

## September Update

École Manachaban <Manachaban@rockyview.ab.ca>

Tue 2022-09-27 2:41 PM

To: Bonnie Branton <bbranton@rockyview.ab.ca>

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September 27, 2022

Dear Manachaban Families,

We have had an absolutely great start to this school year. Thank-you to everyone who came to our meet the teacher school orientation and to our students and staff who have been putting in great efforts getting everything in place and running smoothly. Below is some important information to keep you all in the loop.

### **\*NEW\* - Safe Arrivals**

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. To improve our safe arrival process, we are adding a new system that will make it easier for you to report – and respond to – school absences of your student.

The new student absence reporting system will let you use a mobile app, a web site, or an interactive toll-free phone line to report an absence in advance. As a result, it will take the school less time to verify student attendance, and less time to begin to notify parents and guardians of absences that were unexpected or unplanned.

This time savings makes it faster and more efficient to account for all students and their safety.

If your student is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our new SafeArrival system will be able to rapidly contact you by automated phone call, text message, email, or mobile app push notification to get a reason for the absence. Calls and contacts will continue until you choose an option to explain the absence.

This new, automated SafeArrival process is part of our SchoolMessenger notification system from West, and our new SchoolMessenger mobile app for iOS and Android devices. It'll be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make it convenient for you to report future absences.

You'll soon be receiving more details on how to sign up for SafeArrival and we look forward to all families taking part.

### **RVS Assessment Plan**

As part of RVS' plan to ensure that all our students can read, write and do math at appropriate levels, we are beginning a new assessment cycle at all schools across RVS. Depending on your child's grade, they will be taking part in brief benchmark assessments that give the teacher important information about the child's basic skills that can be used to guide instruction or to provide additional supports if needed. There is no preparation needed of your child for these assessments.

Your child's teachers can inform you at student led conferences about their progress and how we can work together to support their skill development. This information will not be shared as part of Real Time Reporting in PowerSchool nor is it used to determine their performance level in their grade. The purpose is to see where they are at in their basic skills and guide us on a path of improvement.

If you have specific questions about your child's assessments or learning in general, please reach out to your child's teacher.

### **Parental Involvement**

There are many ways, beyond actually being in the school, that parents are involved in their child's school and education. Getting your child to school ready to learn is one of the most important ways you can support your child's education. All the forms you fill out, information meetings you attend, learning at home you support and communications you read from your child's teacher and the school are all ways you as a parent are involved. There are also many ways you can volunteer in and out of the school. We have sent a volunteer form home 2 weeks ago and will send a hard copy home as well for your convenience. Please send these back with the things you may want to volunteer with this year. You will require a Criminal record check with a vulnerable sector completed and on file to volunteer in the school and with students. If you do not have one yet and are applying you can still send in your volunteer form back and when you get your CVC you can email it to Mrs. Benoit at [nbenoit@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:nbenoit@rockyview.ab.ca) and she will upload it to the system. Please complete the yearly demographics forms and annual authorization forms and submit them before September 29th, 2022 if you have not already.

### **School Council**

Our school council is alive and well!!! We have our annual AGM on October 24, 2022 at 6:30 in the Learning Commons at the school. We will also have a link for those who want to join via Zoom for the meeting. All parents are welcome. We have a few positions to vote on and fill. Council Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. We are also interested in finding someone to be the communications person and to have grade or classroom reps. Some of these positions are

indicated on the volunteer form. Please come out to council even if you do not want to fill a formal position. It's a great way to "have a voice and get your finger on the pulse of the school " (quoted from a new parent joining the school council).

Our council will be receiving a 500 dollar grant to support any initiatives that help parents get involved in their child's school and education. Last year we spent this grant on designing and printing the magnet calendars with important information about the school, dates and contact information. We are looking for feedback and ideas of how to utilize this school council money in the best way for our parents and students. Please send your feedback to our new council email at [Manachaban-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca](mailto:Manachaban-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca) .

#### **Message from our school council chair:**

Hello!

My name is Brittany Derricott and I am the current chair of the École Manachaban Middle School Council. I joined Council at the beginning of last year and have enjoyed being a part of working with the school community. I have four children, two attending Manachaban and two that attend Cochrane High. Our current School Council secretary is Heather Derkson and has been a pleasure to work with this past school year. We are both happy to stay on in these positions if we are voted in at the up-and-coming AGM on October 24, 2022. We are looking for someone to fill our vice chair position. All other positions are extra support such as classroom or grade representatives and a communication person. You can come to council meetings just as a member at large without a formal position. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. We meet every 4th Monday of the month from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM (or 8 Pm at the latest).

Attending School Council meetings gives the opportunity to gather information, give input, and ask questions. Now that the public can freely enter the school, we are looking forward to offering some of the previous programs and coming up with new and innovative ideas to improve our school environment for the students moving forward. We need your voices, so come on out!!

