

PARENT NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE AND UPDATE

December has passed and we are now truly into the new year and the end of our first semester. It's time to update everyone on all the cool things that have been happening here at RSS, as well as some new developments.

December saw a lot of fun as the holidays approached. The Leadership group organized fun activities to end off the last week, such as Red vs. Green Day, Ugly Holiday Sweater Day, and topping it all off was the Follies on the Friday afternoon. There were some great skits, wonderful performances, and our three emcees outdid themselves with the best opening to a Follies in my time here. Kudos to Hallah, Kaeson, and Tristan for running a hit show!

We returned to the sprint that is January. Courses are wrapping up and it is a very busy place as RSS heads into the last week of the semester. Grade 12 students are finalizing post-secondary applications, grade 8s are preparing for their first semester-end tests. Throwing some well-needed fun into this time was the RSS Drama class' production of "Trap". Without a doubt it was a smash hit and is my favourite play the school has produced in my time here. Ms. Browning, her cast and crew received rave reviews in all of the local papers--

well done, I say! Adding to that was a well-timed Pyjama Day to relax everyone before the final exam week.

There are a few things that RSS is asking parents and students to be mindful of as we go forward. Soon we will be joined by new students from the family moving from Syria. To a great extent, the school community should be aware of the need to be culturally sensitive to our new students. This is a good opportunity for our students to practice their inclusive attitudes once more. I am very proud of the school and its strong desire to be a safe and welcoming place for all students. Please take the time to welcome them to RSS, knowing that the culture shock will take some time for them to get used to in Canada. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to ask!

Another issue RSS is addressing, like every high school in North America it seems, is vaping. The explosion of vaping amongst youth is extremely concerning. The Federal Drug Administration, and the Surgeon-General in the USA has gone so far as to label vaping amongst youth an epidemic. Everyone in the school community needs to be aware of the potential health effects, the increase in nicotine addiction, the resultant increase in

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.

cigarette use, and the concerns of vaping inside buildings. RSS is having conversations and working with students for smoking/vaping cessation. However, parents need to play an active role in this issue. Interior Health has great resources for smoking/vaping cessation information, and there is an incredible amount of good information available through the CDC. A great article that explains the effects of vaping and offers tips to parents is from the clinical practice at the Yale School of

Medicine: <https://www.yalemedicine.org/stories/teen-vaping/>. In short, RSS has a role to play in assisting students to learn about the harmful effects of this behaviour. The wider school community must also support the efforts for smoking and vaping cessation.

We will soon start our second semester and at the same time welcome our visitors from Ono Cho, Japan. This is a fun way to kick off the second half of the school year. RSS will take a deep breath, and get going!

GRAD SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Scholarship Season

Grads! Scholarship seasons is upon us! On February 5th there will be a meeting in the Performing Arts Centre at 12:30pm for all Grads and interested parents to explain the application process and make you aware of the opportunities available to earn Scholarships. Be sure to review the Scholarships section on the RSS website for information as well. See you on February 5th!

Great Scholarship Opportunities to Know About

Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship: Any grade 12 students who are intending to enter a BC Faculty of Education program might be interested in applying for a \$5000 scholarship. The Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship application package must be received by the government by February 15th. Please see your counsellor or check out the RSS scholarship website to get more info and the application package.

Where to find information: There are also a number of other new scholarships on the scholarship board at the top of the stairs and posted on the scholarship website. Also, if you're on Facebook, like the RSS Counselling department page for scholarship and opportunities for RSS students. CHECK them out!

CAREER EDUCATION

Students in grades 8-11 that completed English in the first semester would have also completed several modules of career education. Ask your child about their progress on myBlueprint where they have favoured various occupations and post-secondary opportunities. It is a great resource for your family to help support your child's transition to post-secondary. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the careers department via rsscared@sd19.bc.ca.

RSS CUSTOM APPAREL

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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

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, 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!

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 January 29th at 7pm in the RSS Library.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 25 th	Project Completion Afternoon – Teacher Appointment Required
January 28 th	Project Completion Day – Teacher Appointment Required
January 29 th	PAC Meeting – 7pm – RSS Library
February 1 st	Ono-Cho Japan Visitors Arrive
February 5 th	Scholarship Presentation @ 12:30pm
February 18 th	Family Day – No School
February 22 nd	Professional Development Day – No School
March 18 th -March 29 th	Spring Break

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.