



VOODOO VOICE

Rutland Middle School - "Where Everybody is Somebody"

Website: www.rms.sd23.bc.ca

November, 2018

PRINCIPAL's MESSAGE

Hello parents and guardians,

Each year I say this, but it always amazes me that we are already heading into November. We are happy that our Grade 6s have settled into their new school, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the Grade 8 WEB leaders and their teacher leaders (Mrs. Zimmermann and Mr. Tonn) for helping with the transition. We are lucky to have such a dedicated leadership community to take care of all our students.

Winter is coming, and I would like to encourage parents and guardians to have their children dressed appropriately for the season as they come to school. As the temperature drops, having students wear the right clothing for the season (jackets, gloves, snow pants, boots, etc.) is important as many of our students are walking to school, and are playing outside during breaks. We want to limit the number of students phoning home for changes of clothes because they have been playing outside and got soaking wet; we realize it is very difficult as parents to drop what you are doing to run dry clothing to the school. I really appreciate your help in having these conversations with your children when the weather begins to turn.

If you have not had the chance to check out our Community School Learning Plan on our website (<http://www.rms.sd23.bc.ca/CLP/Our%20Learning%20Story/Pages/default.aspx>) we would invite you to take a look at the current work that we are doing as a school to innovate our practice, and to keep improving. Teachers are involved with inquiry work, our PAC is involved with this process, and we are excited to share with you what we are working on, and how our work ties to our Rutland Family of Schools Learning Goal: *If we empower a collaborative learning culture in our schools guided by evidence-based research about learning, we can co-create the conditions to facilitate a deeper understanding of the pedagogical core that optimizes learning for EACH student and adult in our schools.* Each Rutland school is moving forward with this goal K-12, and we could not be more proud of the work.

There are some important dates of note coming up:

- Our Remembrance Day assembly on November 9 at 9:15-10:00am. We encourage students who take part in cadets to wear their uniforms, and we hope that families can join us.
- There is no school on both November 12 (stat holiday) and November 13 (a non-instructional day for the redesigned curriculum). Please mark your calendars.

And lastly, our first reporting period will be ending in early December; I encourage families to directly contact your child's teachers regarding their achievement and progress prior to report cards being issued. We have had two formal parent/guardian and teacher meetings this year (our open house BBQ, and our parent-teacher conference evening), and whether you were able to attend or not, it is always important to reach out regarding your child's progress if you require any information or updates. Please never hesitate to contact the school for any questions, at any time.

Jim Laird, Principal

Important Dates for October/November

November 09 – Remembrance Day assembly – gym – 9:15-10:00 a.m.

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

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

December 14 – Report cards go home

December 24-January 4 – Winter break

January 7 – School reopens after winter break

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)

School fees are now past 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. Thank you to all parents who have already taken care of this cost.

We Scare Hunger - It's time to fill the principal's office with food! Mr. Laird has agreed to let the social justice crew try to fill his office with non-perishable food items for this year's **WE Scare Hunger Campaign**. From now until Nov. 7th the social justice club will be connecting non-perishable food items through mentorship classrooms. On Nov. 7th we will connect with our community for a drive thru food drive between 9:00am and 11:30am. Please pull through the front of the school to have your food items collected. Please share this date with your commuting friends and watch the media for our amazing kids doing amazing things.

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.