



# Riffenburgh Elementary School

## Riffenburgh Elementary School Newsletter

### Important Dates

Monday, September 5 – NO SCHOOL, Labor Day holiday

Thursday, September 8 – Individual School Pictures

Monday, September 12 through Wednesday, September 14 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Pingree Park for ECO Week

Monday, September 19 – NO SCHOOL, K-8 Teacher Collaboration Day

Tuesday, September 20 – Vision and Hearing screens for all student except 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Thursday, September 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade Flower Show

Monday, September 26 – PTO Meeting, 6:30 in the Media Center

Friday, October 7 – Walk –A-Thon

Thursday, October 20 – NO SCHOOL, K-5 Parent/Teacher conferences

Friday, October 21 – NO SCHOOL, K-12 Parent/Teacher conferences

Monday, October 24 – PTO Meeting, 6:30 in the Media Center

Tuesday, October 25 – PBIS Family Night, 6-8

Thursday, October 27 through Saturday, October 29, Book Fair, times TBA

Monday, October 3 - Halloween Party

### Welcome Back, Riffenburgh Students!

*The 2011-12 school year is off to a terrific start as we complete the first week at Riffenburgh Elementary. The staff has been very impressed by the positive attitudes and energy that students have demonstrated this week. We have seen outstanding cooperation and students who are eager to learn. The August edition of the Roadrunner News consists primarily of information and articles from Poudre School District. The September Roadrunner News will be sent home on Friday, September 16, and will include news from classroom teachers and our special programs like Art, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish, as well as updates from the Riffenburgh PTO. We do want to emphasize a few areas where parent awareness will contribute to the successful start we have enjoyed:*

*During the warm late summer days we have been experiencing, feel free to send water bottles to school with your child(ren). We encourage students to keep hydrated, and teachers allow them to have water bottles at their desks.*

*Please use our attendance line (488-7936) to report student absences. When we are aware of an absence, we do not to check with you to make sure that your child is safe.*

*If your student arrives at school after 8:50 am, you must stop at the office to sign him in.*

*Students should arrive at school between 8:35 and 8:45, when we have supervision on our playground before school, unless they are having breakfast in our cafeteria (begins at 8:20) or are enrolled in Base Camp.*

*The right-hand parking lane next to the building is only for driver-attended vehicles. The curb is painted red for use by fire or police department vehicles, which need access in emergencies. If you leave your vehicle to meet students or come into the building, you need to park in Riffenburgh's parking lot or on the street.*

*Thanks for your continuing support of Riffenburgh and our efforts to help students to progress academically and socially!*

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## Bus Schedule Available

Students will determine their morning and afternoon bus based on the route number.

In most cases, the route number for your child's morning bus will be different than the route number for your child's afternoon bus.

The route number will be posted in the window closest to the entrance door of each bus.

### Cards/labels help students determine correct bus:

To help students learn their route numbers, students will be given a card/label when they get off of their morning bus at the beginning of the school year.

The card/label will have their morning bus route number and the afternoon bus route

number and should aid students in finding the correct bus in the afternoon.



The card can be carried by the student until they remember their route numbers.

School staff members, bus drivers, and additional transportation staff will help guide students to the correct busses the first couple days of school, until students are familiar with the process. If you have questions about bus routes, please contact the PSD transportation department at 970-490-3155 or visit the transportation web page at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org).

## Tuition-based Preschool Program Registration

Registrations are now being accepted for the Poudre School District tuition-based preschool program. Preschool programs will be offered at four locations for the 2011-2012 school year. Preschool programs will be at Kruse Elementary, Bacon Elementary, Shepardson Elementary and Rice Elementary. Half-day sessions will be available in the morning and afternoon at participating schools.

Preschool programs offer:

- Teachers licensed by Colorado Dept. of Education.
- High quality, standards-based preschool environment.
- 16 students per session. Adult to child ratio 1-8.

Tuition costs are \$3150/year or \$350 for 9 months if enrolled in a 3 1/2 hour class and \$2900/year or \$322 for 9 months if enrolled in a 2 hour 45 minute class.

All enrolled families will need to submit a \$50 enrollment fee, upon acceptance to the program.

To apply go to [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org); click on "School Registration;" then click on the left-hand link, "Preschool Registration." Additional program documents may be required.

