

## December 2023

KEEP UP THE ROUTINE OF ATTENDANCE INTO THE NEW YEAR! While the 2023-24 school year has started off with less interruptions than we have observed in recent years, we are still seeing very high levels of severe chronic absenteeism from many of our students. This appears to be an issue across the province since the pandemic. Some students are still establishing a routine of regular attendance, making it more important than ever to support this rhythm during the holiday season. We need parent support in helping or continuing to get students back on track and engaged not only with attending more regularly but with their academics.

We know that many families were affected by the challenges of the pandemic (including mental health & well-being, financial, physical health, employment etc...) and life as we knew it did change in many ways. In hopes of getting our students re-engaged, emphasizing routines & lifelong value of attendance for well-being, learning and achievement will be important to discuss at home as well as at school.

During the upcoming break, it will also be important for students and families to be active. Going for a walk, hike, snowshoe, ski, skating (will we have snow??) etc....are great ways to burn off some of those delicious holiday calories and maintain our health.

**Scent Aware/Fragrance Free, Nut & Fish Aware**.....We've 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.

Congratulations to **Ms. Ploshynsky** who won a MCAC Championship Banner in November with the Brandon University Women's Soccer program. Ms. Ploshynsky was one of the coaching staff that travelled to Charlottetown, PEI to compete in the National Championships.

Please see the **2022-23 community report** attached to this email or view it on our school website. The **2023-24 school plan** can also be viewed on the school website.

Thank you goes out to **Andrew & Hiltje Vander Velde** for the donation of honey recently. The honey will go towards a variety of needs within our school including the breakfast program and our foods and nutrition course.

**Mrs. Leah Jago**---will be taking **Ms. Danielle Pilatic's** teaching position for the remainder of this school year while she is off on Maternity Leave.

## **Remembrance Day Service:**

Thank you to **Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Kent, Mr. Wolfe,** and **Mrs. Pratt** for putting together a wonderful Veteran's Week event to recognize both Indigenous Veterans and Remembrance Days. This event was unfortunately delayed until November 13<sup>th</sup> due to staff/student illnesses and road condition issues the previous week.

We were fortunate to have **Lt. Christopher Rankin** join us to provide us with a memorable speech about his family's involvement in the Armed Forces over many generations as well as information & a timeline of Canadian Peacekeeping. The event was hosted by our Student Council President, **Emily Oldenburger**. We also had our High School Band perform O'Canada while Mr. Wolfe played the Reveille on trumpet. The Gr. 9 Reading is Thinking class put together an emotional PowerPoint presentation where they described various topics related to the Canadian involvement in the war. Grade 7 student, Chloe Kent also read out a poem before our assembly participants called The Poppy. Thank you to all who took part in this event.

**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](mailto:riverscoll@rrsd.mb.ca) or call 204.328.5364.

## **IF SICK STAY HOME!**

I'm sure you have heard the news. Cold, Flu & Covid are making the rounds in Manitoba this fall. We have seen many students away with illness recently. This message is to remind students, staff, and parents that if you are sick, please protect others around you by staying home until feeling better.

## **Band Concert**

Our Band Concert had been postponed due to numerous conflicts with student schedules. The Gr. 7-12 groups will be performing **at 12:30 on December 12<sup>th</sup>** in our gymnasium. Parents and

guests are welcome to attend. For those that are not able to attend, please visit our website [Home - Rivers Collegiate \(rrsd.mb.ca\)](http://rrsd.mb.ca) and click on the link under the Announcements heading.

### **Cultural Proficiency & Reconciliation:**

RCI is in the process of forming a cultural collaboration network. Our first collaborator is Aaron McKay. Aaron is an Anishinaabe man and an RRSD Grad from Erickson Collegiate who grew up on Rolling River First Nation, Treaty 4. His mother is from Swan Lake First Nation, Treaty 1. His traditional lands are within the Riding Mountain National Park with a deep connection to the Lake Katherine area. Please see his bio link to learn more about Aaron: [About Me — Giiwe Media](#).

Aaron created his own multi-media and tourism business, [Giiwe Media](#), dedicated to supporting and elevating Indigenous voices and history throughout Canada. As part of his business, he does public speaking on Indigenous Culture and Reconciliation, consulting with organizations on how to enhance Indigenous cultural competency and organizes markets for Indigenous artisans to share and sell their work.

One of Aaron's markets is coming up this Saturday at Clear Lake: [Gathering of Creations: Christmas in the park — Giiwe Media](#). Aaron also recently held a position being a cultural liaison between RMNP and surrounding Indigenous (whose traditional lands are within RMNP). He has a wealth of knowledge in this area.

We will share more information with you as we welcome Aaron to our school this year.

### **HSA Hockey Draft Update:**

For a complete list of teams and rankings, go to [pickuphockey.com](http://pickuphockey.com)  
Pool Name: Rivers HSA 2023 Password: NHL23

1	<u>Insert Name Here</u>	520
2	<u>Spittin SickPicks</u>	514
3	<u>Gladiator Supreme</u>	508
4	<u>Team Shane</u>	490
5	** <u>Gitter Cup</u>	485
5	** <u>Sam I Am</u>	485
5	** <u>Scott Peters</u>	485
8	** <u>Gump's Grinders</u>	484
8	** <u>Mighty Shrimp</u>	484
10	<u>MK71</u>	481
11	<u>Princess of the Palace</u>	471
12	<u>Riverdale Renegades</u>	469
13	<u>Kellico99</u>	467
14	<u>Loyal Oil</u>	464
15	** <u>Bearcat</u>	463
15	** <u>Big Rig</u>	463
15	** <u>The Dump 'N' Jayce</u>	463
18	** <u>Team Paddock</u>	462
18	** <u>The Peter Pucks</u>	462
20	<u>Emerson</u>	459



