



SAFETY PROTOCOLS ENSURED ORDERLY EVACUATION

April 14, 2023

Kelowna, BC – A small fire started in a washroom prompted the evacuation of Rutland Middle School at lunchtime today. Students and staff followed all protocols to evacuate the building and muster quickly and safely in the school field.

"I can't say enough about how well our school community responded to the emergency," said Rod Baruta, Principal at Rutland Middle School. "Everyone did their jobs as practiced, making sure everyone is safe, accounted for, and in good spirits as we gathered in the school field."

Firefighters and RCMP are on scene to investigate the source of the fire and clear the smoke from the building. District Operations staff are also on site, starting the work of cleaning up any smoke and water damage.

"We are really grateful for the fire department's quick and professional response, as well as our Operations staff who are already starting to clean up," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "We're really proud of our staff for pivoting quickly to keep everyone safe and create outdoor learning for the students who couldn't return to the main building this afternoon."

Classes in the main building will not resume today but are expected to resume as usual on Monday, following remediation to the school.

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For comments, please contact:

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