

PARENT NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE AND UPDATE

RSS is going to be sending our newsletters/updates via email from now on. There will be a few paper copies at the office still.

Hello, and welcome to the 2018-2019 school year. September has passed and we can all take a breath and reflect on the whirlwind that is the start-up of RSS. I am very pleased with how RSS has begun the year.

There was an influx of new students the week before school started. As a result, RSS needed to hire one more teaching block to allow grade 8 class sizes in the elective subjects to be within class-size limits. As such, a huge thank you to Ms. Wallach, Ms. Williams and Ms. Cancilla for redistributing and fixing student schedules. Over 400 students now attend RSS including 20 international students. I am still very much in the midst of learning all of the names of our new students, so give me a couple more weeks to try and get everyone's down pat.

The Grade 8/New Student Orientation Evening August 28th was a great success. A combined orientation was held with parents and students as in the past, but a separate parent talk was held as well. The Student Leadership Council assisted with the presentation and led the tours. Many staff voluntarily attended. Thanks to Cathleen Busch and Lucie Bergeron for their PAC presentation ("...there's NO fundraising!"). See more info on the RSS PAC in the

newsletter.

There is a continued focus on renewing the "Respect, Safety, Success" basis of our school culture this year. We will ask for feedback from all members of the school community—staff members, students, and parents. The Student Leadership Council is a great first step! Speaking of which...please see more info in the newsletter. Ms. Davis and Ms. Atamanuk (Ms. A) have led a resurgence in the student leadership movement at RSS and I'm so happy to see an effective student voice back in the school. This group can do nothing but see new ways to improve the student culture and environment at RSS.

An exciting new initiative at grade 8 is the ability for our teachers to work collaboratively in cross-curricular activities. In non-teacher speak, students will have opportunities to work in a project-based class where different subjects are brought together (i.e. Science and Math looking at plant cells which are a rectangular prism, and students also learning to calculate area and volume). The teachers involved have put in an incredible amount of time to find these opportunities, and are very excited to try them out. This will be a great success for our grade 8s, I predict.

There are other new and equally exciting ideas in practice at RSS. From tried and true experiences like Mr. Stevens' Law Trial, to new Career Education courses, to Digital

ABSENCES AND LATES – (250) 837-2173

Parents are reminded to call the office or send a note to the school in the event their son/daughter will be late, absent, or leaving early for a medical or dental appointment. Students should get an early dismissal slip from the office for their teacher before heading off to class. Texting your child about appointments or notifying the teacher of their absence is not notifying the office. Please make sure the office secretaries are aware of all appointments and absences. As well, students MUST sign in at the office when arriving late and sign out when leaving early. This will avoid unnecessary calls home of absences from class.

Photography, to Indigenous Leadership, to a Trade Sampler course where Mr. Weiler and students are immersed in trade specific skills all year, RSS looks always to engage the learners in our building. In fact, all of the adults consider themselves learners too! It's an ever-changing environment where learners succeed.

Lots of events have occurred in September. Mr. Rourke's "Last Spike" volleyball tournaments are roaring along. He voluntarily runs tournaments for the Grade 8 Girls, The Junior Girls, the Junior Boys, and the Senior Girls. Boys and Girls Volleyball, Swimming, Cross-Country and Boys Soccer are all off and running this year. The coaches and athletes put in an incredible amount of time, and RSS appreciates their dedication.

On other fronts, RSS has hosted both the BC and Alberta Post-Secondary Visits for our grade 11s and 12s. There's been students attending the Okanagan Powwow, celebrating the Terry Fox Run, recognizing reconciliation of the Residential Schools through Orange Shirt Day, and hosting artistic performances and workshops. Students have gone on Science field trips, and been at a historic sign unveiling at Three Valley Gap.

This is a busy place.

And it's not just us here who get involved. Did you know when RSS was designed, we were lucky enough to receive funding to create community spaces in our school? This space has been well used by many of our community partners

as we continue to connect our students with the caring and supportive adults in Revelstoke. Here is a list of the current supports available for RSS students:

- The OPT (Options for Sexual Health) Clinic
- Revelstoke Youth Liaison (Leslie Hogg)
- Community Connections Counselor (Megan Shandro)
- Drop-In Medical Clinic (Dr. Veale and Dr. Cruise)
- Interior Health Public Health Nurse Drop-In Clinic (Kelsey Croxall)
- The Women's Shelter
- Child and Youth Mental Health (Inamarie Opperman)
- Men Moving Mountains
- Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Collaborative

We are so impressed with the number of community partners who work tirelessly to support our students, and wish to sincerely thank them for everything they do at RSS!

