

# R.O.A.R Report

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**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 26, 2015

## Upcoming Dates

**PTO Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 3, 4:00 pm**

No School – Monday, Sept. 7 (Holiday)

**No School – Tuesday, Sept. 8 – Teacher Plan Day**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Dance – Monday, Sept. 14 – Bell and Ripple**

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Dance – Wednesday, Sept. 16 – Hoffman and Butterbaugh

**School Advisory Council – Thursday, Sept. 17 – 4:30 pm**

Picture Day – Thursday, Sept. 24

**Conferences – Tuesday, Sept. 29 (4:00 -8:00)**

**Wednesday, Sept. 30 (4:00 – 8:00)**

**Thursday, Oct. 1 (8:00 – 4:00)**

No School – Wednesday, Sept. 30, Thursday, Oct. 1 and Friday, Oct. 2 – Plan Day, Conferences

**No School – Intercession/Fall Break – Monday, Oct. 5 – Friday, Oct. 9**

## Focus on Learning:

### New Class

Enrichment is a new class for students at Rim Rock. This class is taught by Felicia Casto, our former math coach. What is enrichment you ask??? Well that's a good question, enrichment just means that Mrs. Casto gets to build on and extend what is going on in the classroom! The focus for the beginning of the year is Growth Mindset for 1st grade through fifth grade! We have been, and will continue, to learn about the brain and how to grow your brain. You might not be ready YET, but with hard work and perseverance #youcanlearnanything!

### School Advisory Council (SAC)

We will hold our first SAC meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 4:30 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. Transforming to a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning system.

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.

## 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.

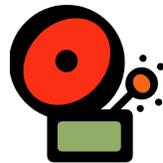
### Hand Sanitizer



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



quickly.

On August 7 and August 13 we held our first two fire drills. Both drills went very well. All students and staff excited the building in a timely manner. Any students and/or staff who were not in their “normal” locations were found

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 drill 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

As you know, we had a real Shelter-in-Place episode our second week of school. We released all students from the classrooms and/or the cafeteria in a timely and secure manner. We appreciate your patience and your understanding as we worked through this situation to ensure the safety of all of our students.

### 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



I have spent the past few weeks watching our parking lot and talking with parents, staff and Officer Bomar about safety and the flow of traffic in our parking lot. To keep students safe, help with the flow and prevent staff and parents from being blocked in, we would like to implement 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.

I 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.

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.

### Hats off to our PTO

Over the summer our PTO was still hard at work supporting our school. One major project was getting “go bags” for all of our classrooms. These are backpacks with safety supplies to use during fire drills, lock downs, and shelter in place drills/real-time events. They were the focus of our safety department last year and we are VERY lucky to have a PTO who is invested in the safety of our children and our staff.



In addition, they also filled the pre-kinder/kinder sand box to create a nice concrete slab for the future home of a metal table. On top of this project, they also worked on our first grade butterfly gardens.

This year they are trying a new way to raise money. After conducting a survey, they decided to try not to sell anything this year and instead, ask for a \$20 flat donation for each child in our school. This group does an amazing amount of work for our staff and students – please support them with your time and your money.

### 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, decision making, personal safety, and more! Along with these lessons we will have ongoing class discussions that focus on using kind words, dealing with bullying situations, 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 providers 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. I look forward to sharing a wonderful year with your family!

Respectfully,

Kristen Walke  
Rim Rock Elementary School Counselor