

Ralph Moody Mountain Rams

Doug Andrews, Principal



October 30, 2008

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



Dear Parents:

As all of you are aware, Littleton Public Schools has identified ten days throughout the school year as Professional Learning Community (PLC) days. The primary purpose of these days is for teachers to have the opportunity to meet and work with each other to improve learning for students. We want to provide the best learning opportunities for each of our children.

Any improvement effort has three primary components: First, we must know exactly **where we are**. Second, goals must be established - **where do we want to be (goals)**, and third, we must identify **how we're going to get there (strategies)**. Once these three 'pieces' are identified, a system to monitor each child's progress along the way must be in place.

This is the work of teachers during the PLC days. We are working on these improvement efforts collectively as a school, at each grade level, and for each individual student at Ralph Moody.

In order to **know where we are**, we assessed students early in the school year primarily in reading, math, and writing. Teachers used this assessment data to determine exactly where each child was regarding skill level and understanding in each of these content areas. Every child has specific areas of strength and areas for improvement within

these content areas. Teachers spent many hours digging into the assessment data to gain a deep understanding of each child's strengths and 'concern' areas.

Next, teachers set individual student and class 'goals' for improvement – **where do we want to be** at the end of the school year. We ask teachers to write goals that are specific and measurable. Using end of year assessments like CSAP, MAP assessments, classroom assessments, and Individual Reading Assessments, we establish specific, measurable goals for learning and improvement.

Once goals are established, we must decide collectively, as well as individually, what must be done to reach those goals – the **strategies; how are we going to get there**. We must determine what instructional practices and learning opportunities need to happen in the classroom to provide the best opportunities for each child. All along the way, we must also monitor (assess) each child's learning to make certain that students are making the progress they need in order to reach their end of year goals.

This is the work that teachers are involved in on each of the PLC days. These days are invaluable to do this work – to provide the best teaching and learning opportunities for each child at Ralph Moody. Thank you for your continued support of these important days.

Sincerely,

Doug Andrews



Important Dates

- November 7 **Early Dismissal – 1:03 p.m.**
 7 End of 1st Trimester
 7 Fall Dance 6:30 p.m.
 11 PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 12 *PLC Day – Late Start 11:06 a.m.*
 13 RIF Book Distribution
 19-21 Book Fair
 20 Science Fair
 21 Grandparents' Day 8:00-8:45 a.m.
 26-28 Thanksgiving Vacation



Book Character Parade and Parties

This year's events will be held tomorrow. Here is the format for the All School Book Character Parade and party. The parade starts at 9:15 leaving the classrooms and ends up in the gym. Parties will take place in the Gym and the Cafeteria. The grades and party times are as follows:

- K-1 9:50 – 10:30
 4/5 10:35 – 11:20
 2/3 11:25 – 12:10
 PreK 11:25 – 11:50 (Games in the gym. Treats will be saved for dessert after lunch in the cafeteria.)

Students are encouraged to dress up as a book character and enjoy the day. Students should come to school in costume, but bring a change of clothes for after the morning events. Parents, please feel free to join us for the party!



Music News

October music classes have been great! Our fifth graders and third graders have just finished presenting their fabulous musical program "For Which It Stands". The fifth graders took a field trip to Boettcher Concert hall to hear a performance presented by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra. They've also been dancing to the "Macarena". The Recorder Society has started rehearsing on Monday mornings before school. They will perform in our December holiday program.

Fourth graders have been playing soprano recorders and have been learning the notes on the music staff. They've also been singing some songs about Colorado and have been dancing to the "Macarena".

Third graders are starting to learn staff notes and will soon begin playing recorders. They've also been dancing the "Macarena".

Second graders are learning different rhythms and singing songs. They are having a great time playing xylophones. They are just starting to learn the songs for their upcoming musical program "Our House Is A Holiday House". This will be presented to the school on Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, 2:45 p.m. and for parents on Thursday, Dec. 4th, 7:00 p.m. The Recorder Society will also perform at the beginning of these December programs.

