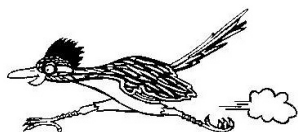


Roadrunner News

www.psdschools.org/schools/riffenburgh

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
January 16



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.*

2008-09 PTO Officers

Co-Presidents: *Deb Forzley
Anne Gensen*

VP/Pres. Elect:

Secretary: *Andrea Hein-Smalley*

Treasurers: *Jolene Pedersen
Wendy Tomaschow*

VIPS Coordinator: *Melissa Voit*

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

*Newsletter printing
provided by Kinko's*

HAVE A

SAFE,

WARM,

FUN

WINTER

BREAK



AND A

HEALTHY,



LESHER IB WORLD MIDDLE SCHOOL

2008-09 Promotional / Transitional Events

Mr. Dodd Speaks to McGraw PTO & 5th & 6th Grade Parents

Wednesday, 1/14/09 6:30-8pm

Music Dept. Tours

Thursday, 1/15/09 & Friday, 1/16/09 (Dunn, Shepardson, O'Dea)

5th & 6th Grade Open Houses & Curriculum Fairs

Combined grade levels, please come to either one.

Thursday, 12/4/08 6:30-8:30pm Lesher Gym & Auditorium

Thursday, 1/15/09 6:30-8:30pm Lesher Gym & Auditorium

Student Shadowing

Lesher will supply lunch. Contact IB Coordinator Beth Wilms to reserve a spot at 472-3818, or

bwilms@psdschools.org

5th Graders Tuesdays, December – January 7:45-11:30am

(12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27)

6th Graders Thursdays, December – January 7:45-11:30am

(12/4, 12/11, 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29)

Building Tours with Mr. Dodd

Contact Office Manager Kim Holtz to reserve a spot at 472-3803, or kholtz@psdschools.org

Mondays & Wednesdays, December – January 8-9am

(12/1, 12/3, 12/8, 12/10, 12/15, 12/17, 1/7, 1/12, 1/14, 1/21, 1/26, 1/28)

5th & 6th Grade Instrument Try-out Night

Tuesday, 1/27/09 6-8pm Lesher Auditorium

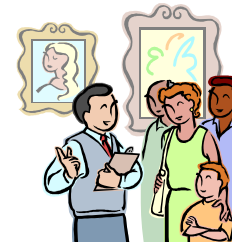
School of Choice/Honors Application Deadline

Friday, 1/30/09

5th & 6th Grade Orientations

To Be Determined in April

** Lesher Principal Tom Dodd will speak at additional feeder elementary schools' PTO meetings as requested. Please refer to Lesher's website for additional information.*



HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FAIR

Do your children need health insurance? Are you pregnant and uninsured or underinsured?

Do you need information on resource programs available to adults?

If you live in Larimer County and answered yes to any of these questions, please join us

10 am - 3 pm, Saturday, January 10, 1025 Pennock Place, Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Bring the following with you:

- A birth certificate for everyone applying for coverage
- A passport or photo ID for everyone applying
- Social security numbers if available
- Last month's paycheck stubs for everyone working in the household



Call 495-8815 (*English*) or 498-6754 (*Spanish*) for more information, or if you'd like to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome at the Fair.

This event is sponsored by Poudre Valley Health System, Child Health Plan Plus and the Colorado Trust.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL, Marc Ryby

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! The staff at Riffenburgh extends our best wishes to all of our students and families for the upcoming winter break and holiday season. In addition to the excitement and customs of the holidays, we hope that each of us finds special satisfaction in the simple joys of being together with family and friends. Please encourage your children to make time for reading and writing (thank you notes are always appreciated) over the seventeen days before school resumes on Tuesday, January 6, 2009. We



hope the break is safe and healthy for everyone!

REPORT CARDS Second quarter report cards will be sent home with students on Friday, January 9, 2008. You will receive a copy of the Colorado Department of Education's School Accountability Report along with your child's report card in Friday folders on January 9. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions about the progress your student is making.



FROM THE PTO, Deb Forzley and Anne Gensen — co-presidents



Well, as the holiday season is fast approaching, we want to thank all our volunteers who continue to support such projects as the direct donation, Santa Shop, Family Sing, classroom parties and all the other volunteers who help in the classrooms and around the school. Riffenburgh would not be the school it is without the support of volunteers. It takes working together with parents, teachers, staff and students to make our Riffenburgh community so special.

With the winter break upon us, we hope you enjoy the break from school and find time to enjoy your family and friends. May you have a very Merry Christmas and a very happy, healthy New Year!

