

THE 2 WEEK PEEK



FRIDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER, 2016

CARE ♦ RESPECT ♦ BELONGING ♦ SERVICE

Meet the Teacher Open House Thursday, 22 September 6 – 7 pm



Welcome Back!

It was a fantastic and full first week for our students and teachers as they participated in Family Group activities. Family Groups are mixed grade

groupings (K-5) that come together for special activities that promote our common core values and build community within the school. Rochester staff planned activities based on our core school values of care, respect, belonging, and service to others. We conducted two similarly value themed assemblies that included Terry Fox's legacy of service. We will incorporate Family Group activities into our school calendar as one of our many "structures" designed to promote community and our values. Students left their Family Groups after lunch today for their new regular classroom.

Full Classes at Rochester, New Classes and Common Child First Week Issues

All but one of our English Program classes are completely full at the Primary level (K-3) and all our Intermediate classes are full. French Immersion classes are near capacity at the Intermediate level and almost every French Immersion Primary classroom is completely full. Class sizes are legislated by the Ministry of Education as follows:

Grade Level	Legal Maximum Class Size (Number of Students)
K and K/1 Blends	22
Grade 1 – 3 and 3/4 Blends	24
Grade 4, 5	30

This means that we will not be moving students once they are assigned to classes today. Rochester staff already took great care, time, and consideration with the placement of every child in June. Many new students arrived since and countless phone calls to former schools last week helped us learn more about each new student and the most suitable placement of these children as well.

Sometimes children will come home and, after learning their new class placement, will claim "none of my friends are in my class" or "I want to be in Mr./Mrs. class." This would be a prime life lesson opportunity to discuss change. Of course, if your child is apprehensive about anything, please let us know. We will take all the time necessary and provide whatever support measures are needed to assist with your child's transition to a new grade/teacher/peer group. We are good at creative solutions and staffs have been through these matters many times in the past. We are here to help and will work with you!

Good bye Mme. Pham

Over the summer, we learned that Mme. Pham decided to retire after many years of dedicated service to SD 43 children. We wish her well on her adventures ahead!

We are also happy to announce that former Rochester teacher Mme. Fourchalk delivered a healthy baby boy named Domenic on August 23.

New Faces

We have twenty-seven new students in grades 1-5 in addition to our almost seventy kindergarten students this year - that's almost 20% of our school population!

We also have a few new and returning faces on our staff. Please welcome teachers Laura Peterson and Mila Ortiz to our French Immersion team. Also, Lorna Wou and Jennifer Doza are back at Rochester this year. We also welcome back EA Ronnie Rai who worked here previously.

2016-2017 Lunch Format

As noted in our June 2 WEEK PEEK, we are returning to the eat first/play second format from previous years but with a bit more time for our younger eaters to finish their lunch. We will eat first 12:10 – 12:30 with a ten minute flex period that permits children who still need time to finish their lunches in their class. Playtime for those that are finished eating will start at 12:30 - 12:55.



SD 43 Launches new websites for all schools

Emails to our community last week detailed some of our challenges with the new webpage for our school. The new page looks good but most of our information uploaded in June was lost in the format changeover. Please have a look at the site. You will find calendar and current event information as well as forms, program information, and supply lists. Go to:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/rochester/Pages/default.aspx>

LOOKING AHEAD...

Friday 9 Sept.	Students move to new classrooms
Monday 19 Sept.	RPAC Meeting 7:00 – 8:30 Library
Thursday 22 Sept.	Terry Fox Run in the afternoon
Thursday 22 Sept.	Place Maillard After School Program Registration 3 pm
Thursday 22 Sept.	Meet the Teacher 6:00 – 7:00
Friday 23 Sept.	Professional Day for Teachers – No students in session

please consult our web site often for a more detailed calendar of events - go to
<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/rochester/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>

Don't Forget...

If you eat at BOSTON PIZZA, you can help our school. Simply write the name "ROCHESTER ELEMETARY" on your receipt and deposit in the receptacle located by the hostess desk at the entry.

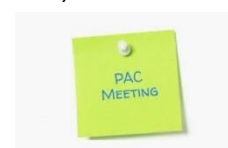
RPAC

As parents of a Rochester child you are part of the Rochester Parent Advisory Council (RPAC). Our first meeting of the year is on Monday, September 19th from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM in the Rochester School Library.

PAC meetings are held monthly during the school year, except for in December and March. Free childcare is provided.

You can find agendas and minutes from past meetings at:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/rochester/Parents/PAC/Pages/default.aspx>



Health Update

As children move into their new classrooms, please ensure we have all current health information including food allergies, medical conditions, and medication information. Emergency forms will go home with your child early next week. Please return these to your child's teacher by September 16th. If your child has any pre-existing medical issues and or new medical issues please fill out the on-line medical e-form and return it to the office asap. If your child requires an epi-pen for medical issues please make sure the office has one there or they know where it is kept.