First graders and kindergartners are singing lots of songs, playing the bass bars, and moving to a steady beat.

Happy October Music!

Congratulations

Littleton Public Schools has been designated one of the Best Communities for Music Education in 2008!



Counselor Corner

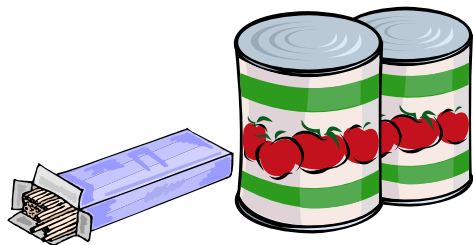
I want to thank all of the student council members who helped promote Red Ribbon Week. Students had great discussions on making healthy choices regarding food and exercise. We also talked about quality friendships and how we treat each other with respect.

The office is starting to receive information on holiday food and gift assistance. If your family is in need this season, please let me know.

Bully Proofing Point

Students are taught what bullying is compared to the normal conflict that happens between friends. Bully behavior is: repeated, on purpose, intends to harm, seeks power, and blames the victim.

In class we role play normal conflict examples and bully situations that are likely to happen at school. Recognizing the difference between the two helps our school put a stop to bully behavior.



Food Drive

The student council will sponsor a food drive for Interfaith Task Force in November. Please watch for more information to come home for how you can help others in our community.



PBS

Our PBS goals for November include coaching students on playground expectations. Our playground supervisors will assist in teaching the playground expectations and there will be plenty of opportunities to practice!

RAMS on the playground

Respect yourself, others, and property

- Include and encourage others
- Use polite language

Accept responsibility

- Take care of equipment
- Follow the rules of the game
- Line up quickly and safely

Make safe choices

- Give people space
- Play with the right stuff in the right way

Show excellence

- Be fun to be around
- Play fair
- Clean up after yourself



Donations Needed

The main office keeps a supply of clothes for students who have an accident during the day. Our supply is running very low right now. We are looking for donations of girls and boys sweatpants (new or gently used) and girls and boys new underwear. If you can donate, please bring your items to the main office.

LPS Open Enrollment

Littleton Public Schools offers many educational choices to resident and nonresident parents and students. State law allows non-resident parents to enroll their children in LPS or any other Colorado school without paying tuition when state and district guidelines are followed. To open enroll your students, first you need to contact the school(s) in which you would like to enroll. Then, you need to apply by completing an application form and returning it to the school(s) in which you want to enroll your child.

PTO Corner

I am writing this the day before the Fun Run but know that everyone will have a wonderful time. The weather is supposed to be nice and the kids are excited about the activity. As always, there are many thanks to be doled out and not nearly enough space. Dee Maier has really taken this event and run with it given that we did not have an event coordinator. A big thank you also goes to Bryan Hodges as he is providing tee shirts for all of the children and staff. Finally, to all the families that pledged money in these tough economic times, thank you.

In order to keep everyone more informed of PTO activities, we are in the process of creating a separate PTO newsletter as well as our own home page off of the Ralph Moody website. If you have ideas or thoughts you would like to see in either, please contact me. Our goal is to have this up and running by year end.

October and November are busy months for the PTO. The following events are almost upon us:
Halloween Party – Friday, October 31st
PTO Meeting – Tuesday, November 11th
School Dance – Friday, November 7th
Grandparent Day – Friday, November 21st

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.

Don't forget, Kerstin Shoob will be selling King Sooper gift cards Fridays after school. Look for her in front of the school with her King Sooper bag. If you already shop King Sooper, use these gift cards and we receive 5% from the store. This is an easy way to help our school!

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



FIFTH GRADE PARENTS, "WHY CHOOSE GODDARD?"