We will see you in January and hope you can attend our PTO meeting on Monday, January 12 at noon.

ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY TO MEET NEW GOALS IN 4 SIMPLE WAYS

Most people make some type of New Year's resolution. Then two weeks later realize they haven't followed through. Kids are no different. Why not try to make this the January that everyone in the family takes action to meet some new goal? Here are four ways to encourage that change:

1. Pay attention. Suppose your child has decided she wants to do her homework without nagging. The first time she sits down without being reminded, pay attention. A short, "Grace, you're meeting your goal for the day. Good work!" is all it will take.
2. Don't wait. We all get caught up in what we're doing. But there is nothing that works as well as immediate feedback. "Kylie, thanks so much for taking the dog for a walk," you'll say. Kylie will be much more likely to take the dog for a walk tomorrow.
3. Reinforce the small steps. She wants to pull her spelling grade up to an A. This week she's not quite there--but she made some improvement. Remind her of the fable of the tortoise and the hare. Slow but steady really does win the race.
4. Be specific. Your child is trying to bring up her math grade. So after she does her homework, she takes time to check her answers. Don't just say, "Good job." Tell her, "You checked your work. That's a good way to catch little mistakes that can lower your grade."

Reprinted with permission from the January 2009 issue of Parents make the difference!® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2009 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Susan B. Wilson & Michael S. Dobson, Goal Setting: How to Create an Action Plan and Achieve Your Goals, ISBN: 10-8144-0169-4 (American Management Association, 1-877-566-9441, www.amacombooks.org).

3rd GRADE, Wendy Sawyer and Carolyn Stack

Students in 3rd grade are enjoying the oral storytelling by Nora Heaton. Mrs. Heaton is a member of Spellbinders of Larimer County. She comes monthly to share timely stories aloud, including props, sounds, and jokes scattered throughout the presentation. The students are involved in active listening to stories that stimulate the imagination, creativity, and their interest in literature. The children can hardly wait to have her visit!



Enjoy one of her holiday riddles: What's black and white and red all over? Santa riding a zebra!

4th GRADE, Jasi Dahl and Peggy Mihelich

We are currently learning about the Native Americans that lived in Colorado. The three main groups of Native Americans were the Utes, Arapaho, and the Cheyenne. Indian homes, food, communication, transportation, and Indian children are some of the topics we are exploring.



We have a wonderful storyteller, Mrs. Jesse from Spellbinders, who visits us on a regular basis to tell us stories. Spellbinders is a non-profit organization aiding and encouraging the establishment of intergenerational, volunteer storytelling chapters that serve schools. There are many benefits to this program including modeling oral reading fluency, aural comprehension, language development, and listening skills. We look forward to each of her visits!

In math we are finishing a unit on multiplication including 2 and 3 digit factors multiplied by 1 and 2 digit factors (for example: 465×3 and 54×27). We will be starting long division after our winter break. If your child still needs support with multiplication facts, please work with them at home on those facts to help them be successful with math computation.



We hope everyone has a safe and joyous winter break.



BLOOMING GIRLS

Winter Session
January 6th - March 12th

Blooming Girls is a Fort Collins After-School Development Program that provides a safe and inspiring environment for girls aged 5 - 12 years old where they can develop the life skills needed to reach their highest potential.

To learn more about the program, go to:
www.bloominggirlSCO.com or contact:

Carrie Sheffield
3332 Sharps Ct.
Ft. Collins, Co 80526
970.207.4094

bloominggirlSCO@yahoo.com

¿Que' pasa?

Here's what the Spanish classes have been up to:

Kinder – Kindergartners learned the Spanish version of “Are You Sleeping, Brother John” as a lead into studying family members in Spanish. We have been practicing communicating how you are feeling.

1st – First graders learned about the Mexican holiday “Day of the Dead.” They have been continuing to learn classroom vocabulary.



2nd – Second graders learned expressions with the Spanish verb “tener” such as “I am hungry, I am scared, I am tired.” They watched a video of “The Three Little Pigs” in Spanish which used a lot of these expressions.

3rd – Third graders have been studying family members in Spanish. In conjunction with this study, they drew family members wearing certain articles of clothing in specified colors.

4th – Fourth graders have been learning the names of animals. They read riddles in Spanish and had to guess which animal the riddle was about. Now they are giving presentations in Spanish about a pet (real or imaginary).



5th – Fifth graders have been learning how to conjugate “-ar” verbs and they have done some translation work. In conjunction with the upcoming holidays, the students have been translating an English/Spanish version of “Twas the Night Before Christmas.”

