

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/>

February 15, 2017

Upcoming Dates

Thursday, February 16 (Work Day), Friday, February 17 (Comp Day), Monday, February 18 (President's Day) – No School

Thursday, February 23 – SAC – 4:15 pm

Thursday, March 2 – PTO – 4:00 pm

Friday, March 3 – Spring Pictures

Monday, March 6 – School of Choice Window Opens – 10:00 am

Friday, March 10 – No School – Teacher Work Day

Friday, March 10 – Kindergarten Round UP

Monday, March 13 (Bricker) and Tuesday, March 14, (Mixon) – Kinder Music Program – 6:00

Monday March 20 – Friday March 24 – Spring Break

the 2016 Colorado Milken Educator Award. Mrs. Casto was caught by total surprise in front of our students and special guests. She joins a very prestigious group of educators from across the Nation. Please take time to congratulate her as you see her in the next few days! Again, we are lucky to have such dedicated and passionate teachers touching the lives of our students!

If you haven't already seen videos and pictures from the day, here are links – ENJOY! [brief reaction video](#) “30 Years of Milken Educator Award Surprises: Colorado” [highlights video](#) and a [photo gallery](#) as well as Mrs. Casto's Bio <http://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/educators/view/fe-licia-casto>.



Celebrations!

Mrs. Jensen one of 10 Outstanding Educators

One of our very own, Mrs. Jensen, was recognized as one of the 14 Outstanding educators in District 51 by the D51 Foundation!! She was treated to a special dinner and honored with a trophy at their annual White Iced Celebration.



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Mrs. Casto Puts Rim Rock on the National Map As She is Named Colorado Milken Educator for 2017



On Monday, February 13, we were honored to have the Colorado Commissioner of Education, Kathy Anthes visit our school and address our 1st through 5th grade students. She also brought a special guest, Mr.

Lowell Milken to present our very own Mrs. Casto with

Focus on Learning:

Student Attendance Matters!

Teachers spend time in the evenings, on weekends as well as time during early release Wednesdays planning thoughtful lessons for your child(ren). Having him/her at school from 8:50 to 3:50 each day (except early release Wednesday) is critical for his/her learning. Missing a few minutes here or there at the start and end of the day can cause holes in the learning. Coming in late and leaving early also disrupts the learning environment for other learners.

We realize some appointments are unavoidable; however, we ask that you please support your child and our staff by striving to be on time every day as well as having your child remain in class the entire school day.

*** CMAS Testing – Starts March 27th

We will begin our CMAS Math and English Language Arts (3-5th) testing as well as our CMAS Science (5th) testing when we return from Spring Break. We have placed our testing calendar on our school website

for you to review with your family
<http://rimrock.mesa.k12.co.us/documents/Parcc2017TestingSchedule2.pdf> .

Please note when your child(ren) will be testing and avoid any appointments or family trips during those times. Due to our size, our testing window is very tight and will begin at 9:00 am on March 27th and run all the way through April 13th.

If you know your child will miss a session, PLEASE notify your child's teacher immediately so we can plan ahead and arrange for all sessions of testing. For accurate reporting information, student scoring and school accreditation, it is important for all of our students to complete each portion of the exam. If a child starts a segment of the exam, they MUST complete all parts within that subject.

The information below pertains to the state assessments which are given to students across Colorado each spring. I hope that this information, provided by the Colorado Department of Education, will provide you with answers to questions you may have related to the upcoming assessments.

Colorado has a series of educational standards, known as the Colorado Academic Standards that outline academic objectives for students in every grade across 10 content areas. Fully implemented in the 2013-14 school year, the standards have raised the bar for Colorado students, increasing the expectations so they are prepared to succeed in college or careers upon high school graduation. To measure students' mastery of more rigorous standards in grades three through nine, Colorado has implemented a set of common assessments known as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success, or CMAS.

Purpose and Value of State Assessments – PARCC, CMAS: are the only common measuring tool in Colorado for students in third- through ninth-grade. Measuring real-world skills like problem-solving and critical thinking, the tests are aligned to classroom work so teachers do not have to “teach to the test.”

While CMAS assessments are only one measure of student learning, having all Colorado students take this set of assessments provides parents with answers to these important questions:

- How well is my child doing on meeting state standards compared to other students?
- Which schools and districts perform best in preparing students for success in meeting the state standards?

- Which districts have the best performance on the state standards for children with special needs?
- What schools and districts have the best performance on the state standards for children of color?

Additionally, state assessment results provide:

- information educators need to help improve instruction.
- identification of districts and schools that have struggling students, so help can be provided.
- recognition of high performing systems so others may learn from them.

Practice Tests Help Students Be Ready:

Parents are sometimes concerned that participating in these tests can cause anxiety in their child or that preparing for the test takes away time from instruction. Because these tests are aligned to the CAS and classroom instruction, these tests should not cause any more anxiety than any of the other tests student take as part of their education. Also, practice tests are available to help familiarize parents and students with test content and structure.

Due to lack of participation last year (85% or less of our students took the exams), Rim Rock did not receive a State ranking for 15-16.

