

Rapid City School

Message from the Principal

Reporting Student Absences
Parents/Caregivers,
If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school and leave a message or email your child's teacher and let them know prior to 9:00 am.
Thank you.

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed a memorable and fun winter break. It's great to be able to return to school well-rested and ready to tackle learning with clear minds. A few of our classrooms are taking time during this month to discuss and set goals. January is a great time to reflect on intentions that you and your family are sharing as we move into the new year.

We are 'hitting the ground running' in January with lots of fun activities! On January 20, our K-6 classes are going to Brandon to watch a production of Aladdin Jr. at the Westman Centennial Auditorium. Our Grade 7/8 class will be kicking off the curling season on that day at the Rivers rink. Our Grade 5-8 students will be curling in Rivers on January 27. We kindly ask that students try to bring their own curling broom on curling days (borrow from family, a friend, or neighbour if you can!).

Our school is always looking to grow our curling broom collection. If you happen to have curling brooms kicking around the house or garage that you are not using – we are always grateful to accept donations! Please keep an eye out for permission forms coming home – we thank you for your effort to send them back to the school before the due dates.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Mary Phillips, Lynne Miller, and Cathy Nevin – these generous ladies spent many hours prepping and cooking our Christmas Dinner on December 20. It was such a fun and successful event – we hope to make it an annual occasion!

I hope you all have a wonderful start to the year! *Ms. Hofer*

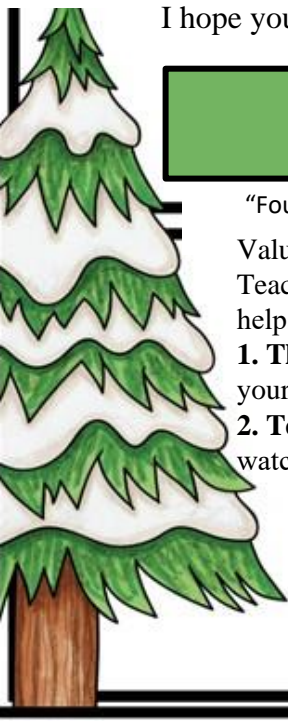
Mental Health and Wellness – Ms. Hofer

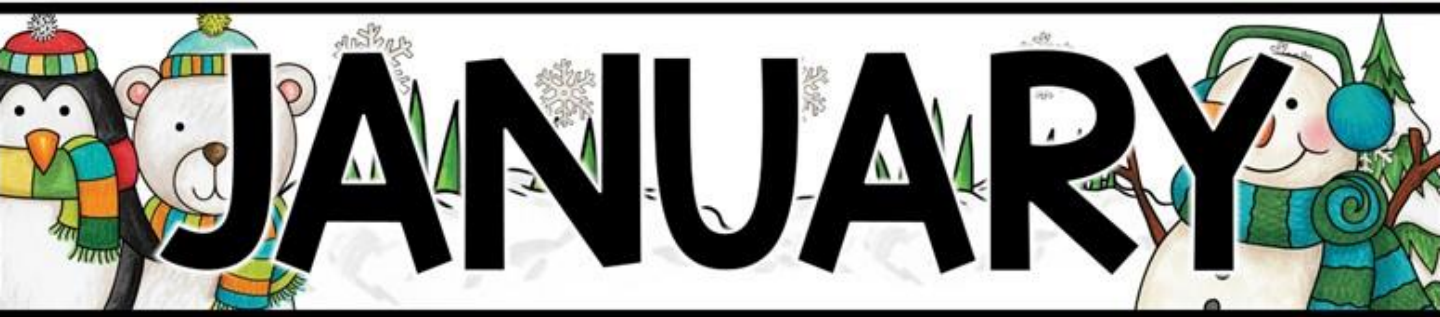
Four Ways to Strengthen Your Child's Character

"Four Ways to Strengthen Your Child's Character." *The Parent Institute*, vol. 34, no. 6, Feb. 2023, p. 1.

Values help students make good choices, develop self-esteem, and become responsible individuals. Teaching values at home supports what schools are doing to create a positive school culture that helps all students learn. Here are four strategies to build your child's character:

- 1. Think about the values** that are important to you and your family. Talk about them openly with your child.
- 2. Teach by example.** Your example is the most powerful teacher of all. Ask yourself, "If my child watched my behavior all day, what lessons would it teach?"
- 3. Set high standards.** Expect your child to act responsibly, to be kind to others and to tell the truth. Some families make it a point of family pride. "In the Smith family, we tell the truth."
- 4. Talk about the Golden Rule.** Teaching kids to treat others the way they would like to be treated helps them make better choices. Ask your child, "Would you want someone to talk to you that way?"





