



## **KNIGHTS NEWS – September 6, 2024**

This school year holds many opportunities for our students, and we are excited to begin our new school year full of promise together! The education of young people is a joint venture and undertaken primarily by families and our school. We encourage families to work together with the school and staff to ensure your child reaches their potential and gets involved in the many activities and events provided by the school. Involve yourself in your child’s education: ask them questions about what they are learning and attend school council meetings to best know what is happening at the school and how best to support your child. Together, we can make this an outstanding year for all our students.

Moving forward, please expect our Knights News to be sent out monthly. You can also expect to receive additional, timely news, to be communicated to families when needed related to school events and information.

### **Dates To Remember**

Friday, September 20 – Terry Fox Run

Thursday, September 26 – Orange Shirt Day

Monday, September 30 – Day of Truth and Reconciliation **(NO SCHOOL)**



### **Terry Fox Run**

We are very excited to be a part of this year’s Terry Fox event. This is our opportunity to “Try Like Terry” and go the distance for this year’s event. Please join us to support cancer research while building an incredible school spirit for all our students. Thank you in advance for your support!

The Terry Fox Run will take place on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The run will happen as follows:

9:30-10:30am: Kindergarten (school field) and Grade 4 (Kings Heights Pond)  
10:30-11:30am: Grade 2 (pathway to skating rink) and Grade 5 (Kings Heights Pond)  
11:30am-12:30pm: Grade 1 (school field) and Grade 3 (pathway to skating rink)

Throughout the week, students will engage in various Terry Fox activities leading up to an in-person assembly prior to going outside for their run. More information/resources can be found at <https://terryfox.org/>

Thank you to our school council for providing students with a granola bar and drink to enjoy after their run!

This year, our goal is to raise \$2000. As such, we will be asking students to bring in “Toonies for Terry”, as we have done in the past. Students can bring their cash donation straight to the office. Donations can also be made through School Cash - <https://rockyview.schoolcashionline.com/>. Donations to support cancer research will be accepted until October 4th, though we encourage donations to be contributed before our run, on September 20<sup>th</sup>. **We will celebrate our fundraising, to support cancer research, by having a school-wide Superhero Day on October 10th!**

Terry Fox T-shirts are available for purchase through School Cash until midnight September 12<sup>th</sup>. This year’s shirt features the tagline **#NoMatterWhat**, celebrating Terry’s unwavering determination, no matter the challenges or circumstances, when running his iconic Marathon of Hope in 1980. All sales are added to our school’s fundraising total.

Shirt Colour/Language: Navy Blue/English.  
100% cotton, crew neck tee.

**Youth Shirts - \$20 and Adult Shirts - \$25**



## **A MUST DO for Parents!**

Demographic forms and Annual School Authorization forms are being filled out and submitted virtually. Please know that these forms allow students to participate in many key activities at school, including using school technology, community walks, and leaving school property to participate in the Terry Fox run. Students whose forms are not filled out and submitted by parents unfortunately won't be able to use technology in the building or enjoy community walks with their classmates until we receive the form.

## **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school. This day provides an opportunity for families and staff to recognize and commemorate the history and ongoing legacy of residential schools and to honor the survivors, families and communities who continue to grieve for those who were lost.

Throughout the week of September 23, students will engage in opportunities to recognize the hardships endured by Indigenous people in the residential school system and honor Indigenous legacies and teachings leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. **Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange shirts to school on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools.**



## **Communication of Student Learning**

Communication of student learning is designed to help students build knowledge of themselves as learners, while sharing progress and facilitating conversations for the next steps on the student's learning journey. Students' progress will be communicated in various ways throughout the year, including online portfolios via myBlueprint, 3-way conferences, and Real-Time Reporting.

**This year, our 3-Way Conferences will be held on October 23 and 24 and March 26 and 27.** There will be more information shared closer to the date. There will be no classes for PM Kindergarten on **October 25** due to 3-Way Conferences.

