

THE 2 WEEK PEEK



Thursday January 28, 2016

District Pro-D TOMORROW– No Classes in Session

Big Changes for Mme. Wagler and Rochester

Today is Mme. Wagler's last day at Rochester for a little while as she and her husband assume their new role as parents of three! While it's a little sad to see her go, we are all happy for her; she will make a great parent. Mme. Wagler's position will be assumed by our own Mme. Benedict who, along with Mme. Fourchalk on Wednesdays, will ensure a smooth transition in the days ahead. This change of personnel means that Mme. Benedict will leave her current librarian position and a new teacher-librarian will be hired.



Eat Pizza, Help Rochester!

Boston pizza is sponsoring our school. It's really simple - When you eat at Boston pizza, 10% of your meal gets donated back to Rochester. All you have to do is write "Rochester Elementary" on the bottom of your receipt and deposit the receipt in a clear plastic box located on the shelf in the seating area. (You can't miss the box.) And then the school gets a cheque! If you have questions about the program you can email 1098mn@gmail.com

Professional Days, In-Service Days, School Closures Days explained...

I received few questions in recent weeks about professional days and non-instructional days so I thought I would share the following information with everyone.

The Ministry of Education mandates the number of professional days in a school year. Similarly they determine the number of instructional days (kids in session) and even the number of instructional minutes each year. School Districts develop their calendars within these guidelines.

This year the following six professional days (days where teachers are engaged in professional growth) were set as follows:

Sept 25	<i>District Wide Professional Day</i>
October 23	<i>Province Wide Professional Day</i>
January 29	<i>School Based Professional Day</i>
February 19th	<i>District Wide Day (this day is organized by the CTA and CUPE for their members)</i>
April 15th	<i>District Wide Professional Day</i>
June 6th	<i>School Based Professional Day</i>

This structure is similar to other years. New this year, however, was the surprise announcement in the fall of ten hours of mandated "in-service" for all teachers in BC to become familiar with the new curriculum coming in effect next school year. School districts were left to determine how these ten hours would be implemented. SD 43 selected to use the ten hours as two Curriculum In-Service days and set the dates for **February 9th** (the day after family day) and **May 13th** – students are **NOT IN SESSION ON THESE DAYS.**

February 9 { ***New Curriculum Teacher In-Service Province Wide***
May 13

Adding to the "confusion" is the School Closure Day concept implemented in our District a few years ago. As a cost cutting measure, SD 43 as well as many other districts, elected to close schools for six days in each school year with the time "lost" on these days added to the remaining in session days. This resulted in a longer school day. It also resulted in 5 days added to the traditional spring break period and one additional closure day in the fall. This year, this one day closure was on November 20th while in other years it was added to the Thanksgiving weekend or after Remembrance Day.

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FROM YOUR RPAC

Monday February 15th is our next **PAC meeting** - Only 3 more to go February, April and May! 7-8:30pm in the library – please try and come to at least one! Find out how the school runs from the principal and other parents (not just your kids)!

Monday February 1st "Supporting Your Child's learning" is a parent education event. 7-8pm. This is a session that we thought would be interesting and helpful for parents. There will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of the photocopying. We will need to know numbers to determine whether it will be held in the library or the gym. Further information about registering will come in January.

Friday February 5th Fun lunch - Taco Del Mar

Friday February 12th Pokémon night in the gym from 6-7pm. Free event **but adult supervision is required** – the kids can play, trade and just talk about Pokémon and show off all their “EX’s”.

Looking ahead...

February

2, 3, 4 February – English Kindergarten registration
8 Feb – BC Family Day – School Closed
9 Feb – SD 43 Pro-D – students not in session
10 February French Immersion Kindergarten Registration
17 and 18 Feb – early dismissal at 2 pm for student led conferences or parent teacher meetings
18 Feb - Jump Rope for Heart Event times TBA
22 Feb - Duffle Bag Theatre Performance

March

7 March Maple Man Performance morning and afternoon
14-25 March – Spring Break
28 March – Easter Monday School is closed
29 March – School Reopens
29, 30, 31 March - Hip Hop

April

1,4,5,6 April - Hip Hop
7 April – 22 April - Gymnastics Equipment set up in Gym