Rapid City School

Kindergarten – Mrs. Belisle

Happy new year!
I hope everyone had a fun and restful Christmas break. December was packed full of holiday activities. Everyone did an excellent job at the Christmas concert. It was so nice to get back in the hall and enjoy a concert once again. The students enjoyed having reindeer games on the last day before the break. We also enjoyed Christmas centres with the one to class. Thank you to families who sent treats and juice for our classroom party. They were well enjoyed! During the month of December, we had a special visitor in our classroom. We had a classroom elf on the shelf named Elfie. We enjoyed finding him every day we came to school and seeing what he had gotten up to.

This month we are ready to get back into the swing of things. We will be continuing with our jolly phonics program, math centers, learning about colours in science, and we will be introducing literacy centers.

On January 20th we will be heading to Auditorium in Brandon to watch Aladdin Jr. with the k-4 classes. Permission forms will be coming home soon for this.

A reminder to check your child's extra clothes bag to make sure everything fits, and it is well stocked!

Please be sure to send lots of warm outdoor clothes as we have outdoor recess if it is warmer than -30. Enjoy the new year everyone!



Grade 1/2 – Mrs. Rempel

Welcome Back!
I hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas break.

January is sure to be a busy month as we re-establish our daily routines and schedule in our classroom. We will start up our home reading program again, and we will begin our spelling program this month. Please check your child's planner pouch for upcoming information regarding our spelling program.

In math we will take some time to reach back and review our number concepts and patterns that we focused on prior to the break before beginning to explore our new unit on operations.

In Science we will take a closer look at animal habitats and how they survive the cold winter months.

We will begin our new Social Studies unit called Mapping and Community this month. In this unit we will explore various maps that include our town, province, and country. I'm hopeful for some mild weather this month as this unit also includes a community walk and the opportunity to create our own class map of Rapid City.

Mrs. Rempel

Music – Mrs. MacDonald

Wed. December 21 was full of excitement, nerves, and great music, as the Forrest Elementary School gym transformed into a performance hall and hosted the school Christmas concert. The concert took on an "old fashioned" theme, where each class performed an item. Many of the performances were set to Christmas carols, with a few surprises as well. The traditional candle lighting ending was touching and enjoyed by all. January will bring many more music making opportunities for the students from K-grade 6 including, but not limited to ukulele, recorder, and Orff instrument playing. Let the music continue!

Musically Yours,
Mrs. MacDonald



Rapid City School

Grade 3/4— Mrs. Hrymak

Happy New Year! I hope 2023 will be a year filled with happiness and laughter for everyone. This month, we will be starting Brrr Projects in English Language Arts. The students will receive a list of wintery projects to choose from. We will try to get a snapshot of what was chosen onto Seesaw for parents. If you don't have Seesaw, please send me an email and I will send you the login instructions. In Math, we will be finishing up our look at addition and subtraction and starting multiplication and division. It is very beneficial for students to continue practicing math facts so they are automatic. In Science, we will be completing our look at Light. For the final project, the students will need a **1 litre milk carton**. Please send this in as soon as possible. We will be completing our look at Canada in Social Studies and moving on to a study of Canada's North this term. I hope everyone has a great holiday and is looking forward to getting back in routine.

