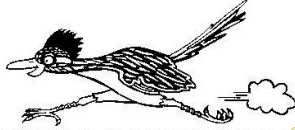


Roadrunner News

www.psdschools.org/schools/riffenburgh



PLEASE NOTE:

The attendance line number has changed to **488-7936**.
Please call 488-7936 by 8:30 a.m.
to report your student absent or late.

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*

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: October 15

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

*Newsletter printing
provided by Kinko's*



***School is
off to a
Running start!***



Get Involved!

POET-IN-RESIDENCE

DANCING with WORDS

Poetry, Storytelling and Creative Writing

Riffenburgh students are in for an exciting year due to the gracious funding of a grant from the Bohemian Foundation. Last fall, teachers Claudia Benner, Anne Johnson, Carolyn Stack and Pam Schwartz met to consider trying to secure an artist-in-residency program for the 2008-2009 academic year. It was their feeling that, with all the attention needed to be given to CSAP, the children were limited in the amount of time given to creativity and artistic expression. They contacted Gregory Denman from Colorado Springs to discuss the idea.

Mr. Denman is a nationally recognized writing consultant and children's performer. Along with being the author of numerous books and articles, he has worked with children and creative writing in countless schools across the country. He, like the Riffenburgh administration and teachers, agreed that a well-rounded educational experience needed to include poetry, creative writing and student performances. After the teachers and Mr. Denman worked out a possible plan for the year, a grant proposal was written utilizing the expertise and advice of wonderful parents Marybeth Swanson and Catherine Kane. The proposal was submitted last February. In May, we were thrilled to be notified by the Pharos Fund of the Bohemian Foundation that our idea would be fully funded.

In addition, Catherine Kane worked with the Fort Collins Hilton Hotel to secure cost-free lodging for Mr. Denman during his numerous visits to Fort Collins this year. Our ever-generous PTO jumped on board and will fund transportation and publication costs involved with the residency.

As a result, Mr. Denman will be visiting Riffenburgh monthly to work with all the children and teachers. This month he will be conducting an inservice for the faculty and starting in October he will be working with groups of our youngsters. Every class will meet Mr. Denman in an opening assembly followed by two writing workshops conducted in their classrooms. In the spring, interested students will have the opportunity to be part of a "honors group" that will travel to other schools and nursing homes to perform their work.



Mr. Denman works with a young writer.

Indeed there is going to be a lot of words dancing around Riffenburgh this year!

**Riffenburgh
Running Club**

Tuesdays and Thursdays
3:05—4:05



FROM THE PRINCIPAL, Marc Ryby

START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR We are very pleased with the way the 2008-09 school year has started at Riffenburgh Elementary School. Students have shown great enthusiasm and positive attitudes as we have established expectations and introduced different learning activities in classrooms. We have reviewed our school-wide behavior standards, and all students know that Riffenburgh ROCKS! The staff at Riffenburgh Elementary look forward to working closely with parents to help our students make as much progress as possible academically and socially this year.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES We want to remind parents that students are expected to arrive at school between the first bell (8:10 am) and second bell (8:20 am) when we provide supervision on the playground. Students who take part in our breakfast program may arrive between 8:00 and 8:15 am. Individuals who arrive after 8:25 will be considered tardy. After school is dismissed staff members are on duty until 3:15. All students are expected to be headed home at this time, whether they are picked up, walk or ride bikes. Thanks for



your support of our before and after school schedules.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM Riffenburgh's School Improvement Team (SIT) meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 am. The SIT Team consists of a representative group of parents and staff members who are responsible for school accountability and making recommendations for the direction of our school. Please contact the Riffenburgh office (488-7935) if you would like more information about SIT and the topics they consider.

FALL CONFERENCES Teachers will be contacting parents to arrange conference times for all Riffenburgh students in the next few weeks. Fall conferences are scheduled for October 15-17, though teachers will also meet with parents before or after school in the weeks around those dates. Our goal, as always, is to hold a conference for each of our students to discuss their progress and areas for continued growth. We look forward to sharing the successes your child has experienced since the start of school.

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

Well, we're off and running with Riffenburgh PTO. We're looking forward to a great year, and have already kicked it off with our Ice Cream Social and our Teacher Welcome Back Luncheon. A big *Thank You* to Lee and Shawn Fisher for all their help and organization with the Ice Cream Social. All of you who attended know what a fun event that is, and how great it is for our kids to meet their teachers and see their classrooms.

Another *Thank You* to Wendy Tomaschow for organizing our teacher's luncheon. We're so appreciative of all that our teachers do, and we can't thank them enough for their days of hard work and dedication to our kids. *Thank you* to Bonnie Bend for all her work with the Gold C fundraiser also.

Please keep your eyes open for information

on the Direct Donation campaign that will arrive home shortly in Friday folders.



