



April 2018

Message from Administration

It's hard to believe we are now at the end of March and moving into our last few months of the school year. April is the time of year we prepare our annual School Education Plan (SEP). We reflect on all we have accomplished thus far in the school year and look ahead to next year to identify areas of focus. Over the next month or so, we will be seeking input from parents, staff and students as we set the course for next year. Student input will be gathered through ongoing conversations, parent input at our April school council meeting and staff input at ongoing meetings.

As we move into April, we continue our transition plans for our grade 9 students who will be moving on to the high school next year. To date, our students have visited the high school and high school staff are working with students on their course selections for next year. Our grade 9 teachers continue to provide students with the support they need to ensure a successful transition.

This is also the time of year that our grade 6 and 9 students and teachers start thinking about the upcoming provincial achievement tests. As a parent, there are many things you can do to help your child prepare. Some of these things include setting up a quiet place for your child to study, setting a daily schedule for reviewing classroom notes and completed unit quizzes, ensuring that they get a good night's sleep before the tests and that they have a good breakfast on the morning of the tests. Watch for PAT dates in the May newsletter.

Finally, we will soon begin the process of creating class lists for next year. If you have a request for a classroom placement, you need to put them in writing and address them to **Ms Johnson**. All requests must be received prior to May 15, 2018. Please note that we will only consider requests based on sound educational reasons. Requests for specific teachers or placements with friends will not be entertained. While we endeavour to meet requests, we cannot guarantee this will happen in all instances.

Report Cards Go Home Thursday, March 29th.

Your child will be bringing home his/her report card Thursday, March 29th, 2018. Please check backpacks and computer bags for this important communication of student learning.

Thank you and Welcome Back

Welcome back to Mme Ploughman, who is returning from a maternity leave. Mme Ploughman is teaching grade 2 French Immersion. With Mme Ploughman's return, we had to say our good-

byes to Mme Ungureanu, or Mme U as she is known. We wish Mme U all the best in her future endeavours and hope she will join us again as a staff member of East Lake School.

Fond Farewell

Mrs. Bitzan and her family are returning to the United States. We will miss her tremendous support of students and initiatives at the school. From her dedication as an educational assistant to coaching basketball to supervising the Science Olympics to organizing our patrols, she has been an integral part of our East Lake family since we opened. Best wishes for a safe move back home!

Student Work Showcase:

Energetic Energy Saving!

By: Raman

Recently, a Grade 6 classroom in East Lake School run by Christina Van den Eynden was working on a special project. The project that the class was working on was called the Energy Diet Challenge.

They chose this project of all other projects that they could have worked on because as students, they need to learn all the issues in the world, and the Energy Diet Challenge focuses on the big problem of Energy. While Christina was looking for a new project, she came across this one, the Energy Diet Challenge.

The Energy Diet Challenge was made for saving electricity for more important causes, such as furnaces, refrigerators, etc. The class is working on all the different projects that the Energy Diet has to offer them. "Wow, I have such a big carbon footprint!" exclaimed one of the Grade 6 students. The students used a website to calculate their carbon footprint called Footprint Calculator. (<http://www.footprintcalculator.org/>) In total, there are 25 classroom challenges.

The Energy Diet Challenge gives out \$40,000 every time, and the more challenges you complete, the higher chances you earn to get good money. There are 100 rewards that are given out each time the Energy Diet Challenge commences, and each Grade can participate in the challenge, Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade, 3, all the way to Grade 12.

The Energy Diet Challenge is created for people all across Canada, left to right, top to bottom, everyone has an opportunity to participate in the Energy Diet Challenge. The Energy Diet Challenge is a popular challenge for schools, and all Grade 6 students in East Lake School is participating for sure. If you have any questions about the energy diet challenge please email cvandeneinden@rockyview.ab.ca

Up-coming Events (see below for details of events)
April 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL	4 NO SCHOOL	5 NO SCHOOL
9 NO SCHOOL Professional Learning for Staff	10	11 Mental Health Fair Grade 6 to 9	12	13 Childhood Wellness for Parents 6pm-8pm
16 Grade 7-9 Band Trip	17 Grade 7-9 Band Trip Grade 8 Badminton Tournament	18 Grade 7-9 Band Trip Parent Council Meeting 6pm-7pm	19 Grade 7 Badminton Tournament	20
23	24	25 Spring Concert Kindergarten, grade 1 and 2 Matinée: 1:00 pm Concert: 6:30 pm	26	27 Battle of the Books Grades 3-5 East Lake VS PWE
30	MAY 1	2	3	4

