

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.**

August 17, 2016

Upcoming Dates

PTO Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 1, 4:00 pm

No School – Friday, Sept. 2 – Educator Effectiveness Day

No School – Monday, Sept. 5 – Holiday

No School – Tuesday, Sept. 6 – Teacher Plan Day

School Advisory Council – Thursday, Sept. 15 – 4:15 pm

Picture Day – Thursday, Sept. 30

Focus on Learning:

School Advisory Council (SAC)

We will hold our first SAC meeting on Thursday, September 15 at 4:15 in our conference room. Our agenda will include the following items:

1. Introductions and Planning
2. Review Safety Plan
3. Share and Review School Budget
4. Culture, Transparency and Learner-Centered Environment

Carolyn Nenne will continue to be our chairperson. Any interested parents and community members are always welcome to attend. We are arranging for child care during these meetings. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Ways to Share our Work

Our staff is always hard at work to provide the best learning opportunities for your children. We want to encourage you to be a partner in this learning and work by engaging in conversations with your child about their day. One way we are sharing and supporting you with conversation starters is by posting a daily event or thought on our school Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Rim-Rock-Elementary-178372062579265/>. Our video from the first day received over 1000 likes and reached over 2500 people!!

#LynxLearning

In addition, Mrs. Kidd has created a site for our family handbook: <http://www.rimrockfamilyhandbook.com/>. Each of you is receiving a magnet today with this information. Schedules, dates, important numbers and information are all available at the click of a button. We want your feedback on user friendliness, please keep us posted.

This will be the last paper copy of the ROAR report unless you do not have an email address – please make sure your information is up-to-date so you can stay “in the know.”

Focus on Safety:

Before School Safety



We have staff assigned to playground supervision starting at **8:35 a.m.** each morning. Children should not be on school grounds before this time as there is no adult supervision.

Hand Sanitizer



I have seen quite a few students with hand sanitizer products in their lunch boxes. Please be advised that students should not carry hand sanitizer in their pockets, backpacks or lunch boxes. We will be offering hand sanitizer in the cafeteria and in some classrooms (it is kept and monitored by the classroom teacher). We also highly encourage students to wash their hands several times a day.

We appreciate your support of this safety effort and ask that you do not send any hand sanitizer products with your children.

Drills



On August 12 and August 16 we held our first two mock fire drills. This year, due to our field being fenced off, we held mock drills. Each class talked about where they will go when we have a drill but they also discussed where they would go if one occurred while we don't have access to our field.

The majority of our drills (1 a month per Board Policy) will be unannounced. Having conversations with your child(ren) about these drills will help reinforce the importance as well as decrease the level of anxiety.

We will have our first Lock Down drill before the end of this semester. Our first drill will be a Shelter-in-Place drill. During this drill we pull all students and staff into the building, continue our learning but ensure that students and staff remain in

classrooms and in the building. Having this type of drill first, will allow students to get used to the idea of a lockdown and prepare them for our Lock Down later in the semester.

Attention All Dog and Cat Owners

Our district **prohibits** any dogs or cats on school grounds (except service animals). Many of you have been taking advantage of the warm weather and bringing your furry friends along with you to school. Our policy includes pets walking to and from school. Basically, they should not be on school grounds unless confined within a vehicle. As most of you know, I am an animal lover and enjoy seeing all of your pets; however, we need to follow the required State Health Departments guidelines ('Rules and Regulations Governing Schools in the State of Colorado', Regulation 3-402) and Board Policy IMC-R (Animals on School Premises).



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 this procedure with your child.
- If you are parking on the dirt path along the fence, please park with your car facing South.
- Many families/students walk and ride to school together – please remember, for safety reasons, all bikes, scooters and skateboards need to be walked on campus.

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.

The Counselor's Corner

Dear Rim Rock Families,

Hello and welcome to a new school year at Rim Rock Elementary School! I am excited and honored to work with such a wonderful staff and group of students!

I have a variety of fun lessons and activities planned during the year that will teach important life skills to all students as well as support and encourage them to have a successful year. I will meet with each class two times per month and offer workshops dealing with friendship, communication skills, conflict resolution, habits of mind, personal safety, and more! Along with these lessons we will have ongoing class discussions that focus on using kind words, dealing with bullying situations, growth mindset, and maintaining our school as a caring community. In August the counselor lessons will focus on ROAR behavior, an introduction to what the school counselor does, and a getting to know you activity.



In addition to classroom workshops, I will offer small groups where students will work with others who may be dealing with similar life issues. These groups will focus on topics such as grief, changing families, social skills, friendship, etc. Participation in small groups will happen as students are identified and referred by their classroom teacher, parent or guardian, or by a personal request. Small group activities for students will happen during a time that is least disruptive to classroom learning, and will happen only with parent permission. I believe that small group workshops can be a powerful way for students to connect and share similar experiences in a safe environment. As needed, I will also meet with students on an individual basis to offer more focused support. If together we decide that your child would benefit from professional counseling services, I can also provide a list of outside counselors that may best fit your family's needs.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child please do not hesitate to call me at 254-6770 ext. 5. I look forward to sharing a wonderful year with your family!

Respectfully,

Kristen Walke
Rim Rock Elementary School Counselor