

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.**

September 23, 2015

Upcoming Dates

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)

Kinder has additional slots

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:

Wednesday Learning for Teachers



One of the greatest gifts our community has given elementary teachers is Wednesday Early Release time. Teachers spend the first hour of the afternoon working together in grade level Learning Communities. They plan units, design assessments, discuss results and individual

students, plan next steps and supports and then start the cycle over again. They have spent time creating collective team and individual goals directly tied to their evaluations – each goal deeply rooted in student learning and growth. This work is very intense and cannot be implemented fully without the partnership and support of our families. The work you do at home with your children to support their learning is crucial to your child's and our success. Many teachers send home newsletters in Wednesday folders that include ways you can support the work happening in your child's classroom. When you attend conferences in a couple of weeks, strengthen your partnership and inquire about specific strategies and/or skills you can work on at home.

The second hour of each Wednesday is spent learning with our entire staff. We meet in vertical teams (k-5 representative in each group) and share our work within each grade level team. These conversations strengthen our learning system and provide continuity for our learners. We deepen our understanding of school and district initiatives and discuss how each evolves across the continuum of our system. This hour allows us to share expertise not only at a grade level, but across our school.

Again, the greatest gift our community has given us, as well as our children, is the gift of time on Wednesdays to collaborate in ways that supports each of our learners.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

We held our first SAC meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 4:30 in our conference room. Our agenda items and a few notes on each are listed below:

1. Introductions and Planning – we had a full table! We had 7 parents attend as well as two staff members and a guest from Clifton Elementary.
2. Review Safety Plan – see article around safety for more details
3. Share and Review School Budget – we reviewed our operational budget and thinking behind allocations
4. Transforming to a 21st century learning system. We watched this video and discussed the implications for our work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvDjh4l-VHo>

In addition, we began to talk about Habits of Mind and Growth Mindset (these will be on our agenda in February). A piece we were asked to share so that families can reinforce the language and ideas at home was this piece:

Promoting a Growth Mindset

- We value passion, dedication, growth and learning, not genius.
- We don't expect that you've arrived here fully formed. We care more that you're ready to learn.
- We expect that you'll stretch beyond your comfort zone and take reasonable risks.
- We value process and we reward process - taking on big but reasonable challenges.
- We reward tenacity and grit.
- We reward teamwork.

Taken from Carol Dweck

Our next meeting is on Thursday, November 19. We will have members from our District Advisory Council in attendance to discuss our Unified Improvement Plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. A detailed copy of our minutes is housed in the office.

Focus on Safety:

Reunification Changes/Procedure

In processing our reunification procedures during the "bear incident" with our District Safety Office, we have determined we will use a different system if we have a need in the future.

Instead of releasing students from the classrooms, we will use the following system:

- Parents will form a line at the outside entrance door to the library.
- They will be handed a form to complete in the library – basically filling out student information, contacts etc.
- They will take this form to the appropriate alphabetical line (preferably with an ID)
- A runner will take the form and retrieve the student
- The parent will go into the computer lab and wait (or outside, weather permitting)
- Parents will exit from the computer lab and be reunited with their child(ren) there.

We realize this might take a bit longer; however, it ensures accurate documentation as well as the safety of all involved.

In any situation like this, please remember, we are doing everything we can to keep your child(ren) safe – your patience and ability to remain calm will help the situation flow quickly.

Safety and Flow of Traffic in Our Parking Lot



We GREATLY appreciate your willingness to support safety in our parking lot. With our staff beginning to park farther away from the building as well as our preschool families parking along the fence on the east side of our building, we have seen marked improvement. We are still asking all families to follow the guidelines below as well:

- 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 designated parking space or along the road or fence.
- 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 it with your child. Do not encourage your children to run out to meet you – ask them to wait until you pull along the curb or an adult can walk them safely to your car.
- **Be present – if you can refrain from using your cell phone in the parking lot, please do. –added from conversation at SAC**

Please share these expectations with friends and family members who also pick up and drop off your children at school – we have had several grandparents unaware of our expectations in the parking lot. We are continuing to monitor our progress and look for additional pieces to support the safety of all.

Hats off to our PTO

Our entire 5th grade class was involved in Young AmeriTowne (from Denver) thanks to the financial support of our wonderful

PTO. This experience allowed students to engage in hands on learning by running a small town. There was a mayor, a judge and several shops that provided goods and services to town members. Students had a bank account and wrote checks as well as used debit cards. This experience supported the Personal Financial Literacy standards in our Colorado Academic Standards. Thanks again, PTO, as well as all the parent volunteers who attended, for making this experience possible for our 5th grade students.



The Counselor's Corner

Each month I will provide information regarding the school counseling program at Rim Rock Elementary. The goal is to help strengthen the connection between school and home. This school year, I will be introducing a character word each month. Character Education integrates positive values into every aspect of the school day through modeling, climate, and curriculum. For September the word is **kindness**. The class lessons I teach to K-4th grade will relate to the monthly character word. The lessons that go along with kindness are: how to be a good friend/show kindness/be a bucket filler, and how to deal with a bully. All 5th grade lessons this year are lessons provided by the district called "Riding the Wave" which are lessons intended to get 5th graders ready for middle school.

Being kind refers to caring words and considerate actions you use to show thoughtfulness and concern for others. We talked about how to show kindness at home and at school.

Kindness is important for many reasons:

1. It makes someone else feel better.
2. It helps us to feel good about ourselves.
3. We learn compassion for others and to look beyond our own needs.
4. It may inspire others to be caring too.
5. Kindness makes the world a better place.

We define a bully as the same person who is being very mean on purpose, over and over again. Students will be taught or will review the **STOP-WALK-TALK** model and will learn ways to be a **Helpful Bystander** by supporting the child that is being targeted or by getting an adult to intervene. Students are taught that when they encounter a bullying situation, the first thing they should do is tell that person to **STOP** in a firm voice.

If that doesn't work, students are taught to **WALK** away from the situation and to go to a safe place where that person cannot bother them.

If that doesn't work, students are taught to **TALK** to a trusted adult to get help. We talk about how **STOP-WALK-TALK** can be used in an isolated situation where someone is being mean as well as a bully situation.

Stay tuned for the October character word.

Kristen Walke
School Counselor, Rim Rock Elementary