Please do not hesitate to contact me at our new School Council email ([manachaban-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca](mailto:manachaban-schoolcouncil@rvschools.ab.ca)).

Brittany Derricott

#### **2022 ÉCOLE MANACHABAN MIDDLE SCHOOL 49th Annual WALKATHON**

Once again, École Manachaban Middle School is organizing the annual Walkathon Fundraiser. This year's Walkathon is scheduled for Thursday October 20th, 2022. This is the 49th year that this school has hosted this fundraising event, making it a long-standing tradition not only at École Manachaban, but also in our community.

The funds raised through this event go back to support our students directly. A portion of the money goes to each grade team to enhance and enrich learning opportunities at that grade level. This year, some of the money being raised will go towards things such as books, programs, and items to support literacy, numeracy, and technology for the classroom.

One of the main things we want the students to learn through participation in the Walkathon is social responsibility, by raising funds for the common good of everyone in the school. We strongly encourage students to participate in the event through fundraising and active participation on the Walkathon Day. It is hoped that each student raises a minimum of \$20.00 by October 31st, 2022. It is important to note that students should NOT engage in door-to-door fundraising but draw on family and friends. A charitable tax donation receipt will be received through RVS School Cash Online.

If you would like to donate on behalf of a company or business, we would be glad to recognize your business through our social media channels, and with signage at our event. If this is something that interests you, please contact Mr. Réal Cyr directly at [rcyr@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:rcyr@rockyview.ab.ca).

All personal donations this year will be collected through RVS School Cash Online. Please see the directions at the bottom of this message.

#### **Parent Volunteers Needed:**

For parents interested in volunteering for the Walkathon, please email M Cyr directly at [rcyr@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:rcyr@rockyview.ab.ca) if:

1. The parent has had their police check submitted to the school.
2. The parent wishes to volunteer the day of the walk-a-thon in the capacity of route marker, or food preparation/service.

Volunteers will be chosen on a first come first serve basis and will hear from M Cyr if they are needed.

Personal Donations Instructions (RVS School Cash Online):

The following instructions can be used for everyone whether they have an account or not:

1. Go to [rockyview.schoolcashionline.com](http://rockyview.schoolcashionline.com).
2. Click on the ITEMS tab in the top right area
3. Click Make a Donation in the top right area.
4. Under the Gift Information, enter amount of donation, pre-set amount or other.
5. In the Fund Destination drop down menu, choose Manachaban Middle School.
6. Under the Tribute Information (optional, but preferred), select This gift is: then choose In Honor Of: enter student's name
7. Select No for send a Tribute Card.

9. Under Message to School Board: please enter Donation for Walk-A-Thon.

10. Click Add to Cart, click Continue, at this point be sure to click Continue as Guest, fill out payment information and click Continue.

### **Cob's Bread School Donation- 5% of your purchase**

If you shop at Cobb's Bread, please make them aware that you are a Manachaban parent and would like the 5% donation from your purchase to go to our school.

### **Field Update**

Our new artificial turf field is coming along nicely and should be completed by around October 15, 2022. In the meantime, students are enjoying using all the other spaces around the school during recess breaks.

### **Grade 8 FI Quebec Trip**

Our Grade 8 FI trip to Quebec is planned and underway depending on interest. The information meeting took place last evening. If you have a child in Grade 8 FI who is interested in going on this trip please have them speak to their homeroom teacher for the information and documents required.

### **Locks**

We have received our last order of locks and have lots to go around. Please be aware that if your child uses their own lock and cannot get into their locker then we will be cutting it off so they can access their belongings. If your child has a school lock we have a secure access key to open their lock if for some reason they cannot.

### **Cell Phones**

Please be aware that if students bring smart phones and other Wi-Fi enables handheld devices, they must store them in their locker during learning times. Students have access and permission to use their smart phones and such only during snack break, lunch, and lunch recess. Teachers will give one reminder to students who do not comply with this rule and then the matter will be followed up with by administration and parents.

So far this year we feel that most students are being very good about keeping their cell phones in their lockers. We appreciate their efforts and respectful use of their technology.

### **Terry Fox Run**

Manachaban staff and students fundraised over 1800\$ to donate to the terry fox foundation for Cancer Research

### **Picture Day**

Tomorrow - Wednesday, September 28th, 2022

### **Grade 6 Immunizations**

(for any students with consent) – Wednesday, October 5th, 2022

Please visit our Manachaban website at <https://manachaban.rockyview.ab.ca/> for the information you may need as well as our School Calendar with important dates

*Kind regards,*  
*Brenda Valerio*  
*Principal, École Manachaban Middle School*  
[bvalerio@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:bvalerio@rockyview.ab.ca)  
403-932-2215

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