



Northcott Prairie Post

Our Family Connection

February 14, 2025

Dear Bison Community,

Happy Valentine's Day! I hope you find time today or this weekend to share with your loved ones how much they mean to you!

It was a cold week which led to many indoor recesses. Please remember that one of the challenges of living in Alberta is that the weather changes frequently. We check the temperature before every recess and if it is warm enough, we head outside! Please help us by ensuring your child is dressed for the weather.

A huge thank you to our council for the Family dance last Friday. It was such a fun event and so great to see so many families out!

Also, last weekend, two of Northcott's Bison herd were recognized at the Mayor's Night of the Arts. Sarah Batchelor received the Arts Educator award and Tare Rennebohm won the Champion of the Arts award. Check out the full press release below! Congratulations to you both! We are very proud of you!

This week was filled with some fun spirit activities, my favorite was dressing like a teacher where a lot of staff chose to dress as our fearless grade one teacher Mr. Borstad. Also, our GSA sold bracelets and stickers.

Many classes also celebrated the 100th day of school with fun activities and dressing like a 100-year-old!

We have a few staffing changes this week as well. We wish Ms. Fletcher all the best as she prepares for her baby that is set to arrive soon! We are happy to say that Ms. Potekal will be transitioning into this class. As well, we are welcoming Ms. Patten back from her maternity leave.

Remember there is no school next week with Family Day, Vacation Days and Teacher's Convention.

Have a wonderful break!

Devon Sawby, Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 17
Family Day holiday - School Closed

February 18 & 19
Vacation days – school closed

February 20 & 21
Teachers' Convention – no classes for students

February 24
Classes resume

February 25
4th Annual Read-A-Thon kick-off assembly

F3 = Fit, Fun, Family!
6:30 – 8:00PM

February 26
Pink Shirt Day

Internet Safety

We have recently had an increase in concerns with students sharing that they have been accessing inappropriate content on the internet at home. Some students have been severely impacted by what they have watched and others, thinking it is “cool”, attempt to act out some of the negative behaviours that they have seen. When we contact parents, they are often aware that their child is “on YouTube”, but they are not aware of what their child has actually been exposed to.

We are sharing this as a friendly reminder to monitor your child’s internet and television use at home for their safety and well-being. We have also included a poster about the Netflix show

“Squid Game” as we have students as young as grade 1 acting out some of the scenes from the show during recess breaks.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION
15+
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed to young audiences by the nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show, Squid Game. The series, rated 15+, is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread in various guises across online platforms, with a heightened risk of children and young people potentially viewing unsuitable content. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what Squid Game is all about.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name "Squid Game" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as the focus on playground games to go with it.

SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what is the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as "How to Draw Squid Game Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid Game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing Squid Game" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSwitch and WIRED.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/oct/17/english-council-urges-parents-not-to-allow-children-to-watch-squid-game>
<https://hepatitis.com/en/node/2641> | <https://www.nbc.com/sites/te0089420/parental-guise/advisory-violence>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com | [@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) | [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) | [@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.10.2021

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 13, 2025

RE: RVS teachers recognized for contributions to arts in Airdrie

Rocky View Schools (RVS) is pleased to celebrate four exceptional teachers who were recently recognized for their contributions to the arts at the Eighth Annual Airdrie Mayor's Night of the Arts on Feb. 8.

Sarah Batchelor and Tare Rennebohm, both teachers at Northcott Prairie School in Airdrie, were recognized for their contributions to the arts in Airdrie.

"Congratulations to Sarah and Tare on this significant recognition in their community," said Superintendent, Greg Luterbach. "Every day our teachers in the arts and all subjects work to inspire students and create learning opportunities that connect to students' passions and prepare them for the future."

Batchelor received the Arts Educator award, which recognizes outstanding educators who make a significant contribution to art education in Airdrie.

