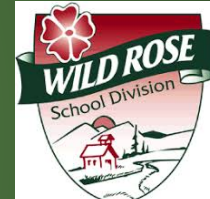




École Rocky Elementary Newsletter



December 2020



A Holiday Message from your Principal

As we enter into the holiday season of 2020, I am reminded of traditions. While some traditions are on hold this year (like Christmas Concerts in the gym and turkey dinners with the extended family), I have come to realize there are other holiday traditions I hold dear that can easily be practiced during this upcoming break:

- **Recognizing what is most important** - I don't know the reason why, but Christmas always helps me recognize with great clarity what is most important. With many things on hold this year, what rises to the surface as most important to maintain?
- **Gratitude** - Letting others know you value them with a small gift or thoughtful word has long become a part of Christmas. Some years, this has become very commercialized. Perhaps this year a genuine spirit of thoughtful giving takes over?
- **Reflecting on the past year** - 2020 went in unplanned directions, but perhaps some good things will come of that. What if 2020 is the year that returned us to some more basic values like caring for our neighbour and teaching our kids to bake? What if 2020 has made us more aware of our health and how we can protect others? What if we become stronger?
- **Listening to music** - Music and memories are often connected. How often have you heard a fleeting melody and suddenly found yourself momentarily transported to another time? I have recently enjoyed reconnecting to the music of my younger years and reflecting on simpler times. My younger self will often remind me of my hopes and dreams from years ago and urge me to stay focused on the important things. My younger self will also beam with pride on how far I have come from a shy little boy who took the wrong bus home my first day of school.

I'm sure your list will include a few other holiday traditions that can also be easily maintained during a holiday of pandemic restrictions. Cherish and recognize these persistent traditions.

And this may be the year to start some new important traditions. Perhaps this is the year you lose yourself in books (I don't recommend many books, but I believe *"From the Ashes"* by Jesse Thistle is a must read.) I look forward to spending some downtime with my most important people - my wife Paula, my daughter Melena who just turned 12, and my son Nash who is 10. Most years we are bustling between the farm north of Edmonton and my wife's family in Saskatchewan. This year will be quieter and I look forward to what will fill our time as a family.

With that, let me draw to a close with one more tradition - recognizing you for raising phenomenal kids. I am blessed to share my time with your children and I am proud of their progress. Navigating a complex year has taken a special effort from all of us and I couldn't imagine a better group of people to learn with this year. From the entire ÉRE team - Merry Christmas and all the best for a prosperous and peaceful 2021.

Stay Healthy and Kind.

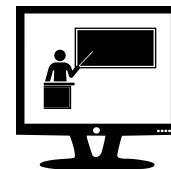
Mr. Bowman

4703 - 50 Avenue, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta T4T 1S4

Phone: (403) 845-3541 Check out our website <http://ecolerocky.wrsd.ca>

Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/erepeace>

REMOTE LEARNING - January 4-8, 2021



- The provincial government has announced that January 4-8, 2021 will be a week of remote learning for all students.
- Expect communication from teachers about what digital, paper, and/or projects they will expect from students during this week.
- The **minimum** expectation is that all students will complete at least 1 hour of school work a day. If your child is comfortable completing more work a day, they should endeavor to do so.
- Assigned work can be accomplished with the class during a Google Meet time set by the teacher, or on your own at a time that best fits your family.
- Many teachers will offer a daily video conference Google Meet to check in with students and to share instruction or offer extra help.
- School staff will be available 9 am - 3 pm daily during the week. The school also remains open with a few staff in the school if you need to pick up anything or need to phone.
- If your child's teacher offers to send Chromebooks home, please note:
 - These are brand new Chromebooks (unlike the end-of-life Chromebooks that were sent home in March). These Chromebooks have a replacement value of \$350.
 - In a school setting, we would never allow students on a Chromebook unsupervised.
 - In a school setting, we treat the Chromebook as a tool for learning, creating, and publishing. It is never a toy.
- We anticipate returning to in-school instruction on January 11, 2021.



