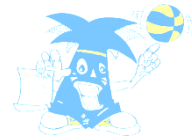




VOODOO VOICE



Rutland Middle School - "Where Everybody is Somebody"

Website: www.rms.sd23.bc.ca

December 2016

PRINCIPAL's MESSAGE

Happy December! It's hard to believe that we are only mere weeks away from the Winter Break. We hope that when the time comes, all of our students and their families have a safe and relaxing holiday.

There are a few important updates that I would like to pass along to our parents and guardians regarding timelines and programming at Rutland Middle. Over the next two weeks, Mr. Aviani will be working hard to have every student's Enrichment placements done for Term 2 – if your child has not submitted an Enrichment form yet, we will do our best to ensure that he/she gets as many of his/her top choices as possible. Please note that once Mr. Aviani begins the placement process, spots in Enrichments fill up quickly, and the later selection forms come in, the less space may be available in certain classes. And as always, if there are any questions about your child's Enrichment placement, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Aviani in the RMS office either by phone or by email. Regarding report cards, please note that first term report cards will be issued to students on December 16th. If there are any concerns about how your child may be doing, please contact his/her teachers at the school prior to report cards going home.

I would also like to give a heads up to a couple of surveys that will be coming home to parents in the New Year. Both myself and Mr. Aviani have our formal performance appraisals scheduled for this year. I will be doing Mr. Aviani's appraisal, and Mr. Rever, the Assistant Superintendent for the Rutland Zone, will be doing mine. I will be emailing families in January asking that you all provide some feedback in a survey format for Mr. Aviani. I really encourage and appreciate feedback from as many people as possible, and I hope that you can spare a few minutes to help with this process. For both of us, it's a great opportunity to get feedback so we can improve our practice as professionals; we thank you in advance for your time.

Lastly, I would like to thank our PAC for their ongoing support, both for volunteering with the hot lunch program, and for their unending support of our school and our students. We have a special group of dedicated parents working alongside us, and we thank them.

Have a great December, please encourage your children to dress appropriately for the weather, and again, we hope that you all have a restful and relaxing holiday break when the time comes.

PAC Meeting

No PAC meeting for December.

Important Dates for December

December 5-9 Candy grams go on sale during lunch (first bell after eating) .50 each

December 16 – Term 1 Report Cards sent home

December 19-January 3 – Winter Break

Candy Grams – December 5 -9

Spread some holiday cheer! Candy grams go on sale during lunch (first bell after eating) from December 5th-9th for 50c each. Please note the mentorship teacher of the person you would like to send one to.

Happy Holidays!

Yearbook News:

Wanted: Grade 8 students' baby pictures. Please email your child's baby picture to Mrs. Gagliano at agnes.gagliano@sd23.bc.ca yearbooks are now on sale for \$35. Pre-order your copy today.

Student Activity/Cultural Fee

Thank you to parents who have paid the activity/cultural fee. **We still have about 20% outstanding.** Please pay the 30.00 as soon as possible. Pay on line at

<https://CentralOkanagan.schoolcashonline.com>

You may also bring cash/cheque to the office and a receipt will be issued. If you are unable to pay the \$30.00 please contact the office to discuss alternate arrangements. **The activity fee goes towards bussing for local field trips, cultural events/pizza/treats ordered in by mentorship teachers for their class.**

Teacher Candidates

Our teacher candidates are busy preparing for their practicum. Beginning January 23rd, the teacher candidate(s) placed at your school will be working full time with their mentor teachers until May 5th.

We have one request for the upcoming practicum start-up:

In discussions with district administrators and in compliance with your school district's FOIPOP requirements for informing parents that teacher candidates will be working with their children, it was suggested that some information could be included in a school newsletter. To this end, we have enclosed a blurb that could be used to inform parents. Here is the sample blurb:

Teacher candidates in our classrooms

This year our school is hosting teacher candidates from UBC-Okanagan. The teacher candidates will be working in various classrooms and getting involved in extracurricular events.

As part of their work at the school and under the supervision of their mentor teachers, our teacher candidates may be collecting some basic interest and learning information about your child (for example: likes/dislikes, hobbies, subject area skills and knowledge). This information will help the teacher candidates understand your child's learning goals and preferences which, in turn, will help them plan appropriate lessons and other learning experiences.

All UBC-Okanagan teacher candidates have been informed of the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and have signed a contract pledging that they will comply with parameters outlined therein. All information and student work collected will be treated as confidential. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the school office.

December 19-January 2, 2017.



School resumes Tuesday, January 3 – 8:55 a.m.

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