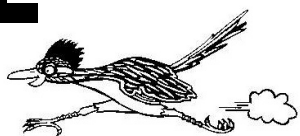


2009-2010, Issue 10  
SEPTEMBER 2009

Riffenburgh

# Roadrunner News



[www.psdschools.org/schools/riffenburgh](http://www.psdschools.org/schools/riffenburgh)

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: OCTOBER 15**

**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](mailto:gkoop32@lpbroadband.net)*

**Newsletter printing  
provided by Kinko's**

## PAY FOR LUNCH ON-LINE!

Sign up at the web address below to make lunch account pre-payments with credit cards or checks. Parents/guardians, you can also use the site to check your student's account activity and balance. Account alerts can also be set up and customized by students. There is no charge to PSD families for any of these exciting new services. We strongly encourage every parent/guardian in the Poudre School District to sign up for this service. **All you need is your student ID#, which is also their lunch number.**

<https://www.schoolpaymentsolutions.com>

## THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS ONLINE!

We sent home a note at the beginning of the year for parents to sign up for email notices. We will begin taking advantage of this communication medium in late October. If you would still like to participate, but have not yet signed up, here is what you can do:

- From the school homepage [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org), choose the *eNewsletter Sign-up*.
- Fill in your information accordingly. Follow the prompts for information.
- Choose Submit.
- You will receive a confirmation email.

## You can also update your eNEWSLETTER Subscription Information

- From the school homepage [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org), choose the *eNewsletter Sign-up*. You will see the page you used to initially sign up to receive the Poudre School District's eNewsletter.
- Go to the bottom of this page. You will see a line that says Already registered? Update your profile or opt-out. Choose this option.
- Follow the prompts for information. Keep in mind that it is asking for the information you last used to access your profile.
- Make any changes needed to your profile and choose Submit.

Visit Riffenburgh's website for more news on events and happenings in our school at <http://www.psdschools.org/schools/riffenburgh>

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL, Marc Ryby

**START OF SCHOOL** As this is being written, we are one month into the 2009-10 school year and off to a fantastic start. Teachers have worked with students to establish expectations, and students have been focused on learning activities in the classroom. We are seeing appropriate behavior choices in the building and on the playground using the ROCKS social skills that all Riffenburgh students learn. We had a great kick-off activity with the PTO Ice Cream Social on Monday, August 17, and well-attended Back-to-School Nights on August 12 (kindergarten) and September 1 (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades). Parents have helped with a free bicycle safety check on August 12 (thanks to April Lafferty!) and organizing our new Clothes Closet (thanks to Colleen Ellmer and Kara Brown!!) where Riffenburgh parents can find donated clothing for their children. Thanks to students, parents and staff for contributing to such a positive beginning of the school year.



**SUSTAINABLE LEARNING AT RIFFENBURGH** We are providing a summary of the Sustainable Learning themes that we have started to implement this fall at Riffenburgh (see page 3). We look forward to parental support and involvement as we integrate these concepts with the PSD standards we teach in all subject areas.

**INTERVENTION / ENRICHMENT BLOCKS** We want to make parents aware of a new component in our school schedule this year. In addition to daily instructional blocks for Reading/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science for all grades, there is time for specials (Art, Music, PE, Counseling or Library) each day. Intervention/Enrichment blocks of 30-45 minutes per day have been included for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, which are designed to provide an opportunity for teachers to work with students in small groups or individually on skills that require more time or help. We also want to offer chances for students who have demonstrated proficiency to extend their learning with more challenging activities. We are looking forward to using the Intervention/Enrichment time effectively to help all students maximize their growth.



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## COLLABORATION DAY, SEPTEMBER 21

For the benefit of parents we would like for you to know what our agenda was for Collaboration Day, Monday, September 21, 2009

8:00 2009-10 School Improvement Plan review, revision, and refinement

9:00 Sustainable Learning Update and next steps

Wellness

Brain-based Learning Strategies

Science

Break

10:15 Writing – Development of Common Expository Writing Assessments

11:30 Lunch

12:30 Grade-level Data Talks and planning for Intervention/Enrichment Blocks

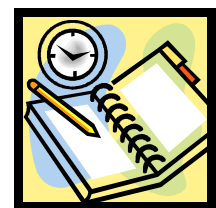
Each grade level will meet with Student Success Coaches, Literacy and Resource Teachers, and Principal for thirty minutes to share relevant student achievement data and progress of intervention/enrichment block implementation.

