

## Welcome Back!



Welcome Back Everyone! I hope you all had a fantastic summer. Throughout our first days back it has been great to see old friends reconnect and new friendships beginning to develop. Our staff has worked tirelessly to help your child settle in and to make positive connections so far in their new class. Please know that the placement of children into classes is a thoughtful process that involves hours of planning and input from all members of staff. This process began at the end of last year with our entire staff and was completed last week as we adjusted class lists to reflect student movement in and out of our school. We hope you will talk with your child about the positive aspects of their classroom placement and let them know that there will be opportunities for friendships old and new to flourish both in and out of the classroom setting throughout the year. We have an amazing staff who will ensure all students have a great place to learn throughout the upcoming year.

If you live close by we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to walk to school. This is a great way to connect with your child and help them get off to a good start to the school day. If you are driving please obey all street signs and respect our neighbours driveways and property. The recommended drop off is on the east side of Balfour, from the passenger side of the car directly onto our sidewalk. Please drive with caution through our school zone, especially during the first month of start-up. For pick-up please follow the same procedures to ensure clear crosswalk access and safe walkways for all of our children at the end of the day. The parking lot is for staff parking and handicapped parking only.

This year at RC MacDonald we are happy to welcome back all of our teaching staff from last year! We wish Ms. Mattiazo all the best at her new assignment. We are excited to welcome Ms. Watson to our school in both Kindergarten classes and the Student Services department. As well at this time I would like to welcome all of our new families to RC MacDonald, we look forward to getting to know you and your children. Mark Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. We will have a Meet the Teacher Event from 4:30 – 5:30 where you can have your child introduce you to their teacher and show you around their new classroom. Following that you are invited to the PAC sponsored “Welcome Back BBQ” from 5:00 – 7:00. Many thanks to Mrs. Hesse and her committee for organizing, cooking and serving up a wonderful BBQ for our school community!

The entire RC MacDonald staff is very excited about the wonderful possibilities and exciting opportunities the year ahead holds for each and every student.

Warmest wishes for a terrific school year!

Sincerely,

*Mr. Watkins, Principal*

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our school population is 139 students and we have 7 divisions. Our classes meet the ministry class sizes and are well balanced. They also meet the ministry criteria regarding class composition.

TEACHING		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	COMMENTS
Abel, Karin	Library, Music and Gifted						Mon – Div 3; Thurs (PM) & Fri – Div 4
Ballarin, Sabrina	Div. 7 Gr. K						Tues – Watson
Coomer, Meredyth	Div. 2 Gr. 4 / 5						
Huggins, Leona	Div. 5 Gr. 1						
Johnson, Kelli	Div. 3 Gr. 2 / 3						Mon – Abel
Olund, Ronnie	Student Services						
Pledge, Mike	Counsellor						Wed, alternating Mon
Watson, Shannon	Div. 6 & 7 Gr. K						Tue – Ballarin; Thu, Fri – Wise
Wallace, Wendy	Div. 1 Gr. 4 / 5						
Wise, Michelle	Div. 6 Gr. K						Thu, Fri – Watson
Wright, Colleen	Div. 4 Gr. 2 / 3						Mon to Thu @ 11:30
C.U.P.E.		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	
Cheah, Julie	Noon Hour Asst.						12:08 pm – 1:10 pm
Colombo, Rosalynn	Noon Hour Asst.						12:08 pm – 1:10 pm
Diggle, Diana	EA						8:30 am – 3:10 pm
DiTomaso, John	AM Caretaker						7:30 am – 9:30 am
Dyrndahl, Sandra	Secretary						8:15 am – 3:45 pm
Ferasian, Najma	PM Caretaker						3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
MacDonell, Kim	EA						8:30 am – 3:10 pm
ADMIN.							
Watkins, Ceri	Principal						

## DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Students will be going outside every day for recess and lunch. (Occasionally, we do keep the students inside under **extreme** weather conditions.) We ask that ALL students come to school with coats, appropriate outdoor shoes or boots, hats, umbrellas, gloves, etc. as needed. It is strongly **recommended** that students keep a change of clothes and underwear in their gym bags (older students) or in their indoor shoe bag (younger students). To ensure student safety, we can keep our hallways dry in wet weather by having all students enter the school through their class' exterior doors. Thank you for not cutting through the hallways before school.



## PETS ON THE PLAYGROUND

Please remember that if you bring your family pet to school, it must be leashed, and it must remain outside of the school building. Please stay back from groups of children if you are with your pet, and away from student line ups, both before and after school. Some of our students (and adults) have a fear of dogs and



although many of us consider our dogs to be part of our family, there are individuals who are allergic and cannot be around pets. Thank you for understanding and for always cleaning up after your pet.

## TERRY FOX RUN – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>



Once again RC MacDonald is proudly supporting The Terry Fox Foundation in its ongoing work to fund innovative and progressive cancer research programs. You can support our school by making a donation, either with cash or a cheque given to your child to return to their teacher or with a credit card online.

Our school is already set up on the Terry Fox website to receive **online donations**. Our school fundraising page is: <http://www.terryfox.ca/RCMacDonaldElementary>. If students would like to set up their own page for on-line donations (making sure the on-line donations are counted as money raised by them), please [CLICK HERE](#). Paper donation forms will be distributed on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to return the forms to the school before the school run on the morning of Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

We have some great incentives for the students of RC Mac!