Also, please consider joining us for our next PTO meeting – Monday, October 13th at 6:30. Remember, you're already a PTO member just by being a parent at Riffenburgh, so we welcome your input and suggestions any time.

Beginning Balance 5/1/08	\$12,963.80
Income	\$ 770.00
Expenses	\$ 2,423.04
Ending Balance 8/31/08	\$ 11,310.76

KINDERGARTEN, Claudia Benner and Kim Baker

Kindergarten is always a place with a colorful spirit. It was especially bright and cheerful during our color celebration of “Rainbow Days” in September. It was lots of fun to see the children dressed in the color of the day! We also had a project, a story, and a snack to enjoy for each hue.

Red Day gave the class the opportunity to enjoy and explore a watermelon with their five senses. We counted those slippery seeds and brainstormed words to describe the fruit’s look, sound, taste, feel and smell. Students offered adjectives like “slurpy”, “striped”, “juicy” and “scrumptious”!



We’re looking forward to a school year filled with more varied, vivacious and vibrant adventures in learning!

1st GRADE, Juli Romero and Anne Johnson

First Graders Use “PIXIE” in the Computer Lab

All first graders have had the opportunity to use a new computer program in the primary computer lab called “Pixie.” Pixie is a program that allows students to practice writing, literacy, and math skills in a creative way. This month, students learned to use the text tool and stickers to create letter posters. Each poster focused on an alphabet letter and its phonemic sound. The first grade classes are looking forward to working on additional learning projects using “Pixie” throughout the school year. If you would like to know more about “Pixie,” be sure to ask first grade!



2nd GRADE, Wendy Sawyer and Carolyn Stack

Insect World Fascinates Students



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, September 30th. 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.



Paws for Tales

This will be our third 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., 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 three years. The second grade classes are looking forward to reading to these special dogs.



MUSIC, Jean Johnson



Rockin' Roadrunner Choir Information

Rockin' Roadrunner Choir is open to interested 4th, 5th, and 6th graders for the 2008-2009 school year. The Roadrunner Choir will be one of the guest choirs appearing this year in the Elementary Honor Choir Concert. The Rockin' Roadrunner Choir serves as music ambassadors for Riffenburgh. The choir meets twice a week and singers sign a contract that outlines the responsibilities and expectations of a choir member. We look forward to a wonderful year in song.



4th grade and 6th Grade Symphony Concert
November 7, 2008

Holiday Choir Concert
December 18, 2008
Rockin' Roadrunner Choir

"Feelin' Good"
February 12, 2009
K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd

PSD Elementary Honor Choir Concert
February 17, 2009
7 pm Lincoln Center
Riffenburgh Rockin' Roadrunner Choir
Guest Choir

"Lighten Up"
April 30, 2009
Spring Musical
Rockin' Roadrunner Choir

Performances are at 2 pm and 6 pm in the Riffenburgh New Gym. Performance dates and times are subject to change. 4th, 5th and 6th graders are eligible to be in the Rockin' Roadrunner Choir.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION, Chris West

PEP stands for....

Physical Education Parent Club: Any parent/guardian that would like to volunteer their time or skills to promote Physical Education and Physical Activity at Riffenburgh.

Volunteers needed!

Riffenburgh Track Meet Coordinator:
Helps qualify students for PSD Track Meet (April)

Lunch Time Tennis:
Set up, watch and put away tennis equipment during lunch

Dance Coach:
Help teach Dance to 3-6 grade students during Physical Education class



Hoops For Heart/ Jump Rope For Heart:
Help promote and count the donations (December)

Schools On The Move Coordinator:
Help promote and collect calendars (February)

Riffenburgh Wellness Committee:
We are just beginning this program (will begin in October)

Please call or e-mail
if you would like to volunteer.

970-488-7976
cwest@psdschools.org

Help your child ask questions to improve reading comprehension

One thing that sets good readers apart is the questions they ask. Research shows that good readers ask themselves questions as they are reading.

The questions may focus on what's going on in the story: What might happen next? Why did he do that?

Good readers might also ask about words they do not know. It says she is slumbering. What could that mean?

Help your child become a better reader by showing him how to ask questions as he reads:

- When you are reading aloud, stop when you get to an exciting part in the story. Ask your child, "What do you think is going to happen next?" Listen to what your child says. Ask, "Why do you think that?" Then turn back to the book and say, "Let's see if you're right."
- While you are reading, stop when you read an unfamiliar word. James is irritable. What could

that word mean? Together, think about other clues that might show what the word means.

After you finish, ask questions to help your child connect the book to things he already knows. Did you ever have a day when you felt irritable like James?



Reprinted with permission from the September 2008 issue of Parents make the difference! (Elementary School Edition) newsletter. Copyright 2008 The Parent Institute, a division of NIS, Inc. Source: Lana Santoro and others, The Comprehension Conversation: Using Purposeful Discussion During Read-Alouds to Promote Student Comprehension and Vocabulary, in Effective Instruction for Struggling Readers, K-6, Barbara Taylor and James Ysseldyke, eds., ISBN: 978-0-8077-4821-3 (Teachers College Press, 212-678-3929, www.tcpres.com).