May 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
7 Leadership Assemblies	8	9	10 Grade 6 and 9 PAT Writing-English	11 Grade 6 and 9 PAT Writing—French
14 Multicultural Week	15	16	17 Grade 7 Track and Field Meet Volunteer Tea 1:00-2:30 pm	18 Professional Learning Day for Staff NO SCHOOL
21 VICTORIA DAY NO SCHOOL	22	23 Grade 8 Track and Field Meet	24	25
28	29	30 2018-19 Kindergarten Orientation	31	

Mental Health Fair for Grades 6 through 9

Mental Health is big priority in our schools right now but, yet there is still a huge stigma that surrounds it. We are dedicating one whole day in hopes of reducing this stigma through education. Students in grades 6-9 will be introduced to topics such as depression and anxiety, healthy body image, healthy relationships, social media safety and sleep hygiene. We will also be promoting healthy ways of maintaining our mental health or coping with issues that arise by using music, animals, art, exercise, yoga etc. We are excited to welcome guests such as Stepping Stones to Mental Health, Chestermere Therapy Dogs, Alberta Health Services, RVS Psychologists and other professionals, Mental Health Commission of Canada and a few others that will be joining us for the day. We will be joined by some very special guests, but that is a surprise. This will be the first year East Lake has held such an event and we are hopeful that the event will be a success!

Volunteers Needed

Mrs. Gunn is seeking volunteers for the Learning Commons. Duties might include: laminating, cataloguing books, re-shelving books, etc. If this is of interest to you, and you have a current

criminal record check from the RCMP, please contact Mrs. Gunn @ 403 248 1091 ex 7766 or via email at ngunn@rockyview.ab.ca. Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE!

We have several upcoming events for families and parents. Please save these dates and plan to attend.

April 13—Childhood Wellness: The road to SCHOOL SUCCESS (5:30 pm – 8:00 pm). This session will help parents understand how to support their children with stress, mental health awareness and give parents resources for helping their children in and out of school. If planning to attend, please return the notice that went home March 21 to your child's teacher.

***April 18—Parent Council Meeting (6:00 pm – 7:00 pm).** Want to gain an understanding of how decisions are made with regards to East Lake School? Want to have your say in some of the initiatives the school undertakes? Please plan to attend the next Parent Council meeting.

*Please note, this is a date change.

April 25—K-2 Spring Concert (6:30 pm start).

Mark your calendars for April 25th as we celebrate our K-2 students' musicality! Come enjoy our Storytelling themed concert at either the afternoon Matinee' performance @1:00pm or the evening performance @6:30pm.

The fine arts team is also currently seeking 5 dedicated parent-volunteers for our Spring Concert Committee. We need volunteers to help design the set, props and costumes. Please email cdegner@rockyview.ab.ca if you are interested!

All families of students in kindergarten to grade 2 will receive 2 complementary tickets for the evening event. Please bring these tickets with you as we are collecting some data about attendance for future events. If you are not able to use your tickets, please return them to your child's teacher.

Families are limited to 2 tickets due to the limited space available in our gymnasium. We can only seat approximately 500 people for the event, according to the fire codes. We would respectfully ask that all families adhere to this limit.

If you are unable to attend the evening performance but want to see the concert, the students will also be performing at 1:00pm on the 25th. You, or other family members, are welcome to attend. No tickets are required for the matinée.

May 14-17—Multicultural Week

Mankind must make global multiculturalism a cornerstone
of education ... events occurring in our community
could have consequences beyond the borders of our world."

Howard Shorr, American educator

Canada currently has one of the highest per capita immigration rates in the world and also resettles over one in ten of the world's refugees. This is why Canada prides itself as a mosaic of people. Whether it's the First Nations peoples, the descendants of the first European explorers or a family just arrived from Syria, we are all the little pieces that make up Canada. We are one Nation made up of people from all over the world and that should make all of us proud.

Multicultural Day at East Lake School will be a four-day event in May that unites the entire school in a celebration of our diversity. From kindergarten to grade 9, these four days will be an opportunity to celebrate our commitment to equality, mutual respect and to appreciate the contributions of the various multicultural groups and communities to Canadian society.

May 17—Volunteer Tea (1:30-2:30 pm). Please join us for our Volunteer Tea. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to eastlake@rockyview.ab.ca. In the subject line, please type: Volunteer Tea. This will ensure your attendance gets to the correct organizers.

May 23—Parent Council Annual General Meeting (6:00 pm-7:00 pm). Elections for Parent Council will be held at this time.

May 30—2018-2019 Kindergarten Orientation (6:30 pm-7:30 pm). Kindergarten students, who will start school next fall, will have an opportunity to come and play! New students will get to see the school and engage in some activities. Please spread the word to our newest East Lake students! Parents of our new kindergarten students are invited to an informational session scheduled for August 31st, 2018 at 9:00 am.

