



VOODOO VOICE

Rutland Middle School - "Where Everybody is Somebody"

Website: www.rms.sd23.bc.ca

December 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello parents and guardians,

Happy December! It is hard to believe that we are only a few weeks away from Winter Break. As every year, all of us at RMS hope that when the time comes, each of our students and their families have a safe and relaxing break.

This is also the time of year we move toward our first reporting term. We are scheduled to have report cards going home on Friday, December 15; if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, now is a really great time to reach out and contact your child's teachers. On our website, it is easy to find teacher email addresses, if you are looking for those, or please connect by phone (250) 870-5109. We are excited about the work being done regarding communicating student learning in teacher classrooms. Last year, BC schools implemented the redesigned curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 9 around the province (<http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca>). The Ministry of Education has also revised the student reporting policy and change various Ministerial Orders to better align with the redesigned curriculum. This is highlighted in the Guidelines for Student Reporting:

https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/educator_update_student_progress_k-9.pdf

As a school, we are making the transition from reporting to communicating student learning; just as BC's curriculum has been revised, so too are assessment and reporting practices. The focus is on moving toward meaningful descriptions, evidence, demonstrations of student learning and supporting meaningful communication between teachers, parents, and learners.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank our PAC for their ongoing support for volunteering in our hot lunch program, for working alongside Rob and myself in doing active Inquiry work, and for their unending support for our school and our students. This Fall, the PAC spent nearly \$19,000 on equipment and programs to enrich students' experience. I am always in awe of their dedication and love of our Voodoo community.

Have a great December! We appreciate your support for students dressing appropriately for the weather (as per last month's Voodoo Voice), and again, we hope that you all have a restful and relaxing holiday break when the time comes.

Important Dates for December to February/2018

December 1 - Term 1 ends

December 1, 8, 15th – Drop-in badminton 3:20-4:30 pm

December 15 - Report cards go home

December 20 - Band Concert 7:00-8:00 pm

December 22 – Last day of school before winter break

January 8 - School opens – regular day

January 10 -Term 2 Enrichment begins

January 29 - End of Exploratory – Quarter 2

February 08 - Early dismissal 1:00 pm

February 08 - Parent/Guardian/Teacher conferences 1:30-3:00 PM

February 12 - Family Day (no school)

February 21 - Harmony Day

February 23 - Teacher Pro-D Day (no school)

February 28 – Pink Shirt Day

WE day Vancouver October 18th - There were 29 RMS students that attended the WE Day concert this year. We were fortunate to hear many inspiring speakers share their stories and now have many ideas on how we can become a generation of "WE" rather than "ME". Our students are looking forward to hosting a toy drive for Christmas this year, creating online bullying awareness initiatives, and raising funds for families in Ecuador.

Library - December: 'Tis the season to read a good book. Cuddle up with a good winter read, check out the winter Olympics, snow filled adventures or a holiday romance! Come on into the library and challenge yourself with the Holiday Contest – See Mrs. Nicholls or Mrs. Wiebe for more details! Remember to renew or sign out a book to enjoy over the break!

January: Hunker down with a warm blanket and a good book to beat the January blues! Come on in and check out the author of the month – Gary Paulson. Stories of intrigue and adventure will keep you on the edge of your seat! This month's genre is Adventure!

Yearbook

Do you have some great pictures that you wish could be in our school yearbook? How about some sports action shots that you took from the bleachers? HJ eShare is a simple way for students, parents, teachers, coaches and others in the school community to upload pictures for possible use in the yearbook. There are two options available:

Through your web browser at **<http://www.hjeshare.com/>** or from your iPhone or Android (you will need to download the Herff Jones eShare app). Our school code is **RutlandMiddle2018**

Please direct any questions to Mrs. Gagliano agnes.gagliano@sd23.bc.ca