

OCTOBER 2025

Welcome to October!

We have much to be thankful for as we are into October! Our student enrollment has increased once again, and we are now well into the rhythm of Semester 1 courses. Thank you to the District Operations department who successfully added 6 Portables to the Bach Rd side of our campus. They redesigned some of that portion of the grounds while having it completed on time and ready for classes to begin. Please note the bus loop is for **school buses only**. Thank you.

Our Fall sports teams are off to a strong start, and we're proud of their efforts and achievements so far. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to our dedicated staff and community volunteers who continue to support our student-athletes — your time and energy are truly appreciated.

We're also optimistic about having our downstairs dance studio back in use by the end of the First Semester. Thank you for your patience as we work toward this goal. Luckily, we have had access to the upstairs dance studio for Semester One. Yes, our dance program is that in demand that we need the use of 2 dance studios.

Please take a moment to check your spam or junk mail folders to ensure that messages from our School District are getting through. Staying informed helps us stay connected as a school community. If you know someone who has mentioned they aren't receiving school communications, please encourage them to check their email settings or reach out to the school office for assistance.

Lastly, a big thank-you to our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) for your continued support — your contributions make a meaningful difference in our school community.

- ★ **Early Dismissal / Parent-Teacher Conferences – October 16:** RSS students will be dismissed at 1:15 pm. on Thursday, October 16 to accommodate Parent-Teacher Conferences. Conferences will take place in the gym & forum from 5:00—7:00 pm. No appointment required. School buses will be running 2 hours earlier on this date.
- ★ **Student Information Verification Forms**—These forms were distributed during the first week of school. Please review, sign and return these forms to the office as soon as possible. It is **very important** for the school to have correct student demographic information and parent/guardian contact information on file. Thank you.
- ★ **School Photos** - Student photos were taken on September 11 by Artona and student ID photo cards have been distributed. Photos can be viewed and ordered online: [Artona School Photos](#)
Photo orders will be mailed directly to your home by Artona. Photo retakes will take place the morning of October 15.
- ★ **PAC Meeting – October 21 - 7 pm.** This meeting will be in person and Zoom option. An invitation to all families will be sent by email.
- ★ **School Fees and Yearbooks!**—Reminder to please pay your student's school fees and order your yearbook on- line at: schoolcashionline.com



Important Dates

Sep.29	Orange Shirt Day
Sep. 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Oct. 5.....	World Teacher Day
Oct. 6-10	Interim Week
Oct. 10.....	Implementation Day—No classes
Oct. 13.....	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Oct. 15.....	Photo Retake Day am
Oct. 16:	Early Dismissal 1:15 pm
.....	Parent/Teacher Conferences 5-7:00 pm
Oct. 21.....	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm
Oct. 24.....	Pro-D Day
Oct. 30.....	Fall Music Concert 6:00 pm
Nov. 3-7.....	Assessments: Gr. 10/12
.....	Literacy / Numeracy
Nov. 5.....	Grad Photos begin

★ **FAMILY AFFORDABILITY FUND UPDATE & SCHOOL FEES**

The B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care has discontinued the "one-time" Student and Family Affordability Fund, which previously helped schools offset some school-related costs for families (e.g., supplies, field trips, extracurriculars).

In Central Okanagan Public Schools, no student will be denied participation in an educational program due to financial need. Our Board's Regulation 425R – School Fees (Financial Hardship Clause) ensures families can confidentially request support or alternative arrangements. If cost is a barrier for your child, please contact the school principal.

- ★ **ATTENDANCE REPORTING:** Due to the increased student population we are encouraging families to use the **SchoolMessenger App** or **SchoolMessenger Parent Portal** to report your student's absence. If you choose to phone the school number, press "1" to reach the attendance line, or your call will be transferred to this line. Please refer to the email message that was sent out to all families on September 22 with steps on how to set up the School Messenger App or log into the School Messenger Parent Portal. We appreciate your assistance and thank you in advance! For more information - RSS website—Parents Tab.

- ★ **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE:** Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. [Student Accident Insurance by StudyInsured](#) is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Plan or to find out more, click [here](#).

- ★ **BUS LOOP:** there is a new bus loop located in the back of the school behind the newly installed portables. Please note that this is for BUSES ONLY, not parent drop-off. We appreciate you keeping the space safe! Thank you.



Fall Music Concert
Thursday, Oct. 30
6:00 pm—Forum



R CAFÉ NEWS!