I hope you have an idea of the incredibly rapid pace RSS sets to create the best learning opportunities possible for the school community. And we are a community—Students, Parents, Teachers, Support Staff, District Staff, Ms. Wallach and I all work towards the best interest of the youth of Revelstoke. We are all learners, and all invested in our school. Thank you to all of you for your support, passion, time, and effort to make this school a positive place to learn.

PICTURE DAY

Bring your best smile to school on **Tuesday October 16th, 2018** for **Picture Day**. Please note that all students will be photographed for the yearbook regardless of whether you plan to purchase a package or not.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fair Notice

Our school community is committed to creating and sustaining school environments in which students, staff, parents and others feel safe. All reported threats and incidences of violence will be investigated.

FAMILY VACATIONS

A vacation form must be filled out if you intend to take your child out of class for 3 days or more during school time. Please have your child obtain a vacation form from the office.

The RSS Website!

Check out our website at revelstokesecondary.ca. Our home page has quick links to Teacher Blogs, Counsellors, Athletics, Student Opportunities and the RSS Calendar, as well as a scrolling daily events calendar. Students and staff can tweet @RevelstokeSec. You can also find a digital copy of the RSS Handbook, RSS newsletter and RSS calendar on line. Should you wish to obtain a hardcopy of the above please pick one up from the office.

What's Going on in Class? Check the Blog!

Many teachers at RSS use daily or weekly blogs as a way to communicate to parents and students. Visit your teacher's blog to get updates on homework, check your marks, and see when assignments are due. Visit revelstokesecondary.ca and click on Students & Parents, Teacher Websites for a full list!

Home Work (HW) Club

My name is Mrs. Carey and I run HW Club. What is that you ask? Well, the school district recognizes that many students need more time or help or access to resources in order to be successful, so they pay me to help students. How awesome is that for you and for your student?! FREE EXTRA SUPPORT!!! And to make it even better, we also provide snacks to help your student through the 'after-school-hangries!'"

HW Club runs most Tuesday, Wednesday's and Thursdays throughout the school year from 3:20 - 4:40 (ish). There are some days that it doesn't run (1st Tuesday of the month, early dismissal days, the first couple days after a new term starts, Halloween, etc). There is a sign above the library door that your student can glance at to see what days it runs in any given week. You are welcome to contact me at lcarey@sd19.bc.ca. Hope to see you there!

Ambulance Services at School

Should we need to call an ambulance for a student, and a family does not have extended health coverage, the ambulance will be at our expense.

MedicAlert

Free bracelets provided to children aged 4-14 (brochures will come to the school, or parents can go online to MedicAlert.ca With the rise in childhood asthma, diabetes and allergies, more and more children have a medical condition or special need that should be communicated in an emergency. Should an emergency occur at school, first responders and health professionals will have immediate access to the child's medical records.

Parent Advisory Committee

Our Parent Group encourages parents to attend their monthly meeting. This group facilitates informational sessions for parents during the year, and secures money for specialized equipment for our students. **PAC meetings** are the last Tuesday of each month. The next **PAC meeting** will be held Tuesday October 30th at 7pm in the RSS Library.

Breakfast Club

RSS provides free breakfast daily. Everyone is welcome. We are looking for volunteers to help serve the food - approximately 30 - 60 minutes, for one or more days each week, depending on your availability. Please contact Lisa Moore at lmoore@sd19.bc.ca or 250-837-8884 for more information.

EARLY DISMISSALS

There will be an early dismissal at 1:10pm on Wednesday October 18th with Parent-Teacher interviews from 6:30-8:00pm. There will also be an early dismissal on Thursday October 19th.

CARRER DEPARTMENT NEWS

Career Education and Work Experience

Jeff Colvin would like to welcome two new faces to the department. Graham Gale and Barry Rourke have taken on new part time roles in the Career Education and Work Experience department this year. If you have any question regarding Career Education or Work Experience please give us a call at 250.837.2173.

Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology

STEM Careers eMentoring Program: This free eMentoring program pairs girls in high school across Canada with female role models in science, tech, engineering and math careers. Sign up to join them for an 8-week guided discussion with your own personal mentor. Topics: Introductions, career path, post-secondary life, work environments, finances, work/life balance, what to do with your degree, wrap-up.

