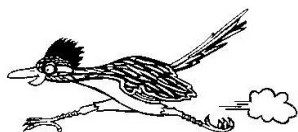


Roadrunner News

www.psdschools.org/schools/riffenburgh



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: February 13

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*

RIFFENBURGH KIDS NEED YOUR HELP!

Dear Riffenburgh Parents,

Through the efforts of the Riffenburgh Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), our students enjoy many opportunities that add to their experience at our school. These include:

Extracurricular Activities

- A variety of high-interest performance assemblies
- Field trips for each grade level
- Missoula Children's Theater participation at no cost to parents
- Odyssey of the Mind teams
- Lego Robotics teams
- Running Club
- Science Club

Special Events

- Ice Cream Social
- Monthly Poet-in-Residence contact for all grade levels
- 5th and 6th grade Graduations
- Family Fun Nights

Support of School Programs

- Roadrunner Academy (extra help after school)
- School improvement projects (front entry landscaping, playground equipment)
- Technology Fund
- Accelerated Reader program
- Money for purchase of new library books
- CSAP snacks
- Teacher mini-grants

Even the **Fundraisers** that PTO schedules are designed to be fun activities that students and families will enjoy as work to raise the resources necessary to support the activities and

continued on page 6

“Feelin’ Good”

February 12, 2009 ♪♪ K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Please Note — New performance times:
10 am and 6:30 pm



PSD Elementary Honor Choir Concert

February 17, 2009 ♪♪ 7 pm ♪♪ Lincoln Center

Riffenburgh Rockin’ Roadrunner Choir

Student should report to the Lincoln Center
main performance hall at 5:20 pm
for the mass choir rehearsal at 5:30 pm!



The Rockin’ Roadrunner choir will be performing during the PSD Elementary Honor Choir Concert. Tickets are on sale for \$5 at the Lincoln Center. Every audience must have a ticket to attend this event. Rockin’ Roadrunner choir parents should look for specific information to be coming home with their choir student.

“Lighten Up”

Spring Musical
Rockin’ Roadrunner Choir

April 30, 2009

Thank you Riffenburgh PTO for purchasing our new iPod and continuing to support our Music K-8 Subscription. Both were essential elements in the December Holiday Concert. Thank you for your continued support of the music program at our school.

**Rockin’
Roadrunner Choir
Performing at
the Mall in
December**



FROM THE PRINCIPAL, Marc Ryby

CSAP SCHEDULE

Riffenburgh has developed its schedule for this spring's Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP):

- 3rd graders will take the Reading section of CSAP on Wednesday and Thursday, February 18 and 19, from 8:45 to 10:00.
- 5th graders will work on Science CSAP Monday through Wednesday, March 9-11.
- Students in 3rd through 6th grades will have morning sessions beginning on Tuesday, March 24 and concluding on Friday, April 3. More specific times for each grade level will be sent home during February. We ask the cooperation of parents in not scheduling any ap-



pointments during the mornings of our CSAP test dates.

MILL AND BOND LEVY INFO MEETING

Community representatives who are preparing for a possible mill/bond levy ballot proposal will present information about the financial needs of the Poudre School District on Monday evening, February 9, 2009. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm in the Riffenburgh Library after the monthly PTO meeting. All interested Riffenburgh parents and staff members are encouraged to attend.



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

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a great winter break and enjoyed some fun family time.

I want to thank Kricia Romero for organizing the Family Sing in December. This is always a fun event, and we appreciate her efforts.

With the return to school, our schedule is busy over the next few months with fun events, fundraisers, and of course, academics. We have a lot to look forward to in February including the Missoula Children's Theater during the first week and My School Goal following that. My School Goal is one of Riffenburgh's fundraisers. We are currently short of our goal with Direct Donations, so this is an opportunity for your children to get involved in raising money for Riffenburgh by learning and having fun at the same time. Please look for details to come home soon.

Finally, please consider becoming involved in PTO or with other volunteer opportunities at Riffenburgh. With the changes in grade configuration, we're graduating not only more students than usual in May, but we also send their parents with them. This leaves us with spaces to fill and Riffenburgh kids need your help!



Beginning Balance 12/01/08	\$5,807.15
Income	\$1,399.83
Expenses	\$ 105.41
Ending Balance 12/31/08	\$7,101.57

KINDERGARTEN, Claudia Benner and Kim Baker

Kindergarten Center Fun

When you walk into a kindergarten classroom during center time, it might look like the children are playing. The children **are** playing; however, there is a method to our madness.