"I feel fortunate to work alongside incredible music educators in RVS, whose programs originally inspired me to apply to work here. I wanted to learn from them and grow with them," Batchelor said. "As RVS grows, so does the need to support our arts programs. I hope this award strengthens my voice as I advocate for these needs. Music has the power to change lives – I see it every day in the lives of my students."

Rennebohm was awarded the Champion of the Arts award, recognizing an individual who has made significant contributions to Airdrie's art scene.

"Receiving this recognition is truly an honour, as it reflects the incredible arts community we have in Airdrie," said Rennebohm. "As an active community member and educator, I'm grateful for the opportunities RVS provides to inspire young artists and contributing to a thriving local arts scene that fosters creativity, connection and lifelong passion."

George McDougall High School teacher, Jordan Harris was also a finalist for the Arts Educator award. C.W. Perry School teacher, Steven Prediger was a finalist for the Patron of the Arts award, celebrating individuals or businesses that have made outstanding philanthropic contributions to an Airdrie arts organization.

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For more information contact:

Ben Sherick

Communications Officer

bsherick@rockyview.ab.ca

“Cupid’s Glow Party” Family Dance Update

Thank you to everyone who came out to our first family dance last Friday. Together we raised \$2216.42 which will go towards projects like a new scooter rack and the development of our learning garden!

GSA Valentine’s Sale Update

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser which raised \$164.38 for our school GSA.



[NPS Battle of the Books - 2025 edition!](#)

NPS has elementary and middle school teams participating in the RVS competition this year. The elementary competition is the morning of April 11th and will take place virtually at NPS. The middle school competition is on May 7th and will take place at the Ed Centre in Airdrie. Our Battlers can find information and Kahoot practice quizzes at the links below:

[General information about NPS Battle of the Books](#)

[Battle of the Books - Grades 3-5](#)

[Battle of the Books - Grades 6-8](#)

Keep reading, Battlers! You make us proud!

Weekly Wellness: Resource to check out

Cultivating a growth mindset is like giving your brain a power-up to face challenges, keep the motivation train chugging, and leap out of our cozy comfort zones!



Dive into this video all about growth mindset magic and discover how we can sprinkle some positivity on our students' school and life adventures!



[Growth vs Fixed Mindset](#)

Link to [Growth vs Fixed Mindset](#) video



RVS Pre-Kindergarten 2025-26 Open Houses



Rocky View Schools' Pre-Kindergarten Program (Pre-K) offers developmentally appropriate programming within a welcoming, inclusive environment for children ages 3 - 5 years. Our child-centered, play-based approach aims to provide engaging experiences that reflect the developmental needs of all children building on their natural curiosity.

In partnership with families, learning is designed to nurture the whole child within an accessible and supportive environment. Children with developmental, medical, or social-emotional needs may receive therapeutic services from relevant members of the learning support team.

For more information regarding your application or the Open House, contact Trish Cull:

Early Childhood Services
403.945.4026
tcull@rockyview.ab.ca

Open Houses

East Lake School (Chestermere)
Friday, February 28, 2025 or
Friday, April 4, 2025
8:30 – 10:30 am

RancheView School (Cochrane)
Friday, February 28, 2025 or
Friday, April 4, 2025
8:30 – 10:30 am

Cooper's Crossing School (Airdrie)
Friday, February 28, 2025 or
Friday, April 4, 2025
8:30 – 10:30 am

Children are invited to attend and engage in the open play centres!



www.rockyview.ab.ca

For more information visit www.rockyview.ab.ca, call 403.945.4022 or email learningsupports@rockyview.ab.ca

To apply online visit: <https://rockyview.schoolengage.ca>

Landscape Designer Help Needed!

We are currently looking for a landscape designer to help us design and plan our outdoor learning garden. If you or know someone willing to volunteer some time to help us continue with our garden designing, it would be hugely welcomed. Please contact Patti Ball at pball@rockyview.ab.ca

Read-A-Thon: call for prize donations

Preparations are underway for our annual Read-A-Thon!