- If we meet our school goal of **\$2,500**, Mr. Watkins has agreed to **dye his hair and beard a different color for every day of the following week!**
- The class with the largest amount of donations will get the opportunity to “pass” water balloons back and forth with Mr. Watkins.
- The student who raises the most will receive Mr. Watkins as their butler for a morning; this will include morning pick up for school and being treated to lunch with a friend!

Your kindness will impact the lives of so many people living with cancer.

## PICTURE DAY

Individual student photos will be taken on **Wednesday, October 18, 2017**. Each student will have a picture taken and the proofs will be sent home, with a variety of package options to choose from. There will be a day for retakes (if your child is away on October 18<sup>th</sup>) – Thursday November 9, 2017.



## ONLINE E-FORMS

We are hoping to have most of the following forms completed **ONLINE (click here)** this year, but if for some reason you are unable to access the internet, please contact the RC MacDonald office (604-936-0447) to make other arrangements. Please complete the following forms as promptly as possible so that we can ensure the safety of your children:



1. **SCHOOL POLICY FORM \*\* MANDATORY \*\*** Please note this is **ONLY** an **online form**. Besides the school policies, this form also includes the **parent giving permission for walking field trips (i.e. fun runs, Terry Fox Run, walking to Mundy Park), whether or not you permit your child to have his/her picture published, etc.** Please complete the form acknowledging you have discussed the contents with your child – and electronically submit it to our office.
2. **EMERGENCY RELEASE FORM \*\* MANDATORY \*\*** (*paper copy also sent home with your child*) - This information enables us to release your child to your designated representative in the event of a major catastrophe – **it is NOT to be confused with the contact information that was required at registration.**
3. **Medical Alert\*** - To be completed only if your child has a medical concern at the start of each school year.

**\*IMPORTANT:** You cannot save data typed into the Emergency Release or the Medical Alert forms. After filling out the form, **PRINT** it and return it to your child's school.

4. **Optional:** A current criminal record check will be required if you wish to take part in the following. Criminal record checks are good for 5 years. You can pick up a letter at our office which allows you to receive a criminal records check free of charge.

- **Volunteer Application** - To be completed once at each school level by parents and non-parents who are planning to volunteer at our school. Note: you also need to drop off a criminal record check (CRC) at the school office. \*\* We have had clarification that this form does not have to be filled out every year as it is tied to your CRC. When your CRC expires, so does your volunteer application. \*\*
- **Driver Application** - To be completed at the start of each school year by volunteers who are planning to transport students during school field trips. Note: you will also need to drop off a Driver's Abstract and a Criminal Record Check at the school office and complete a Volunteer Application Form (once per school level).
- **Privately Owned Devices** - To be completed by staff or students who will be using privately owned devices (laptops, iPods, Blackberries, etc.) that will be connected to the district wireless or wired network.

## **SCHOOL and BELL SCHEDULE**



8:55 am	Welcoming Bell
9:00 am	Classes Begin
10:30 am	Recess
10:50 am	Classes Resume
12:20 pm	Lunch Eating Time
12:40 pm	Lunch Play Time
1:07 pm	Classes Resume
3:00 pm	Dismissal

## **WELCOME TO RC MACDONALD BARBEQUE**

On Friday, September 15, RC MacDonald's PAC will be hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Welcome to RC Mac Barbeque from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and are inviting all of our community to attend! Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information – we hope to see you there!

## **ATTACHMENTS (PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW TO VIEW):**

- [September 2017 Superintendent's Letter to Parents](#)
- [RC Mac BBQ Invitation Poster](#)
- [Parenting Wisely Course Oct-Nov 2017](#)

## COMING UP AT R.C. MACDONALD:

Meet the Teacher Event (4:30 – 5:30 PM)	Sept. 15	Friday
PAC Welcome Back Barbeque (5:00 – 7:00 PM)	Sept. 15	Friday
PAC Meeting (6:30 – 8:00 PM, Library)	Sept. 18	Monday
District Pro D Day – <b>STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND</b>	Sept. 22	Friday
Terry Fox Assembly (9:15 AM)	Sept. 29	Friday
Terry Fox Run (9:45 AM)	Sept. 29	Friday
Thanksgiving Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	Oct. 9	Monday
Individual School Photos (9:05 AM)	Oct. 18	Wednesday
 Early Dismissal @ 2:00  for Interim Interviews (2:00 to 6:00)	Oct. 18	Wednesday
Interim Interviews (3:00 to 4:30)	Oct. 19	Thursday
Provincial Pro D Day – <b>STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND</b>	Oct. 20	Friday
Recognition Assembly (9:05 AM)	Oct. 27	Friday
 Halloween	Oct. 31	Tuesday
School Photo Retakes (9:00 AM)	Nov. 9	Tuesday
Remembrance Day Assembly (11:00 AM)	Nov. 9	Thursday
School Not In Session – <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	Nov. 10	Friday
 Remembrance Day	Nov. 11	Saturday
Remembrance Day Holiday – <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	Nov. 13	Monday
Ministry New Curriculum Day – <b>STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND</b>	Nov. 24	Friday
First Formal Report Card Goes home	Dec. 21	Thursday
 Last Day of School before Winter Vacation	Dec. 22	Friday
Schools Re-open after Winter Vacation	Jan. 8, 2018	Monday

The RC MacDonald calendar is online – all events that have been confirmed are available for you to see at a glance. Please revisit our site as ***we will continue to add special event dates as they are confirmed.*** Our website is:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/rcmacdonald/Pages/default.aspx>