



Rutland Elementary

620 Webster Rd, Kelowna, BC, 250-870-5126, www.rle.sd23.bc.ca

Principal's Message:

Dear Parents,

We have had a very smooth and positive start to our school year. We are a very full school and even after adding another classroom we have less than 8 spaces available in our entire school. We now have a school population over 440 students!

Our first assembly was "Are you smarter than a school librarian?" in a game show format. The students really enjoyed the fun, and it was a great way to review some of our basic school expectations. The Gaga Ball pit has been a huge hit with the students and without PAC support the purchase and installation of the Gaga Ball pit would not have been possible.

During the last week of September, classes were honoring First Nations, Inuit, and Metis People, and reflecting on the ongoing effects of residential schools. The week culminated with an assembly where Indigenous students gave a personal land acknowledgement, and our Indigenous Advocate, Miss Tyna, shared a story "Every Child Matters" by Phyllis Jack Webstad. Thank you to all the students who wore orange for Orange Shirt Day.

Thank you to Mr. Fitzgerald for organizing and leading our Terry Fox run this year. The students really enjoyed participating in our run this year and over \$1100 was raised for Cancer Research! It was great to see so many families come out to parent/teacher conferences. We are looking forward to a great year!!

Mr. Kirsch and Mrs. McEvoy

Dates to know in October:

- | | |
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| 2 | School Closed in Lieu of Truth and Reconciliation Day |
| 3 | Earth Rangers Assembly |
| 6 | School closed – Implementation Day |
| 9 | School Closed - Thanksgiving |
| 13 | Ketesdi- Gymnastics 8:50 |
| 18 | Picture Retakes |
| 20 | School Closed - Pro D |
| 27 | Ketesdi-Gymnastics 8:50 |
| 26 | RCS Halloween Ball |
| 31 | Kindergarten Field Trip 9:30-1 |



After 17 years Mrs. Oakes moved onto another school, and we were very lucky to be able to hire Ms. Donkin as her replacement. Ms. Donkin has a wide variety of different teaching experiences and is an excellent addition to our school!

SCHOOL FEES

School fees are \$45 per student. We encourage you to use our online payment system! There is a link on our website, <https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com>. All school fees are due now.

Cold and Flu Season

One of the most important ways to prevent the spread of cold germs is to wash your hands! Thank you in advance for using the Safe Arrival School Messenger system. Using this system saves our clerical staff valuable time.

<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/schoolmessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Allergy Awareness

More and more children in our care have life-threatening food allergies. For these children, smelling, eating or touching allergy-causing food can trigger a life-threatening allergic reaction (also known as anaphylaxis). If not treated, it could lead to collapse and death. Some anaphylactic reactions can occur within seconds or minutes of contact with the allergy-causing food. Other reactions may take an hour or longer to appear. The only way to prevent this type of reaction is to avoid contact with allergy causing foods.

Rutland Elementary has a school-wide awareness policy on peanuts and tree nuts. Parents are asked to carefully read product labels prior to sending any foods to school to ensure they do not contain peanuts and/or nuts within the ingredients list. Teachers may send home a letter outlining the specific nature of the allergy in your child's classroom. As well, please remind your children to not share their lunches.

As adorable and fun as dogs can be, unfortunately all dogs, even on leash, are prohibited from school property by the City of Kelowna bylaw. This also includes tying your dog to the fence and leaving the animal unattended. Owners that violate the bylaw may be fined \$100 by the Regional District of Kelowna. If you are walking to meet your child and you have a dog with you, please plan to meet your child off of school property. Thank you to those parents who have been waiting with the four legged family member just outside the property. We appreciate everyone's cooperation.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th was marked as a statutory holiday - **the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.**

For many years, this day has been commemorated as Orange Shirt Day, based on the story of residential school survivor Phyllis Webstad, who as a child, had her new favorite orange shirt stripped from her on her first day of attending residential school.

This new national holiday brings people together in the spirit of reconciliation to honor residential school survivors and their families.



Orange Shirt Day



Traffic Patrol Training



A MESSAGE FROM RLE EARTH CLUB



We are excited to start a new year of looking after Mother Earth through some important initiatives we will be running this year. These include-

- **Battery Recycling** Challenge for the month of October, sponsored by Earth Rangers
 - A box will be in the school foyer for you to drop off used batteries. The more we recycle, the more we help our home planet plus Earth Club will have a chance to win a recycling contest.

Battery types to recycle are:

Single use batteries AA, AAA, 9V, C, D and button cell

Recyclable batteries: Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Zinc (Ni-Zn), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)

- **Soft Plastics Recycling** Program will continue this year. Collection dates will be:
 - October 4, November 1, December 6, January 3, February 7, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5 and June 26. All '**clean**' **soft plastics** are welcome.
 - We will continue to collect soft plastics from each classroom throughout the year.
- Earth Club will also continue to
 - care for our planters at the front entrance (sponsored by RLEPAC)
 - observe and monitor the Milkweed we planted last year for Monarch Butterfly activity.
 - maintain the bee and insect houses we installed 2 years ago.
 - take our lead from our Earth Club members and explore new ways to support our planet.

Thank you for your support and if you have questions or ideas, please feel free to contact Deb Cowell or Deb Hughes.