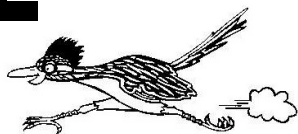


2009-2010, Issue 15
FEBRUARY 2010

Riffenburgh

Roadrunner News



www.psdschools.org/schools/riffenburgh

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MARCH 5

Principal Marc Ryby 488-7935
Attendance Line 488-7936

Please call in absences AND tardies by 8:30 am even if you have previously contacted your teacher.

2009-10 PTO Officers

Co-Presidents: Reon Everett
Kathy Cook
VP/Pres. Elect:
Secretary: Andrea Hein-Smalley
Treasurer: Jen Janssen
VIPS Coordinator: Melissa Voit
Kris Cafaro

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Submit newsletter items by email to Gay Koopman at gkoop32@lpbroadband.net

Newsletter printing by Kinko's

NEWSLETTER NEWS

- **GOING ELECTRONIC!** Starting in March, the Roadrunner News will be sent electronically to the Riffenburgh families that have email access. For more information, see From the Principal on page 2.
- We're looking for someone to take over this newsletter for next school year. It's not difficult, it's once a month during the school year, and it allows you to be creative and stay in touch with what's going on at your child's school! If you're interested, please contact Gay Koopman at gkoop32@lpbroadband.net or 797-0403.

ATTENTION 5th GRADE PARENTS: Colorado State Law MANDATES that ALL incoming 6th graders MUST have a **Tdap booster** to be compliant! See page 3 for more information.



THE 4TH ANNUAL RIFFENBURGH FRIDAY FUN RUN will be held Friday, April 30, beginning at 5:30 pm! See page 8 to see how you can get involved with this fun, yearly event!

AS THE YEAR BEGINS TO WIND DOWN, the year-book is being assembled and we need your photos! Send them to roadrunneryearbook@yahoo.com, or contact Becky Huffman at 482-2752.



SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MARCH and with your PTO. Check out page 10.

NEWSLETTER GOES ELECTRONIC! Starting in March, the Roadrunner News will be sent electronically to the Riffenburgh families that have email access. This transition is part of our effort to reduce paper consumption and use resources responsibly, related to our Sustainable Learning theme. We still plan to send printed copies of the newsletter home to families who did not sign up for our paperless initiative. Dates for the remaining editions of the Roadrunner News are Friday, March 26, Friday, April 23, and Friday, May 21.



SMALL SCHOOL FORUM. Please plan to attend the last of three Small School Forums on Tuesday, February 23, beginning at 7:00 pm at Fort Collins High School. This is a great opportunity to provide your feedback and opinions about the value of small schools in our community. Parents and staff members are encouraged to attend and actively participate in this effort to gather information for future consideration.

CSAP SCHEDULE. Although most 2010 CSAP assessments will take place next month at Riffenburgh, we want to share our CSAP schedule with families so they can avoid making any appointments which conflict with test times for students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Additional information about test preparation was included in letters sent to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade parents on February 11. The CSAP dates and times are:



3rd Grade Reading – Wednesday and Thursday, February 17-18, 8:50 – 10:00 am
3rd Grade Math – Wednesday and Thursday, March 24-25, 8:50 – 10:00 am
3rd Grade Writing – Wednesday and Thursday, March 31-April 1, 8:50 – 10:00 am

4th Grade Reading/Writing – Tuesday-Tuesday, March 23-30, 10:30 – 11:45 am
4th Grade Math – Wednesday, March 31-Friday, April 2, 10:30 – 11:45 am

5th Grade Science – Monday-Wednesday, March 8-10, 10:55 – 12:10 pm
5th Grade Reading/Writing – Tuesday-Tuesday, March 23-30, 10:55 – 12:10 pm
5th Grade Math – Wednesday, March 31-Friday, April 2, 10:55 – 12:10 pm

COLLABORATION DAY WORK. During the February 15 Collaboration Day, Riffenburgh staff members became familiar with the newly revised Colorado Math standards. We also worked on Exceed, the new district software program used to track student achievement and growth.



HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI. We are pleased to announce that Riffenburgh students collected \$372.25 to donate to the Red Cross to help children and families in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti.