Back Row: Michael, Nate, Devron, Jake, Carter, Mason

Middle Row: Lonney, Kodi, Cohen, Corbin, Sawyer

Front Row: Leighton

The **Junior High Boys Triple Ball (Volleyball)** team was coached by Grade 12 student Michael Campbell this year. The boys participated in the Forrest Jamboree in November. This was a tournament specifically for the athletes to gain experience in the new volleyball format of Triple Ball. They did quite well and were able to size up some of their opponents for the Division Tournament held in Minnedosa December 6. In that tournament, the boys placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the pool after round robin play and faced the 1<sup>st</sup> place team of the other pool, Onanole, in the quarterfinals. The team defeated Onanole in three sets, with the score of the deciding set being 15-13! They then faced Tanner's Crossing in the Semifinals and lost two very close sets with a score of 22-25 each set. The team played hard, improved dramatically throughout the tournament, and represented RCI very well. Congratulations on a successful season, boys, and thank you Michael for coaching!

## **Christmas Classic High School Hockey Game**

The annual **Christmas Classic Hockey Game** will take place this year in Russell on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30am. Our high school co-op team (Hamiota/Rivers/Elton Huskies) will face off against the Major Pratt Trojans (Russell).

The bus will leave at **9:30am**, and students will need to be in attendance for their morning classes in order to be able to go. The bus will return after the completion of the game, approximately returning to RCI at around **3:00-3:20pm**.

The cost to attend will be **\$10.00**, which will include your admission and bus ride. Only 40 spots are available for the bus!

Students are asked to **bring non-perishable food items** to the game as we typically collect for the local food bank. We will keep all RCI donations and drop them off directly at Riverdale Harvest after the game.



## **Student Council Happenings**

Intramural Floor Hockey will be starting soon at lunchtime in the gym! Be sure to sign up at the office to be included on a team!

Student council is preparing to host another Spirit Week December 18th- 22nd! Posters will be up around the school along with daily announcements. Get ready to show your Holiday Spirit!

During Spirit Week, we will also be selling "Candy Cane-grams" for \$1. Purchase a candy cane to send to the person of your choice! For an extra \$0.50, you can also add your own personal message! All "candy cane-grams" will be handed out on Friday, Dec. 22.

## **Important Dates:**

### **December:**

- **Tuesday Dec 12**
  - ***RCI Band Concert During the Lunch Hour 12:30-1:00pm***

- **Tuesday Dec 19**
  - Rivers Elementary School Christmas Concert (PM & Evening)
- **Thursday Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**
  - Hockey Academy Xmas Potluck
- **Friday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>**
  - Last Day of Classes 2023
  - Hamiota Huskies XMAS Classic in Russell
- **December 25 – Jan 5:**
  - Christmas Break

**January:**

- **Monday Jan 8, 2024**
  - Return to Classes, Day 1
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**Exam Schedule Tentative**

**Students & Parents,**

*Please enquire about semester one final course exams with your teachers. There may be some changes to this schedule as we head towards January 2024. Your teachers will have a better idea about course situations and whether a final exam, project, or assignment will be provided as your final assessment in courses that are ending. The types of assessments will vary depending on the course, teacher, etc... An updated version will be available in Mid-January if needed.*

**Gr. 12 Provincial Exams:** Please do NOT be late for these exams as you will not receive additional time beyond what has been allotted.

<b>January 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>ELA</i>	9:00am-12:00pm
<b>January 10-12<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>ELA</i>	9:00am-10:00am
<b>January 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Essentials</i>	9:00am-12:00pm

**Inform Net Courses:** This year we have several students completing courses in January through distance/online learning. Please consult your information regarding due dates and exam dates on the Inform Net platform (Blackboard).

**RCI Exams:**

Any course exams NOT listed here will be arranged with classroom teachers and completed in their regular class or through a final project/assignment. When students have completed their exams, they are expected to prepare for future exams, finish other assignments (credit recovery) or go home for the day. Credit recovery is available for those who have a plan in place with teachers. **Also, our school buses are not a taxi service. If a student does NOT have an exam, please do not travel into Rivers to “hangout for the day” we do not have staff available to supervise as many are working with Credit Recovery students or marking exams and preparing report cards.**

<b>Week 1</b>					
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Mon Jan 22</b>	<b>Tues Jan 23</b>	<b>Wed Jan 24</b>	<b>Thurs Jan 25</b>	<b>Fri Jan 26</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<i>Regular Classes</i>	<i>Regular Classes</i>	<i>Regular Classes</i>	30 History 10 Math 10 Science	30 Essentials 20 ELA
<b>Afternoon</b>	<i>Regular Classes</i>	<i>Regular Classes</i>	<i>Regular Classes</i>	NO 9-12 Classes Credit Recovery	No 9-12 Classes Credit Recovery
<b>1:15pm</b>					
<b>Week 2</b>					
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<b>Morning</b>	<b>Mon Jan 29</b>	<b>Tues Jan 30</b>	<b>Wed Jan 31</b>	<b>Thurs Feb 1</b>	<b>Fri Feb 2</b>
<b>9:00 am</b>	30 Chemistry 20 Essentials 10 Social Studies 10 Reading is Thinking	20 Science 10 ELA 10 Art/Keyboarding	30 Pre-Calc 20 ICT 3D modelling	40 ELA <b>Make Up Exams</b>  No 9-12 Classes Credit Recovery	<b>No Classes 7-12 Admin Day</b>
<b>Afternoon</b>	No Classes 9-12 Credit Recovery	No Classes 9-12 Credit Recovery	No Classes 9-12 Credit Recovery	40 Phys. Ed. No 9-12 Classes Credit Recovery	<b>No Classes 7-12 Admin Day</b>
<b>1:15 pm</b>					