We plan centers to cover the following curricular areas: reading, writing, math, science, motor development, art, and dramatic play. While working on a task in one of the above areas, the children are also practicing the social skills of cooperation, sharing materials, helping a friend, following directions and asking for



what they need. Important skills in kindergarten and throughout life!

Some of the most recent centers include: making a penguin, comparing volumes with water, writing letters in craft sand, sorting alphabet letters, and writing pig descriptions. The small groups of children during center time also allow the teacher to instruct at a more individualized level. We also assess skill levels during center time to document growth.



If you ask a kindergartener about their favorite activities at school, center activities are frequently mentioned. We all like to learn in a hands-on way.

1st GRADE, Juli Romero and Anne Johnson

First Graders Have a Dream

In January, first graders learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

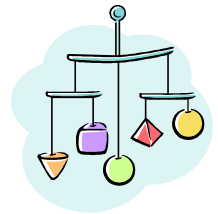
We also read many books about Dr. King, and

we learned to appreciate his dedication to peace and equality. Each student then wrote and



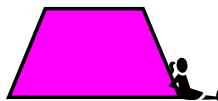
delivered her/his own “I Have a Dream” speech in front of the class. Some of our first grade dreams were about everyone getting along, people solving problems peacefully, and food and homes for all people and animals.

First graders are also studying our FOSS unit of Balance and Motion. We are observing and comparing how objects balance, spin, and roll. We make mobiles, twirly birds, and twirler wings. We balance crayfish, arches, triangles, and even ourselves!



2nd GRADE, Wendy Sawyer and Carolyn Stack

In math we have just completed a geometry unit and several students enjoyed creating pyramids from straws. We are currently working on regrouping when subtracting and working on adding three or more digits.



We continue to learn about healthy habits. We've learned about good eating, exercise and hygiene.

We are looking forward to our music program on February 12 where we will show our parents what we've learned. Our music program will be at 6:30

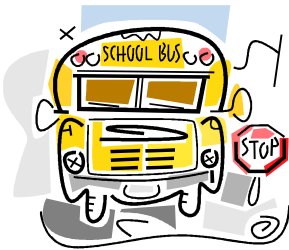
on February 12.

Our science topic this month is solids and liquids. We are learning about the various states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. Our students will enjoy the hands on activities associated with this FOSS unit.

Many of the second graders will enjoy reading Secret of the Seal, a fictional chapter book which also gives a glimpse into Inuit life. This project will involve a vocabulary study, retelling, writing, and art.

BUSING DISTANCES, SPACE AVAILABLE SERVICES CHANGES

Poudre School District Transportation wants parents and families to be aware of changes for the 2009-10 school year. Due to budget constraints, transportation costs and grade level changes, the following changes are being made and will impact students and families:



Transportation Eligibility Changes for PSD Students

Effective July 1, 2009, to align transportation services with grade level changes, PSD transportation policies will be revised to reflect 6th grade students moving to middle school and 9th grade students moving to high school. The transportation eligibility distances for each level (elementary, middle school, high school) will not change; the grades receiving transportation services will change:

- Elementary school students in kindergarten-5th grade will receive transportation services to and from school if they live 1 mile or more from school, in the school attendance area.
- Middle school students in grades 6-8 will receive transportation services to and from school if they live 1½ miles or more from school, in the school attendance area.
- High school students in grades 9-12 will receive transportation services to and from school if they live 2 miles or more from school, in the school attendance area.

Space Available Busing Changes

Due to budget constraints and increasing transportation costs, PSD routes are being ad-

justed to create more efficiency within each route. This means next year more students will be transported on fewer buses and/or fewer routes, and PSD anticipates the following:

- Next year, PSD busses will be transporting more eligible students and therefore less “Space Available” busing may be available.
- Students attending a school outside of their neighborhood school (school choice) will only be transported on PSD busses if there is “Space Available.” The exception is for Poudre High School’s International Baccalaureate program, for which a fee-based pilot is planned.
- “Space Available” Bus Service forms will be accepted beginning August 1, 2009; parents will be notified in **October**



whether or not a seat is available for their student on the bus. Often during the first months of school, bus routes need to be adjusted to accommodate eligible students and to create efficiencies throughout district bus

routes.

