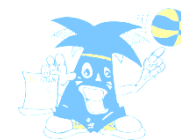


VOODOO VOICE



Rutland Middle School - "Where Everybody is Somebody"

Website: www.rms.sd23.bc.ca

September 2015

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I feel honoured to welcome everyone, our new students, parents, guardians, and staff to the 2015-16 school year! This year, unlike other years, is especially exciting because we are now officially a grade 6-8 middle school, one of only two in School District #23 so far. Plans are in place for all middle schools to follow this grade configuration over time; luckily, RMS and SMS get the opportunity to make the transition first and really set the stage moving forward. It will be an exciting shift, as we embrace making Rutland Middle into a true middle school, one that embraces creating the best possible learning and social environment for adolescent learners. There will likely be hiccups, as with any transition, and I encourage any of our RMS community to engage in helping to make our school the very best it can be!

There are many new staff members coming to be part of the transition this year. When the chance presents itself, please feel free to say hello to our new: Vice-Principal - Mr. Aviani; Grade 6 teachers - Mr. Derek Wiebe, Ms. Whitney Siegmund, and Ms. Kristy Mansley; Grade 8 teachers - Mrs. Agnes Gagliano, and Ms. Nikki Zimmermann; Resource Teacher - Mr. Cory Grant; and new CEAs – Brooklyn Barker, Cristin Gallant, Stacey Harder, Candice Hughes, Kerry Junop, Angie McKenzie, Melody Peters, Michele Stone and Lori Tonne. We are very fortunate to have them all as new Voodoos for the coming school year.

Please continue to check our website and newsletter for important information regarding upcoming dates (below), school events, and information about middle-school student learning.

For further information regarding the transition to the grade 6-8 configuration, please check our website, or go to: <http://www.rms.sd23.bc.ca/Publications/RMS%20Grade%20Transition%20FAQ.pdf>. We look forward to an exciting year of engaging our new learners both intellectually and socially, and we are glad that you are sharing in this journey with us.

Mr. Jim Laird, Principal

PAC Meeting

Monday, September 21 - 7:00 pm

School Pictures

Picture day is Thursday, September 10th with retakes following on Thursday, October 15th. Students are reminded that our dress code also applies to picture day.

Important Dates for September

September 08 – First day of school, dismissal 11:50 am

September 10 – School Photos

September 18 – Early dismissal 12:00 pm

September 30 – Early dismissal 1:00 pm and Meet & Greet BBQ 4-6 pm

Student Fees

Each student must pay the \$30.00 activity fee by September 30th. All students will receive a fee statement. Parents are asked to sign up at <https://CentralOkanagan.schoolcashonline.com> in order to make online payment either by credit card or echeck. You may also bring a 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 a payment plan.

Transportation

If you require bussing to RMS for the 2015/2016 school year, please register on the web site www.sd23.bc.ca/transportation. If you are new to the area or have any questions please contact 250-870-5151.

Student Accident Insurance

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) 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 at a reasonable cost. Application forms for a program underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services (KIDS PLUS Accident Insurance) will be sent home with students at the beginning of the school year. If you are subscribing to this service please do not return the form to the school office, mail it directly to Industrial Alliance in the envelope provided. Enrollment forms can also be found on their website at <https://kidsplus.ca/>

Annual Healthy Food Fair will be held on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 from 12:00-2:00pm at Hollywood Road Education Services in Room #3. This event will showcase numerous local businesses who offer food and beverages that meet the revised Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in BC Schools. Several new exhibitors will be in attendance as well as some familiar faces. We hope to see you at this yummy event!