library, many of the primary classes are using the iPads to Code with apps such as Kodable, Scratch jr. and Osmo and many students come to our Coding Club twice a week for further Coding exploration.

Check out: _Hour of Code_ for some very accessible Coding activities for the whole family (https://code.org/learn) and _Scratch_ (https://scratch.mit.edu/)

If you have any questions or would like to check out what we are learning contact me at cfowler@sd68.bc.ca

C. Fowler B.ED, M.ET
T/L Rock City Elementary School

School Closures Due to Weather

A reminder: If schools are closed due to snow, or any other weather-related problems, announcements will be on local radio stations (WOLF 106.9 FM & WAVE 102.3 FM) by 7am on the day of the closure.

In addition, the district will post the information on the district's website, Twitter and Facebook, unless there are technical problems or a power outage.

PLEASE JOIN US TO DISCUSS

THE GOOD THE BAD & THE UGLY

OF PARENTING

WHO: All parents of children who attend Rock City from K -7 are welcome to attend.

WHAT: Join us for free pizza dinner and free childminding, while we network and brainstorm the challenges we face as parents in raising our kids in today's world. Future sessions will be designed around topics generated by our parent community.

WHERE: Rock City Library or Gym

WHEN: Thur, Mar 2nd (5:30 to 7:30pm)

WHY: Because parenting is hard! By coming together as a community, and focussing on issues we face, we can work together to build a tool kit of strategies to use with kids in order to build their success through their elementary school years.

HOW: Register by Feb 27th at the latest. See the office for the registration form.

This is sponsored by Rock City PAC, SD68, and the Community Parent Resource Society.

Allergies: Nut & Scent Sensitive School

A reminder that we have significant nut allergies and scent sensitivities at Rock City. Please help us keep Rock City a healthy place for all learners by not sending food items that contain nuts and by trying to use scent free personal products on students and adults.

Please note!

Date Change:
The Friday April 14th Hot Lunch & Popcorn will be on Thursday April 13th due to the holiday on Friday.