



DECEMBER 2017

*If you believe you can,
you are half-way there!*

Theodore Roosevelt

Message from Administration

At the heart of everything we do at East Lake are the needs of each and every child who attends the school. Every decision we make is informed by the needs of our students.

For example, one of the primary goals of our learning support team is to ensure the needs of all students are met. To this end, they work closely with every teacher in the building to identify students needing extra support or requiring additional challenges. They spend time in classrooms observing students and providing teachers with ideas on how to meet the needs of students. This work may involve things such as creating visual schedules, developing behavior plans, helping teachers differentiate learning, identifying additional supports, offering small group support or liaising with outside agencies.

Developing meaningful partnerships with outside agencies affords our students a level of support commensurate with their needs. Starting in kindergarten many students are identified with speech needs, fine motor concerns and gross motor concerns. Our learning support team ensures that all students needing this type of support are able to access it. In addition, they work closely with our divisional specialists and community agencies to ensure any students needing mental health support are able to access it. This team is familiar with a plethora of outside agencies who can support students and families with things such as grief and loss, mental health, and supports for various disabilities.

Our Child Development Advisors (CDAs) are an integral part of our learning support team. They work closely with students, staff and parents to support the social and emotional well-being of students. One of their recent initiatives was creating engaging activities for children to play outside. Under the direction of Ms. Piche, students have created supervised games and activities for students to do at all breaks. Mrs. Edeburn is working in our grades 1 and 3 classrooms to deliver the Second Step program which teaches students self-regulation and social-emotional skills. We also offer the Friends for Life program in kindergarten and grades 2 and 4. Both CDAs support our intermediate and middle school students by creating safe spaces for them to share their concerns whether it be individual, in small groups or as a whole class.

These are just a few examples of how the needs of students drive the decision-making process of the learning support team at East Lake.

Up-coming Events

DECEMBER 2017

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Adopt-a-Family				1
4	5	6	7 Grade 2- Military Museum Grade 3-5 Celebrations Around the World Concert 1:00-2:00 pm* 6:30-7:30 pm *limited seats available	8 Report Cards Go Home Santa Photos and Christmas Market 6:30-8:30 pm
11 Battle of the Books begins	12	13 Grade 9 Bring Your Kid to Work	14 Grade 6-9 Band Concert 6:30-7:30 pm	15
18	19	20 Grade 6 Mobile Escape	21	22 Last day of classes
25 Christmas January 1, 2018 with	26 Break your	27 Enjoy family	28 the and	29 time friends
8 First Day Back from Holidays	9	10	11	12

**How to Get Your Tickets for the Concerts**

Each year, we alternate which grades perform a winter and spring concert. This year, our grade 3 to 5 students will perform Celebrations Around the World, Thursday, December 7th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Our Kindergarten to grade 2 students will share their talents at the spring concert scheduled for April 25, 2018.

All families with children in grade 3 to 5, who are participating in the concert December 7th, and/or band students, who are performing December 14th, will have access to 2 tickets for the evening performance of their perspective concerts. Tickets can be reserved on School Cash Online. There is no cost for these tickets, but you need to reserve seats. No tickets will be available at the office. Children who attend East Lake will have seen the concerts at the matinée performances.

We can seat for up to 250 adults at our matinée performances. Matinée performances will be held the day of the concert at 1:00 pm and allow our student body to see their peers perform. Matinée tickets will also be available on School Cash Online. These tickets will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Adopt-A-Family

East Lake School is excited to be fundraising for Adopt-A-Family again this year, raising money for a family in need. From November 13th to December 8th, we will be collecting money for a family consisting of a single mother and 5 children, ages 2 to 5. All money donated will be used to buy

grocery gift cards, clothing, and presents for the children to open on Christmas morning. Our goal this year is \$3000, so please consider donating whatever you can to help make this family's Christmas a little brighter!

Soap for Hope—Student Initiated Campaign.

Do you have any half-empty bottles of shampoo, conditioner, body wash or lotion that you are no longer using, but don't want to throw away? Soap for Hope is looking for donations from which to create hygiene kits for Calgary's homeless and to send to places where people have lost everything due to natural disasters or armed conflict. Donations may be new or used. Please ensure the caps are securely closed and that donations are placed in a sealed plastic bag.

This campaign was initiated by three grade 9 students in our Leadership class. They visited all the classrooms to talk to other students about the need for this type of community support. Thank you for your support.



Staff Changes

We would like to say a big thank you to Mr. Ramirez for all of his work in drama during term one. In particular, the performance that he and the grade 7,8 and 9 students put together for Remembrance Day. It was outstanding. Mr. Ramirez has not truly left us. He will be working as our new English Language Learners (ELL) teacher. Primarily, his role will be to support those students for whom English is very new and also to support teachers as they include teaching and learning strategies that support all students, especially our ELLs.

