

Ralph Moody Mountain Rams

Doug Andrews, Principal



September 25, 2008

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



Dear Parents:

What a great start to our school year. I don't remember any smoother beginning to a year than we've had this year. We continue to work very hard to address the learning needs of all of our children and to create a positive, nurturing environment.

Last fall, the LPS Board of Education commissioned the formation of a Facility Use Task Force to find a method to best address the issue of underutilized facilities within the district. The Task Force began meeting last February. Since that time, Task Force members have been studying and analyzing data ranging from enrollment, school capacity, staffing levels, student achievement, and finances across all district facilities.

The Task Force's charge is to find a method to best address the issue of underutilized facilities and includes the recommendation of minimum and maximum school enrollment sizes. In an effort to complete its charge, the Task Force looked at many different kinds of data, identified its values, and then developed criteria that honor those values.

As we communicated to you earlier, the Task Force held two public forums (September 9th and 22nd); to inform the public of the Task Force's work to date and to review 16 ideas/scenarios that address the issue of underutilized facilities and to gather feedback from those in attendance.

No idea/scenario has preference over another, and no decisions have been made at this point. The Task Force will prepare a final report for the Board of

Education that will take into consideration the feedback it has received. It is scheduled to give this report to the Board October 23, 2008.

I encourage you to stay informed - all presentation materials and information regarding this issue are available on the LPS web site:

<http://www.littletonpublicschools.net>

One other reminder - we are experiencing difficulty before and after school with our student drop off and pick up area - behind the school in the parking lot. We do not have the space at Ralph Moody for a good drop off/ pick up zone. However, I would ask that if you need to park and leave your car, you either park in a designated parking spot, on a side street, or in front of the school. When parents park in the pull through area behind the school, it does not allow traffic to flow.

We thank you for your support.

Doug Andrews

October Count

Each year, public schools receive funding from the state based on the number of students in attendance during the official count time. This year, the state's official count period is Wednesday, September 24th through Wednesday, October 8th. We are funded only for those children in attendance at school during this period. Please make sure your child attends school during this time if at all possible. Should your child be absent, please call the 24 hour attendance line at 303-734-5640 to report the absence.



Important Dates

October

Thru Oct. 3	CoGat Testing (3 rd Grade)
Thru Oct. 22	Enrichment Classes after school
8	PLC Day – Late Start 11:06 a.m.
9	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
13	3 rd & 5 th Grade Music Program 2:55
14	3 rd & 5 th Grade Music Program 7:00
16	RMAC (formerly SAC) Meeting 7:45 a.m.
16-17	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
20-23	Vision & Hearing Testing (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd & 5 th)
22	Picture Retakes
29	5 th Grade to Colorado Symphony Orchestra
31	Book Character Parade and Parties



Counselor Corner

In early September I met with 14 new students to the school. Our Ralph Moody students have done a great job welcoming the new students to our school family. We want all of our families to feel like they belong so please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child.

During the last week of October, the school will participate in Red Ribbon Week. Our focus will be on making healthy choices, exercising, and making responsible lifelong decisions. This year's theme is, "Stay in the Game-Be Drug Free!"

Bully Proofing Point

In our school wide effort to provide a safe place to learn, all students are taught the bully-proofing rules. Staff and students know these rules and agree to follow them.

- #1 We will not bully other students.
- #2 We will help others who are being bullied by speaking out and getting adult help.
- #3 We will use extra effort to include all students in activities at our school.

PBS

Have you noticed a positive feeling around Ralph Moody? We believe the **Positive Behavior Support** is helping our students by teaching behavior expectations and practicing what is expected.

Students practiced hallway behavior in September with their teachers.

Respect yourself, others & property

- Walk, honor the property of others, treat others nicely

Accept responsibility

- Quiet voices, get to your destination on time

Make safe choices

- Keeps hands, feet, & objects to yourself, watch where you are going, stay with your group

Show excellence

- Help others, smile & have a good attitude



Original Art Works Fundraiser

We are teaming up with a company called Original Art Works to give you the opportunity to purchase unique items that showcase your child's artwork. Your child's art work can be produced on a variety of items including mouse pads, key chains, mugs, aprons, pillowcases, t-shirts, etc. Here's how it works: Your child will complete a piece of art in their art class. This art work will then be sent home with complete instructions on how to order the products. These products should arrive at the school in time for holiday gift giving. If you choose not to order anything you just keep the art work that your child made. More information will be coming home in the next few weeks.

Tamara Lacy, Art Teacher



Music News

Welcome back to another fun year in music. Below is a schedule of our upcoming musical programs. Four Reel Productions will again be taping our programs for you to purchase. The cost for DVDs has been lowered to \$20.00. The cost for the VHS tape is \$15.00.

Fifth graders are going on a field trip to Boettcher Concert Hall on Oct. 29th to attend a concert played by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra.