Next session: October 7-November 30, 2018 Applications due October 3. Email msinfinity@scwist.ca for information and application forms.

Take our Kids to Work Day (Grade 9)

Take Our #KidstoWork Day is coming up on November 14! We're proud to take part and help Canada's youth explore the world of work.

Take Our Kids to Work Day is the most recognized career exploration event in Canada. This year, it will take place on Wednesday, November 14th.

This is an experiential learning opportunity for Grade 9 students across Canada. Students spend the day at the workplace of a parent, relative, friend, or volunteer host. Through Take Our Kids to Work Day, students are able to witness the world of work firsthand, prompting early career planning, and enabling students to make informed decisions pertaining to their future goals and endeavours. By participating in Take Our Kids to Work Day, students are able to learn about a variety of careers, industries, and sectors. Take Our Kids to Work Day also creates a great opportunity for employee engagement within the workplace. It is an event that encourages team building, productivity, social interactions, and employee involvement can significantly boost morale around the office! The Take Our Kids to Work Day event is a great avenue for strengthening company culture and employee relationships with the organization and as well with each other. Keep an eye out for parent information forms coming soon.

POST SECONDARY INFORMATION

BC Post-Secondary Visit at RSS

Representatives from many post-secondary institutions in BC will be here the afternoon of Thursday, October 4 to meet with grade 11/12 students. Students in grade 11/12 will have the opportunity to select two 30 minute presentations to attend and will be able to circulate at the mini-fair in the common area.

BC Post-Secondary Information Evening for Parents and Students in Kelowna

In addition to the scheduled visit to RSS, the Post-Secondary Institutions are hosting a free information Evening for parents and students at Okanagan College - Kelowna campus, E building atrium from 7-9pm on October 2nd. If you're in and around Kelowna and are interested in attending, you are welcome to do so. Also, if you pick up an invite card at the counselling office and bring to the event, you could be entered in a draw to win some prizes.

STUDENT CELL PHONES

Please do not call or text students during class time as students' cell phones are to be off while classes are in session.

FOR THE STUDENTS Student Leadership Council

The Student Leadership Council has been working hard on planning events and building a stronger school community. Spirit days, dances, more common area seating and overall school beautification are just a few of the initiatives they are taking on this semester! Everyone is welcome to join in the fun! Those interested in school spirit and dances can join meetings every Tuesday at lunch in Ms. A's room. Ms. Davis hosts lunch groups every Wednesday for those interested in strengthening school community.

Wellness Workshops Friday's at Lunch

RSS and the Stoke Youth Network are excited about the launch of weekly wellness workshops! Students continue to prioritize health and wellness and have requested more opportunities to gain tools, support and resources. These group sessions will be based on topics that have been noted as a priority and discussions will be facilitated by RSS staff, as well as community specialists. Join us for our first session Friday, October 12th with Jennifer Wright of Columbia River Counselling.

Drop-in Sports Thursdays at Lunch

The gym will be open Thursdays at lunch for any interested students. With the changing of weather, it is a great opportunity to get some mid-day exercise in doors! Appropriate shoes are mandatory.

RSS Custom Apparel

Check out our Online Store at urstore.ca/revelstoke-secondary.

Halloween

The first Student Leadership Council spirit day will be Halloween! There will be prizes for best costume, karaoke at lunch and candy grams being sold the week prior.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 5th	No School – Professional Development
October 8th	Thanksgiving – School Closed
October 16th	Picture Day & MADD School Assembly @ 2:10pm
October 17th	Early Dismissal @ 1:10pm & Parent Teacher Conference from 6:30pm-8pm
October 18th	Early Dismissal @ 1:10pm
October 19th	No School – Professional Development
October 30th	PAC Meeting – 7pm – RSS Library

BOARD OF EDUCATION “ALL CANDIDATES” FORUM

There are currently eight candidates running for five positions on the Revelstoke Board of Education. Our District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) has arranged for an “All Candidates” forum so that you can meet and hear from those running for our Board of Education. The meeting will be held at BegbieView Elementary in the multipurpose room on October 9 at 7:00 PM.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Britt Hunchak, Chair of the DPAC (bhunchak@telus.net), or Mike Hooker, Superintendent of Schools (mhooker@sd19.bc.ca).