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

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## Food Services

Food service provides many nutritional meal choices, online credit card fee starts Sept. 1st. Nutritious lunches and many meal choices are provided daily at all schools. Some schools provide breakfast. Prices vary at secondary schools for a la carte items. Lunch menus are posted on the PSD website at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) and in school newsletters.

Lunch meals cost:

- Elementary – \$2.05; Reduced – \$0.40
- Secondary – \$2.30; Reduced – \$0.40

Breakfast meals at participating schools cost:

- Elementary and secondary – \$1.25
- Reduced – No Charge

On September 1, PSD Child Nutrition Services will implement an online payment fee of \$1 per online transaction to cover the cost of credit card fees associated with the online payment of school meals. This fee will only apply to families using the online payment service. Parents will still have free online access to their child's account and be able to get free activity reports.



## Lunch Program Available to Qualifying Families

Applications for the federal free and reduced-price school lunch program were mailed home to all heads of households in late July/early August. Students participating in the program during the previous school year may be automatically enrolled in the program for the first 30 days of school. Parents must submit a new family application each school year and are required to complete only one application per household. The application may be returned to a school or to the Food Service Office. Identity of students participating is kept strictly confidential.

Eligible families should complete and return the form even if they do not plan to participate in the lunch program. Students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price school lunch program are also exempt from other fees and charges. A letter of eligibility for free and reduced-price meals will be sent to the parents/guardians of qualifying students. An information release form will be included with the eligibility letter. Complete the information release form and return it to your school office. Information: (970) 490-3557.



## Student Rights and Code of Conduct Distributed Electronically

PSD will be distributing the *Student Rights and Code of Conduct* electronically again this school year.

Families will have access to the *Student Rights and Code of Conduct* via the PSD website, through the *Connect* parent e-newsletter, and a limited number will be available in print at each school and at the district office, for families who are not able to access it electronically.

PSD implemented this change to save paper, printing costs, and staff time. Watch for more details on the *Student Rights and Code of Conduct* during August registration.



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## Update Schools with Student Health Information

Please inform your school's health care staff if your child has special health concerns, medications, or dietary needs, so a school health care plan can be developed for your child. A complete physical exam by a family physician is required for students entering the pre-school program and recommended for students entering kindergarten and 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Keep Immunization Records Up-to-Date



Students registering for the first time in PSD must present proof of immunizations or a signed State of Colorado Exemption Certificate is required for personal, religious, or medical ex-

emptions to school immunization requirements. Families with returning students must keep their child's immunizations current. Information on required and recommended immunizations is available on the PSD website at <http://www.psdschools.org/school-resources/student-services/health-services>. Below is information on required doses.

### You must provide one of the following to your child's school in order to comply with the law:

A completed Certificate of Immunization certifying that the student has received minimum immunizations as indicated above.

If a student's Certificate of Immunization is not up to date, the parent/guardian or emancipated student has 14 days after direct notification to provide documentation that the next required immunization was administered and submit a written plan for completion of any additional required immunizations. If the plan is not completed, the student shall be expelled or suspended from school for non-compliance. Exception to this rule is a shortage of vaccine.

Statement of Exemption to Immunization Law printed on the reverse side of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Certificate of Immunization:

- **medical** exemption signed by licensed physician stating that the student's physical condition is such that immunizations would endanger life or health or is otherwise medically contraindicated; or
- **religious** exemption signed by the parent, guardian, or emancipated student that the student adheres to a religious belief opposed to immunizations; or
- **personal** exemption signed by the parent, guardian, or emancipated student that the student adheres to a personal belief opposed to immunizations.

**Immunization requirements will be strictly enforced for all students.** Students who do not meet the requirements will be denied attendance according to Colorado Revised Statutes 25-4-902. To learn where to obtain immunizations free or at low cost call the Family Health Line at 303-692-2229 or 1-800-688-7777. You may also contact your healthcare provider, the Larimer County Health Department at (970) 498-6700, or visit [www.co.larimer.co.us/health/chs](http://www.co.larimer.co.us/health/chs) for more information. A walk-in children's immunization clinic is offered at the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, 1525 Blue Spruce Drive. Call for specific times.