Start the school year off with research-based tips for success

The start of a new school year is filled with promise. Notebooks are filled with shiny white paper. Crayons still have their sharpened points. Even your child's backpack is organized!

The start of a school year can also be a time for you to set some goals. Research has identified three easy but important ways to help your child do better in school this year:

1. Get to know your child's teacher. When parents and teachers are on the same team, kids do better in school. So make plans to go to back-to-school night. If you can't attend, contact the teacher to set up a short meeting to talk. Once you've met face to face, you'll find it easier to ask a question or share a concern about your child.
2. Settle into a routine. Kids thrive on predictability. So have a regular time for doing school



work. Set and keep a regular bedtime. Plan a morning routine that gets everyone out the door on time. Your family will be happier and you'll all have less stress.

3. Make reading a habit. Set aside 20 to 30 minutes each day for reading time. If your child is learning to read, let her show off her new skills. Set aside some time when you all read together and then talk about what you've read. If your child sees you reading, she's sure to catch the reading habit.

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Colorado State University Scholastic Chess Tournament Grades K-12
Cherokee Park Ballroom, Lory Student Center, Fort Collins, Saturday 10/25/2008

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ (for mailing future tournament info)

USCF Rated Players Only:

Rating: _____

USCF #: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Release and Waiver: This entry form constitutes a complete waiver and release from liability. Please read carefully before signing. Unsigned entries will not be accepted. All participants underage 18 must have this document signed by a parent or guardian. Each participant is responsible for his or her safety and must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the tournament. As a condition of entry, you agree that Colorado State University, the Poudre School District, organizers and managers of this event are not responsible for your safety, the actions of other attendees, or conditions at the tournament site. By signing this form, you are waiving any claim you might have in the future against Colorado State University, the Poudre School District, the organizers or managers for damages or injury of any kind arising out of this tournament, even though it may be due to negligence or carelessness of the organizers. You further agree to hold Colorado State University, the Poudre School District, the organizers and managers harmless, and indemnify them generally and specifically, from all such liability.

Participant

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Swiss System---ALL STUDENTS PLAY EVERY ROUND--NO ELIMINATION – 5 Rounds

REGISTRATION FEE: Early registration fee \$15 if received by Oct 18, 2007. On-site day of tournament registration fee \$20. Please make checks payable to: Poudre School District and mail with this registration to Mary Nichols, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Poudre School District, Johannsen Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80521-2297

TIMES: Check-in: 7:45 - 8:30 a.m. ALL PLAYERS NEED TO CHECK-IN! Players Meeting: (all competitors must attend) 8:30 a.m. Round 1 begins: 9:00 AM, Round 2 begins 10 AM, Round 3 begins 11AM, Round 4 begins 1PM and Round 5 begins 2PM. Awards at 3PM.

TOURNAMENT SECTIONS: Both rated and unrated sections by grade based on registrations. Open to all Colorado scholastic students in grades K-12. Wyoming students are also invited to attend.

BYES: Players unable to attend the tournament for a certain round may request a “half-point bye.” This type of bye awards a player the same score as a draw. Up to two half-point byes may be requested but they must be requested before tournament play begins and are not available for the final round of play.

PRIZES: Trophies will be awarded to the top five players in each division.

LUNCH: Between round 3 and round 4 at the CSU food court.

SUPERVISION: All players are required to have adult supervision. Parents are responsible for arranging for the supervision of the players. Tournament Directors will supervise the tournament area. Parents will not be allowed in the playing area in the tournament room.

QUESTIONS: CSU Contact: Michael Kirby, Department of Mathematics, (970) 491-6850 or kirby@math.colostate.edu. PSD Contact: Mary Nichols, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Poudre School District (970) 490-3076, or manichol@psdschools.org.

PSD Seeks Community Volunteer to Serve on Audit Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 27, 2008

For more information, contact:

Debra Hooker, PSD Communications, (970) 490-3549

Kristen Ellis, PSD Communications, (970) 490-3130

The Poudre School District Board of Education is seeking a community member with financial experience to serve on the PSD Audit Committee for a 2-year term beginning January 1, 2009.

The audit committee, which consists of 3 community members and 2 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, reviewing quarterly 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 ensure continuous improvement of the PSD financial policies, procedures, and internal controls.

The committee conducts 2-hour meetings in the morning (7 to 9 a.m.), 6 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 **September 30** to: **Deb Boileau, PSD Accounting Department, Johannsen Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521 or email at dboileau@psdschools.org.**

Employees and contractors of the district 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 member in December 2008.

For more information, contact Deb Boileau, PSD finance staff member, at 490-3649 or Terri Sunset, community member and chairperson of the PSD Audit Committee, at 223-2881.

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