12:30 5<sup>th</sup> Grade 2:30 Kindergarten

1:00 4<sup>th</sup> Grade 3:00 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

1:30 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade 3:30 Closure

2:00 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



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## SUSTAINABLE LEARNING AT RIFFENBURGH ELEMENTARY

The Sustainable Learning theme at Riffenburgh Elementary School has been developed by staff and parents as a means to support and enrich our school's commitment to helping students meet or exceed grade level standards in all subject areas. Sustainable Learning includes additional developmentally appropriate experiences for students in three inter-related areas:

**WELLNESS** Through an emphasis on Wellness, we are preparing Riffenburgh students to be healthy adults who understand the role of fitness and nutrition in a world where childhood obesity and inactivity are increasing concerns. There is also a positive correlation between student wellness, attendance, and school achievement that we are seeking to expand. Opportunities for physical movement will be incorporated into the school day and through extracurricular activities.



**BRAIN-BASED LEARNING STRATEGIES** By applying research done on children and brain-based learning, we expect to impact the ability of students to concentrate, retain information, and understand their personal learning styles. Teaching and practicing simple brain-based strategies will help children to enhance their inherent abilities to have greater satisfaction and academic success.



**SCIENCE** We will expand on PSD's science curriculum and standards to emphasize "green" science concepts and practices. It is our belief that we are preparing Riffenburgh students for their future by teaching awareness of conservation, renewable sources of energy, and ecological balance in different systems. Continuing to provide field experiences and a hands-on approach to learning about science is consistent with the Sustainable Learning theme we are introducing.

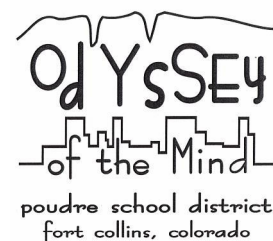
### REASONS FOR OUR SUSTAINABLE LEARNING FOCUS

- Builds on values and efforts that have been part of Riffenburgh Elementary School historically. Sustainable Learning encompasses grants and partnerships that are already established and opens the door for ongoing exploration of additional resources that will support our Wellness, Brain-based Learning, and Science initiatives.
- These activities complement PSD curricula and standards and will serve as enrichment and motivation to learn for many of our students. These concepts also have energized our staff and interested parents to bring exciting ideas to our school.
- Sustainable Learning will better prepare Riffenburgh students to be post-secondary ready for the world and workforce they will be entering.

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### ODYSSEY MEETING, Erin Senseman, Riffenburgh OM Coordinator

Who:	All Riffenburgh students and their parents who are interested in Odyssey of the Mind
What:	Odyssey of the Mind is a terrific team-building, mind-bending, GREAT time!
Where:	Media Center
When:	Thursday, October 8 at 3:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m.
Why:	To find out about how Odyssey of the Mind works and, for returning team members, to check out this year's fabulous problems
How:	Just show up!



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## KINDERGARTEN, Kim Baker and Claudia Benner

At Riffenburgh Elementary in Fort Collins, Colorado, the new kindergartners were settling in to the routine on the first day of school. The children often do activities related to the daily read-alouds. On this date, they heard a story about a spunky gingerbread man who thought he could outrun everyone. The children then proceeded to make their own gingerbread to snack on later in the day. To everyone's dismay, the cookies jumped out of the oven and raced through the building. The sharp eyes and sniffing noses of the five and six-year-olds scoured the school in hopes of tracking down their fragrant snack.



The ever-vigilant principal, Mr. Ryby, came to the rescue! He had seen the group running through the halls (which everyone knows is not allowed!). Mr. Ryby corralled the run-away rascals and returned them to the students. Hooray!

Kindergarten adventures have continued with our celebration of colors during Rainbow Days. We are looking forward to our field trip to Lee Martinez Farm at the end of the month.

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## FIRST GRADE, Juli Romero and Anne Johnson

**FIRST GRADERS STUDY US SYMBOLS** Riffenburgh first graders have begun their study of the United States symbols. Our students are learning what symbols mean and they are discovering the important beliefs they represent here in the United States.



The symbols that we are studying include the American flag, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, and the Liberty Bell. We are also learning the important roles that Betsy Ross and Francis Scott Key played in our history. First graders will be bringing booklets home to remind us of the importance of US symbols.