We would also like to welcome back Mrs. Ward, who is returning to school after a yearlong maternity leave. She has mentioned how wonderful it has been to be back at East Lake, and would like to thank all of the students, staff, and parents for such a warm welcome.

the 21st C Learner is . . .
financially & economically literate



Leadership in the 21st Century: Being Financially and Economically Literate

It is never too early to start conversations with children about finances and managing money. These conversations are very important in helping children understand the value of money. Financial Literacy is the ability to make informed decisions about money, including earning, saving, and spending. Parents and teachers are excellent resources when it comes to teaching kids about finances because we all have experience in this area. At times, we have all had positive and negative experiences with money that are valuable lessons for our children. Sharing these stories early can really set up children up for success later in life with money management.

There are a number of things we can do with our children to help develop these financial skills. At early ages, we can teach kids to count coins and make change when buying things. We can

involve them in coupon clipping and comparison shopping. As children get older, we can work with them on planning and saving through the use of bank accounts. Budgeting, investing, credit and saving are skills that can also be developed early on. Putting money aside to give to charities is also an excellent way to show our children that giving is another important part of being financially responsible.

During the month of December, students will take some time in classes to learn more about financial literacy. They will get a better understanding that money needs to be earned and that they need to have a plan for saving, spending and giving. It would be a great opportunity for you to keep these conversations going at home. With the holidays around the corner, this is also an excellent time to discuss how important it is to plan for purchases! You may want to set some financial goals together for the new year. Consider starting a savings account with your child and give them some extra responsibilities at home to help them earn a few extra dollars. Giving them this ownership is certainly a great way for them to develop their financial literacy skills!

Battle of the Books

What: Groups of 4 to 6 students collectively read the novels for their battles. They take notes and discuss the books with others who have read them. Teams battle it out in a round-robin event, where the winner of each battle advances to the next round. Round-robin battles are held during the lunch hour.

When: Starting now to read the books. Grade 6-9 will battle it out in February. Grade 3-5 will have their battles in March.

How: Get a team. Sign up with Mrs. Gunn in the Learning Commons.

Why: A great way to share a love of reading

This year, the winning grade 3-5 team will travel to Prairie Waters to compete in an ultimate battle. East Lake are the reigning champions! The winning grade 6-9 team will compete at RVS' Central Office for The Divisional Final against Middle School teams from across the division.

Grade 3-5 Books	Grade 6-9 Books
<i>Twister on Tuesday</i> by Mary Pope Osborne	<i>Awkward</i> by Svetlana Chmakova
<i>Freckle Juice</i> by Judy Blume	<i>To Burp or Not to Burp</i> by Loredana Cunti
<i>The Trouble with Chickens</i> by Doreen Cronin	<i>Pax</i> by Sara Pennypacker
<i>Ordinary People Change the World: I Am Amelia Earhart</i> by Brad Meltzer	<i>The Blackthorn Key</i> by Kevin Sands
<i>Face Off</i> by Jake Maddox	<i>Masterminds</i> by Gordon Korman
<i>Double Dog Dare</i> by Lisa Graff	<i>MINRS</i> by Kevin Sylvester
<i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell	<i>Wonder</i> by Raquel J. Palacio
<i>Rain Reign</i> by Ann M. Martin	<i>Gracefully Greyson</i> by Ami Polonksy
<i>Charlotte's Web</i> by E.B. White	<i>Heavy Freight</i> by Sigmund Brouwer
<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid-book 1</i> by Jeff Kinney	<i>Inn Between</i> by Marina Cohen
<i>Lemonade War</i> by Jacqueline Davies	<i>Loot</i> by Judy Blundell
<i>The Tiger Rising</i> by Kate DiCamillo	<i>Bad Beginning</i> by Daniel Handler
<i>The Watson's Go to Birmingham</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis	<i>Keeper of the Lost Cities</i> by Shannon Messenger

<i>Everything on a Waffle</i> by Polly Horvath	<i>Ida, Always</i> by Caron Lewis
<i>The Breadwinner</i> by Deborah Ellis	<i>I Am Not A Number</i> by Jenny Kay Dupuis

Science Fair

We are excited to announce that our grade 5 – 9 students will participate in our Science Fair again this year. The Fair will run on February 7th and 8th. Classes will be working with students to plan their projects and students will certainly benefit from some parent support at home. More information should be coming home in the next few weeks. If you work in the Science industry or have a background in Science, we would love to have you help judge the projects. If you can volunteer a morning, afternoon or full day on February 7th or 8th, please email Mr. Billings at jbillings@rockyview.ab.ca.

Mathematics Minute

East Lake has a new math site! Check out www.eastlakemath.weebly.com for fun family-oriented games and information about mathematics learning and teaching. This month, we launched our Problem of the Month. When students are working on complex problems, which do not have an immediate answer and take time to solve, they need to ask themselves three important questions:

1. What do I need to figure out?
2. What information do I find in the problem that will help me?
3. What strategies might be best to find a solution?

In order to solve complex problems, students need to understand the problem, make a plan, enact the plan, reflect and revise. Perseverance is key; it is a complex endeavour!



