

Ralph Moody Mountain Rams

Doug Andrews, Principal



April 30, 2009

Telephone: (303) 347-4600 Attendance: (303) 734-5640



Dear Parents,

As you know, this year's school calendar included ten days designated as Professional Learning Community (PLC) time. The ten days spent this year have been very beneficial for teachers to work in a focused effort to improve learning at Ralph Moody and across the Littleton District. Our staff has been very busy this year implementing three different programs. Ralph Moody implemented a new reading series this year, a new writing program, and we implemented the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program. The Professional Learning time has been invaluable during these implementation efforts.

The work of a Professional Learning Community is primarily focused around four key questions: 1) What do students need to know and be able to do? 2) How do we know if they know it? 3) What do we do for those students who don't know it? 4) What do we do for those students who already know it?

Our work during the PLC days this year has been primarily dedicated to becoming very clear about these four questions and we align them to our implementation programming. Since our School Improvement Plan is centered in the reading area, we have dedicated much of our time during PLC's to reading instruction. Teams have had many in-depth conversations about becoming 'crystal clear' on the reading curriculum – the 'what kids should know and be able to do' at each grade level. Our effort here is to become very consistent about our

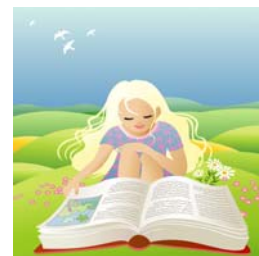
expectations for reading in each grade level. Additionally, PLC teams have used several assessments to measure and monitor individual student progress toward those learning goals. We do give some 'big assessments' periodically throughout the year – CSAP and MAP assessments. However, as a school, we want to *monitor* each student's progress along the way.

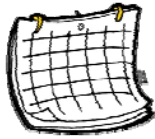
As teachers monitor student progress toward learning goals with these common assessment tools, they can then determine if students are attaining the learning, and if so, what are next steps? But, just as important, they can also determine if students are experiencing difficulty with certain key concepts or skills. The question then becomes – what do we do for those students who don't know it? What instructional strategies do we put into place for students to learn the concepts or skills?

This has been the work of our PLC days this year. By having this time set aside, we have made many great strides to improve our school and the learning opportunities for our children.

Sincerely,

Doug Andrews





Important Dates

May

- Thru 8 MAP Testing Window
- 6 Lakeside Night
- 12 PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 13 K-2 Field Day
Lakeside Rain Date (if necessary)
- 15 VIPs Breakfast 8:00-9:00 a.m.
3-5 Field Day
- 21 5th Grade Continuation 7:00 p.m.
- 22 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS-2:03
DISMISSAL
- 26 Last Official Day for Teachers



Counselor's Corner

Spring is in the air! The end of the school year is near but academic and behavior expectations remain high. There are many projects and assignments that need to be finished and students are expected to give their best effort every day. We want our students to end the year with positive behavior and a sense of accomplishment.

Bully-Proofing Point

The time I spent in the Kindergarten-5th grade classrooms teaching bully proofing skills has been so valuable. All students learned the strategies to stand up against a bully. Students know the bully shield of HAHASO and when situations call for immediate help.

We discussed the power of the caring majority of students. We want students to *say something* and find strength in doing the right thing.

Finally, caring students are being recognized in the classrooms. Classmates build up and support each other in an effort to encourage positive behavior in our school community.

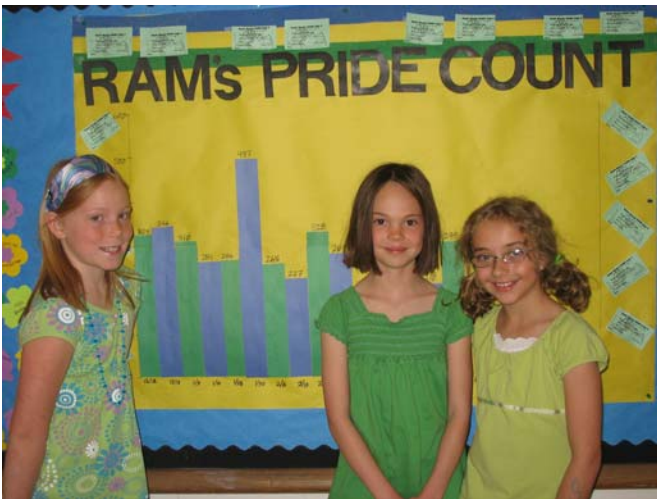


PBS

Wow! Our PBS team has accomplished great things this school year. We are very pleased with the progress we have made in implementing the Positive Behavior Support approach. Here are some of the things we've done.