6th – Sixth graders have been learning the names of various professions. I took an informal poll in the classes, and none of the students want to be firefighters or police officers (I guess that fascination wears off as the students get older).



Poudre School District Early Childhood Program



Enrollment for 2009-2010 School Year Begins in January

Barton Early Childhood Center 970-490-3204

www.pdschools.org/schools/earlychildhood

Don't Delay- Classes Fill Quickly

The Early Childhood Education Program, designed for typically developing children and children with disabilities, offers services at no cost to children and families that meet certain eligibility requirements. Requirements include child's age (prenatal through five years), child's developmental needs, and family needs and income.

Registrarse para 2009-2010 Clases

Comienza en Enero.

Barton Early Childhood Center 970-490-3204

www.pdschools.org/schools/earlychildhood

No Esperan! Clases llenan Rapido



**El programa de Early Childhood Education-diseñado para niños que estén desarrollando a un paso normal, y también para ayudarles a los niños que estén deshabilitados- ofrece servicios sin costo a las familias que cumplen con ciertos requisitos. Los requisitos incluyen la edad del niño/niña (prenatal hasta 5 años), las necesidades de desarrollo del niño/niña, y los ingresos de la familia.*

COUNSELING, Amy Logan

Hey Riffenburgh – Let's Get Ready for Success!

It's that time of year, so I'm sure that I'm not the only one gearing up with big plans for 2009 – both personally and professionally. One of my plans for Riffenburgh is that EVERY student will receive multiple lessons on learning skills, social skills and self-management skills. The curriculum I will be using contains three different research-based programs in the K-12 package, with different grades getting different, age-appropriate lessons.

Grades K & 1 – The program I will use with these younger kiddos is called “Ready to Learn: Teaching Students How to Succeed in School.” Many counselors in the district have given this program rave reviews! I think the kids will have a great time and learn a lot!

Grades 2 & 3 – This program is called “Ready For Success.” We will work on attending, listening, cognitive strategies for learning and problem solving, communication skills, and social/team work skills. This will especially give a lot of helpful tools to those 3rd graders who will be taking the CSAP tests for the first time!

Grades 4-6 – The older students will take part in “Student Success Skills.” We will focus on goal set-

ting, progress monitoring, and success sharing; creating a caring, supportive and encouraging classroom community; memory skills; performing under pressure and managing test anxiety; and healthy optimism. The most exciting part of the Student Success Skills program is that the PSD Elementary Counselors are collaborating with CSU for the second year to research the effectiveness of this program with our own students. The national research already conducted shows 97% of teachers rated the program as helpful or very helpful in meeting student academic and classroom management needs. Hopefully we will see similar results in our district!

To learn more about the program, visit www.studentsuccessskills.com.

Advance Reminder:



The CSAP testing window will be:

- February 18 & 19 for 3rd grade Reading
- March 9 – April 10 for all other subjects grades 3-6

Thank you in advance for not scheduling any planned absences or appointments for your student during this mandatory testing window.

DISCIPLINE, Help your elementary schooler make better choices in four steps

She rolled her eyes and slammed down her books when you told her it was time for homework. Then she lost her temper and yelled at her brother--again. She was sorry later. But what if she hadn't made those poor choices in the first place?

Your elementary schooler can learn to make smarter choices in four easy steps. Have your child:

1. Stop. To be sure she doesn't do something she'll regret, she should first stop. Don't do anything. Don't say anything.
2. Think. She should then ask herself some questions. "What's the problem here? What will happen if I make this choice? Will it make things better or worse? Will I be proud of myself later?"
3. Choose. Once she's figured out how she might act, she then must make a choice. The correct choice is usually the one that has the best chance of having good things happen--and the fewest chances of getting in trouble.
4. Think again. Later, your child can think again. Did the situation turn out the way she'd hoped? If not, what can she learn from it and change for another time?

Reprinted with permission from the January 2009 issue of Parents make the difference!® (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2009 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Tom McIntyre, The Behavior Survival Guide for Kids: How to Make Good Choices and Stay Out of Trouble, ISBN: 1-57542-132-1 (Free Spirit Publishing, 1-866-922-2068, www.freespirit.com).

JANUARY NEWS BRIEF

Kindergarten registration for students entering school in PSD in fall 2009 is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009. Registration will be held from 7 am to 6 pm at all elementary schools (please check the schedule, available at school offices or on the PSD Web page at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration," for deviations). Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 15, 2009 are eligible to register.