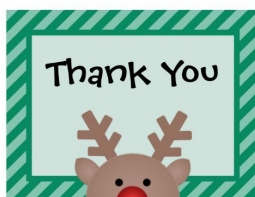
Watch for our recorded Christmas Concert and December Assembly on December 18 shared to our school website (www.ecolerocky.wrsd.ca) and school Facebook page.

Thank you Mrs. McLaughlin, ÉRE staff, and ÉRE students for finding new ways to share the Christmas Concert this year.

December 18	Pajama Day and December Assembly
December 18	Christmas Concert release.
Dec. 21-Jan. 3	Christmas Holidays No School
January 4	School Resumes remote learning (students at home)
January 11	Return to in-school learning
January 11	Registration for Pre-K and Kindergarten begins
January 26	School Council and ÉRE Fundraising Meetings, 12 noon
January 27	Beach Day and Assembly 1:45 p.m.
January 28 & 29	P.D. No School For Students
Jan. 28 - Feb. 23	Traveling Art Show - In Good Company (displayed at school).
February 15	Family Day No School For Students and Staff
February 16 & 17	No School For Students and Staff
February 18 & 19	Teachers' Convention - No School For Students
February 26	Pink Shirt Day and Assembly 1:45 p.m.
March 4	Evening for French Entertainment
March 5	P.D. No School For Students
March 12	Report Cards Go Home
March 14	Daylight Savings Begins
March 17 & 18	Parent/Teacher Interviews 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
March 19	P.D. No School For Students
March 31	Jersey Day and Assembly 1:45 p.m.
April 2 - 11	Spring Break
April 23	P.D. No School For Students
April 25-30	Education Week
April 30	Wacky Hair Day and Assembly 1:45 p.m.
May 3	Music Monday
May 7	P.D. No School For Students
May 9	Mother's Day
May 9-14	Mental Health Awareness Week
May 14	Hats On for Mental Health
May 21	No School for Students and Staff
May 24	Victoria Day - No School for Students and Staff
May 28	Careers Day and Assembly 1:45 p.m.
June 3	Western Day
June 4	P.D. No School For Students
June 17 & 18	Kindergarten Grad
June 20	Father's Day
June 23	Peace Day and Talent Show
June 25	Formal Day and Assembly 11:00 a.m. and last day of school for students.



Dates subject to change. Call outs may be made or will be in your child's classroom newsletter.



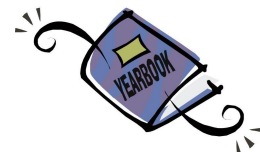
- Sr. Margie for her generous donation of homemade items.
- Vanessa Lobley for coordinating the Growing Smiles fundraiser over \$1,700 was raised! Thank you to Anita Truman for assisting Vanessa with organizing the orders and handing them out.
- To all those who participated in the Growing Smiles, Purdy's and Mom's Pantry fundraiser!
- Parents for assisting with handing out hot lunches!
- Yvonne and Dwayne Godkin, Jeannette Fikpe, Lori Allen, Bobbi Melanchuk and Tim Bowman for working the Bingo on November 10th. All proceeds will go to ÉRE Fundraising Society to assist with enhancing our children's education.
- Parents/Guardians for attending the School Council meeting!
- Breakfast program volunteers.
- Roots of Empathy babies and parents.
- Vanessa Lobley, Corinna Ross, Shianne van't Bosch, Anita Truman and Diane Spoor for assisting with the book fair and all those who participated in making a Book Fair a success!
- to the Anderson family for office supplies
- to the MacDonald family for the boxes of books.
- ÉRE Community, you are amazing at looking out for each other! We were able to coordinate the delivery of many Christmas Hampers thanks to several Secret Santas and Special Angels who didn't wish to be named, but have ensured the holidays will be a little more merry.



2019/2020 YEAR BOOKS



We still have last year yearbooks available for sale at a cost of \$20. If you are interested in purchasing one, you may pay online and pick it up at the school or come to the office to pay and pick up. These would make great Christmas gifts! This is the last year book we will be doing at ERE.