THIRD GRADE, Diane Rice and Cathy Bishopp

Third graders have made beautiful snowflakes to decorate their classrooms. In the spirit of “going green,” we have recycled plastic, six-pack rings to create the durable keepsakes! Of course, we are in need each year of the plastic six-pack rings. If you are so inclined, please save and get them to us anytime.



Students are excited for their first CSAP exams! Although we don't test to any specific standardized test, we do work on general test-taking strategies. Students are encouraged to look back in the reading selection to search for details/answers, reread the question to be sure they understand it, answer the written responses in complete sentences, reread their responses to be sure they have the answer they really want, go back and check their work, etc. Students will be more confident on test days if they feel they know what to expect.

Mrs. Tucker from Spellbinders Oral Storytellers comes each month to share stories with us. This month she told of Valentine legends from different lands and the origin of St. Valentine's Day. Her knock-knock jokes are also a big hit with third grade!

FIFTH GRADE IMMUNIZATION UPDATE, Elaine Beckman, RN, BSN

Dear 5th graders & parents,

Colorado State Law MANDATES that ALL incoming 6th graders MUST have a **Tdap booster** to be compliant! All students entering the 6th grade will be required to have proof of receiving the Tdap booster. This is based on the Center for Disease Control recommendations to prevent Pertussis (whooping cough). Please consult your healthcare provider about your student receiving the vaccines. Immunization clinics are also held at the Larimer County Health Department; call (970) 498-6700 for schedules or information.

Please bring a copy of these updated immunizations by **May 21st** to the Riffenburgh Office. Students will NOT be able to receive their Middle School schedule without this information on file.

MY SCHOOL GOAL FUNDRAISER, Jen Janssen and Colleen Ellmer, MSG Coordinators

We only have one week left of the *My School Goal* Fundraiser! *My School Goal* is an educational fundraiser which allows students to earn money for Riffenburgh by completing online education activities . . . *learn while they earn!*

My School Goal, along with our earlier Direct Donation campaign, are our major sources of funding for field trips including, but not limited to, Lee Martinez Farm, Bath Nursery, The Butterfly Pavilion, The Fort Collins Museum, Centennial Village Museum in Greeley, and the Fort Collins Symphony. It is also funding for family social events, Missoula Children's Theatre, and enrichment programs to name a few.

The fundraiser is running from February 2nd through February 25th. We hope to raise \$4,500 by having our students collectively complete 4,500 online activities while collecting donations from sponsors such as parents, grandparents, extended family, neighbors, and friends. The students are doing an amazing job completing activities online!

We are asking for your help! If you haven't already done so, please sponsor your child to help us make our goal! Every bit helps tremendously! You can send your donation to school with your child or donate directly online at www.myschoolgoal.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

FOURTH GRADE, Jasi Dahl and Peggy Mihelich

Our classes are currently exploring a science unit using the FOSS Magnetism and Electricity Module. We are investigating permanent magnets, building electric circuits powered by D-cells (flashlight batteries), and exploring electromagnetism. To help your child investigate circuitry, you



might provide an old, broken appliance for him or her to take apart. You can explore the appliance together to discover how it is wired and where connections are made. One thing we have reviewed in this unit is safety.

- Never put any object other than a certified plug into wall sockets.
- Do not open the case of an electrical appliance that is plugged in.
- Do not bring magnets near computers, videotapes, or audio recordings.

Soon, the fourth graders will have the amazing opportunity to have Junior Achievement in their classrooms. Junior Achievement educates and inspires young people to value free enterprise, business, and economics to improve the quality of their lives. The goal of Junior Achievement at the fourth grade level is to provide practical information about natural, human, and capital resources found in various regions of the United States and used by businesses to produce goods and services. Both fourth grade classes will enjoy spectacular volunteers who deliver hands-on activities that help them better understand the relationship between what they learn in school and their successful participation in our economy. They will create their own business plans and determine the resources they would need in order to operate their business. They will learn how to account for income and expenses to help them determine business profit and loss. The students will discover that “quality, cost, and delivery” are essential ingredients for success in any business!