On the day of registration, parents should bring their child's birth certificate (original or certified preferred), immunization records, and emergency contact information.



There is no tuition for half-day kindergarten programs. Full-day programs are \$2,100 per year (inquire at your school for specifics).

The first payment is due at the time of registration; the remainder is due in 9 monthly installments from August 1, 2009 - April 1, 2010. Full and partial scholarships may be available; check with the school for eligibility requirements.

One-way transportation is provided for kindergarten students attending a half-day program who live more than one mile from their neighborhood school. Round-trip transportation is provided for students in an all-day program who live more than one mile from school. Transportation is not provided for School Choice students (those who attend a school outside their attendance areas).

Early childhood program enrollment begins in January for 2009-10 school year. The Early Childhood Education Program provides services for pregnant mothers and children to age 5. The PSD Early Childhood Education Program, designed for typically developing children and children with disabilities, offers services at no cost to children and families that meet certain eligibility requirements. Requirements include child's age (prenatal through five years), child's developmental needs, and family needs and income.

For more information call 970-490-3204 or visit www.psdschools.org/schools/earlychildhood. Don't Delay- Classes Fill Quickly!

Attend a superintendent listening session.

Listening sessions are opportunities to talk informally with Dr. Wilson on topics of your choice. Although scheduled around PTO/PTA meetings at the schools, all parents and community members are welcome.

Dates Time of Day Location

Dates	Time of Day	Location
Feb 3	7:00-8:00 pm	Cache La Poudre Elem. 3511 W. Co. Rd. 54G Laporte
April 21	7:00-8:00 pm	Zach Core Knowledge 3715 Kechter Rd. Fort Collins
May 5	6:30-7:30 pm	Blevins Jr High 2102 S Taft Hill Rd. Fort Collins

Apply for school choice by January and February deadlines. Nearly 70% of PSD students attend neighborhood schools, where PSD's rigorous standards-based curriculum is complemented by enrichment activities. However, parents who would like their children to attend a school outside of their attendance area can do so through School Choice on a space-available basis. Transportation of School Choice students is the responsibility of the parent.

Parents may choose from a neighborhood school, a school close to work, all-day or half-day kindergarten programs, before- and after-school care, and various programs and curricula.

School Choice Deadlines:

First-consideration for elementary schools (Grades K-5): Friday, February 13, 2009.

First-consideration for secondary schools (Grades 6-12): Friday, January 30, 2009.

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.

Complete the **online** School Choice Application through the Poudre School District Web site at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration," which may be accessed from a home computer or

Continued on page 8

JANUARY NEWS BRIEF, continued

any computer with Internet access, a public use computer available at the PSD Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., or any of the District's schools. *For specific details on School Choice, refer to Poudre School District School Choice Policy JFBA (available at www.psdschools.org)*

Adult classes begin in February – registration begins January 9! Expand your knowledge and skills in 2009! The winter/spring session of the Community Learning Center (CLC) will begin the first week of February. The CLC is a PSD-sponsored, adult-enrichment program available to all members of the community, ages 18 and up. The upcoming session offers:

- Becoming a Love and Logic© Parent, as well as one FREE parenting class (Homework: A Parent's Survival Guide.)
- Language (Spanish and French)
- Computer (basic, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Web design)
- Knitting
- Photography
- Exercise and Wellness (Nia, Strong Women, Zumba, Ancient Middle Eastern Dance)
- Guitar classes

All CLC classes are non-credit, non-graded classes. Registration for these classes will begin January 9.

Please call 266-0150 to register by phone, or visit www.communitylearningcenters.com to register on-line.

Annual Report will be published online in January! PSD is pleased to announce that the 2007-2008 Annual Accountability Report to the public will be online in January 2009 – look for it on our website by January 16.

Every year, school districts in Colorado report about their performance to their communities based on requirements in Colorado Accreditation Rules and the *No Child Left Behind Act*. The report includes goals, objectives and plans for improvement.

You will find district improvement goals and the progress we've made towards those goals, as well as the following information:

- Assessment Data
- Accountability Data

- Teacher Quality Data
- Post-Secondary Readiness Data
- Other Data: Evidence of a safe & civil learning environment, attendance rates, and number of expelled and suspended students

The Annual Accountability Report is posted on the district website at www.psdschools.org. For a hard copy of the report, please call 970-490-3543.

The Colorado Department of Education has posted school and district assessment data, accountability data, and post-secondary readiness data on the state's Web site at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/districtprofiles.asp>.

Raise funds for schools by recycling metal.