**Real-Time Reporting (RTR)** is sharing information about student learning, as it's happening. Teachers will be assessing a student's level of understanding of curricular learning outcomes and entering the information in PowerSchool's Public Portal. You no longer must wait 90

school days (traditional reporting length) for a report card to find out how your child is doing in the various subject areas; you will now be able to access this information anytime. Contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

**If you require support with accessing your PowerSchool account, please contact our office.** The link to the PowerSchool parent portal can be accessed [here](#).

### **Rocky View Schools Emergency Program**

During any emergency, our first concern is the safety of our students and staff. To provide an effective response to any school crisis, the Division has developed an Emergency Response Plan. The Plan works in conjunction with other local emergency plans, since a school emergency could require the involvement of numerous agencies. The plans created for individual schools, along with the Division Plan, are reviewed annually and after an emergency occurs. Please take some time to review our Emergency Program found [here](#).

### **Personal Devices and Social Media at School**



# Focus on learning not devices

**Leave it, silence it, store it or lose it**



cellphones



tablets



laptops



smartwatches

**Your phone and other devices are safest at home.**

**If you bring them, silence and store them unless your teacher tells you it is OK for learning.**

If we see devices without permission:

1. Reminder from your teacher.
2. Teacher takes it away and informs parents/guardians.
3. Device sent to office and principal informs parents/guardians.
4. Principal informs parents/guardians.  
Device stays at home or in school office.

Rocky View Schools has shared some important information on the use of personal mobile devices and social media in schools.

“On June 20 the Government of Alberta introduced [Standards for the Use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#).

To comply with this Ministerial Order, RVS has introduced [Administrative Procedure \(AP\) 148: Responsible use of Personal Mobile Devices and Social Media in Schools](#).

RVS is committed to fostering a focused and engaging learning environment. By establishing clear expectations aligned with the government’s standards for the responsible use of cell phones, other personal mobile devices and social media in schools we can work together to reduce distractions and maximize valuable instructional time for students.

Please take time to read the new AP and what this means for your child(ren).

In brief:

- The safest place for students’ devices is at home. Should they choose to bring them to school, they must be out of sight and turned off or silent. Parents/guardians and students assume full responsibility if their device is lost, stolen or damaged.

- Students cannot use their personal mobile device in school during instructional time, unless specially authorized by their school's administrator or their teacher for educational purposes. This includes any personal electronic device that can be used to communicate with or access the internet. Examples include cell phones, smart watches, laptops and tablets.
- Students with health or medical reasons or special learning needs may be granted permission to use personal mobile devices during instructional time, upon completion of [Form AF148A](#) or as indicated in the student's Individualized Program Plan.
- Students will not have access to social media platforms at school over the school's Wi-Fi network and are not permitted to access it at school using their own data plans to ensure students remain focused on educational tasks.
- The AP includes progressive consequences that are designed to have teachers and administrators work with students and parents/guardians toward the common goal of limiting distractions and staying focused on learning.

Please review AP 148 with your child(ren) and discuss the procedures and consequences. Your child's teacher will also discuss these new procedures the first week of school. This will include discussions of when teachers/administrators will authorize use of devices such as laptops during instructional time.

We recognize this will be an adjustment and there will be learnings along the way as these changes become part of school life. Be reassured we are focused on supporting our students and their continued success in school.

We have answered many frequently asked questions [within the AP document](#). If you have further questions not addressed in the AP or frequently asked questions, please contact your child's teacher(s). We ask for your understanding as this is also new for our teachers.

Thank you for your cooperation as we make these adjustments in our schools to protect our instructional time in the best interests of student learning."

### **Late Arrivals**

Students should arrive at their designated door for entry between **8:45am – 8:50am**. We do understand that late arrivals will occasionally happen. If your child arrives at school after the final wave of students have entered the building, please direct them to the main entrance where they can enter through the front doors. There will be staff there to receive them and ensure that they are accounted for, and that attendance is accurately recorded.

If you are bringing your child to school after an appointment, or later in the day, it is always good practice to walk them into the front office and sign them in, with an office staff member.

Please do not send them directly to the playground, even if it is recess time. We need all students to come through the office when they arrive, so we ensure everyone is accounted for.