FIFTH GRADE, Merin Bruinsma and Bob Faris

Happy February! Fifth graders are hard at work to recognize, honor, and celebrate a month-long holiday: Black History Month. Students picked a wide variety of African Americans to research, ranging from athletes, abolitionists, speakers, and many more people that have made a difference in our lives or professions. Check out the 5th grade website at the end of February to see student’s PowerPoint presentations, along with pictures of artifacts, timelines, and portraits of these important African Americans.



Wells-Barnett

Spelling Bee. Congratulations to all 4th and 5th grade students who participated in the spelling bee! We are all so proud of each and everyone of you! The following is a list of the top 2 spellers from each of the 4th and 5th grade classes:

Christy Perry
Ryan McCormick
Jace Everett
Audra Koopman



Lyvia Lafamboise
Jackson Maloney
Cianna Seese

And a big CONGRATULATIONS to MATTHEW SENSEMEN, Riffenburgh’s overall top speller!

Student Council. Riffenburgh students are working hard to raise money for the earthquake victims of Haiti. All proceeds from our candy grams sales February 8th-12th went directly to these families in need. We will let you know of our success in the next newsletter!



SCHOOL NEWS BRIEFS



- 1. Talk with Superintendent.** Parents and community members are invited to visit with Superintendent of Schools Jerry Wilson during upcoming “listening sessions.” Listening sessions are an opportunity to talk with Dr. Wilson about issues and concerns, ways to enhance student achievement, and ask questions about Poudre School District. Everyone is encouraged to attend. No registration is necessary. For more information, call 490- 3607 or e-mail info@psdschools.org.

**Next listening session:
7-8 p.m., Thursday, April 1,
Boltz Middle School Media Center, 720 Boltz Dr.**

- 2. No school, spring break – March 15-19.**

3.

3. Review elementary boundary recommendations at March input meetings. The Elementary Boundary Steering Committee invites parents and community members to review boundary scenarios at two public meetings in March. The Steering Committee is analyzing elementary boundaries to better balance enrollment, as well as to correct non-adjacent elementary attendance areas and to the degree possible align elementary and middle school feeder school systems.

Proposed recommendations will be reviewed at two public input meetings in March. The same information will be available at each meeting. Parents, staff, and community members are encouraged to attend one of the meetings:

- 5-7 pm, Monday, March 1, Rocky Mountain High School Commons, 1300 W. Swallow.
- 5-7 pm, Wednesday, March 3, Rocky Mountain High School Commons, 1300 W. Swallow.

Scenarios will also be posted on the PSD website by late February/early March for the public to review.

The Steering Committee, which began meeting in December, will also determine the feasibility of zonal bussing in elementary areas affected by non-adjacent boundaries. In February, the Steering Committee continued to narrow scenarios and present recommendations to the Review Committee.

Information: visit “Elementary Boundary Process,” under “District Updates” on the PSD website at www.pdschools.org, or contact Sarah Siple, PSD business services, at 490-3501 or email ssiple@psdschools.org.

4. Stay connected! Online e-mail sign-up now available. We want your current e-mail address! Sign up to receive PSD emergency information and the quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives (grade configuration, boundary changes, etc.), and current news and events. You may also receive important school updates, calendar changes, and critical information from your child’s teacher.



PSD now has an online e-mail subscription system. If you provided an e-mail address on your child’s information form, your address is already in the system. If you have not yet provided one or your e-mail has changed, please go to the **E-mail Alert Sign-up** link on the www.pdschools.org and input your address. Stay connected. Sign up today!

5. Watch for your census form this month – be a part of history! March 2010 is an important month for our country and community. The 2010 Census form will be delivered or mailed to households across the United States in March, and you can make history by filling out and returning your census form as soon as it arrives. Please watch for your census form and respond immediately by mailing it back. Census workers will visit households that do not return the forms to take a count in person. They can be identified by a census badge and bag.

Continued on Page 6

SCHOOL NEWS BRIEFS, continued from page 5

Every person living in the United States must be counted in the 2010 Census – including people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and noncitizens. Your participation is vital and helps to provide a new portrait of America – illustrating our nation’s growing and changing population and demographics.

