

February Newsletter

I love this time of year. More sunlight and daytime hours, and spring is just around the corner. We have been fortunate to have a mild winter overall. I am hopeful we will have a great spring leading us into summer break. I am not delusional; I do realize we may still have some of those spring storms, but I will gladly take the milder temperature instead of -50c.

Students are well into their second semester of the 2023-24 school year. We ask parents to check **PowerSchool** and make note of student courses and monitor their marks and missing assignments. This past semester, we had very few students in Credit Recovery during that final week of semester one. This is great news because often we are seeing dozens requiring further support during exam week. We hope to continue seeing students meeting deadlines and keeping up with their work.

If parents are not currently registered with **PowerSchool**, please contact our main office to set this up. It is a wonderful online APP that allows parents to receive information about student progress as it is updated including attendance (absent/late, test marks, assignments missing etc...). This is truly helpful for parents to stay up with how students are managing high school rather than waiting for report cards to come out at mid and end of semester.

We still are seeing some lingering effects of Covid however, with some students missing deadlines and not seeing the value in putting in a full effort into an assignment or coursework. Something that we strongly believe in is that students should “do all that you can now so you can do whatever you want later”. Keep all the doors open when considering further education and your career choice in the future. We live in a competitive world, and we want all our students ready for what THEIR future might look like down the road. Education whether you like it or not is part of the building block and foundation for later learning. It is not the only place students can learn but taking advantage of what is here and being offered while you have time is important.

Athletics Eligibility:

A couple of reminders for students and parents. When students are part of any of our **athletic teams**, there are several responsibilities that go with that privilege including:

- a) **Attendance:** Students must be at school on the day of the games to participate and must be in good standing with their courses. Also, students who are regularly late may lose out on trips, tournaments, and games. Academics come first and if students choose to skip classes, they will NOT participate.
- 2) **Marks:** Students must be passing their courses, or they may be withheld from participating.
- 3) **Behaviour:** Suspensions or continued disciplinary issues may result from loss of privileges including athletics. In some cases, students may be removed entirely from a team depending on the severity of situations and finally.
- 4) **Payments/Fees:** Our high school teams have some of the lowest fees in Manitoba. We do our best to maintain reasonable fees and do subsidize where we can. However, for RCI to continue to offer low-cost sports/athletics, players must pay their fees as they are based on the number of athletes on each team. We do assist families with applying for *Kids Sport* or *JumpStart*, please see the links below to see if you qualify for assistance. <https://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/> <https://kidsportcanada.ca/manitoba/west/>.
- 5) **Minimum Course Requirements:** Students must be registered for a **minimum of 2 courses in each semester** to participate in our athletics programming. This does include apprenticeship & InformNet (online) programs, as long as students are attending, in good standing and are working towards a

minimum of 2 credit hours in their chosen apprenticeship or distance course(s). If they do not show up, they will be dropped from the team(s) immediately with no refunds.

Senior High Curling Team:



The boys curled at the Zone 7 High School Curling Bonspiel in Neepawa on Friday Jan 19. The team consisted of four Grade 9 students, Emerson Braun, Clay Munz, Samuel Rivas-Banos & Beau Jubinville. Coach Clayton Robbins was not available to be at the bonspiel, but Coach Connor English helped the boys win their first game. Thanks to Mrs. Jubinville for supervising this young team—the future is bright for this group in Gr. 10-12 if they stay with the program. Well done, guys!

Jr. High Curling & Downhill Skiing



SSF Breakfast & Snack Program (Mrs. Kent)

The students would like to thank Mrs. Lynn Bradley for her donation to the Breakfast Program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank You.

Project Reset: [Project Reset - Prairie Mountain Health](#) More of an Elementary/Jr. High focus but the creators have high school-based lessons as well.

- Technology, Screen Time etc...
- Please check out the parent resources available for families to consider at home.
- Val Caldwell presentation to the community in 2024

On March 5th, **SERC** will be back to do the following presentations. I know this will not affect all of students, but we wanted students, parents, and staff to be aware of these upcoming presentations.