- ★ The **R Café** is run by Culinary Arts students in grade 10, 11 and 12 under the direction of Culinary Arts teacher Elizabeth Van Dyk and Red Seal Chef Marc Schoene. The Café is opening on October 1, 2025 and will be running throughout the year from Tuesday to Friday. (It is closed on Tuesdays after a holiday Monday and for 2 weeks at the beginning of semester 2.)
- ★ **Hours of Operation:**
- 8:45 am – 9:00 am (before school)
 - 10:15 am – 10:25 am (morning break)
 - 11:40 am – 12:30 pm (lunch)
- ★ Baked goods, bagels, fresh fruit cups, yogurt parfaits and beverages are sold before school. During the morning break, eggos, veggie plates, sandwiches and more baked goods are added to the menu. Every lunch hour the café also offers an entrée, soup, salads, paninis, burgers, fries, sub station and much more! The weekly menu of the Café is posted on Mondays at www.rss.sd23.bc.ca under Services and then Cafeteria Menu. The **R Café** accepts cash, debit, credit, or prepaid \$20 punch cards which are available for purchase from the office or the café.



GRAD NEWS



★ In order to support other programs at RSS, we have changed the date of Crystal Ball to **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH**. We apologize for any confusion this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

★ The first round of **Grad Wear** orders are now available for ordering. In the First Round, only two items are available: a black hoodie and a white hoodie; an additional colour selection MAY be available in later rounds (order dates are listed in the Grad Parent Letter emailed to homes on Wednesday September 8). For your order to be processed you must submit your order (color and size) AND pay for your order on-line (www.schoolcashionline.com) no later than 4 p.m. on October 9th. We anticipate orders in the first round will be ready for distribution in early November; a second round of orders is available for delivery before Winter Vacation.

★ **Grad Photo** sessions are available to book now!

Please book a time as soon as possible at Artona.com-- there ARE enough time slots available for all Grads to be photographed but students that wait until the last minute to schedule a sitting time may find that the dates and times are limited. There is a \$60 REFUNDABLE deposit at the time of sitting with no obligation to purchase. Should you opt not to order, you can request to have the deposit refunded; for those ordering, the deposit will apply to your order. In order for Grads to be included in the Yearbook and the Composite Photo, students must have a picture taken by Artona. Grad Photos run from November 5th through November 23rd



GRAD PHOTO DATES
November 5—22, 2025

ATHLETIC NEWS:

Please visit the RSS ATHLETICS WEBSITE and @rutlandathletics on Instagram for the most up-to-date-info.



Sr. Boys Soccer Goes Undeclared at OKGN Classic!

The Sr. Boys Soccer team made history at the OKGN Classic in Vernon on September 18–19, storming through the tournament undefeated to claim their first title! RSS opened with a 7-0 win over VSS (Vernon) before facing a tough LVR (Nelson) squad. Down 2-0, captain **Blake Redmond** scored four goals as the team rallied to a 5-2 victory. A 10-0 win over Valleyview, highlighted by a hat trick from **Ryder Starling**, secured top spot in the pool. In the championship against Kalamalka Secondary, early goals from **Luke Allanson**, **Blake Redmond**, and **Peter Hofmann** set the pace. Despite conceding two early in the second half, the team's defense and stellar goalkeeping from **Luca Meise** held strong, sealing the tournament win. Congratulations to the Sr. Boys on an undefeated, unforgettable weekend!

Catch the team at home this season:

Oct 2 @ 3pm vs OKM;

Oct 16 @ 3pm vs KSS;

Oct 30 @ 3pm vs MBSS



HOMEWORK CLUB Everyone is Welcome! Room 1249

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Ms. Harvie 8:15—9:00	Ms. Noonan 8:15 – 9:00			Ms. Noonan 8:15 – 9:00
Lunch	Ms. Noonan & Ms. Pembleton & Mr. Kramer 11:45 – 12:29	Ms. Lenardon & Ms. Pembleton & Mr. Kramer 11:45 – 12:29	Ms. Lenardon & Ms. Pembleton & Mr. Kramer & Mr. Oliver 11:45 – 12:29	Ms. Harvie & Ms. Noonan 11:45 – 12:29	Ms. Lenardon & Ms. Pembleton & Mr. Oliver 11:45 – 12:29



Subject: Public Health Nurse Wellness Clinics in School Settings for Grade 10, 11, 12 Students

To students & their parents, guardians, or representatives:

As part of Interior Health (IH) - Central Okanagan's efforts to provide access to public health nursing (PHN) support and services, IH has been offering in-school PHN Wellness Clinics for grade 10, 11, and 12 students and these clinics will continue until the end of the school year.

At the Wellness Clinics in the school, Public Health Nurses will be available to talk with students and answer any questions about public health nursing services, such as health and wellness promotion/disease prevention information, and resources. This is also a great opportunity for senior high school students to meet with a public health nurse to assess their immunization history and ensure they have all the necessary vaccinations before they graduate. Some post-secondary schools/training programs require immunization history prior to starting the program.

Additionally, based on information gleaned from the recent 2023 McCreary Adolescent Survey indicating a growing concern from students regarding a variety of health-related topics, these in-school clinics will offer improved access for students to reach out to a health professional.

Checking immunization status:

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to review their own immunization status. HealthGateway provides secure access to health records, including immunizations. Please visit:

<https://www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca/>

COVID-19 or Influenza vaccines will **not be offered** or provided at these Wellness Clinics.

