

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.*

September 24, 2014

Upcoming Dates

PTO Meeting – October 2, 2014 4:00 PM – Library
Teacher Work Day - No School — October 3, 2014
Fall Break – No School – October 6 – 10, 2014

Focus on Learning:

School Advisory Council (SAC)

We held our first SAC meeting on Thursday, September 11. Our agenda included the following items:

1. Introductions and Planning
2. Review Safety Plan
3. Share and Review School Budget
4. Share and Discuss our School Performance Framework and our Achievement and Growth Data.

We also elected Carolyn Nenne as our chairperson. Any interested parents and community members are always welcome to attend – our next meeting is Thursday, October 16 at 4:30 in the conference room. We will have members from the District Advisory Council at this meeting to review our Unified School Improvement Plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Staff Learning

This year, as a staff, we are focusing our learning around Responsive Instruction. Through this lens we will be reading about ways to support our learners. We are and will be analyzing our data, looking at student work, sharing strategies and aligning our resources to maximize student learning.



Many of our students are in specialized groups throughout the day to support their individual needs. We will continue to monitor their learning and adjust their placements as the data dictates.

Recently, we read and discussed an article around questioning in our mathematics lessons. We all left our meeting with stems/prompts to foster higher-level thinking in our rooms.

We embrace the idea of lifelong learning and know that our journey is never complete. All of our efforts are always focused on increasing student achievement as well as igniting their passion for learning.

Focus on Safety:

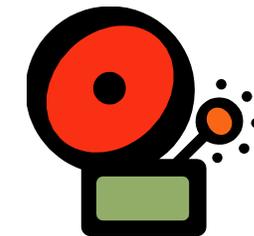
Hand Sanitizer

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. I have attached an additional document that outlines GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF HAND SANITIZER IN SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE SETTINGS from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. 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 Wednesday, September 10, we held our third fire drill. During this drill we had officer Bob hold back three students and we set the alarm off while 5th grade students were in the lunch room. Each drill we try to create real scenarios so that our staff and our students are prepared no matter where they are. Our teachers quickly accounted for missing students and our 5th graders exited in an orderly manner. We are working on accounting for everyone quicker as well as refining our procedures with each drill.

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 quarter. 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 2nd quarter (1 drill a quarter per Board Policy).

You might have heard around town about Shelledy and Fruita Middle School being in lock-down/shelter-in-place due to a bear in the community. If we are ever put in these situations and have to dismiss through a reunification process, your patience and support will be greatly appreciated. The hardest part for parents is not being able to have their child right away; please know that our goal is to reunify you quickly and that while you are waiting, your child(ren) is/are safe and secure. We will utilize the District's notification system if this is ever needed.

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.

News from the PTO



Pie sales forms need to be back at the school on October 1st. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so happy selling!

We have decided to hold off on the Watchdog DADS program for now, we will revisit the issue in the spring.

Volunteer forms will be going up on our PTO bulletin board for our Winter Wonderland party in December. If you are able to help in any way, please sign up! Thank you!!

There is a 'pig' in the foyer to collect Rib City receipts. If you dine in or carry out at Rib City, get your receipt stamped for Rim Rock and drop it off to earn cash for your school!

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 **peacemaker**. A peacemaker is one who makes peace or harmony, a problem solver (one who solves problems with nice words instead of mean words or hands or feet), a good friend, a mediator, and/or a buddy. The class lessons I teach to K-4th grade will relate to the monthly character word. The lessons that go along with being a peacemaker are: how to be a good friend, and how to deal with a bully. All 5th grade lessons this year are lessons provided by the district called "Riding the Waves" which are lessons intended to get 5th graders ready for middle school.

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.

News from the Cafeteria – School Lunches Made from Scratch

School lunches are getting back to what they used to be! That's because school chefs in Mesa County have started cooking from scratch...again! Prior to the 80's, food in schools were made from scratch! Ironic, considering the growth of obesity rates grew the fastest during the last three decades dominated by low priced processed foods. Food in School district 51 is prepared fresh every day at EVERY SCHOOL so students receive healthier, more balanced meals.



Previous nutrition standards have been replaced by the My Plate model, which allows for more fruits and veggies with the main dishes we loved as students! From homemade lasagna with tossed salad to herb roasted chicken, these meals are as nutritious as they are tasty. There are even theme days where kids can choose between fun dishes like Samurai Stir-Fry and Fiesta Beef Tacos. Don't worry, many kid favorites remain; macaroni & cheese, hot dogs, hamburgers, sloppy joe's, spaghetti, lasagna all made the cut. Big News! The return of Frito Pie and Nachos with a healthy twist, you will have to come in and try the new version of these classic ball park favorites!

Craft Fair Update

We are sorry to say that due to low vendor turnout, the Rim Rock Craft Fair is being cancelled. Most of our vendors will be at the Victory Life Church craft fair on the same scheduled date, October 25, 2014.



Don't forget Fall Break is right around the corner!!! October 6 through the 10th.