2010 Census: Why it’s important

- By completing and returning your census form, you are performing an important civic duty while helping to better define the future – for you, your community, and our country.
- Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to tribal, state, and local governments based on census data.
- Census data guide local planning decisions, including where to provide additional social services, establish childcare and senior centers, and build new roads, hospitals, schools and job training, and community centers.
- Census data are used to reapportion congressional seats to states and assure proper district representation.
- Many businesses, social service, and non-profit organizations use census data to make critical decisions that affect communities everywhere.

Easy. Important. Safe. Participating in the census is easy, important, and safe. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form takes about 10 minutes to complete. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents’ answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

PSD asks for your participation in 2010. Look for your 2010 Census form in March and return it upon receipt. Join us in helping to make our community a brighter place by participating in the 2010 Census.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR FAMILY INFORMATION NIGHT



If you missed this session, we hope to have another session in the fall to reach more families. There are brochures on the main entrance table if you need more information about this program.

A delightful January evening was spent exploring the possibilities of incorporating PBS (Positive Behavior Support) into the home environment. Numerous families joined us to learn about the system we use at school and enjoyed the help of staff members with setting home goals.



PARENTING GIFTED CHILDREN

A SERIES OF INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM
PRESENTS:

“Turning Down the Heat: Tips to Reduce Stress in Our Kids”

Presented by **Terry Bradley, M.A.**
Gifted Education Specialist

Monday, March 1, 2010
5:45—8:00 p.m.

Blevins Middle School Commons
2101 S. Taft Hill Road, Fort Collins

Understanding the needs of gifted children and helping them navigate their high expectations can be challenging for parents. This presentation will address how to help your children—particularly middle-school age and above—reduce stress. Parents of younger gifted students will benefit from this presentation as well.

A tabletop display of books and other resources designed to assist you in parenting gifted children will be available for review. We'll even give away some of those items in a drawing!

Join us for an educational and entertaining evening, and meet other parents who face similar issues.

Program:

5:45—6:15 pm

Come early to visit our resource table of books and other items designed to help you parent your gifted student. Register for free giveaways!

6:15-6:30 pm

Overview and introductions

6:30-8:00 pm

“Turning Down the Heat: Tips to Reduce Stress in our Kids,” followed by Q&A

No advance registration required

Questions? Contact **Mary Nichols**,
PSD Gifted and Talented Facilitator
(970) 490-3076
manichol@psdschools.org



POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educate...Every Child Every Day

RIFFENBURGH FRIDAY NIGHT FUN RUN, Mary Shore

Sponsors and Volunteers Needed

The 4th Annual Riffenburgh Friday Fun Run will be held Friday, April 30, beginning at 5:30 pm. Mark your calendar and plan to come with your family to run the 5K or 2.5K -- we even have a 1K for the little guys!



The Fun Run is a fundraiser for the Riffenburgh PTO and the money raised will be used to fund healthy snacks in all the classrooms for the 2010/2011 school year. Sponsorship levels of \$100 and \$200 are being offered this year and we also need a "pizza" sponsor who will cover the cost of the pizza that is given out at the event. If you own a business or if your place of work is interested in being a sponsor, please contact Mary Shore at 493-5130 for details regarding the two levels. This is a great way to donate to Riffenburgh Elementary and to gain recognition for your business.



We also need volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up, and at points along the course to make sure the event is safe. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Shore at 493-5130.

GROWING UP RESPONSIBLY

Kids can't grow up responsibly if parents don't show them how

You probably know some people who've never quite grown up. They may have jobs, but never seem to be able to live on their own.

One reason may be that they didn't learn how to take on the responsibilities of adult life. Their parents may not have taught them the skills they need--to balance a budget or to take care of basic life skills like cooking or doing laundry.

If you want your child to grow up and live as an independent adult, you need to start teaching him those skills today. Here are some ways you can help your child develop the habits that will get him ready for adult life:

- Expect him to get himself up in the morning. Even a first grader can learn to wake up to an alarm.
- Teach him to care for his own clothes. Young children can put clothes in the laundry basket. They can fold their own clothes and put them away. Older kids can learn how to do laundry.
- Help him manage money. Whether it's an allowance or payment for extra chores, teach your child the value of saving.