If you have any questions about the calendar or the testing, please contact Mrs. Kidd, our School Assessment Coordinator before Spring Break.

Focus on Safety:

Safety and Flow of Traffic in Our Parking Lot



We have quite a few new families at Rim Rock so we wanted to share our expectations in the parking lot. To keep students safe, help with the flow of cars and prevent staff and parents from being blocked in, we have the following expectations:

- Stay in your car if you stop along the curb. The curb is for PICK UP / DROP OFF ONLY.
- Avoid stopping in the areas marked in red or outlined with cones.
- If you are going into the building, **please** park in a parking space or along the road – not behind parked cars or along the curb.
- For Safety reasons children are instructed to remain on the sidewalk until escorted by an adult to cars out in our parking lot. Please help

us reinforce this procedure by discussing with your child.

- If you are parking on the dirt path along the fence, please park with your car facing South.

We realize there are not enough spots for our families to park in our lot and that parking out on the street can be an inconvenience; however, we have had parents and staff members unable to get out due to cars parked behind them in our lot or in areas marked red or with cones. For the safety of our children, please follow the above procedures before, during and after school. We have asked all staff members to start parking in the spots farthest away from the front of the building leaving all of the front slots open for families. Finally, we are blocking the half way turn around spot with cones – we believe this will keep the flow of traffic moving – please pull along the curb to let students out of your vehicle.

As a reminder, we do have two staff members serving as cross walk guards to assist students/families in crossing the street. Many families utilize these guards and stop along the curb to let children out to cross at the cross walks. We also have a large number of bike and scooter riders that support the flow of our traffic– rain and snow will add to the number of vehicles – keep this in mind.

We are always thinking of ways to keep your children safe and we appreciate your patience as well as your support in following these guidelines.

Focus on Our Community:

Food For Thought – Words from Nutrition Services

Just a few highlights from our kitchen manager, Janice White:

- Local sourcing of food continues to expand. Currently 10% of apples served in our schools come from within Mesa County, all potatoes come from the San Luis Valley, and the romaine lettuce comes from Brighton during most of the school year.
- All District 51 Kitchen Managers are ServSafe certified this year, which helps prevent foodborne illness.
- A lot of work has been done to comply with new regulations. Our food service program is at the forefront of progressive changes in the county, including changing from processed foods to scratch cooking and adding salad bars.

The Counselor's Corner – Kristen Walke

February's counselor lessons focused on perseverance and positive self-talk. We discussed the meaning of perseverance and how positive self-talk helps us to do our best and not give up, even when it gets hard.

Additionally, we talked about how positive self-talk/growth mindset makes us feel good, try harder, and become a better learner. We began our lesson by reading Leo the Lightning Bug by Eric Drachman. We discussed that learning anything new takes time and practice. We also talked about how Leo's negative self-talk made him want to give up but when he changed it to positive self-talk he kept going and felt happy when he succeeded.

Here are some ideas for promoting **perseverance** at home:

Taken from:

<http://www.reachinginreachingout.com/documents/ram-keeptrying-tipsheet-poster-oct20-12-final.pdf>

When parents keep trying and offer encouragement, children learn to keep trying, too. Learning from mistakes helps us grow and keep trying as we face life's challenges.

SHARE your 'keep trying' outlook and patience with your child...

- **Offer encouragement**

"I think you can do it. Keep trying."

"You really want to learn how to do that."

"Let's see how much you can do."

- **Show them that mistakes are OK**

"Everyone makes mistakes. That's how we learn."

"That's OK. Mistakes help us know what to do differently the next time."

- **Tell them progress takes practice**

"You may not get it right the first few times, but that's OK. It takes practice to learn new things."

"You kept trying to put the puzzle together. And, look, you only have a few pieces to go!"

- **Talk about how you keep trying**

"First, I get the broom, and the dustpan, then I sweep, and then I put the dirt in the trash can."

"I am so glad I kept trying. Look, I learned how to fix the lamp."

- **Point out people or characters who keep trying**

“Look at the baby learning to walk. She keeps falling down, but then she gets back up.”
“The little red engine kept on trying. It was hard, but he finally got up the hill.”

ASK your child about trying...

“How about trying again? I think you can do it”
“What do you need to help you start?”

PAUSE and THINK about different times you can encourage your child...

- When your child is playing
- Learning something new
- When s/he is frustrated or discouraged

Kristen Walke
School Counselor
Rim Rock Elementary

Focus on Growth Mindset

We are working very hard as a school to develop a culture that embraces a growth mindset. Students and teachers are learning about the brain, focusing on what a growth mindset is, practicing self-talk to persevere, developing growth feedback as well as setting goals. We've embraced the power of “yet” and we know mistakes are all part of our growing process.

Along this journey, some teachers have started using Class Dojo – a tool for tracking positive behaviors. At the following site you can find some videos your child may or may not have already seen <https://ideas.classdojo.com/b/growth-mindset> . These five videos offer a family a common experience to discuss some of the major components in building this culture and changing your mindset.

Learn to LOVE Challenges with us!!