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## SECOND GRADE, Wendy Sawyer and Carolyn Stack

Second grade students have been busy studying about insects since school began in August. Our second graders will visit the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster on Tuesday, October 6. Walking through the butterfly conservatory is especially memorable when the butterflies land on the students. To conclude our study of insects, both second grade classes will host a "bug" party. During this event, students will share poems and information with their parents about the insects they have studied during this unit.



This will be our fourth year in participating in the Paws for Tales reading program! Volunteers and their specially-trained dogs come into the classroom and have the children read to their dogs. These dogs have been through various training programs including Delta Society, Therapy Dogs Inc., and Guide Dogs for the Blind (career change and retired guide dogs). They have been socialized with other dogs, children, and adults and have been a part of Putnam and Dunn Elementary Schools reading programs for five years. The second grade classes are looking forward to reading to these special dogs.

We welcome storyteller Mrs. Hazel Krantz to second grade. She is a volunteer with the Larimer County Spellbinders Oral Storytellers and will be weaving her magical tales once a month in each second grade classroom.

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## COUNSELING, Alicia Martin

**RIFFENBURGH ROCKS RESPECT** *R-E-S-P-E-C-T, find out what it means to me...* and you! This month in counseling we are focusing on the Riffenburgh characteristic of respect. We have been talking about the Golden Rule, which really captures the concept of respect. We have talked about how the Golden Rule can help us determine if we are acting respectfully, but we've also challenged the idea that we all like to be treated the same way. One of the examples I've used in class is that some families like to tease each other and joke around, but not everyone likes that. So we've decided to start thinking about the Golden Rule in a different way. Rather than the traditional *treat others the way you want to be treated*, we're considering how to be respectful by *treating others the way they want to be treated*. Two important skills we will be practicing to help us with this is *listening* to what is being said, and *observing* facial expressions and body language.



So what does respect sound like and look like in your family?

In her book *Building Moral Intelligence*, Michele Borba offers these simple ways to show your children respect:

1. With your child, mark a spot on the calendar that's just for "special together time." Ask your child to choose what special thing she wants to do with you, then do it.
2. Put a note under your child's pillow telling her why she is special and how glad you are that she's yours.
3. Give him a small personal photo album just of pictures of the two of you.
4. Buy a special candle and holder; light it together for a nightly tradition of just talking and reading together.
5. Deliberately say positive comments about your child to someone else, making sure your child overhears you.

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## DIRECT DONATIONS, Catherine Kane

Please don't forget to return your Family Direct Donation pledge forms!

Every gift in any amount is appreciated!! Please help our children reach their greatest potential by supporting school activities and enrichment programs not fully funded by Riffenburgh's budget. Remember that 100% of donations go directly to Riffenburgh, your gift is tax deductible, and this program takes the place of fundraising sales.

Thank you for supporting Riffenburgh!



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## RIFFENBURGH'S WALK-A-THON



***FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND HEALTHY SNACKS!***

**PSD parent notification procedures** The PSD communications office coordinates several efforts to notify parents and staff when **ALL** schools are closed for conditions such as bad weather or for emergency situations. PSD will communicate information and instructions directly to parents and staff through the following:

- E-mails to parents who have signed up for PSD email alerts (sign up at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) – “Email Alert Sign-Up”) or provided their email on the student information form parents received the first week of school
- Text messages to parents and staff who have that capability on their phone.
- Phone messages through the School Messenger automated phone notification system.
- PSD website ([www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org)) information postings
- PSD Channel 10 (Comcast and US Cable)
- Local and Denver media including newspapers, radio and television stations



**Tuition-based preschool program accepting registrations** Registrations are now being accepted for the Poudre School District tuition-based preschool program, which will pilot at four locations for the 2009-2010 school year. The preschool program will pilot at Cache La Poudre Elementary, Rice Elementary, and Moore Elementary, and the Fullana Learning Center. Half-day sessions will be available in the morning and afternoon at participating schools.

The new preschool program will have:

- Teachers licensed by Colorado Dept. of Education.
- High quality, standards-based preschool environment.
- 16 students per session. Adult to child ratio 1-8.
- Tuition cost \$3150/year or \$315 for 10 months.
- To apply go to [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org), click on “School Registration,” then click on the upper left-hand link “Preschool Registration.”