- Enlist his help. Every family member should do something that helps out the family. Young children can set the table. Older kids can learn how to prepare a simple meal. When they do these things, thank them for making your home run more smoothly.
- Volunteer. Make time for your family to volunteer together. Doing something for others builds responsibility.

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WANTED

PHOTOS for the yearbook! Send photos of events and/or parties from this school year to Becky Huffman at roadrunneryearbook@yahoo.com, or contact her at 482-2752.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR for next school year. Contact Gay Koopman at gkoop32@lpbroadband.net or 797-0403.

VOLUNTEERS for Roadrunner Fun Run. Help with set-up, clean-up, and at points along the course to make sure the event is safe. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Shore at 493-5130. *See page 8 for more information.*



**The Elementary Honor Choir Performance
was held at
the Lincoln Center on February 16th.**

**Representing Riffenburgh
were 5th graders
Jayden Frable and Audra Koopman.**



SCREEN TIME

Too much screen time can equal too little play time for your child

Kids spend too much time in front of a TV or a computer and too little time in active play. According to a recent scientific study, this is leading to an increase in childhood obesity.

More than 70 percent of 10-year-olds spend over two hours a day watching TV or playing on a computer. That means they don't have much time for active play.

You can probably figure out the result. Far too many children today are struggling with obesity. By age 11, one in five children is considered obese.

Over their lives, these kids will face many more health problems. They are more likely to contract diseases like diabetes.

What can you do? Here are some suggestions:

- Limit time watching TV and on the computer. If your child has a cell phone, time spent texting is also considered screen time.
- Build in time for active play. Doctors recommend 60 minutes a day. Go to a park and play together!
- Add exercise time to screen time. Keep weights or an exercise mat nearby. During commercials, challenge your child to do sit-ups or a few jumping jacks.



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CALENDAR

MARCH 2010

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY

22–26 Missoula Children’s Theatre
 27 2 & 6 pm Missoula Children’s Theatre
 Performances, gym

MARCH

8 7:30—8:15 am SIT Meeting, Media Center
 8 6:30—7:30 pm PTO Meeting, Media Center
 10 1:00—3:00 pm 5th Grade Science Fair,
 Media Center
 11 9:00 am—1:00 pm 5th Grade Science Fair,
 Media Center
 12 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day
 15-19 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK
 27 All Day OM Competition, Fossil Ridge
 High School

FROM THE PTO, Reon Everett and Kathy Cook — Co-presidents

Can you believe we just passed the 100th day of school? The kindergarten students did different projects to celebrate their 100th day. It was incredible to see all the various projects they came up with. We had army men, legos, clouds, gardens, and even a caterpillar with 100 spots. It was wonderful to see what great imaginations the kids have and all their unique projects. Hats off to the kindergarten kids for a great job!



The *My School Goal* fundraiser just kicked off and runs through February 25th. This is a fantastic fundraiser that helps the students improve math, geography, and language arts skills while earning money for Riffenburgh.

We are also sponsoring “Helping Hands for Haiti” to raise money for the victims of the earthquake there. Every time a student brings in a donation, they get to make a decorated hand with their name on it that gets displayed in the halls of the school. So far, the kids have raised almost \$400, which will be donated to the Red Cross. Way to go and many thanks to our generous Riffenburgh students and families!

DON’T FORGET- Missoula Children’s Theatre is coming February 22nd through the 27th. The auditions will be the 22nd in the gym and the performances will be Saturday, February 27th at 2 and 6 pm, so save the date and plan to attend and watch our amazing kids perform in “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.”



Many thanks to Alice Hays and crew for a successful Used Book Fair, and to Jen Janssen for running *My School Goal* this year. Great job and many thanks!!

We had many new parents at the last PTO meeting and it was great to see all the new faces. We encourage any and all parents to come and join us. It is a great way to know what is taking place in your child’s school and to meet other parents. Our next PTO meeting will be on March 8th at 6:30 pm in the Media Center. Hope to see you there!