- “Space Available” Bus Service forms for the 2009-10 school year will be available starting August 1, 2009, on the PSD Web site on the Transportation page, or may be obtained from your school or by calling 490-3155 to request a copy of the form.

The above changes will be in effect the first day of the 2009-10 school year. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the transportation department by email transportation@psdschools.org or by phone 490-3155.

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 from 10 am to 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.

“Feria” de tipos de Coberturas de Asistencia Médica

¿Necesitan sus hijos seguro medico? ¿Está embarazada y no tiene seguro, o el que tiene no cubre lo suficiente? ¿Necesita información sobre programas de recursos disponibles para adultos? Si vive en el Condado Larimer, y respondió “sí” a cualquiera de estas preguntas, por favor venga el sábado, 10 de enero, al 1025 Pennock Place, Fort Collins, CO 80524, de 10 de la mañana a 3 de la tarde.

Debe traer lo siguiente:

- El registro civil de nacimiento de todos los que apliquen a la cobertura
- Un pasaporte o identificación con foto de todos los que hagan la solicitud
- Números de seguro social, si se conocen
- Recibo de sueldo del último mes de todas las personas que trabajen en el hogar

Llame al 495-8815 (*inglés*) o 498-6754 (*español*) para recibir más información o si desean programar una cita. También se atenderá a las personas que no hayan pedido cita. Este evento es auspiciado por *Poudre Valley Health System, Child Health Plan Plus* y el *Colorado Trust*.

RIFFENBURGH KIDS NEED YOUR HELP! Continued from page 1

events listed above. Examples of fundraisers are: the Scholastic Book Fair, Roadrunner Fun Run, Santa Gift Shop, Spring Carnival, Silent Auction/Dance, and My School Goal.

This year we are experiencing a greater loss than usual of our leadership in PTO because of the district grade reconfiguration and the fact that parents of both 5th and 6th graders will be moving on to middle school. Many of PTO's officers and key committee coordinators will be leaving, and we have not found enough parents to begin transitioning into these roles. If we do not have parents who will step up, we face the possibility of reduced opportunities for Riffenburgh kids from the impressive selection we currently offer.

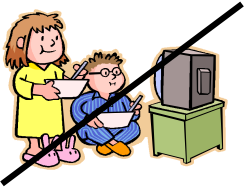
Since Riffenburgh opened more than forty years ago, there has been a strong tradition of parent involvement and support that has benefited our students. We are inviting you to get more information about PTO's needs for help in hopes that more parents will shadow and assist our present parent leaders in preparation for next year. We have scheduled informal meetings with some of our PTO leaders from 8:00 to 8:30 am and 3:00 to 3:30 pm in the library on Thursday, January 22 and Monday, January 26. You are also encouraged to attend upcoming monthly PTO meetings on Monday, February 9 at 6:30 pm and Monday, March 9 at noon. Please join us to see how you can help us maintain the same extracurricular activities and special programs we value for our students. We know that all of our parents have talents to share with our school, and are confident that you will respond to this call for help. Please call (488-7938) if you have questions or need additional information.

Schools on the Move Challenge

The Schools on the Move Challenge is a program from Healthy Kids Club (PVHS) to help increase the amount of exercise students, teachers and school staff get each day and each week. The Challenge runs Feb 2- Feb 28. Participants will keep track of daily physical activity, not including regularly schedule recess or PE.

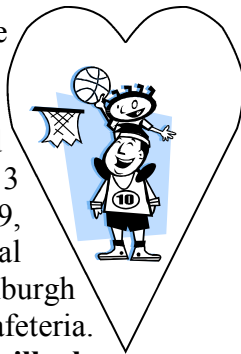


New this year: "Screen Time Challenge" Feb 8-14. Participants check the box on the days that you have 1.5 or less of total "screen time". All participants will receive a School on the Move T-shirt with Riffenburgh on the back of the shirt. A calendar will be sent home the last week of January. If you have questions, please contact Coach West at cwest@psdschools.org or Laurie Zenner at 495-7511.



Hoops for Heart

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at Riffenburgh Elementary in Fort Collins are shooting hoops to fight heart disease and stroke, our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. On Thursday, January 29, the school will hold its first annual Hoops for Heart event at Riffenburgh Elementary School gym and cafeteria. **Students, faculty and parents will play basketball to raise funds for the American Heart Association, which funds cardiovascular disease research and public and professional education programs.**



Hoops for Heart is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. The average heart beats 100,000 times each day. One of the best ways to take care of your heart is to make exercise a regular part of your everyday life.