Littleton Public Schools is a district of choice and by now, many fifth grade parents are thinking about which middle school will be the best fit for their students. We know that this choice is stressful for parents and we want to do all that we can to help parents find the best fit. Often, parents ask us what distinguishes Goddard from other middle schools in the area. Here are some things to know:

- Goddard does an outstanding job meeting the academic needs of a diverse group of student learners
- Goddard is responsive to the developmental needs of students and works to take care of the "whole child"
- GMS is a leader in instructional technology at the middle level
- GMS encourages student participation in and appreciation of the arts
- Parents and community members are actively engaged at Goddard

We invite you to learn more about our wonderful school. Please join us for a fifth grade parent tour and visit at whichever time works for you.

5th Grade Parent Visits with Dr. Oaks

The Goddard administrative team and counselors share an overview of our academic and exploratory programs and a tour of the school. Information about intramurals, clubs and special programs including Outdoor Education, WEB, AVID, Gifted and Talented, English as a Second Language and Special Education are presented.

Tuesday, November 18, 2008	9:00-10:30am
Tuesday, December 9, 2008	1:00-2:30pm
Tuesday, January 6, 2009	1:00-2:30pm
Tuesday, February 10, 2009	9:00-10:30am

Please R.S.V.P. to Maureen Anderson at 303-347-7850, so that we may prepare materials for you.

Music Demonstrations

Goddard Music programs will be visiting East, Wilder, Centennial, and Field on April 1st. The visits consist of a short concert for 5th grade students in addition to an explanation of music instruments and music programs.

5th Grade Parent Night

Parents are invited to attend on April 2nd at 7:00pm with special programs beginning at 6:15pm. This evening provides an opportunity to learn about the programs available at Goddard, to meet 6th grade instructional teams, elective staff, special education and English as a Second Language (ESL) staff, as well as the G/T department. Pre-sessions for Gifted and Talented, Special Education and English as a Second Language will begin at 6:15pm.

Counselor Visits

Goddard counselors will visit the elementary schools to distribute and discuss Goddard registration materials with 5th graders. Parents may call the Goddard counselors throughout the registration process for clarification and assistance.

Monday, April 6 th	Moody
Tuesday, April 7 th	Centennial and East
Monday, April 13 th	Wilder
Tuesday, April 14 th	Whitman and Field

Parents of Incoming 6th Grade Students Euclid Middle School Year 2009-2010 COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Join Gary Hein,
Euclid Middle School Principal,
for coffee and information about
Euclid Middle School.

Where Learning Takes Flight



November 18, 2008
December 9, 2008
January 22, 2009
February 6, 2009

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Final Conversation
April 2, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Conversations are identical in content and include:

- Overview of the school academic program
- Presentation of elective and exploratory program
- Review of programs for Gifted and Talented
- Information on a safe learning environment
- Explanation of exemplary math acceleration program
- Overview of the Student Activities Program (Intramurals/Clubs)
- Question/Answer session
- Tour of the building



A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

This session is especially helpful for parents who are still undecided
about where to educate their middle school child.

Although a R.S.V.P. is helpful in order for us to provide refreshments,
you are most welcome as a drop in visitor. You may R.S.V.P. to 303-347-7811.

The Salvation Army 2008 Holiday Assistance

Arapahoe & Douglas Counties Only! (Not including Aurora)

For assistance in Aurora, call 303.364.1965

You must bring in the required documentation:

- Photo identification for yourself
- Identification for every member of your household; original documents only.
(Example: Original social security card, birth certificate, I.D. card)
- Proof of address (utility bill or lease)

Applications will be taken at the dates and times listed below.

Centennial Office

**3900 E. Arapahoe Rd.
303.290.9043**

Monday & Wednesday

**Nov. 3 & 5 (Spanish interpreters available)
5:30-7:00 p.m.**

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

**Nov. 4, 6, & 7
10:00 a.m. - noon**

If you miss these dates, we will offer a referral ticket to your family to The Denver Convention Center on Christmas day for a free meal and a toy for each child.

If you have already applied for Holiday Assistance through Interfaith Community Services or another agency, you are not eligible to receive assistance through The Salvation Army.