Rutland Senior Secondary

Rani Gandham (Vice Principal) and our public health nurse have identified the following days and times for PHN Wellness Clinics:

Every second Tuesday in the counselling office from 11:30-2:30pm, starting September 23, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Lamoureux

Office: 250-980-4825

Direct: 250-469-7070, Ext 11040

Email: andrea.lamoureux@interiorhealth.ca



YEARBOOKS ON SALE NOW!

Early bird
pricing \$50

School Cash Online or at RSS Office (cash/cheque)
Early Bird Sale Price until November 30th then \$55
Stay in the loop with us on insta & our website!
@rss.yearbook www.rssyearbook.weebly.com



SMS Text Opt-In

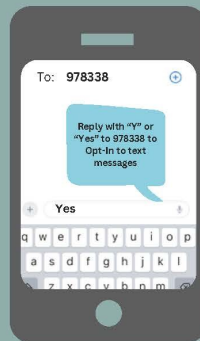
Take Advantage of our Text Messaging Services

Our School District utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile device, for important information about events, reminders, school closures, safety alerts and more!

You can participate just by sending a text message **"Y"** or **"Yes"** to **978338**.

You can also opt out of these messages by simply replying to one of our messages with **"Stop"**

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the student Privacy Pledge so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone



OPT IN
For
RSS & School
District
Text Messages





RSS FALL CONCERT

**THURSDAY, OCT. 30TH
DOORS OPEN: 5:30 PM
CONCERT STARTS: 6:00 PM
AT RSS FORUM**

**Featuring: Grade 9 Band, Senior Band,
Jazz Band, Concert Choir**



STAY CONNECTED!



Follow us at:

@rssleadership—School activities and events

@rutlandathletics—Athletics

@rssequineacademy—Equine Academy

@rss.yearbook—Yearbook

@rssinternational—International Activities and Events

@rssqsa—RSS QSA (Queer Straight Alliance)



Instagram



SCENT AWARENESS ZONE

Help us keep the air we share
healthy and fragrance-free

The chemicals used in scented products can make
some people sick, especially those with fragrance sensitivities, asthma,
allergies and other medical conditions.

please

do not wear perfume, cologne,
aftershave and other fragrances.

use unscented personal care



RUTLAND

SENIOR SECONDARY

Music Program Fundraising

CLOTHING DRIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for promoting renewing, reusing and recycling! Each bag of clothing donated raises funds for the **RSS Music Program**! We are proud to work in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central and Southern Interior of BC, where they believe that unlocking a child's true potential creates a future where anything is possible.

What: **Gently used clothing**, including shoes, boots, jackets, towels, bedding, linens...

Who: **Anyone** can participate, so feel free to recruit neighbours, workmates or grandparents!

When: Bring donations any day during **school hours**, but especially to our concerts throughout the year. The next concert is the Fall Concert on October 30th at 6:00pm at RSS.

Where: The collection bins are outside of the **RSS office**.



RUTLAND

SENIOR SECONDARY

Ruck n' Roll

RETURN-IT FUNDRAISER INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for participating in this community habit! Funds raised from the return of refundable containers will be split evenly between:

- **RSS Music Program's** spring trip
- **RSS Rugby teams'** tournaments

Anyone can participate, so feel free to recruit neighbours, workmates or grandparents! Deposits can be made anywhere across BC.

STEP 1: COLLECT REFUNDABLES



Collect your cleaned, empty containers into clear plastic bags. (approx. 36 inches tall and 30 inches wide and around 70-75 litres in capacity). *They do not have to be sorted. You do not have to remove caps. You do not have to count.*

STEP 2: DROP OFF AT DEPOT (OR PARENT HUB)



Log in to the Return-It kiosk with account number **2508706348**; print labels, place labels on your bags and leave with depot staff.

Thank you for supporting Rutland Senior Secondary Ruck n' Roll students!

Central Okanagan Public Schools



Central Okanagan
Public Schools
Together We Learn

Dual Credit Information Night

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

STUDENTS AND PARENTS WELCOME!

Central Okanagan Public Schools is hosting a **Dual Credit Information Night** on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 6:00 pm at **Kelowna Secondary School**.

The purpose of this event is to showcase our Dual Credit Program options and provide an opportunity for students and parents to communicate directly with our post-secondary and industry training partners.

Please join us to discover the many benefits of a dual credit program, including tuition sponsorship and the ability for students to get a head start on a rewarding career.

AGENDA:

5:30 pm: Doors open to public to visit with post-secondary partners

6:00 pm: Dual Credit Presentation Overview - Bob Boback

6:20-7:00 pm: Parents and Students have an opportunity to talk with post-secondary partners to learn more

7:00 pm: End of Event



For more information on Dual Credit Programs visit our website

www.dualcredit23.sd23.bc.ca



Riding back to school?



Get back to
BASICS

Learn more at:

busready.bctransit.com/basics



BUS Ready

 **BC Transit**