Recorder Society for 5th and 4th graders (who already know how to play the recorder) will begin in mid-October. The fourth graders are singing songs of Colorado, dancing the Macarena, and playing recorders.

Fifth and Third graders have been learning songs and auditioning for their upcoming program "For Which It Stands". The second and first graders are singing songs and moving with the beat. The kindergartners are singing songs and playing rhythms.

Ralph Moody Musical Programs 2008-2009: **5th and 3rd Grades:**

October 13 – school program – 2:55 p.m.

October 14 – parent program – 7:00 p.m.

2nd Grade and Recorder Society:

December 3 – school program – 2:45 p.m.

December 4 – parent program – 7:00 p.m.

1st Grade:

March 2 – school program – 3:00 p.m.

March 3 – parent program – 7:00 p.m.

4th Grade:

April 8 – school program – 2:55 p.m.

April 9 – parent program – 7:00 p.m.

5th Grade Continuation:

May 21 at 7:00 p.m.

A list of piano teachers who live in the Littleton area is available if you are interested in your child taking piano lessons. Contact Mrs. Cleveland if interested.



Alert Now Message System

Littleton Public Schools has been using the Alert Now system to notify you of PLC Late Start days. Schools will now be able to use this system to notify you of school specific information. The Alert Now system will be utilizing telephone and e-mail information which is provided by you at the start of each school year. Please be sure to notify the office of any telephone number changes to ensure these automated messages reach you.

Additionally, once you have received your log on to access the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus, you may access and manage your contact information by going to the "change contact info" area in Infinite Campus. This will allow you to add an e-mail address, as well as select your preferences as to how you would like to be contacted by the school.



The Cold & Flu Crew

The Cold & Flu Crew was very successful last year. For that reason we would like to continue with the program this year, but we could use your help. If you are able to donate a tub of Clorox disinfecting wipes (or something similar) or a box of small disposable gloves it would very much appreciated! Please have your child bring them to Mrs. B. in the Library. The Cold & Flu Crew kids are chosen each day and are asked to use their recess time to walk around the school to clean hand rails and door knobs.

Heritage Youth Wrestling Club

Heritage Wrestling Club will begin practice on November 10. For additional information, contact coach Ray Barron at 303-347-6708 or rbarron@lps.k12.co.us

PTO Corner

What a wonderful turn out we had to our first PTO meeting this past month as Doug Andrews gave us an update on the Facilities Use Task Force. If you didn't get a chance to attend, we would love to see you at our next meeting – Oct. 9th @ 7pm.

A huge thank you goes to Rachael Hathaway for her amazing effort organizing yet another successful carnival. Thank you also to her many volunteers.

We are gearing up for the Fun Run in October. This is our major fund raising event and the one time that we ask the children to actively participate in running as well as obtaining pledges. To help get them excited, we are offering a “no homework night” as one of the prizes to the class room/grade/school if certain goals are met.

Remember that PTO dollars are used to fund assemblies (CSO will be coming back this year), field trips, Halloween and Valentines parties, Grandparent Day, dances, etc. as well as paying for 25% of a school full time equivalent (FTE). This past year, the FTE dollars helped fund an extra day of our counselor's time as well as additional ParaPro time.

Finally, Kirsten 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 Soopers and use these gift cards, we receive 5% from the store. This is an easy way to help our school!

Kristen Smith
PTO President
(303) 798-0874



News from the Kitchen

During the 2008/09 school year, I will be encouraging the students at Ralph Moody to try foods that are new to them. As you can imagine I hear “ick”, “eeww”, “gross”, and “I’m allergic to broccoli” on a regular basis. Of course no one is allergic or repulsed when it comes to pizza (rich in tomatoes, herbs, occasional veggie toppings). We will visit with the students throughout the year and ask them what colors are on their trays and what food groups they belong to. The emphasis is to expand their food experiences and to recognize the rainbow of colorful food options beyond pizza and chicken nuggets.

In the serving area of our kitchen, I have a display of a tree and colorful acorns surrounding the base which list a variety of fruits/vegetables that are found in a particular color. (I personally have never tried purple flesh potatoes but am willing to try).

I’m looking forward to your feedback as your children report to you about their new food experiences...or not. At times there is some amusement as they explain a dramatic experience with a “try”.

Thank you always for your support; nutrition options are challenging to young children, but with the support of each other we will see positive growth by the end of the school year.

Shawna Lawrence
Food Service Manager

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.



Thanksgiving and Holiday Programs 2008

Inter-Faith Community Services will be taking applications from low-income families who would like to receive a Thanksgiving Basket and/or a December Holiday Basket from **October 1, 2008 through October 31, 2008.**

These programs will provide all the makings for the Thanksgiving holiday meal, and gifts and food for the December holiday celebration.

**For information on how to apply, please call
(303) 789-0501.**