LEARNING COMMONS

Thank you to everyone for making our Book Fair such a success. Whether it was set-up, sales, buying books, volunteering your time to work at the Fair or take down, all of your help was greatly appreciated.

We sold \$4,904.94 worth of books. Earning our school \$2,942.96 in books for our School.

It's hard to believe that December is here already. I hope everyone gets to sit in a cozy spot and read a good book this holiday season.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Allen



Students are encouraged to dress up or bring items on Spirit days which coincide with our monthly assemblies.



December 18th	Pajama Day
January 27th	Beach Day
February 26	Pink Shirt Day
March 31st	Jersey Day
April 30th	Wacky Hair Day
May 28th	Careers Day
June 3rd	Western Day



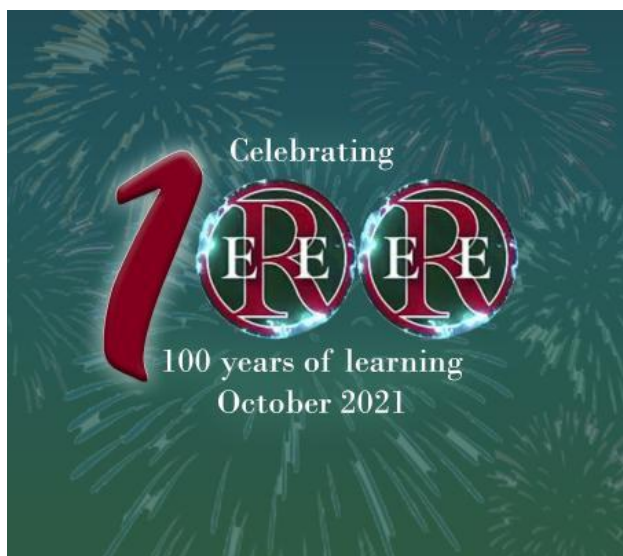
Events may be subject to change.





IMPORTANT MASK REMINDERS

Every child was given two masks at the beginning of the year. Please encourage your child to bring the masks home for washing. Ensure they are returned for them to wear the next day. If your child has lost their mask(s) parent/guardians are asked to send replacements. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.



We are seeking parents, community members and alumni who would like to share stories, pictures, articles, artifacts and any other items related to the last 99 years of ÉRE .

If you are interested in joining the committee or have items to share, please contact Rose Zalasky at (403) 845-3541, Ext. 66067 (leave a message) or email rose.zalasky@wrsd.ca.



Subject to change.

Ecole Rocky Elementary

Skating Schedule 2020/2021

Teacher	Homeroom	Dates	Time	Rink
Mrs. Hazelaar	3H	January 11, 18, 25, February 1	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Bunch
Mrs. Stewart	3/4S	January 11, 18, 25, February 1	11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Bunch
Mme Gagnon	3/4G	January 11, 18, 25, February 1	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Bunch
Mrs. Koenig	4/5K	January 11, 18, 25, February 1	10:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	Quick Lane
M Ouellette	4/5O	January 12, 19, 26, February 2	10:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	Quick Lane
Mrs. Kwantes	5K	January 12, 19, 26, February 2	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Bunch

School Council

Thank you to those who attended the virtual School Council and ÉRE Fundraising Society meetings on December 1st. We now have our Executive - thank you for those who have let their names stand for these positions and your dedication to our school!

School Council

Chairperson Vanessa Lobley
Vice Chair Lana Davis
Secretary Heather Halladay
Treasurer Mai-Britt Savill

ÉRE Fundraising Society

Chairperson Vanessa Lobley
Vice Chair Lana Davis
Treasurer Mai-Britt Savill
Hot Lunch/Milk Vanessa Lobley

Playground: Michelle Anderson, Lana Davis, Vanessa Lobley

Our School Council meetings will be the last Tuesday of each month (may be subject to change, but you will be informed). The meetings start 12 Noon. We will advise before each meeting if it will be at the school or how you can join virtually. More information to follow. Listed below are the dates of upcoming meetings. Mark your calendar! Your input in regards to enhancing your child's education is important and we would love to see you there.