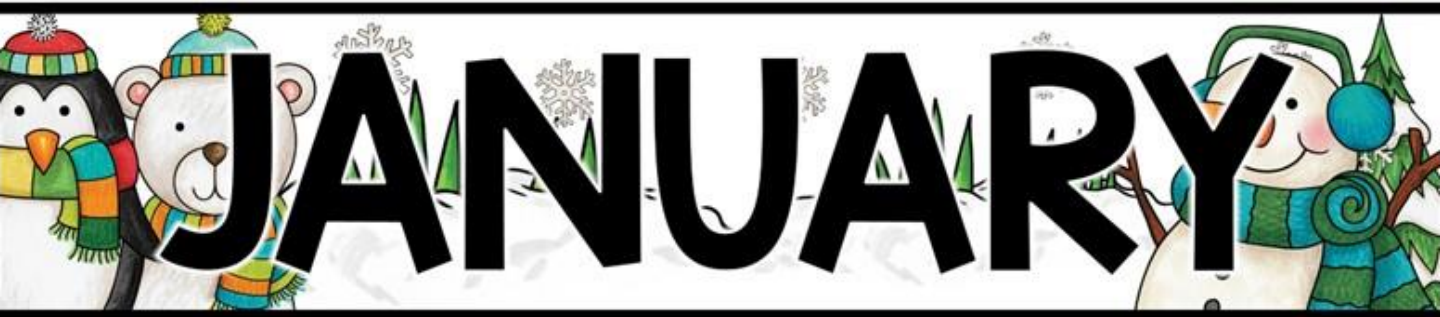


Grade 5/6 – Mrs. Walker

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday season. Happy New Year! We are excited to get back at it and get settled in for a great 2023! We will be starting the year with some goal setting. This will give students a chance to reflect on what we have done so far and what they would like to improve on in areas of learning for the rest of the year. We will be going curling this month which will be exciting to learn a new sport and acquire some new skills. Let's have a wonderful 2023!

Phys. Ed – Mr. Edwards

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a relaxing and restful holiday break. For the next couple of months, we will be focusing on basketball. We will work on shooting and dribbling skills and rules of the game. I will be running basketball intramurals every even day at lunch. Important dates coming up include the curling divisional bonspiel on February 15th and the basketball divisional tournament is on March 2nd. Signups for both curling and basketball will be going up shortly. Ms. Hofer is coaching the curling team and I will be coaching the basketball team. Have a great month everyone!



Rapid City School

Grade 7/8 – Mrs. Boolsman

I hope your holiday season was full of rest and relaxation as well as good food, family and friends. As we look forward into the start of the new year, the grade 7/8's will be doing some goal setting and reflecting on what they want their 2023 to look like. Goal setting is a great way to kick off the new year with tangible things to focus your energy on. We will be talking about the benefits of setting goals and how we will go about reaching those goals.

January and February means that curling and basketball are the sports we will be concentrating on. As a class, we will be partaking in a couple days of instruction on the curling ice and then anyone interested in being on a curling team, they will get a few more days of practice. The curling bonspiel will be held on February 15th.

Our academics will start back up and we will be continuing on from where we left off. Grade 7's will be starting a new math unit, grade 8's will be finishing up their fractions unit in the next week. In social studies, we will be starting to look at the fascinating history of Ancient Egypt.

Enjoy your January!

Resource- Mrs. Pilling

Family Book Club – New Year – New Routine!

- #1 – Everyone brings two books... one they are reading or just finished and one they want to read next.
- #2 – Choose a consistent location that is comfortable and inviting
- #3 – Invite everyone to help choose the format. Kids love to have a voice in who asks questions, whether sticky notes are involved, how often you meet, and what the group norms should be! Kids may like to write things down on sticky notes, while others may like to have a reading journal. Ask everyone to share a short passage they really liked from their book.
- #4 – Have snacks... always!! Finger foods are great for book club discussions. Think candy, pretzels, veggies, or fruit!
- #5 – Go with the flow and keep it low pressure. Do not stress if it does not go according to plan! Its okay to end early, shift gears, or just try again next time. Keep it enjoyable for kids so that they keep coming back for more and develop that reader mindset.
- #6 – Before ending your meeting, decide what you would like to tweak for the next time, when you'll meet again, and any family book club norms you'd like to add or revisit.

Fun Questions ...

- What books did you bring to the book club and why?
- What do you like about the book?
- Who is the evil/good person in your book? What is the evil/good force in the book?
- What is your least favorite trait of the main character?
- What is your favorite trait of the antagonist?
- How did the author open your story?



JANUARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
02	03	04	05	06
Christmas break Dec. 23/22-Jan. 9/22 (Day 5)	Christmas Break			Admin Day NO SCHOOL
Day 5 09	Day 6 10	Day 1 11	Day 2 12	Day 3 13
Shop/Home Ec	Hot Dog Orders DUE @ 3:30 pm		Hot Dog Day!	
Day 4 16	Day 5 17	Day 6 18	Day 1 19	Day 2 20
	Shop/Home Ec			Aladdin Jr. (Brandon): K-6 (field trip) Curling (Rivers): All 7/8s
Day 3 23	Day 4 24	Day 5 25	Day 6 26	Day 1 27
		Shop/Home Ec	Parent Group Hot Lunch	Curling (Rivers): All 5-8s
Day 2 30	Day 3 31	February Dates: February 3 – Jr. High curling team practice – all day (Rivers) February 8 – Jr. High curling team practice – all day (Rivers) February 14 – Jr. High curling team practice – morning only (Rivers) February 15 – RRSD curling bonspiel (Rivers)		