



VOODOO VOICE

Rutland Middle School - "Where Everybody is Somebody"

Website: www.rms.sd23.bc.ca

October 2018

PRINCIPAL's MESSAGE

Welcome parents and guardians to another fantastic October at RMS,

I apologize for the newsletter being a little late. It's been an exciting start to the month and I have a lot to share about our school and the goings on of students at Rutland Middle. There are a couple of important events that I would like to start with, most notably our first parent/guardian/teacher conference evening on Thursday, October 18 from 5:00-7:00 pm in our gymnasium. We encourage any parent/guardian to come if you would like to meet your child's teachers or if you'd like to meet and discuss your child's current progress. We do have a couple of teachers away for various reasons on that day, and we have asked that they communicate home in advance. Please note that if you cannot attend that evening, please contact your child's teachers to set up an alternative time to meet. Teachers are happy to meet any time that mutually works for everyone's schedules. Secondly, our yearly partnership with the UBC education program is about to begin. New student teachers will make their annual visits in October to our Humanities classrooms (October 16, 23, and 30). We are fortunate because of a long-standing partnership which lasts nearly ten years that our school is the first stop for UBC's new cohort of student teachers. Some of your children may have one of these groups of new student teachers pop by for one block each week on those dates. Our students and teachers are always amazing hosts for these new, young professionals, and Rutland Middle is very proud to take part.

And the same as last year's learning focus of our school, we are working hard to engage students in our school using staff professional development around Inquiry. Some of our teachers have begun to work with other teachers in the District looking to change their practice through innovation in the classroom, and to align our practice with BC's Curriculum. The Instructional Leadership Team will be supporting our teachers using research from the OECD's Innovative Learning Environments Project and the World Innovation Summit For Education, to improve our pedagogy, to better teach your children. This work will take time and lots of hard work, and we are very excited about the possibilities for RMS and our students moving forward. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact me in the office.

Parents and guardians, please also mark Sunday, November 4 from 10:30-3:00pm on your calendars for the annual Okanagan College Career Fair. If you or your children are curious about careers in the trades and about programs at Okanagan College (1000 KLO Road), you are invited to attend. You will have the chance to meet faculty, instructors, visit classrooms, labs, and trade shops. For parents/guardians and students who have attended in the past, it is a valuable experience.

To finish, when Hallowe'en approaches on October 31, students who wish to dress up to school are encouraged to show off their costumes and to celebrate school spirit. We do ask that costumes be appropriate for a middle school audience, that students who have prop weapons please leave them at home, and that if students are wearing masks, to remove them when in classrooms and when they come into the building. We appreciate your support in helping with a safe and fun day.

Have a wonderful month of October!

Jim Laird, Principal

Important Dates for October/November

October 5 – Administrative Implementation Day – no school

October 8 – Thanksgiving – **no school**

October 15 – PAC meeting 7:00 pm

October 18 – Early dismissal 1:00 pm – parent/guardian conferences in gym 5:00-7:00 pm

October 19 – Teacher Pro-D day – **no school**

October 22 – Retake of school photos for those students/staff who were absent

November 12 – Remembrance Day – **no school**

November 13 – Day for new curriculum – **no school**

Year books are now on sale - \$35.00 each. Pay online (any major credit card or by echeque) or at the office (cash/cheque only)

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.

Mathletics is an enrichment program for students looking to stretch their math abilities and learn math outside of the curriculum. This is open to all grade 6-8 students who are interested and will be taking place at RSS, along with students from RSS. The first day of Mathletics will be October 15th, at 3:30pm. If you're interested, come speak with Mr. Woollard. On October 15th, after school, meet in Room 2 at RMS (Mr Woollard's room), and we will all walk over to RSS together.

We Scare Hunger - The RMS Food Drive, WE SCARE HUNGER, will run from October 22nd to November 6th where our goal will be to fill the principal's office with non-perishable food items. Bring the food items to your mentorship teacher starting October 22nd.

Library - This month the library is buzzing with activity! Students are writing FSAs and are taking advantage of the computers at lunch to catch up on assignments. The genre rack is full of books with a scary theme and there are many new novels - including a new release in the popular Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, which should be here by October 26. If your son or daughter has brought home a bill for lost or damaged books please kindly pay at the office so that we can continue to purchase new materials for students.

Athletics - Hello Rutland Middle School Voodoos! Want to know the number one key to success in Middle School? GET INVOLVED! Come and join an athletics team - it's never too late to join. Did you know our fall season - which is NOW - includes, Cross Country Running 6-8, Volleyball 6&7, Rugby 6-8, and Girls Field Hockey 6-8. See your Athletic Director, Ms. Collinson, or check the Voodoo Athletics calendar for more details.