For more information, call Early Childhood Education at 490-3204.

**Nominate your *Coach of Character* today** Applications are now being accepted for the 2010 Sonny Lubick Coach of Character Award. The Sonny Lubick Coach of Character Award is presented



annually to one outstanding coach in the Fort Collins community who focuses on character development while teaching life lessons through sports. This coach has rejected the “win-at-all-cost” model and is centered on helping players develop positive character traits that will enable them to be successful in life. Furthermore, this coach has helped to build a legacy of sportsmanship and character in athletics in the Fort Collins community. In order for an individual to be eligible for this award, they must have coached school, club or recreational sports for athletes 18 and under for a minimum of ten years in Northern Colorado.

The Sonny Lubick Coach of Character Award is presented by CHaracter in Athletics – Make it a Priority at the annual CHAMP Celebration Breakfast in early 2010. Nominations must be received no later than by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to be considered for the 2010 Sonny Lubick Coach of Character Award. Please visit [www.champfc.com](http://www.champfc.com) to download the nomination form and for more details on the award or call 970-266-2671.

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## CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF H1N1 (SWINE) FLU

Because flu can be easily spread from person to person, Poudre School District is taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in schools. We want to keep schools open and functioning in a normal manner during flu season. Prevention is the best strategy, and here's how you can help:

- **Teach children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach children to cover coughs/sneezes and not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Students should cover their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- **Clean surfaces and objects that your child touches frequently** with appropriate cleaning agents.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are sick while at school *will be sent home*.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people infected.
- **Get your family vaccinated** for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu when vaccines are available. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), a vaccine specific to H1N1 may not be available until mid-October. They are recommending the vaccine be made available to individuals in priority groups, including school-aged children.

We are working closely with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and other city, county and state agencies to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. **Please make sure you are on the PSD Parent E-mail Alert list so we can provide you with new information as it becomes available** (sign up at: [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) by clicking on the *E-Mail Alert Sign Up* star). This also assures you receive email updates from your child's school.

### Helpful websites and phone numbers

H1N1 Flu Information and Resources: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

Steps if Children are Sick or School is Dismissed: [www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet.html)

Steps to Protect Your Family from Flu: [www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet2.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet2.html)

Steps for Children at High Risk for Flu Complications: [www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet3.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/parentfactsheet3.html)

Q&A from the Center for Disease Control (CDC): [www.flu.gov/plan/school/questions.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/questions.html)

Larimer County Dept. of Health and Environment: [www.co.larimer.co.us/health](http://www.co.larimer.co.us/health) or call 498-6700

**Health department offers immunization clinics** The health department's three immunization clinics are ready to provide required immunizations for children. Larimer County Health Dept.'s immunization clinics offer low-cost immunizations under the Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Through the program, families without health insurance, who are low-income or otherwise can't afford full-priced immunizations can have their children under 19 years old vaccinated for \$14.50 per shot. However, no one will be turned away for inability to pay. Larimer County offers child, adult and travel immunizations at its three locations: Fort Collins, Loveland and Estes Park. Walk-in hours for Fort Collins and Loveland are listed below. No appointments are necessary, except for travel immunizations.

#### **Loveland Clinic, 205 E 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 679-4580**

Mondays 12:30 - 3:30 pm; Fridays 9 am - 12 noon; and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month 3-6 pm. **Travel immunizations:** Mondays only, call for appointment.

#### **Fort Collins Clinic, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive, 498-6700**

Third Saturday of August, September, October and November, 9 am -12 noon; Mondays 9 am -12 noon and 1 - 3:30 pm; Tuesdays 3 - 6pm; and Fridays 9 am - 12 noon. **Travel immunizations:** Monday mornings and Friday afternoons, call for appointment.

For more information on childhood immunizations, adult immunizations, travel immunizations or Larimer County Health Department clinic hours, call 498-6700 or visit <http://www.larimer.org/health/chs/immunizations.asp>

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

Welcome back to school everyone! We are looking forward to a wonderful year here at Riffenburgh, and are excited about the sustainable, healthy plans the school is implementing this year.

Our year kicked off with a bike safety fair on August 12<sup>th</sup> -- thanks to April Lafferty for organizing this! Next, we had the Kindergarten picnic and Ice Cream Social, both of which were well attended. A big thank you to Sandra McCullem and Beth Ballard for organizing the Ice Cream Social this year!