### **Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up**



We are fortunate to have so many local families attend our school. As such, most students walk or bike to school. We encourage walking or riding as our parking can be tricky. For those families who may drive their children to school, drop-off takes place along Kings Heights Drive. **Please do not use the staff parking lot for drop-off or pick-up as well as our designated bus zone at the front of the school (marked by 2 signs).** We have 4 daycare buses coming to the school morning, noon and at the end of the school day. We need to have our bus zone free to support the daycares dropping off and picking up our students. Students must be using the crosswalks if they are crossing the street. We are teaching them about road safety.

### **Healthy Hunger Fun Lunches**

Back to school, means back to lunches... Take a break on Thursdays! Our school has a program with Healthy Hunger known as "Fun Lunch". We partner with various vendors every week and families can purchase fun lunches on a weekly basis. The lunches are delivered to the school and distributed to the students. Classes are loaded for the 2024-2025 school year and menus for September & October are open.

Please Note: The deadline to order is 5 days before the lunch date, so typically our order deadline is Saturday at midnight! **If your student is absent on the day of fun lunch, please call the office by noon, if you will be coming to pick up the lunch OR if you would like the lunch kept for when your student returns. If your child is not at school, and we do not hear from the family, the lunch WILL NOT be kept for the student. Pickups will be available at the office after 1:00 pm.**

Did you know that fun lunch is a fundraising program?! A portion of the proceeds from each lunch ordered go back to the school. We use these funds to support our school community, such as field trips, school dances, the breakfast program, active living week and more!

We are always looking for volunteers to help distribute lunches on Thursdays. Reach out to Karen at [karenlc@live.ca](mailto:karenlc@live.ca) for help setting up your account or to volunteer.

**Upcoming Lunches:**

- September 12th - Taco Time
- September 19th - State & Main
- September 26th - Subway
- October 3rd - Edo Japan
- October 10th - Boston Pizza
- October 17th - Opa
- October 24th - Mary Browns
- October 31st - Booster Juice



**Get Involved!**

**Volunteers Needed**

The Friends of Heloise Lorimer Society has been scheduled a casino fundraiser on Wednesday, September 25th and Thursday, September 26th at the Ace Casino Blackfoot. Many years of hard work and waiting have gone into the process of "getting a casino" fundraiser and we have finally earned our chance! This is a large fundraiser for our school community, and it can't happen without many helping hands. We need your help to fill the volunteer roles; parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins or friends- anyone who is willing to spend some time in the casino is welcome.

Associations often make between \$40,000 - \$50,000 during a 2-day casino. No casino experience is necessary; training is provided, on site, the day of your shift. Volunteers receive one free meal during their shift.

**Please join us so we can further support our school community!**

Funds raised will support the school community at large and must be used within specific guidelines. IE) AGLC's 'Approved Use of Proceeds' which could include sports equipment, music



equipment, electronics/technology, resources materials, program supplies, conferences, workshops, etc.

Sign up to Volunteer Here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094AA9AF2FA5FC1-50882631-casino?useFullSite=true#/>

## School Council

School Councils play an invaluable role in providing parents with opportunities for meaningful involvement in their children's school. School Councils encourage a strong partnership between the school and the family and help parents become actively involved in the education of their children. School Councils have implemented strategies, practices and activities which have created the conditions for parents to engage in their child's education and have reduced barriers for parents who find involvement more challenging.

Please join our school council. It is an enjoyable time to hear what has been happening in the school as well as what we can look forward to. It is a chance to hear from other parents, administration, teachers, and our trustee and to ask questions. Our meeting dates are as follows:

**September 11/24 @ 6:30 pm**

**October 9/24 @ 6:30 pm**

**November 13/24 @ 6:30 pm**

**December 11/24 @ 6:30 pm**

**January 15/25 @ 6:30 pm**

**February 12/25 @ 6:30 pm**

**March 12/25 @ 6:30 pm**

**April 9/25 @ 6:30 pm**

**May 14/25 @ 6:30 pm**

**June 11/25 @ 6:30 pm**

**Our first school council meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.** We will be meeting in person, at the school, in the CTF classroom beginning at 6:30 pm.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Terry Lewis and Ms. Kathryn Smith  
Heloise Lorimer School Administration Team