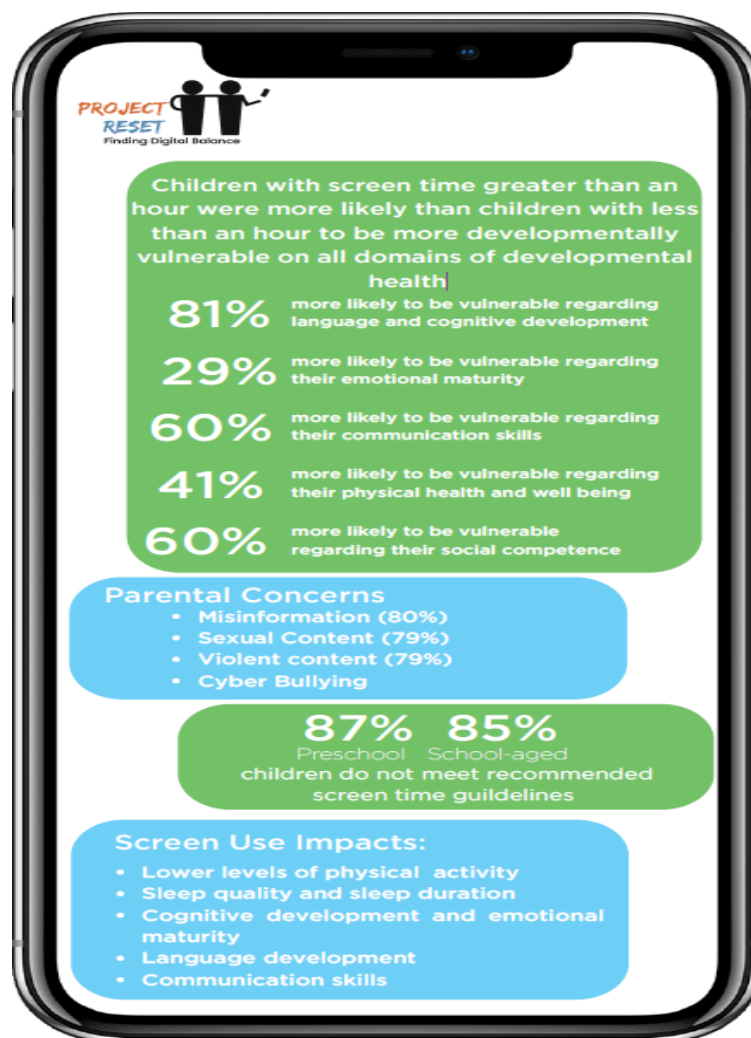
Period 1: Grade 11 – Relationships

Period 2: Grade 9 – Relationships

Period 3: Grade 10 - Substance Use

Period 4: Grade 10 – Relationships

Period 5: Grade 11 – Substance Use



Bell Let's Talk Day (Mrs. Hengen)





What is Wizz?

Wizz is a chat app owned by a Paris-based company that combines features similar to those seen on Tinder® (swiping through profiles) and Omegle®, an online service designed to pair strangers in video chats which was recently shutdown following a lawsuit over child sexual abuse and exploitation.

What should parents be aware of?

Sextortion is when someone is blackmailed with an intimate image to send nudes or money to a predator. Sextorters seek out victims on apps that allow strangers to connect, using accounts with stolen images that trick youth into thinking they are speaking to another teen. Predators may then move conversations onto a platform where images and videos can be shared.

There, a sextorter tricks the youth into sending nudes. This can happen because the predator has created a false sense of security, by sending nudes first (which the victim believes is of the person they are talking to but are often images of a random teen girl), or pretending to have mutual friends or interests.

Why are we concerned about Wizz?

Cybertip.ca has received 180+ reports concerning Wizz since 2021. Compared to 2022, we received 10 times as many reports about the app in 2023. Reports about Wizz increased faster than any other platform.

Of these reports, 91% concerned sextortion¹, with males victimized in 93% of cases when gender was known.² The majority of victims reported to Cybertip.ca were between 15–17 years old.³

Wizz permits users to share information about themselves on their profiles (e.g. location, interests). Reports to Cybertip.ca have shown sextorters leverage their victims' personal information (e.g. the sextorter sets their location as the same province as their victim, or mentions they like the same sports or games the victim has on their profile). Wizz's design also allows users to feature their other social media profiles, such as Snapchat, making it easy for users to add each other on different platforms. This feature may lead sextorters from Wizz to teens' other social media accounts to victimize them.

Use of age verification at registration – doesn't that make it safer?

Wizz's "age verification" process appears to primarily be done by applying artificial intelligence to a submitted selfie. This process is known as "age estimation", and it is far from perfect. Female Cybertip.ca analysts who are 23 and 25 years old went through the facial recognition process and were able to create accounts on Wizz as 16-year-old males.

Also, in many cases those who offend against children and youth are themselves young in age and can access the app, meaning the age estimated-related safety claims by Wizz may provide a false sense of security.

Next steps

Cybertip.ca recommends all parents and caregivers consider removing this app from their youth's phone, and talk about the risks the use of Wizz may present to their teens.

Visit [Cybertip.ca](https://www.cybertip.ca) for more information about [sexortion](#), how to support your child if they have been victimized, and to [report](#) instances of online sexual exploitation.

Youth can access support, resources, and help with next steps if they have been sexually victimized online at [NeedHelpNow.ca](https://www.needhelpnow.ca).



Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Team

The Junior Varsity Boys Basketball team consisted of three grade 10 players, Kody Dziver, Rainn Paddock and Logan Freeman, and five grade 9 players, Cullen Jackson, Beau Jubinville, Preston Cords, Emerson Braun and Leland Henderson. A big thank you to Ryan Lamb for coaching the team this year.

RIVERS CURLING CLUB IS HOSTING:

*2nd Annual
Junior Bonspiel*



For Kids Aged 7 - 18
All skill levels welcome!
PRIZES: CASH OR CANDY

When: Saturday, March 9th, 2024
Where: Riverdale Community Center
Rivers Curling Club
Cost: \$10/player
Cash or Cheque accepted payable to:
Rivers Curling Club
4-End Games, minimum 2 Games

Register by March 1st, 2024
by contacting:
champ22_2@hotmail.com

Brooms and Sliders are available to use.

What you need to bring:
Clean shoes, water bottle, and bring lunch or enjoy CJ's on Ice at the rink!



Scent Aware/Fragrance Free, Nut & Fish Aware

We have had a few issues with students bringing AXE and other body sprays/fragrances into the building this year. These aerosol products are not allowed in our school for safety reasons as well as concerns with allergies and sensitivities. We also have some students/staff members with severe allergies to Nuts & Fish. Please be mindful of what is brought into our building.

PARENTS/GUESTS VISITING OUR SCHOOL

When visiting our building (during the day or for evening events/sports/concerts), we ask that students and adults attend with certain expectations. Please do not attend our school while under the influence of alcohol or marijuana. When students or adults come to school either under the influence or smell of alcohol or marijuana it affects our learning environment. This is not meant as judgement of lifestyle choices, but we as a school expect adults to attend appropriately.

Community/Parent Coaches must complete their *Respect in Sport certification* and have their *Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sectors, and Child Abuse Registry Checks* completed before coaching teams or volunteering in our school. Also, in order to drive other students in your vehicle, a drivers permission form must be completed.

Attendance & Lates: This is a reminder for parents: If your child will be late or absent for school/classes, you must inform us. This is necessary for us to keep track of students during the day and keep accurate data. Please either email riverscoll@rrsd.mb.ca or call 204.328.5364. We have noticed a dramatic increase in student absences and lates again this year. We cannot stress enough how important it is for students to attend consistently and be on time. The impact it has on student performance and preparation for later learning (job, workplace, post-secondary) is important. If we want the best for our students, we need to work at this together.

IF SICK STAY HOME!

Good afternoon Parents, and Guardians,

As we continue through respiratory illness season, Rolling River School Division continues to follow Public Health guidance to support the health and wellbeing of students, staff, and families.

Simple and important steps can have a big impact for all of us, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick (returning to school and work when you have been feeling better for 24 hours and are free of fever for 24 hours)
- Washing your hands or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently
- Covering your coughs / sneezes
- Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that are frequently touched by many people

Please review the documents at the links below for important information related to what symptoms to watch for, *how to* provide care and comfort at home and *when* to seek help:

- [KidCare MB - Message from Dr. Karen Gripp, Medical Director, HSC Winnipeg Children's Hospital](#)
- [KidCare MB – How to Care for Your Child During Respiratory Virus Season \(sharedhealthmb.ca\)](#)

For more information visit: [Kid Care - Children & Teens - Shared Health \(sharedhealthmb.ca\)](#), or contact your health care provider.

Jason Cline
Superintendent - Rolling River School Division

Important Dates:

- February 19th
 - Louis Riel Day (Family Day) (**No School**)

- March 6th
 - Jr. High Basketball Divisional Tournament
 - Boys @ Minnedosa
 - Girls @ Forrest
- March 15th
 - Elementary School (Parent Teacher Interviews) (**No Classes**)
 - High School (Inservice) (**No Classes**)
- March 20th
 - Val Caldwell Presentation
 - Online Social Media Risks/Concerns/Consequences
 - Student Presentations during the day (TBA)
 - Parent Presentations in the evening (TBA)
- March 22nd
 - **Last Day of Classes before Spring Break!!**
- March 25th – March 29th
 - Spring Break (**No School**)
- April 1st
 - All Classes Resume, Day 5
- April 19th
 - Elementary School (Inservice) (**No Classes**)
 - High School (Parent Teacher Interviews) (**No Classes**)
- May 20th
 - Victoria Day (**No School**)
- June 13th – June 20th
 - RRSD Exams for Second Semester and All Year Courses
- June 21st
 - Graduation Day (10:00 AM Ceremony), (**No Classes**)
- June 27th
 - Final Day of Official Classes
- June 28th
 - Admin Day (**No Classes K-12**)