Our thanks also go to Catherine Kane for organizing the Teacher's Back-to-School Luncheon. Our teachers work hard and are dedicated to our children – we can't show them enough appreciation for what they do.

Speaking of teacher's, our own Anne Johnson and her husband just celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations and best wishes!

The Gold C Book sales ended this last week, and another "thank you" to Bonnie Bend for doing her usual fine job with this fundraiser. The final sales totals aren't in yet, so we'll have them in the next newsletter. The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Flower Show was on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, you all got a chance to see their imaginative creations. Congratulations to Blake Dragan for winning Best of Show!

We had our first PTO meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup> and were gratified to see so many parents attending. We invite all of you to attend the next meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Your participation and ideas are so important and helpful, and we welcome your input and suggestions! Your involvement in your child's education is one of the best ways to help them succeed in school.



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## POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT (PBS), Maggie Tibbetts

Hey Parents! You've probably seen ROCKS around the school or your child has gotten a gotcha for demonstrating one of these qualities. Do you know what ROCKS stands for?

- R: Respect
- O: Optimism
- C: Cooperation
- K: Kindness
- S: Self Control



These are the values of our behavioral approach here at Riffenburgh. It's based on a district-wide system called Positive Behavioral Support (PBS). Stay tuned for more information about this valuable, effective, and research-based way that we encourage positive behavior at Riffenburgh!



### INTRODUCING... Riffy Rock!

Last spring, we held a school-wide contest to design a character that would represent our PBS plan. Jordan Johnson, then in first grade, created Riffy Rock. Riffy will now be displayed on all PBS related material (notes home, newsletter articles, posters in the hallway, etc.).

Riffy reminds us that **Riffenburgh ROCKS!** Thanks, Jordyn!

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## PARENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



**STUDY FINDS THREE WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL** Parents want their children to do their best in school. But what works? A study by researchers at Indiana University found that children do better in the classroom when parents:

1. Are positive. You know that your child is sensitive to your emotions. Not surprisingly, the study found that to also be true for parents' attitudes about schoolwork. Parents who thought their child could do an assignment successfully had a child who believed that, too. In addition, the study found that encouragement from a parent led a child to be more motivated. Model positive attitudes, and your child will copy them.
2. Break it down. A long assignment can overwhelm your child. One of the easiest things you can do to help is to break that big task into smaller pieces. The study found that when children worked at a task they thought they could handle, they did better at it.
3. Teach the importance of a final check. One of the best habits to instill in your child is to look over his work before handing it in. Oops--he added when he should have subtracted. He wrote 'their' instead of 'there.'

Correcting these minor mistakes can lead to a much better overall grade. In addition, the study found that children who were in the habit of checking over their work were more likely to volunteer to answer questions in class.

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### Building Character

**HELP YOUR CHILD TO WORK THROUGH CHALLENGES FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS** It's hard to get anywhere without perseverance. In fact, many of the world's most admired people (including Albert Einstein and Abraham Lincoln) could not have succeeded without it. To help your child develop a work ethic that will last through school and life:

- Talk about perseverance. List examples of not giving up, such as finishing a tough homework assignment, learning to ride a bike, or continuing to play a game when you're losing.
- Find role models. Name people who exemplify perseverance. They might be friends, relatives, or famous people, such as Benjamin Franklin. Discuss their lives. Describe their traits.
- Act it out. What does it look like to persevere? Role play stories, such as *The Little Engine That Could*.
- Draw a picture. Have your child think of a time when he persevered even though it was tough. Suggest that he draw a picture of what worked for him.
- List "success stoppers." What keeps people from pushing forward? (Negative attitudes are a good example.) How can you and your child avoid these pitfalls?
- Admit being human. No one is perfect. Everyone must work through challenges. Help your child see that he has what it takes, no matter what.
- Make a plan. Choose sensible goals with your child. Believe that he'll succeed. Be supportive, and turn mistakes into lessons. He may need to start over, and that's okay!



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## PSD OCTOBER NEWS

**1. Superintendent hosts “listening sessions” for community** 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 (PSD). Everyone is encouraged to attend. No registration is necessary. For more information, call 490- 3607 or e-mail [info@psdschools.org](mailto:info@psdschools.org).

