

Welcome Back!



Welcome back to school everyone! I hope you all had a fantastic summer. I am pleased to be part of the RC MacDonald School Community this year and look forward to introducing myself personally to each family as the year progresses. Our school theme this year is “The Story of Us”. This term every student will have the chance to explore this topic through a school wide art project and we will continue the story throughout the year in our classrooms.

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 continued through the first week of school as new students registered. 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! 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 Thursday, September 13th on your calendar. We will have a Meet the Teacher Event from 4:30 – 5:30 where you can meet us in the gym for a Back to School Slide Show and staff introductions. Following that you are invited to the PAC sponsored “Welcome Back BBQ” from 5:00 – 7:30. Many thanks to our wonderful PAC 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!

Ms. Roberts, Acting 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	
Abel, Karin	Library, Music and Gifted
Ballarin, Sabrina	Div. 7 Gr. K
Coomer, Meredyth	Div. 2 Gr. 4 / 5
Fitzgerald, John	Div. 1 Gr. 4/5
Huggins, Leona	Div. 5 Gr. 1
Hutton, Maria	Student Services
Johnson, Kelli	Div. 3 Gr. 2 / 3
Olund, Ronnie	Student Services
Watson, Shannon	Counsellor/Div. 6 & 7 Gr. 1
Wise, Michelle	Div. 6 Gr. 1
Wright, Colleen	Div. 4 Gr. 2 / 3
C.U.P.E.	
Ceah, Julie	Noon Hour Asst.
Colombo, Rosalynn	Noon Hour Asst.
DiTomaso, John	AM Caretaker
Dyrndahl, Sandra	Secretary
Mandev, Rhonda	PM Caretaker
Khan, Aumbrine	EA
MacDonell, Kim	EA
ADMIN.	
Roberts, Theresa	Acting 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.

FOOD ALLERGY ETIQUETTE

Each school year we have several students in our community who manage significant food allergies. As they grow and develop these students will learn to successfully manage their allergies but at younger ages (especially primary grades) we expect they will require adult support. Our staff reviews medical alerts, EpiPen injections, and connects with the school nurse regarding student medical issues throughout the school year.

Please review the following strategies at home as these are standards at our school:

- Wash hands before and after eating.
- Do not share or trade food items.
- For Holiday and Birthday celebrations please give notice to the teacher. Consider bringing a non-food item or a store-bought item with the ingredients clearly labelled.

Thank you for helping keep RC Mac a safe and inclusive place for all students 😊

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 – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH



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 18th. Be sure to return the forms to the school before the school run on the morning of Thursday, September 27th.

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

- If we meet our school goal of **\$2,500**, **Mr. Fitzgerald** has agreed to be slimed with another staff member or even two of his choice.
- The class with the largest amount of donations will get the opportunity to “pass” water balloons back and forth with Ms. Roberts.
- The student who raises the most will receive Ms. Roberts as their personal executive assistant 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 **Tuesday, September 11th, 2018**. 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 September 11th) – Monday October 29th, 2018.



ABSENT?

If your child will be away or arriving late to school, you need to advise the school before 9:00 a.m. There are various ways to advise the school:

- fill out the eForm Absentee Report located on the RC MacDonald website under the Parent eForm section (recommended). This form can also be filled out and submitted in advance if you are planning to be absent in the future (ie. vacation during school, future appointments, etc.)
- email 023-Office@sd43.bc.ca (will go to both the secretary and principal)
- call the school – 604-936-0447 and speak with the secretary or leave a message on the answering machine.

When arriving late, your child will need to go directly to the office and get a late slip before proceeding to the classroom.

ONLINE E-FORMS

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**. Please go to the School Cash Online website (<https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com>) to complete. 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 has been 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

JOIN US FOR MEET THE TEACHER, PAC BBQ, GRADE 5 PARENT MEETING

On Thursday, September 13th families are invited to join the RC Mac Staff for “Meet the Teacher”. Please join us in the gym at 4:30 for the “Welcome Back” slideshow and staff introductions. Grade 5 Parents will meet with Ms. Coomer and Mr. Fitzgerald at 5:00pm. RC MacDonald’s PAC will be hosting the 6th 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! We hope to see you there!

COMING UP AT R.C. MACDONALD:

Individual School Photos (9:05 AM)	Sept. 11	Tuesday
Meet the Teacher Event (4:30 – 5:30 PM)	Sept. 13	Thursday
PAC Welcome Back Barbeque (5:00 – 7:30 PM)	Sept. 13	Thursday
Grade 5 Parent Meeting (5:00-5:30 PM)	Sept. 13	Thursday
Healthy Hair	Sept. 19	Wednesday
District Pro D Day – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	Sept. 21	Friday
PAC Meeting (6:30 – 8:00 PM, Library)	Sept. 24	Monday
Terry Fox Assembly (9:15 AM)	Sept. 27	Thursday
Terry Fox Run (9:45 AM)	Sept. 27	Thursday
Orange Shirt Day	Sept. 28	Friday
World Teacher Day	Oct. 5	Friday
Thanksgiving Day - NO SCHOOL	Oct. 8	Monday
Provincial Pro D Day – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	Oct. 20	Friday
School Photo Retakes (9:00 AM)	Oct. 29	Monday
Halloween	Oct. 31	Tuesday
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
Ministry New Curriculum Day – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	Nov. 24	Friday
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>