- Staff agreed on the core values of Ralph Moody-RAMS Pride would be used and promoted throughout the school
- Created a chart with 5 locations to use RAMS expectations-hallway, playground, classroom, restroom, cafeteria
- Staff coached and practiced expected behavior with students in all locations
- Students and families completed the Home section of the chart
- Created the RAMS High 5 ticket to be used to recognize positive behavior
- Candy rewards given each week to student winners from the RAMS High 5 drawing
- Average of 300 RAMS tickets earned each week by students
- Staff agreed to use a discipline referral form to document behavior violations
- Data from referral forms is collected in a program called SWIS
- Staff uses data to make decisions regarding academic and behavior concerns

The PBS leadership team has given their time and creative ideas to promote the program at Ralph Moody. Our sincere thanks is given to: Mrs. Law, Mrs. Majewski, Mrs. Shoen, Mrs. Reicheneder, Mrs. Lopez, Mrs. Alpern, Mr. Andrews and to our parent members, Dave Shoob and Karin Parker.



4th graders Elizabeth, Emily, and Peg next to the RAMS Pride ticket graph they made.



5th Grade Continuation Ceremony

This year's ceremony will be held in the gym at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 21st. A reception will follow in the cafeteria. Congratulations future 6th graders!

All fifth graders must have all cafeteria, classroom and library fees taken care of and/or books returned in order to participate in the May 21st ceremonies.



Music News

We've had some wonderful guest demonstrators come to our third grade music classes and play their instruments. A big THANK YOU: Moe and Hunter Molina with their three digiradoos, Jace Parker and his clarinet, and Hugh Golden with his alto and tenor saxophones. They were all wonderful.



PTO Corner

The school year is wrapping up much too quickly. There are only a few more weeks in the school year and just one more PTO meeting. Our final meeting on May 12th will cover our budget as well as PTO Board elections. We are looking for at least two volunteers, a VIPS co-coordinator and a Vice President. If you have any interest in helping out, please let me know.

We have a new opportunity with King Sooper gift cards. We can now order re-loadable cards. The first card must be purchased from the school (Kerstin Schoob is our contact). You can then reload the cards at any King Sooper (service desk, not check out), and even use your credit card instead of writing a check or paying with cash. Just be sure to mention that you are from Ralph Moody. There are two new King Sooper gas stations that accept these gift cards. One is located at Broadway and Littleton while the other is Holly and County Line. Depending on your monthly purchases, there is also a discount on gas when using your King Sooper card. Don't forget, Ralph Moody gets 5% of the purchase price and you get the full amount of the gift card.

If your student is interested in Ralph Moody wear, we have a new supply of hoodies, including blue and now also in pink. As this is not a fund raiser, prices are very reasonable. Order forms have been sent home or feel free to contact me directly.

Dates for upcoming events:

- Talent Show – Thursday, April 30th
- Lakeside Night – Wednesday, May 6th
- PTO Meeting – Tuesday, May 12th
- Field Day – May 13th – grades K to 2
- Field Day – May 15th – grades 3 to 5

Check the bulletin board in the front hallway for specific dates and times. Karin Parker does a wonderful job of keeping this up to date and looking great.

Kristen Smith, PTO President
(303) 798-0874
smithwilliamf@msn.com

Information from Powell Middle School

Parents: If your student will be attending Powell Middle School next year, please see our website at www.powell.littletonpublicschools.net for “Incoming Sixth Grade” news and the latest editions of our Newsletter. You will find important dates and pertinent information relating to your incoming student on our webpage. Please continue to check the website during the summer months for updated information. Powell is proud to be “Green”, thank you for supporting our “paperless” Newsletter.

Littleton Public Schools to again offer federally funded, free summer lunch program

The Food Services department of Littleton Public Schools will again offer the free, summer lunch program. The program is fully funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and provides free meals to all children, ages one to 18. Individuals over the age of 18 may purchase a meal for \$3.25.

The program begins June 1, 2009 and concludes July 31, 2009. Meals are served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Field Elementary School, 5402 S. Sherman Way, Littleton, CO 80121.

During the school year, more than 18 million children across the country receive free and reduced-price meals at school. Just as learning does not end when the school year is over, neither does the need for good nutrition. This summer food service program helps children get the nutrition they need during the summer months.

Questions? Please contact LPS Food Services at 303.347.3357.

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, immediately write to or call the USDA, director, office of civil rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C., 20250-9410, (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.