Following are the dates and locations for the 2009-10 listening sessions:

- **October 1, 2009**, Traut Core Knowledge Elementary, 6-7pm, media center
- **November 11, 2009**, Webber Middle School, 5:30-6:30 pm, media center
- **November 13, 2009**, Putnam Elementary, 9:30-10:30 am, flex room
- **April 1, 2010**, Boltz Middle School, 7-8 pm, media center

**2. Parents – review proposed graduation requirement changes** PSD is inviting the Fort Collins community to learn about proposed graduation requirement changes. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback.

- **Community and Parent Forum**, 7-8:30 pm, October 20, Fort Collins High, 3400 Lambkin Way
- **Community and Parent Forum**, 7-8:30 pm, October 28, Rocky Mountain High, 1300 W. Swallow

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Graduation Requirements Committee has been meeting since February 2008 to develop a recommendation for PSD graduation requirements based on district policy, state guidelines, and input from Fort Collins’ employers, PSD’s pre-school through grade 16 partners and other local leaders.

**Process and Timeline:** Community members and parents are invited to provide input during October. The committee will then examine input and make revisions as appropriate. The final draft will be presented to district administration and the final recommendation will be made to the Board of Education. The Board will vote on the final recommendation in February 2010. New graduation requirements may impact the class of 2014 or 2015 and all classes to follow. Committee meeting minutes, updates and timelines are available on the PSD Web site at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org).

**3. No School** Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, October 15, Parent/Teacher Conference Day

Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, October 16, Parent/Teacher Conference Day

**4. PSD seeks community volunteer to serve on Audit Committee** The PSD Board of Education is seeking a community member with financial experience to serve on the PSD Audit Committee for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2010. The audit committee, which consists of five community members and two PSD Board of Education members, assists the board of education in fulfilling its financial oversight responsibilities. Committee responsibilities include overseeing the independent external audit of the district’s financial statements, quarterly reviewing the district’s financial statements, evaluating the efforts of the external auditor and recommending the selection of the external auditor, and providing input to help conduct two-hour meetings in the morning (7 to 9 a.m.), six times a year (January, March, May, August, October and November). Occasionally additional meetings are held to work on special committee projects.

Interested community members are asked to submit a letter of interest outlining pertinent qualifications by October 15, 2009 to: [dboileau@psdschools.org](mailto:dboileau@psdschools.org) or Deb Boileau, PSD Accounting Department, Johannsen Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521. Employees and contractors of the district or immediate family members are not eligible to serve on the committee. The present committee will recommend an applicant to the board of education, who will appoint the new committee members in December 2009. For more information, contact Deb Boileau, PSD finance staff member, at 490-3649 or Peggy Dowswell, community member and chairperson of the PSD Audit Committee, at 231-9303.

**5. Community Learning Center announces fall classes – Register now! Adult classes begin soon!** Expand your knowledge and skills in 2009! The fall sessions of the Community Learning Center (CLC) begin soon. The CLC is a PSD sponsored, adult enrichment program available to all members of the community, ages 18 and up. Upcoming classes include Excel, PowerPoint, Web Design, Zumba and Nia. All CLC classes are non-credit, non-graded classes. Please call 266-0150 or visit [www.communitylearningcenters.com](http://www.communitylearningcenters.com) for registration information.

**6. Volunteers wanted!** If you have a few hours to share your skills and expertise, you could make a huge difference in the lives of our students. Please contact Cyndi Gile at [cynthiag@psdschools.org](mailto:cynthiag@psdschools.org) or 490-3208. We have many opportunities available!

*Continued on page 11*

**7. Businesses and community partners wanted in the classrooms!** Wouldn't it be fun to go back to school? We have just the opportunity for you! Volunteers and Partnerships Program is looking for businesses to come into the classrooms and enlighten students with how you decided on your career, what your career and day-to-day tasks entail, and what education is needed. If you'd like to be a part of this great opportunity to share with students, please contact Kris Cord at [kcord@psdschools.org](mailto:kcord@psdschools.org) or 490-3207 or Cyndi Gile at [cynthiag@psdschools.org](mailto:cynthiag@psdschools.org) or 490-3208.



**8. Online School Choice application available for 2010-11, policy changes implemented** The online School Choice application is now available at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) under "School Registration," which may be accessed from a home computer or any computer with Internet access; a public use computer is available at the PSD Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., or any of the district's schools. The first consideration deadlines for 2010-11 are:

- **January 29, 2010, for secondary (grades 6-12)**
- **February 12, 2010, for elementary (grades K-5)**

School Choice applications may be submitted after the first-consideration deadline until the first day of class at the beginning of the school year of requested enrollment.