January 26th

February 23

March 30

April 27

May 25



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

With a different Christmas this year and Christmas vacation fast approaching following are some suggestions of things to do with your family and websites that have activities you may want to share with your family. As there are so many ideas, please use only what is appropriate for your family.

- Make a time capsule! One day your kids can use it to tell their kids all about this craziness.
- Create a scrapbook or family tree.
- Facetime, Viber or Skype with family or friends.
- Have an indoor picnic.
- Try a new cookie or cake recipe.
- Play board games.
- Go camping in the living room.
- Plan a virtual dinner with family and friends.
- Write letters to family and friends.
- Learn and play a new card game.
- Make paper airplanes and see whose plane flies the farthest.
- Have a family music night.
- Play 20 Questions.
- Build a bridge or building with toothpicks or Q-tips.
- Create a new dessert.
- Outdoor activities (skating, tobogganing, build a snowman, winter walk (try it at night with flashlights)).



All of our students have a Sora online library account. Login: soraapp.com/welcome

find my school = Wild Rose School Division - click on This is my school Username is your child's ID# on their report card. If you have any questions you can email Mrs.Allen at lori.allen@wrsd.ca

Childhood 101

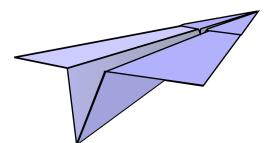
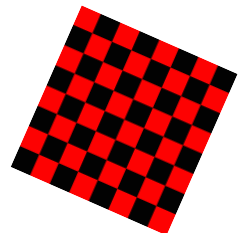
<https://childhood101.com/kids-christmas-card-crafts/>

50 Family Bonding Activities for the Best Christmas Ever

<https://parentswithconfidence.com/family-bonding-activities-christmas/>

16 Easy and Festive Christmas Crafts for Kids

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/christmas-ideas/g34112389/christmas-crafts-for-kids/>





Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada

2021
**PRIME
MINISTER'S
AWARDS**

**NOMINATION
DEADLINE:**

**JANUARY 12, 2021
11:59 A.M.
(PACIFIC TIME)**



**NOMINATE AN
EXCEPTIONAL
EDUCATOR
TODAY!**

- **Teaching Excellence**
- **Teaching Excellence in
Science, Technology, Engineering
and Math (STEM)**
- **Excellence in
Early Childhood Education**

**CANADA.CA/PM-AWARDS
#PMAWARDS**





Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Join CPF and our virtual volunteer tutors for a special letters to Santa virtual event. This event is free for members and for kids between the ages of 6 to 13. The event is a great way to get some extra French writing practice. There will also be a few games and the reading of holiday book. Hope you can join us.

Register here for one of three times:

<https://www.jotform.com/CPFNational/cris-une-lettre-au-prenol>

·Wednesday, December 16 at 17:00 eastern time

·Saturday, December 19 at 11:30 eastern time.

·Saturday, December 19 at 14:00 eastern time.

Nicole Redford, Network Manager, Volunteer Engagement and Services/Directrice du réseau, engagement et services aux bénévoles

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) 1104 - 170 Laurier Ave. W. | Ottawa, ON | K1P 5V5 | P: 613.235.1481 x 226

[|nredford@cpf.ca](mailto:nredford@cpf.ca) | www.cpf.ca

Reminder our tutor pilot program will be kicking back off in January. These are one hour per week online virtual tutor sessions with volunteers all across Canada Via zoom. Kids practice reading and playing games. Must be a member!!!

Go to the following link to sign up free

<https://form.jotform.com/202446522222040>

Contact Corrina for information becoming a member 403-895-2342.

The Canadian Parents for French (CPF) (Rocky Mountain House) have also elected a new executive.

- Chairperson - Corrina Ross
- Vice Chair - Carla Lechky
- Treasurer - Jeannette Plante
- Secretary - Hollen Sheldrake
- Publicity - Diane Spoor

Submitted by Corinna Ross