



VOODOO VOICE

Rutland Middle School - "Where Everybody is Somebody"

Website: www.rms.sd23.bc.ca

September 2018

PRINCIPAL's MESSAGE

Welcome parents, guardians, and students to the 2018-19 school year. For those of you returning to RMS, welcome back, and for those of you who are new to our community, welcome to each of you! Myself, Mr. Aviani, the teachers, and all the support staff are looking forward to an outstanding year working with all of our amazing Rutland students and families. I would like to stress that importance of frequent home/school contact. Parents and guardians, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers early regarding who your child is as a learner, what helps them to thrive in and out of school, and what any specific needs are. We do have our annual open house BBQ planned for September 27th from 4:00-6:00pm, and we encourage you to come to the school, have a hotdog, meet the staff at school, and connect.

We have new teaching staff at the school this year. We are fortunate to add some exemplary new teachers: At Grade 6, we would like to welcome Ms. Haley Dean. At Grade 7, we would like to welcome Mr. Morgan Selkirk, Mr. Dustin Shevchuk, and Ms. Kate Sides. At Grade 8, we would like to welcome Mr. Tim Ball, Mrs. Sue Miles, and Mr. Nathan Woollard. In Music/Band, we would like to welcome Ms. Carmen McDowell (who is currently a finalist for a Premier's Award for Excellence in Education), in LAT Ms. Tania Daponte, in Counselling Ms. Tammy Momtazi, and in Resource Ms. Leanne Stanley. We also have many new support staff joining us for the school year. As with each year, RMS has an outstanding, dedicated group of professionals who will make a difference in the lives of our students and in the community.

This year, our teachers will be continuing their work on creating engaging, personalized lessons to deepen the learning and understanding of our students, as well as making some structural changes to create dynamic, flexible learning environments in their classrooms. A team of our teachers are working as part of a District network on this important work. All of our teachers strive to create meaningful relationships, so that school is a safe, welcoming place of learning. We want your children happy, healthy, learning, and loving coming to school. If there is ever anything we can do to help, please contact your child's teachers and they will work alongside you to do the best job they can for your child.

If possible, we would love to see you at our first PAC meeting on September 17th at 7:00pm! All are welcome!

Lastly, as with each year, please note the district appeals and financial hardship policy/procedure:

The Central Okanagan School District's Appeals Process

Policy 460 – Appeals states that, "A student or a parent of a student who is entitled to an educational program in the Central Okanagan Public Schools may appeal a decision of an employee of the Board of Education which significantly affects the education, health or safety of the student". For a complete description of the Appeals Policy along with the recommended steps to follow in attempting to solve a problem, please refer to Policy 460 – Appeals, that can be accessed from the 'Policies' link under the Board of Education heading on the School District homepage (www.sd23.bc.ca).

The Central Okanagan School District's Financial Hardship Clause

Within School District Regulation 425R – Student Fees (see www.sd23.bc.ca), the Board of Education has indicated "that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship". This clause in the Regulations provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families who may be unable to pay. Please contact the school Principal if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

Have a great year!

Mr. Jim Laird

Important Dates for September/October

September 4	Early dismissal at 11:50 am
September 17	School Photos with Lifetouch
September 17	PAC meeting 7:00 pm
September 27	Early dismissal 1:00 pm
	BBQ 4:00-6:00 pm
October 5	Implementation Day (no school)
October 8	Thanksgiving Day (no school)
October 15	PAC meeting 7:00 pm
October 18	Early Dismissal 1:00 pm
	Conferences in Gym from 5:00-7:00 pm
October 19	PRO-D day for teachers (no school)

Student Accident Insurance

Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance from KIDS PLUS accident insurance. For complete plan details and application forms, please visit **kidsplus.ca**.

School fees are now due. All students must pay the \$30.00 student activity fee. This covers the cost of bussing locally for field trips, entrance fees for places such as Kelowna Museum, Rotary Centre for the Arts etc. Please pay online or send a cheque/cash to the school office and a receipt will be issued for your child to take home.