The School Choice policy now offers parents of multiple-birth siblings the opportunity to submit one application for each set of multiple birth siblings. If a parent chooses this option, the siblings will be considered for available spaces together. The school will need to have the appropriate number of spaces available to accept the siblings as a group; if the number of siblings exceeds the number of spaces, the students will remain on the waiting list until enough spaces are available. For more information, view the School Choice policy and timelines on the PSD Web site.

**9. PSD Shares policy regarding treatment of students, parents** PSD would like to inform parents about a policy that assures the proper treatment of students, parents/guardians and the general public. Below is a summary. The entire policy can be accessed at: [www.psdschools.org/psdinfo/boardofeducation/policygovernancepolicies](http://www.psdschools.org/psdinfo/boardofeducation/policygovernancepolicies). To request that a copy be sent to you, please call 490-3302.

Board of Education Executive Limitation policy 2.1 stresses the importance for PSD to: obtain public input in decision-making; collecting appropriate information; safely store student information; assure discipline is appropriate and consistent; provide safe and accessible school facilities; provide equitable and reasonable access for non-disruptive activities; provide families with educational choices; clearly communicate student expectations; adhere to consistent and timely grading practices; be responsive to inquiries; never retaliate against students or parents; use written rules that state school expectations, standards and procedures; follow internal grievance procedures and access the Board of Education if the policy is violated; and provide families with many ways to voice their concerns about the education of students.

**10. Character First! Family Seminar Saturday, October 17** Don't miss out on the Character First! Family Seminar coming up on Saturday, October 17. Enjoy this day-long seminar focused on putting character first in your family. Your \$35.00 seminar fee includes the "Achieving True Success" book and workbook materials, a light lunch and free childcare for children under the age of 9 years. Scholarships are available. Please contact Character Fort Collins at [reservations@characterfortcollins.org](mailto:reservations@characterfortcollins.org) or 970-266-2671 to reserve your seat today!



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## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

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

### OCTOBER EVENTS

- Oct. 2 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip — 9 am -2:30 pm  
Oct. 7 ROCKS character Assembly-Respect —  
10:25-11:00 am  
Oct. 12 PTO Meeting — 6:30 pm  
Oct. 14 Direct Donations due  
Oct. 15 & 16 NO SCHOOL, Parent/teacher conferences  
Oct. 19 Blues in the Schools assembly — 9-10 am  
Oct. 21- 23 Scholastic Book Fair (times TBA)  
Oct. 23 Visiting author Buck Wilder  
Oct. 30 Halloween Parade and Parties — 2:30 pm

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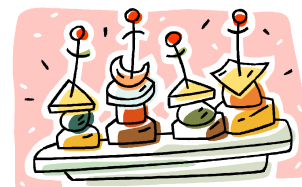
## HEALTHY SNACK TIDBIT

Now that our kids are having recess before lunch, it is even more important for them to bring a healthy morning snack each day. Focus on whole grains, fruits, veggies and protein for a daily snack. Here are a few ideas for easy to prepare, healthy snacks:

Ants on a Log. Spread peanut butter (you can use cream cheese for peanut allergic kids) on celery and add raisins on top.

Dry breakfast cereal such as Cheerios, Grape Nuts or Frosted Mini Wheats (look for cereals with less than 8 grams of sugar per serving).

Whole grain crackers like Triscuits with or without peanut butter, hummus or another topping.



For more great ideas on healthy, kid friendly and convenient snacks check out  
[http://www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/healthy\\_school\\_snacks.pdf](http://www.cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/healthy_school_snacks.pdf)

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## ATTENTION HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY EMPLOYEES!

The 2009 HP Product Giving Campaign for Riffenburgh Elementary has begun. HP allows employees to purchase equipment for reduced prices for donation to schools. If you are an HP employee and would like to contribute or learn details about the campaign, please email Dola Sawyer at [dola.sawyer@hp.com](mailto:dola.sawyer@hp.com). Below are the items included on Riffenburgh's wish list. Dola would like to collect donations by October 26, 2009.

Qty. 3 ► HP-ProBook 4510s Notebook PCs ► Item Number: HPV-FM966UT-ABA