

Welcome to November! We are well into the school year already and much amazing learning has already occurred. Teachers are continuing to teach the revised Curriculum and are also continuing to learn along the way. Some subject topics have changed in each grade, but the most significant changes are the way the curriculum is organized into teaching larger “Big Ideas”, “Curricular Competencies”, “Core Competencies” and “Content/Skills”.



This was communicated throughout last year but here is quick a review of each:

Big Ideas: This is a starting place for a particular unit of study and is central to an area of learning. Example: “Natural Resources continue to shape the economy and identity of different regions of Canada” Gr. 5 Social Studies.

Curricular Competencies: These are statements about what the students are expected to *do*. Example: “Take stakeholders’ perspectives on issues, developments and events by making inference about their beliefs, values, and motivations.”

Core Competencies: These are sets of intellectual, personal and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop to engage in deeper learning. They are divided into three sections (Communication, Thinking and Personal & Social). Examples: “Acquire, interpret and present information (Communication); Generate ideas, analyze and critique, question and investigate (Thinking); Contributing to the community and caring for the environment (Personal & Social)”.

Content/Skills: These are statements defining what the students are *expected to know*. Example: “Resources and economic development in different regions of Canada”.

Reporting: Last month we sent home a copy of the Coquitlam School District reporting templates for each grade with some information attached. All of this should help clarify the formal report cards that will come home at the end of December.

Huge thanks to all families that were able to contribute non-perishable goods to our Me-2-We group’s WE Scare Hunger campaign. We were able to donate hundreds of items to our local food bank which will help ensure a more positive upcoming holiday season for families in need.

The first two months have been a terrific start, thanks mostly to the huge effort of our fantastic group of teachers. I am extremely proud of the way our teachers have worked together to ensure your children a great start to the school year. In November we have our Remembrance Day Assembly, the Scholastic Book Fair, and our RC Mac Movie Night to look forward to. These activities and events are a testament to the dedication of our amazing staff and sensational parent community. Many thanks to all of the adults who generously donate their time to ensure these events are possible.

RC Mac is a sensational school and indeed as our motto says, “Together We’re Better!”

Sincerely,

Mr. Watkins, Principal

GREAT NEWS - WE HAVE A SECOND COUNSELLOR ON STAFF!



Some parents will recognize the name Shannon Watson whom I'm pleased to introduce as our counselling intern. She will be working at RC Mac on Wednesday afternoons for at least the next ten weeks as part of her counselling practicum. Shannon is part of the SD # 43 counselling cohort completing her Masters in Counselling Psychology through City University. She has completed all her course work and now needs to complete 125 hours of supervised counselling work.

Some of you will recognize Shannon's name because she is our Kindergarten teacher three mornings a week and works as a resource teacher in several of our classes another day. Up to this point she has worked as a **Teacher-On-Call** Wednesday afternoons but will now use that time to further develop her counselling skills. This is a win/win situation, whilst Shannon is accumulating supervised counselling hours we benefit from her expertise and gain an extra afternoon of counselling time.

I'm pleased to welcome Shannon to our counselling team!!

Mike Pledge M. Ed. (Counselling Psychology); RCC
School Counsellor

PICTURE DAY

This is a reminder that individual student **photos will be taken on Friday, November 3, 2017** just after the morning bell. Proofs of your child will be sent home approximately 8 working days later, and you will have the option to order on-line (quicker and you will have a record of ordering) or sending your order through the school. If you are unhappy with the picture taken, or if your child is away on November 3rd, retakes are scheduled for Monday, November 20th. Pictures should arrive before our Winter Break.



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.*

WINTER WEATHER AHEAD!

Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other inclement weather conditions. All schools in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will remain OPEN, if at all possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.



However, on occasion, a district-wide or partial-district closure is required due to extreme weather. Partial-district closures affecting individual schools may occur due to the very different geography within our school district. If there is a partial-district closure affected schools will be identified.

The decision on schools remaining open or needing to be closed, because of extreme weather, occurs **before 6:30 a.m.** so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements.

Any district-wide or partial-district closure will be decided and communicated by 6:30 a.m. via the School District 43 website www.sd43.bc.ca and CKNW AM 980 radio, CKWX 1130 radio and CBC (690) radio.





While the District tries to make the best decision with the information available, the weather does change quickly. Therefore, when schools remain open, decisions to stay at home during challenging weather conditions should be made by each family.

Extreme weather can also impact transit. Transit schedules may face significant changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents seeking information on transit schedules need to consult the Translink website: <http://www.translink.ca/>

We encourage families to continuously check the School District 43 website for updates and changes: www.sd43.bc.ca

Learn more about SD43's process for emergency and inclement weather status updates at: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation.aspx>

COMING UP AT R.C. MACDONALD:

Individual School Photos (9:05 AM)	Nov. 3	Friday
 Set clocks back 1 hour	Nov. 5	Sunday
Remembrance Day Assembly (11:00 AM)	Nov. 9	Thursday
School Not In Session – NO SCHOOL	Nov. 10	Friday
 Remembrance Day	Nov. 11	Saturday
Remembrance Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL	Nov. 13	Monday
Scholastic Book Fair	Nov 16-22	Thu-Wed
RC Mac Movie Night (6:30 start)	Nov. 17	Friday
School Photo Retakes (9:05 AM)	Nov. 20	Monday
PAC Meeting (6:30-8:00, Library)	Nov. 20	Monday
PAC Hot Lunch Day	Nov. 23	Thursday
Ministry New Curriculum Day – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	Nov. 24	Friday
Treat Sale (10:30) (no community run)	Dec. 1	Friday
iGirl / iGuy workshops (Grades 4/5 only)	Dec. 5	Tuesday
iKid workshops (Grades K-3)	Dec. 6-7	Wed-Thu
Christmas Concert (afternoon/evening times TBA)	Dec. 20	Wednesday
First Formal Report Card Goes home	Dec. 21	Thursday
RC Mac Pancake Breakfast (7:45 – 8:45)	Dec. 22	Friday
 Last Day of School before Winter Vacation	Dec. 22	Friday
Schools Re-open after Winter Vacation 	Jan. 8, 2018	Monday
Pro-D Day (School Based) – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	Jan 29	Monday
Michael Mitchell Performance (9:05 AM)	Feb 2	Friday

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>