

Rutland Elementary

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

Principal's Message:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we write this message, we realize that we were looking out at snow covered fields only a few days ago and it feels like we are moving very quickly from Fall to Winter. Thank you to parents for practicing physical distancing while waiting for your children to enter the school. If you would like to wait with your son or daughter, or if your child needs that one last hug before entering the building, please do so away from the line of other students.

It was wonderful to see so many of the students dressed in costumes and black and orange. Thank you to parents for ensuring the costumes were 'family' appropriate and that they were manageable for the classroom setting. Please see the last page of this newsletter for more photos!

Ms. Marlisa Vecchio is new to our school this year and we are thrilled to have her join our grade one team. And yes, the Vecchio's are sisters!!! Ms. Vecchio is seen here doing the morning message with her students, which of course is around the timely topic of pumpkins!!



Gord Kirsch and Jessica Anjos



Dates to know in November:

November 6

Poinsettia orders are due

November 10

Honouring Remembrance Day in classes

November 11

Schools closed for Remembrance Day

November 13

Photo Retakes

November 19

PAC Meeting @ 8PM via Zoom

November 25

Poinsettia Pick up:
8:00-8:25 or 2:30-5:30

November 26

Poinsettia Pick up:
8:00-8:25 or 2:30-5:30

The shape of Remembrance Day will be a little different this year as per provincial health guidelines as we were not able to hold our traditional assembly. This year we will sing Oh Canada together via the P.A. system and then teachers will lead their students through a slide deck on the meaning of Remembrance Day. Teachers will be having rich meaningful conversations with their students to share and teach the important message that Remembrance Day carries for all us. We will try to capture the learning and meaningful activities in photos and share them in our December newsletter with you.

On Friday, October 9, 2020 our team of educators met in circle to continue on our journey of Truth and Reconciliation. We participated in a Métissage activity. Métissage comes from the Canadian word, Métis, which speaks to the mixing of Indigenous and European blood, identity, and culture. Representative of this culture is the Metis Sash, which braids together colourful strands of fabric. This vibrant cultural artifact that represents mixing and weaving offers a powerful metaphor for thinking about how we can live and learn from each other. Drawing on this imagery, Métissage becomes a transformative literacy practice for storytelling. The Instructional Leadership Team with SD23 selected and curated a series of stories we read aloud. The selected texts illustrated the purposeful juxtaposition of multiple perspectives. This rereading, reframing, and reimagining of relationships through braiding texts together allowed our team to listen deeply and at the end, each of us offered a piece of thinking to the whole community in written reflections. Our Indigenous Advocate, Jackie Garbitt, courageously shared her story about the struggles and obstacles that come from residential schools. Ms. Garbitt offered our team a traditional ceremonial smudging. She took us through the protocols for a smudging ceremony and carefully explained the details of this tradition. We ended our day with Sarah Martin, an Indigenous Motivational Speaker from Saskatchewan. She led us through movement and mediation in a quiet setting. It was here that our staff had time to pause and to give thanks to the stories shared earlier in the morning.