Hoops for Heart teaches students how exercise benefits the heart and shows students that volunteering can be fun and beneficial to the whole community. They learn how they can make a difference by providing important community service and having a great time at this fun-filled family event. Money raised by the event will go to fund potentially life-saving research and educational and community programs.

**Thursday 1/29/09
Parents vs. Students**

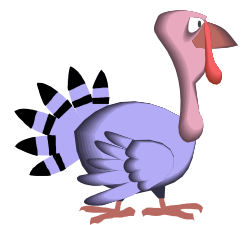
Visit Riffenburgh Elementary School and play basketball with your 4th, 5th and/or 6th grade child. Parents and staff will challenge students in some 4 on 4 basketball games. We will also have some dribbling and shooting contest.



4th grade 8:30-9:30
5th grade 9:30-10:30
6th grade 1:30-2:45

Thanksgiving Run!!!

The results are in! Riffenburgh Elementary School had the most student participation at the annual Fort Collins Thanksgiving Run. Ken Forzley and Tony Dragan presented a check to Coach West in the amount of \$300 for PE equipment. Thanks to Mr. Forzley and Mr. Dragan for putting on a great event.



Please plan to attend the next Thanksgiving Run in 2009. Students who participated in the run will help Coach West in deciding how the money will be spent. A special thank you from Coach West to Elise Forzley and Claire Hooker for promoting the event with fellow Riffenburgh students.

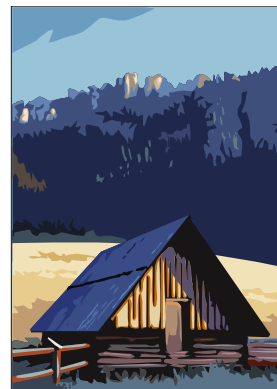
Pictures of Hollis Woods, By Patricia Giff

Reviewed by Hannah Damron

The book *Pictures of Hollis Woods* by Patricia Giff tells how a young girl named Hollis Woods is abandoned by her parents as an infant and how she struggles to find a home that she loves and that loves her back.

When she finally does find a family that she loves and that loves her back, the Regans, she runs away because of an accident that she causes on a mountain that they live on. She runs away because during that accident where she and her new brother, Steven, had crashed the old Chevy truck on the way back down the mountain (when they were not supposed to be on the mountain and their parents were out in town), Steven breaks several bones but Hollis does not get hurt except for a scar on her forehead. Her foster parents were devastated that their little boy was injured but they were not mad at Hollis at all, but she still runs away. She moves to a new house and lives with an elderly woman named Josie. Josie is very exciting and artistic, which attracts Hollis to her.

As the weeks and months progressed Hollis begins to realize that Josie has a sickness called Alzheimer's. Hollis begins to get worried because each day that goes by Josie just gets worse. Hollis is afraid that if Social Services find out that they will take her away from Josie. So Hollis takes Josie up to the Regan's summer home up in the mountains. Steven hears about Hollis and Josie missing and goes up there and finds them in the summer house. Hollis moves back in with the Regans and Josie goes off to live in a nursing home. And Hollis still gets to visit Josie.



ART, Becky Carpenter

This time of the school year always seems like such a busy time in the art room. We start to really get into the swing of things and become more adventurous as we start to do projects that use lots of different art mediums and also delve often into the art element of "Form," also known as three-dimensional art. Also this year, Music, PE and Art are combining efforts to present an integrated program this February. Our primary grades (K-3) will start working on their art masterpieces for that performance in the next couple of weeks.

This is also the time of year when the school district sponsors three of its major art shows. First there is the "Super Art" show which is hung in the district support services center on Laporte Ave. Each school in the district is asked to select one student's art work to be hung in the school board room or the lobby of the support service center for the next year. Congratulations to Katie Parry in 3rd grade who is Riffenburgh's representing artist this year. Her interpretation

of a medieval castle was selected and will be framed and on display at the District support services center for all to admire.

Another big art event coming up is the Youth Art Month show at the Lincoln Center. This usually goes up at the end of February and remains up through March. Five student art works from each school will be submitted for this show. The show is hung in the hallways and in the small gallery.

