

R.O.A.R Report

Visit us at: <http://rimrock.mesa.k12.co.us/>
Old editions will be archived on our website.



Mission Statement: *Is to be a school community where all learners (students, staff and parents) are valued and continuously strive to achieve our personal best.* **Si usted necesita una traducción en español favor de llamar al 254-5339. Estamos para servirles.**

On-Line Family Handbook - <http://www.rimrockfamilyhandbook.com/>

December 15, 2016

Upcoming Dates

December 19 – January 3 – Winter Break
January 5, 2017 – PTO Meeting 4:00 PM

Focus on Learning:

Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)



Our School Advisory Council shared our UIP with Mr. Doug Levinson, Board member as well as member of the District Advisory Council, on November 17. As a staff we have two

improvement strategies we are working on to increase student learning. Our first improvement strategy is: Grade level teams will operate as Learning Communities - teams will monitor their growth toward grade level goals on the LC continuum provided by the district. Focus on sharing practices - observing others, bringing student work to the meeting. This means when teachers meet together during the week and during Wednesday early release time, they are talking about your children. They are putting student work on the table, discussing teaching strategies and next steps to support your children.

Our second improvement strategy is: Teachers will implement Units of Study - students moving vertically within the school will hear common language, and have common structures in each class. This means each classroom operates as a workshop – students participate in a mini-lesson, go give it a try while the teacher monitors their learning through conferencing and small groups. Students might meet and talk with a partner to increase their understanding, or compose a reflection to something they have read. At the end of the workshop, students come back to together to share their work and learning. In the primary grades, you might have heard about our word detectives, or students practicing their “snap” words. Students are



working on their fluency and stamina. In the intermediate grades, students are beginning to set and monitor goals using a progression (ask them to see it) or a rubric to determine their current understanding and set next steps.

Both of these improvement strategies are long term – we are not there “YET” and we know we may not be there “YET” at the end of this year. Just as we encourage your children to be learners, we are learners too. As always, our ultimate goal is to support ALL learners in our building in their journey to mastery.

Focus on Our Community:



Developing a Shared Vision for Rim Rock

As you know, we are working to develop a shared vision for our Rim Rock Community. With your input, student input, and our staff input, we are finding overarching themes and key words to guide our work. We GREATLY appreciate those of you who sent in your ideas as well as those of you who placed your thinking on our posters during our Thanksgiving lunch. This is an important task and we are giving it the time it deserves. We hope to have a draft to share with you sooner than later. Again, we know that you are a vital component of our success, and we value our partnerships with each of you.

Math Fun at Home – a “Game” for the Holidays

Looking for a “game” for an I-pad over winter break? Jo Boaler, a professor at Stanford, deeply rooted in mathematics and growth mindsets, just endorsed an app. called Motion Math (she’s actually been consulting with the development team). There is a free trial and then a small fee to download Motion Math on your I-pad (unfortunately this is the only platform right now). Several of the “games” have embedded growth mindset

messages and the results have been remarkable. If you are as into math as I am, you can read her short paper here: <https://www.youcubed.org/motion-math-paper/>.

The Counselor's Corner – Kristen Walke

December's character word is generous. We described generous as being giving, unselfish, and showing kindness towards others. In our lesson, we talked about how we can be generous with our kind words and our time. As a school, Rim Rock has shown a great amount of generosity this holiday season by donating toys and food to those in need. Being generous not only benefits the receiver of the kind words, deeds, or gifts but also the giver.

“When children are part of activities that help others less fortunate than themselves, it provides them with a real sense of perspective, highlighting their own good fortune. Being generous helps them appreciate what they have, makes them feel useful, and fosters empathy.”

(<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/teaching-kindness-essential-reduce-bullying-lisa-currie>)

Saying and doing kind things is an easy and free way to spread generosity. As a family, think of ways that you can be generous with your kind words and your time.



Happy Holidays!

Kristen Walke
School Counselor
Rim Rock Elementary

Season of Giving

Thank you to everyone involved in supporting our community. Our can food drive and our Harley Owners Group (HOG) toy drive were both a huge success!! In addition, our community supported 21 Rim Rock families through our Angel tree. And, one of the greatest gifts of all is time. At this point in the year, our community has given us just over 600 volunteer hours!! It is amazing to be a part of such a giving and caring community!!



We all hope your break is filled with happiness, laughter, fun and little nuggets of learning (I am the principal, you know)!!!

Last Call for Lost and Found



It is going to be cold over break!! We have lots of forgotten jackets and sweatshirts in our cafeteria foyer on our lost and found rack. Please come visit before our break because we box them up and donate them on Friday.

Are You Encouraging/Modeling a Growth Mindset?

DEVELOPING A **GROWTH MINDSET**



INSTEAD OF....	TRY THINKING....
I'm not good at this	What am I missing?
I give up	I'll use a different strategy
It's good enough	Is this really my best work?
I can't make this any better	I can always improve
This is too hard	This may take some time
I made a mistake	Mistakes help me to learn
I just can't do this	I am going to train my brain
I'll never be that smart	I will learn how to do this
Plan A didn't work	There's always Plan B
My friend can do it	I will learn from them

Reflecting on 2016



As we are winding down 2016, I encourage each of you to take time to reflect on the growth your child has made just within the last four months. I've had the pleasure of seeing and hearing many successes since August – all the way from mastering the names and sounds of our 26 letters in the alphabet, identifying “snap” words to moving up a DRA level (or two), increasing reading stamina, writing quality reading responses, identifying main ideas, developing well-crafted personal narratives to composing and decomposing numbers, combining two, three and four digit numbers to mastering two digit multiplication. Have your child share their accomplishments and goals achieved. Determine your child's current place along their continuum of learning – take time to celebrate each milestone, embrace the hard work, and plan next steps in the learning journey.

Have a warm, joy-filled, winter break!!! See you all in 2017!!