NUT AWARE!

Please remember that our school is nut-aware. We are committed to provide a safe environment that is inclusive for all. In common with most other schools, we have a number of children and adults with nut allergies.

We do not describe the school as being 'Nut Free' because we cannot guarantee that students or adults have not brought nuts, or traces of nuts, into the building.

It is our responsibility as a school community to avoid exposing students with allergies to the products which could start an allergic reaction. This means we take great care to avoid any products that could contain allergens in our school snack program and other food items that are brought into school. We ask parents to exercise care when preparing lunches to carefully check labels. We also ask that families exercise care when baking for snack or fundraisers.

Questions for Our School Board Trustee and/or Administration

Do you have a burning question about how decisions are made in RVS? Do you wonder about when the next new school will be built in Chestermere? Why not send your questions to our Trustee, Shali Baziuk via East Lake's Parent Council? Email questions to Stephanie Hirsch, Parent

Council Secretary @shirsch@rockyview.ab.ca. She will ensure all questions are passed along to Shali. Shali attends all Parent Council meetings, but having parent questions prior to the meetings is helpful so she can share the information most pertinent to our parent community.

You can also email questions to the school's administrative team. Ragan, Jason and Leslie welcome any and all queries about school-based decisions. They will be hosting Parent Chats on a monthly basis. At this time, they will answer your questions and help you gain a better understanding of how things work at East Lake. Please forward questions to any of the administrators and include: Parent Chat Question in the subject bar. Our next Parent Chat will be held Friday, December 15th at 8:30-9:30 am in the Learning Commons. (rajohnson@rockyview.ab.ca, jbillings@rockyview.ab.ca, lwaite@rockyview.ab.ca)

Community Involvement and Partnerships

What do boats have to do with the Olympics?

Adrian Cole, national team kayaker, came to speak with the grade 2s about how he used boats in sport. He also told the students about his travels all over the world because of a boat, oops, kayak! Adrian facilitated a fun activity using marshmallows and toothpicks to build vehicles that float.

WE Day Alberta Participation

20 students in grades 7, 8, and 9 attended We Day Alberta on November 1st. We Day celebrates the youth movement for local and global change. Free The Children's annual event, We Day is the largest event of its kind, bringing together tens of thousands of youth and educators with celebrities, musicians and heroes sharing their inspirational stories.

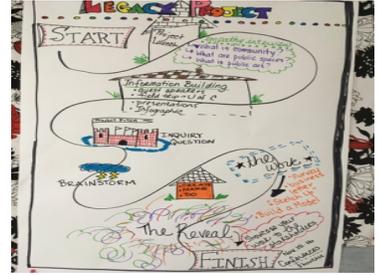
Free the Children is an international charity and educational partner. It was founded in 1995 by a 12-year-old boy who believed in a world where all young people are free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change. This year's event included featured Free the Children co-founders, Marc and Craig Kielburger, speakers Spencer West, Alexandre Trudeau, Rick Hansen, and George Takei. Our students are excited to take what they have learned and create change in our school, community, and world!

Architecture Challenge

Our grade 9 English classes are involved with the RVS' Architecture Cohort. Students were asked, "If you could create an ideal space in our school, or our community, what would you create?" Throughout this unit of study, students have spoken with architects, engineers, visited SAIT and the UofC to learn about elements of design and structure. They recently created mock-ups of their proposals.

Architecture Challenge – Legacy Project Grade 9's

Lately, our grade 9 students have been busy working on the architecture project. In this project students were asked to design a public space or public art for the school and/or the community; students had the choice of either designing something that was indoors or outdoors. Students have created 3D models of their projects, blueprints and slideshows and in the following weeks they will be presenting their projects to city council, engineers, some of our guest speakers, architects and maybe even the mayor!



But, before the students started, they got to interact with many people around the community and different people who were architects, all thanks to their wonderful teachers (Mrs. Winters and Mr. Polson) and the staff at East Lake school. By meeting these people, students obtained some ideas and tips for their projects. Students gained knowledge about our community and their needs.

The grade 9 students also went to the University of Calgary to attain more knowledge and seek more ideas. The University of Calgary had many astonishing spaces and art, that inspired many students. Here the students got to meet Mr. Harker, who explained about important needs related to architecture and his experience in architecture. At school we had people from around the community to come and chat with our students about the community and community benefits.



After all the field trips and guest speakers, students were finally ready to start their own projects. Students quickly got to work and started sketching out their designs, building their 3D models and preparing their presentations. We hope that our project is a success because students have been working really hard this project for about a month now. Some of our projects may even become a reality if the city council and people of Chestermere approve their projects. Not only will these projects be beneficial for the school but also for our surrounding communities.

Students have been very creative for coming up with unique ideas and if their projects get approved, their public spaces/art will be built and open to all students at East Lake and maybe even the community., Not only is this beneficial to our school and the community, but also these students, the grade nines have got the experience of being architects and have learned to find solutions to problems that have arisen with their projects. Best of luck grade nines!