Finally, in April the district-sponsored "Designs and Images" art show is in the mall. Space is limited, but approximately 75 pieces of art work will be on display from our school, as well as all the other schools in PSD having an art display out for all to enjoy. It always is an amazing show.

Student art work is always on display in our building so please come by and check it out!



ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO DO MORE THAN BARE MINIMUM

It was a windy evening when Jack took the recycling to the curb. But instead of leaving it to blow around the neighborhood, he did something extra. He placed a rock on the papers so they would not become litter.



Jack had learned to do more than the bare minimum. It's a great lesson in responsibility--and it's something you can teach in your home.

For instance, you could ask your child to think about the following "extras" in the kitchen:

- If he made a snack after school, did he leave the kitchen ready for the next person?
- If he used the last of the peanut butter, did he tell someone to add it to the grocery list?
- If he poured water out of a pitcher, did he refill it? Or did he leave it empty for the next person?

Those lessons will also help your child be successful in school. Instead of leaving his backpack where someone could trip over it, he'll place it in his cubby. Instead of turning in a sloppy report, he'll take the time to copy it neatly.

When it's time for a big project, some kids will wait until the last minute and do the very minimum. Others will go beyond what was expected. They'll include an illustration in their essay. They'll add a great cover to their report on Italy.

Help your child learn to do more than the minimum. By going beyond what's expected, he'll be a great success in school and in life.

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BUILD STRONG THINKING SKILLS

Talking with your child every day is a great way to build thinking skills--especially if you ask certain kinds of questions. Experts recognize six categories of thinking skills and suggest you ask your child questions that involve:

1. **Knowledge.** Discuss facts your child knows. "Who is the president?" "What is the capital of Virginia?" Certain words will help with this, such as who, when, what, where and list.
2. **Understanding.** When your child learns about things, check the depth of his comprehension. "Can you explain one cause of the Civil War?" Use words such as explain, estimate and predict.
3. **Application.** In real-life situations, how will your child use what he knows? "Apply what our country learned from the Civil War to life today." Include words like apply and experiment in your questions.
4. **Analysis.** Often things can be divided into

groups, such as types of animals. Have your child compare and contrast things. "How are fish and humans different?" Talk about differences, similarities and comparisons.

5. **Combining.** Put information together to make observations. "Some flowers need lots of sun, and others don't. So what does that tell us about plants?" Exciting words such as invent and what if will help with this.
6. **Evaluating.** Ask what your child thinks about things. "How would life change if no one had invented cars?" Some useful words are how, conclude and summarize.

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CALENDAR



FEBRUARY

- Feb 2 Lesher counselors visiting 5th grade, 9:30-10:30 am
- Feb 4 Lesher counselors visiting 6th grade, 9:30-10:30 am
- Feb 2-6 Missoula Children's Theatre rehearsals after school
- Feb 7 MCT performances
- Feb 9 SIT Meeting in the Media Center, 7:30 am
- Feb 9 PTO Meeting in the Media Center, 6:30 pm
- Feb 9-10 Poet-in-Residence Greg Denman
- Feb 11 Character Education Assembly, 8:30 am
- Feb 12 Music Program "Feelin' Good" grades K, 1, 2 & 3, 10 am AND 6:30 pm
- Feb 12 Kindergarten Registration
- Feb 13 School of Choice deadline for students NEW to Riffenburgh in 2009-2010
- Feb 13 Valentine's Day Parties
- Feb 16 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Collaboration Day
- Feb 17 Elementary Honor Choir at the Lincoln Center, 7:00 pm
- Feb 18-19 3rd grade Reading CSAP, 8:45-10:00 am
- Feb 23 Guest Dr. Harding presents for Black History Month, 8:45-9:30 am
- Feb 24 Perry Conway Aerie Nature Series presents "An Adventure with Reptiles & Amphibians"
- Feb 26 Riffenburgh Rollerland Skate Party, 6:30-8:30 pm

FEBRUARY

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



MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE



Missoula Children's Theatre will be in residence the week of February 2nd through February 7th, 2009. Auditions for this year's production of "The Princess and the Pea" will be held immediately after school on Monday, February 2nd. *All students who wish to audition must have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian.*

Please make plans to attend this spectacular performance on Saturday, February 7th at either 2:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

Break a leg, everyone and Good Show!