Field Trips—Consent Forms

Field trips are an exciting part of learning. While these are always optional events, they do supplement the learning we do in school. We need permission from parents or guardians to take any child on a field trip. In order to be as organized as possible, getting the consent forms and payment back to the school in a timely manner is greatly appreciated. This allows teachers to make groups, organize volunteers, etc. Legally, the school must have a signed copy of the consent form, verbal consent is not enough.

Students who do not return their forms or submit payment will not be allowed to participate in the field trip. We will no longer be phoning parents the day of the trip to get permission. Students who have not returned the necessary paperwork, will stay at school.

Parking and the Bus Loop

Just a friendly reminder that cars should NEVER enter the bus loop during school hours—7:30 am to 3:00 pm. If you are dropping off or picking up your child after the morning rush (7:40-8:20 am), please use the designated area on Kinniburgh Blvd. Please do your part to keep all our students safe. Thanks in advance for your continued support and cooperation.

21st Century Leadership focus for March and April

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Our focus this term is Seeking First to Understand, Then Be Understood: Being a Strong Communicator. This 21st Century Leadership Competency encourages students to listen respectfully and empathetically to others while responding to each other using language effectively and competently. It also includes learning how to read an audience through their interactions and using communication tools to connect with them in a variety of ways. One of the most important things that we can do as parents/educators is engage our children in conversations regularly. We can demonstrate active listening and strategies for keeping conversations going. This can be done by rephrasing some of what was said and asking follow up questions. Another big area that our children need to understand is body language. Talk with your child about how they can show that they are actively listening and what it looks like when people really aren't giving their full attention. Role playing conversations are another great way to help students become better communicators. You can role play challenging conversations that they may have with peers or how they can speak with their friends during a conflict. Although we seem to rely on technology a lot these days for communication, nothing compares to our face to face interactions with each other. Working with our children to help strengthen their communication skills is an excellent way to prepare them for school and real life.

Grade 3-5 Battle of the Books

The Battles are well under way! Each team has competed in at least 2 battles this year. All students who participated should be very proud of themselves; we certainly are! This was our best year yet! The Semi-finals and Finals will take place April 11th through 13th at the lunch recess.

The winning team will travel to Prairie Waters Elementary Friday, April 27th.

Grade 3-5 Books	
<i>Twister on Tuesday</i> by Mary Pope Osborne	<i>Lemonade War</i> by Jacqueline Davies
<i>Freckle Juice</i> by Judy Blume	<i>The Tiger Rising</i> by Kate DiCamillo
<i>The Trouble with Chickens</i> by Doreen Cronin	
<i>Ordinary People Change the World: I Am Amelia Earhart</i> by Brad Meltzer	
<i>Face Off</i> by Jake Maddox	<i>Everything on a Waffle</i> by Polly Horvath
<i>Double Dog Dare</i> by Lisa Graff	<i>The Breadwinner</i> by Deborah Ellis
<i>El Deafo</i> by Cece Bell	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> by E.B. White
<i>Rain Reign</i> by Ann M. Martin	<i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid-book 1</i> by Jeff Kinney
<i>The Watson's Go to Birmingham</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis	

As of the printing of this newsletter the following teams have advanced to the next round:

Congratulations to Ms. Johnson!

RVS welcomes new members to its leadership team Rocky View Schools' (RVS) Superintendent of Schools Greg Luterbach is pleased to announce the appointment of Ragan Johnson as Director of Human Resources and Sherri Black as Director of Learning Supports, effective August 1, 2018.

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Ragan Johnson, Director of Human Resources Currently the Principal of East Lake School, Ragan Johnson will join RVS' Human Resources Department as Director of Human Resources this fall. "Ragan brings over 20 years of experience in the field of education, 14 years of which are in administration at both the school and district level," said Luterbach. "Her strong interpersonal skills, ability to build positive, trusting relationships, and experience in recruiting talented staff for a rapidly growing school makes her the ideal candidate for the role of Director of Human Resources. I congratulate Ragan on her new assignment and look forward to working more closely with her next year."

Johnson arrived in Rocky View in 2010 from Dr. Brosseau Middle School in Bonnyville, where she served as principal since 2007. Johnson will bring to the role not only experience as a principal and assistant principal, but as a special education, elementary and middle school teacher, a guidance counsellor, and a faculty advisor with the University of Regina. From 2003-2010 she also served as an assessment specialist and advisor with the Alberta Assessment Consortium.

Johnson holds a Master of Education majoring in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Regina, and two Bachelor degrees – one in Education, the other in Science – from the University of Victoria. She also has completed course work toward a Doctorate of Education from the University of Calgary. A life-long learner at heart, Johnson continues to pursue a variety of professional learning opportunities related to leadership, mentorship, teacher training and evaluation, and technology.