We are looking for community support in the form of donations we can offer students to motivate them to read and raise money.

In the past, we've had donations of gift cards, stuffed animals, scooters and airpods.

Please email Ms. Guenther (jguenther@rockyview.ab.ca) if you are interested in supporting our Read-A-Thon this year.

Balancing Airdrie Student Spaces Action Required!

An email was sent to grade 8 families residing in Cooper's Crossing and Morningside on January 29 regarding which school they will choose for their grade 8 student for the 2025-2026 school year. Please go to SchoolEngage and fill out the form indicating your choice.

Completing this form as soon as possible helps us plan for 2025-2026.

Bussing: Students that are currently in grade 8 and live within the communities of Cooper's Crossing and Morningside will be given the option to remain at Northcott Prairie for grade 9. If they choose to stay at Northcott and require bussing it will be available to those "grandfathered" students for the 2025/26 school year only.

**** Please note that this bus service will be only offered to current 2024/25 grade 8 students only. Bus service for siblings will not be accommodated ****



Dare to Care – parent log in

At Northcott Prairie School we work to ensure our herd is safe. In collaboration with our own NPS PBIS (positive behaviour intervention supports) program, we have purchased the Dare to Care Virtual Program to support the expected behaviours we are looking for. This program includes content that has been developed to engage and motivate students through a combination of teaching, storytelling, and activities and requires no additional preparation or work for classroom teachers.

Holding true to the belief that ALL stakeholders in a school community must be engaged in creating a climate of respect, the Dare to Care Virtual Program provides learning modules for Kindergarten - Grade 2, Grade 3-4, Grade 5-6, and Grade 7-9. Additionally, the Virtual Program includes three parent/guardian education modules and extensive professional learning modules for administrators, teachers, and support staff.

Why Dare to Care

Evidence-Based

Our award-winning program was developed by a former school counselor using best practices in the areas of bully prevention, discipline with dignity, trauma-informed education, and community building.

Proven

Content has been continually updated and refined over 24 years and delivered to well over 1,000,000+ students



Holistic

We give your entire school community – parents, teachers, support staff and children – a common language around bully prevention and help them understand their role in creating a climate of respect and kindness

Turnkey

Teachers are thrilled that there is no additional preparation or work required to facilitate the program in their classrooms.

Affordable

Our not-for-profit makes 365 days of unlimited, on-demand use for a school or organization available for just \$900 Canadian (approx. \$675 U.S.) for the school-wide K-6 program and \$1150 Canadian (approx. \$860 U.S.) for the school-wide K-9 program. Our student, parent and professional development modules can also be purchased separately [HERE!](#)

As a parent or guardian, you also play an important role in supporting our community. To register and log on to the online modules, please click the link below:

<https://daretocare.thinkific.com/bundles/northcott-prairie-school>

If you need support with logging in, please email Mr. New at dnew@rockyview.ab.ca.



Orders are due 5 days before lunch. No Exceptions.

Lunch on Friday means orders are due on the Sunday before @ 11:59PM.
Visit healthyhunger.ca to register your student and receive update notifications.

If there is no school on a given Friday, Healthy Hunger lunch will be on the Thursday.

If your child is away from school on a Healthy Hunger lunch day and you wish to pick up their order from the school, you must phone the school (403-945-4155) before 10 AM of delivery day.

Lunches for students who are away are given away or disposed of.



Bison Athletics

[Link to our Bisons Athletic calendar](#)

Thursdays are Herd Days!

Thursdays are Herd Day! Show your school spirit by wearing school merch or our school colours (navy blue and grey) every Thursday.

**Please report all student absences and late arrivals using Safe Arrival:
1-833-244-5565**

School Address: 275 Hillcrest Drive SW, Airdrie, AB T4B 4C8

School email: northcottprairie@rockyview.ab.ca

School website: <https://northcott.rockyview.ab.ca>