Want to donate money to your school but don't really have the cash? Bring your unwanted metal to **Colorado Iron & Metal** and they will pay the market value of the metal to your school in cash! **THERE'S CASH IN THAT SCRAP!** This will help the school with all kinds of projects and activities. Just bring in your metal and tell the employee which school it is to be credited toward and Colorado Iron & Metal takes care of the rest.



Items to bring in for recycling: aluminum cans, aluminum, steel, copper, brass, lead, electrical scrap, wire, wheels – any items made out of metal. Colorado Iron & Metal is located at 1400 E. Mulberry, Fort Collins, and is open from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and 8:00 am—12 noon Saturdays. Call 530-0300 with questions.

Free CHAMP parent introductory breakfast. Please join us from 9:30 - 10:30 am, Tuesday, January 13, at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, 4745 Wheaton Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525. This free introductory meeting is to learn about how CHAMP (CHaracter in Athletics – Make it a Priority) is working in your community to positively influence the lives of young people with a character-based athletic experience. Share your ideas about how to increase the reach of the CHAMP program in the Northern Colorado community and learn how to get involved! Please RSVP to Meghan at mcoleman@characterfortcollins.org or 970-266-2671.

CHECK IT OUT!

It's In The Library! Book Reviews

Twilight by Stephanie Meyer
reviewed by Tristan Petersen (6th grade)



Twilight is a gripping novel that suspends you in every chapter. A teen girl named Bella Swan falls in love with a mysterious boy named Edward Cullen. They can barely resist each other and hope to be together each moment. Edward's charm makes him irresistible so Bella just spills the truth. Will something go wrong? Gripping detail will keep you from putting the book down. Read Twilight and you will have the best reading experience of your life. The Twilight saga includes: *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, *Breaking Dawn*.

WHAT DO YOU SEE THIS SEASON?

Snow Manger	Shovel Parties	Freeze Carols	Lights Singing	Decorations Snowballs	Menorah	Santa Family			
S	G	C	X	L	C	S	P	O	N
H	N	K	S	G	A	N	S	S	Q
O	I	W	H	A	R	O	N	E	M
V	G	T	O	Y	O	I	O	I	U
E	N	X	N	N	L	T	W	T	E
L	I	G	H	T	S	A	B	R	Z
Q	S	Z	J	A	P	R	A	A	E
M	V	F	N	K	L	O	L	P	E
A	Z	T	F	G	R	C	L	M	R
M	A	N	G	E	R	E	S	B	F
Y	L	I	M	A	F	D	Q	S	V

PTO BUDGET INFORMATION



Beginning balance as of 9/01/08	\$ 6,475.14
	<u>Income</u>
Direct Donations	\$ 220.00
Scholastic Book Fair	\$ 2,614.60
Expenses	\$ 3,505.59
Ending Balance	\$ 5,807.15

THANK YOU! SANTA SHOP, Michelle Dragan and Wendy Tomaschow

A huge thank you to all the great volunteers this year that helped with Santa Shop! We made over \$1,200!

Even though we don't consider this to be a fundraiser, the money does go to many things at our school that your PTO pays for, such as playground equipment, computer equipment, Roadrunner Academy, media materials... the list goes on.



The donations were great, the wrapping was awesome, and the kids LOVED it! Without all of you, we wouldn't be able to put on this great event. Thank you also to the teachers who were willing to put up with a bit of craziness for 3 days. Remember to shop after the holidays for those great deals to store away for next year's Santa Shop. *Happy Holidays to all!*



JANUARY CALENDAR

1-2	NO SCHOOL, Winter Break
5	NO SCHOOL, Teacher Work Day
6	First day back from Winter Break
12	SIT Meeting, 7:30 am, Media Center PTO Meeting, 12:00 noon, Room 6
12-13	Greg Denman, Poet-in-Residence
13	Character Education Assembly, 8:30 am, Cafeteria
15	5th & 6th grade field trip to Lesher
19	NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
29	Kindergarten Information Night, 7 pm, Media Center



JANUARY

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

PLANNING AHEAD..... Dates to remember

February 18 & 19 3rd grade reading CSAP. Please avoid scheduling appointment and vacations for your 3rd grader on these days, if possible.

March 9—April 10 3rd—6th grade reading, writing, math and science (5th only) CSAP. Our CSAP schedule is tight this year because we are trying to do testing in the morning when students are at their best. Please avoid scheduling appointments and vacations during this time if possible. Spring break is the exception — those dates are:

March 13 NO SCHOOL, Teacher Work Day

MARCH 16—20 NO SCHOOL, Spring Break