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## Vaccines

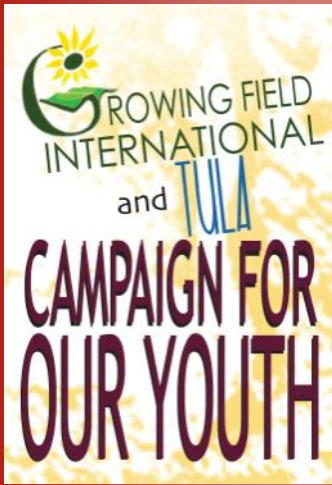
Vaccine	# of Doses	Grades K-12 (5-18 Years of Age) <i>Vaccines administered ≤ 4 days before the minimum age are valid</i>
<b>Pertussis</b>	5 to 6	5 <b>DTaP</b> or if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4th birthday, the requirement is met. The final dose must be administered no sooner than 4 years of age. (DTaP is only licensed for children under 7 years of age). 1 <b>Tdap</b> is required for students entering 6th through 12th grades.
<b>Tetanus/Diphtheria</b>	3 to 5	5 <b>DT</b> or if dose 4 was administered on or after the 4th birthday, the requirement is met. A student 7 through 9 years of age who has had only a 2 doses of DTaP or DT (before the age of 7 years) can meet the tetanus/diphtheria requirement by receiving a dose of Td if it is given 6 months after the 2nd dose. ( <b>Tdap</b> should be given to students at 10 or 11 years of age to complete the tetanus/diphtheria requirement if possible).
<b>Polio</b>	4	4 <b>IPV</b> or if dose 3 was administered on or after the 4th birthday, only 3 doses are required. The final dose must be given no sooner than the 4th birthday. <i>A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable</i>
<b>Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)</b>	2	For school certification, the 1st dose cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. The minimum interval between dose 1 and dose 2 is at least 28 days. <i>A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.</i>
<b>Varicella (Chickenpox)</b>  <i>Documentation of disease from a health care provider (physician, RN or PA) is required.</i>	1 or 2	For school certification, the vaccine cannot be administered more than 4 days before the 1st birthday. 2 doses are required for children entering K, through 4th grade. 1 dose is required for 5th through 11th grade. <i>A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.</i>
<b>Hepatitis B</b>  <i>Students who have not received 3 doses of Hep B vaccine prior to 7/1/09, must follow the minimum intervals recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)</i>	3	<b>ACIP minimum intervals:</b> The second dose must be administered at least 4 weeks after the first dose. The third dose must be administered at least 16 weeks after the first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The final dose is to be administered no sooner than 24 weeks or 6 months of age. The 2-dose series is acceptable for ages 11-15. 2 doses can only be accepted using the approved vaccine for the 2-dose series with proper documentation (name of the vaccine, dosage, dates, and interval). <i>A laboratory test showing immunity is acceptable.</i>

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### Update Phone Numbers and Parent Contact Information

Parents are encouraged to keep phone numbers, addresses, and emergency contact information updated throughout the school year. Watch for a student information form to come home with your child the first week of school. **Provide your email for emergency notifications and communication via email,** sign up at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) > Email Alert Sign-up (found on the slideshow at the top of the page).

## Register Online to Volunteer

PSD's online volunteer registration is available on the PSD website at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) > Community > Partnerships & Volunteers. The system is easy to use for parents who want to volunteer at their child's school and for community members

who want to be involved in education. Help shape the future – volunteer! If you have previously registered and forgot your log on information, please call the volunteer office for assistance. Information: (970) 490-3208

## Follow PSD on Facebook and Twitter!



Sign up to follow PSD on Facebook and Twitter. Links

are now located at the top of the new PSD home page at

## Before- and After-School Care Available

We offer before- and after-school care and/or enrichment programs. You can contact BASE Camp directly for more information, 266-1734.

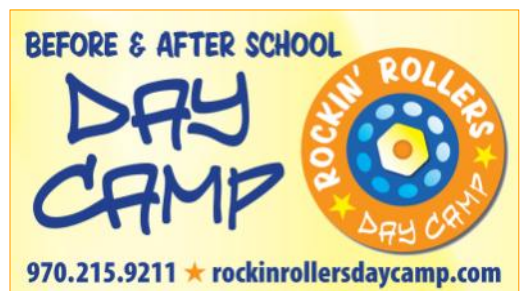
## New Students Register at Each School

If your student is new to PSD or if you have moved from one school attendance area to another, please contact your neighborhood school and register as soon as possible. Scheduled elementary student walk-in registration dates are August 8th and 9th, please check the school website for times. Secondary walk-in registration dates and times can be found on the school website, or you can contact the school directly.

