



VOODOO VOICE



Rutland Middle School - "Where Everybody is Somebody"

Website: www.rms.sd23.bc.ca

January 2017

PRINCIPAL's MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I am hopeful that each family had a restful and relaxing holiday break. We are looking forward to a new Enrichment cycle starting on January 11th, and encourage any parents/guardians or students who have questions about placements to contact our Vice-Principal, Mr. Aviani, in the office. We had a lot of very popular options out there, and due to limited space, not every student may get their first choice. When this happens, we do our best to ensure that if the same Enrichment is offered in the future, we try to ensure that students who have not yet taken the course get an opportunity to do so. We are also excited that our UBC-Okanagan teacher candidates will be joining us by the end of month for their teaching practicums. Our teacher candidates are: Renae Graham, working with Nikki Zimmermann; Carley Bokor, working with Pat Allardyce; and Jessica Bella, working with Suzie McGuigan and Jen Starling. Under the supervision of their mentor teachers, our teacher candidates will be teaching and getting involved with extracurricular activities. They are a wonderful group of young teachers, and we look forward to including them in our school community. Additional information is below, in our newsletter.

You may have noticed on your child's report card, or noticed in our November newsletter, that Rutland Middle School is recognizing only work ethic commencing with this reporting period, as are many other middle schools in our District. Traditionally, we have recognized academic achievement as well. However, with a new curriculum that places less focus on academic subjects, and more on core skills and competencies, we believe, working with our staff and PAC, that this is the appropriate time to reassess how we celebrate achievement and recognize the many different types of success our children experience, be they classroom-based, or in the larger community. As such, our staff is committed to reviewing and designing much more personalized types of recognition that acknowledge the many strengths that all of our students possess. As we continue to develop this new approach, we will communicate the changes. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Also, very soon, information will be coming home and to our website regarding parent/guardian feedback for Mr. Aviani's Vice-Principal appraisal. The more feedback that is received, the better opportunity for growth, and I am hopeful that we get many parents and guardians involved.

Have a wonderful, wintery January!

Mr. Laird

PAC Meeting

January 16 – 7:00 pm

Student Activity/Cultural Fee

Thank you to parents who have paid the activity/cultural fee. It is now January, 2017 and there are still students with an outstanding school activity fee of \$30.00. The \$30.00 provides for cost of bussing for field trips, supplies for enrichment, pizza lunches for Mentorship. All students benefit. Please pay as soon as possible, on line or send a cheque/cash to the office. A receipt will be sent home the same day if payment is made by cheque or cash. If not paid by June, the \$30.00 will be carried over into the next school year and eventually to Rutland Sr. Secondary. Please let the office know if you are unable to pay the \$30.00 and alternate arrangements can be made.



Central Okanagan School District

SD No. 23 | Together We Learn

To School Principals and PAC Presidents

Free Parent Evening Session January

16, 2017

Hollywood Road Educational Services - Room 1 6:00 pm to

7:30 pm

E-reg link will be provided in January for this event

Social Media Awareness

The parent presentation will focus on all things digital. Your child has now entered into their digital media lives, where cell phone ownership doubles, video game use explodes and they dive into the world of social media and hypertexting. Your child is rapidly developing their personal identity with cell phone in hand and you need to be prepared. Family rules, parental controls and developing a family tech plan will be outlined as well as recommendations for monitoring your child's digital life.

As a parent, you must lead the charge as a digital role model and help your child develop a strong digital citizenship foundation while reminding them that their digital footprint is a reflection of their real and online selves. At this age, they will encounter situations that will challenge their independence, including cyberbullying (and more commonly – cyberexclusion), the dangers of anonymity, privacy, sharing intimate images, and inappropriate websites, and you need to be there to provide support and guidance during this critical period. Finally, to better equip you for your digital parenting strategy, a snapshot of the current trends and concerning apps will be provided.

Presented by:



Safer Schools Together

Ensuring a safe caring school climate and culture.

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Registration by clicking on the following link:

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