If you are unsure which schools serve your neighborhood, please call (970) 490-3232 or go to [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) and look under School Resources > School Locator > Find My Neighborhood School > Insert your address and it will list the schools that serve your neighborhood.

When registering your child, please bring your child's birth certificate, original or certified copy (required for new kindergarten students only); emergency contact information; immunization records or a signed State of Colorado Exemption Certificate is required for personal, religious, or medical exemptions to school immunization requirements; and a copy of your student's academic history or current report card. We encourage you to make an appointment with a school counselor when registering your child at a secondary school.

If your child is transferring from another school within PSD or from another school district, PSD school personnel will request your child's school records from the previous school after your student is enrolled.



## Student Snapshot on PSD Website

The interactive "Student Snapshot" is available from the Parent Landing page on the PSD website. The Student Snapshot allows parents and guardians to view individualized information for their student(s) including schedule, grades, upcoming assignments, account balances, and school information. The Student Snapshot's interactive features are part of PSD's continuing work to improve communication with parents and guardians.

### Current Student Snapshot users may continue to use their existing account.

Parents and guardians who do not have an account may create one by clicking

the "Create An Account" link, found on the Student Snapshot login page. To access information, parents need a unique activation code for each of their students. Activation codes generated in the Student Snapshot will be e-mailed to the head(s) of household on record in SILK, the PSD student information system. The student's school may also generate activation codes. For questions or troubleshooting, call 490-3020 or e-mail [portalhelp@psdschools.org](mailto:portalhelp@psdschools.org).



## Encourage Your Child to Take Action and Promote Kindness

Children aren't always kind to each other. They pick on other kids. They say mean things behind other people's backs. But your child doesn't have to accept that unkindness as the norm. Instead, you can teach your child a simple rule: Do something about it. If your child witnesses a classmate being treated unkindly or left out, help him think through actions he could take.

Your child might:

- Start a conversation with a classmate about a book he has read or a school assignment.
- Ask a left-out classmate to sit with him at lunch.
- Compliment a classmate on something. "Your handwriting is neat," or "I like that shirt."

- Just simply smile at a classmate.

The next day, have your child report on what he did--and how it made him feel.

As your child takes these actions, he learns many important lessons. He will learn how it feels to do something positive to help another person. Even more important, he will learn that when he sees something wrong, he doesn't have to accept it. Instead, he has the power to make a difference. He can do something about it.

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## Dear Riffenburgh Parents

We have a clothes closet here at Riffenburgh that is for everyone. We have gently used clothes ranging from toddler sizes to youth large. Our first event is Tuesday September 20th from 3:30-4:00pm. We set up tables and set out all the clothes that have been donated and have people take whatever they like. Please donate any gently used clothing that your children have outgrown and we will put them to good use. Feel free to drop off the clothes at the school and I will put them away. Please feel free to call me if you would like to access the closet prior to the 20th.

Thanks  
Colleen Ellmer 407-1482

## Developing Strategies for a Good Start

The start of a new school year is the perfect time to develop strategies to help your child have a successful year. Here are four strategies to try:



1. Schedule a regular time and place for doing homework. On days when your child doesn't have homework, she can read a book or prepare for an upcoming test.

2. Set limits on screen time. There's a link between how well kids do in school--especially in reading--and how much time they spend in front of a screen. So set limits on the amount of TV your child can watch and the time she can spend playing video games. If there is a TV or a computer in your child's room, move it to where you can have more control over what she watches.

3. Reestablish your routines for bedtime and mealtime. Over the summer months, these may have relaxed a bit. Remind your child that she will do better in school if she is not over-tired. Set a bedtime that allows time for reading before it's time for lights-out.

4. Choose quality, not quantity, for after-school activities. Too much scheduled time is stressful for kids and families. Help your child choose one or two things she really enjoys. This will leave her time for school work, family activities and unscheduled play--all of which are things children need.

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