



Inspiring & Empowering  
Students to Lead Successful  
Lives



55 South 500 East - Lindon, UT 84042 | 801-796-3130

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# Rocky Mountain Elementary School Newsletter

## March 2009

### Principal's Message:

Dear Patrons,

My hope is that each of you knows the great things that are happening at Rocky Mountain Elementary every day for your students. I realize that most of your conversations and concerns among friends and associates are centered on issues that regard your children. I have full confidence that Rocky Mountain Elementary is a great school that combines the resources and expertise of highly effective teachers and the invaluable support of an involved community. The two in combination is what sets Rocky Mountain in a class of its own.

I have the opportunity to be in classrooms on a daily basis and I am thrilled with what is happening, often times quietly without a lot of fanfare and public recognition, but nonetheless deeply significant and important to *"empowering and inspiring all students to lead successful lives."* All of our students are worked with in small groups where teacher attention can be at a maximum to make growth in the area of literacy. All aspects of that complex discipline are addressed as our teachers record current performance levels in accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. They carefully monitor and diagnose areas of strength and weakness to ensure that instruction matches each student individually so literally all of our students can make growth and progress.

A large portion of our 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are already reading at text levels above the established benchmark for this time during the year. Those few that are not there yet have been targeted to receive additional support and intervention to close the gap with their grade level peers. Students in every classroom are moving forward at a pace appropriate to their development so no one is left behind or kept behind in their reading instruction. The other grade levels are finding similar results as our 5<sup>th</sup> grade has reported significant gains in words per minute measures from the beginning of the year for all of their students. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade has identified that the vast majority of their students are reading at instructional and independent levels with appropriate grade level texts. This will ensure that our students will be entering Junior High equipped with the skills they need to master content material at higher levels. They work relentlessly using QuickReads and intensive non-fiction material to engage their readers in "reading to learn" activities. Students have a firm understanding of the components of effective writing as well as they've been given opportunities to receive feedback on their writing using a tool called "Go My Access", a program used throughout the district at the secondary level. This tool, along with the careful instruction from our teachers, has helped students to grasp the common elements of writing and apply them in writing pieces of their own. Confidence and expertise have been boosted amongst our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students particularly. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade has blocked out 20 minutes a day to conduct a practice called "Reteach and Extend".

Students' work is evaluated weekly and taken to collaboration meetings on early out Monday. There, the teachers discuss students' performance based on the common assessment measure identifying who has it and who needs more help. Then, students are grouped to receive instruction at their level on a daily basis. This way, those students who need more help receive what they need, and those who have

### March 2009 Calendar:

- **3rd Trimester Begins**  
Mon, Mar 02, 2009
- **General Membership Meeting / Election Voting** (Gymnasium)  
Tue, Mar 03, 2009 - 1:00 PM to 1:15 PM
- **5th Grade Maturation Program**  
Tue, Mar 03, 2009 - 1:15 PM  
Boys will be in the gym. Girls will be in room #109. The 5th Grade Maturation Program is for all 5th grade students and their parents.
- **Family Skate Night** (Classic Skating)  
Fri, Mar 06, 2009 - 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
ADMISSION IS FREE for all Rocky Mountain students and their families. See the ad on the next page for more information.
- **NO SCHOOL**  
Mon, Mar 09, 2009  
Professional Development Day
- **PTA Board Meeting** (Room 007)  
Wed, Mar 11, 2009  
Please note the CHANGED DATE!
- **SIPA Board Meeting** (Room 007)  
Wed, Mar 18, 2009 - 10:00 AM
- **School Community Council Meeting** (Rocky Mountain Elem. Media Center)  
Wed, Mar 25, 2009 - 7:00 PM  
All teachers and parents are invited to attend this meeting.
- **Spanish Dance Festival**  
Thu, Mar 26, 2009
- **Box Tops Store**  
Fri, Mar 27, 2009
- **Mars Testing**  
Tue, Mar 31, 2009 to Fri, Apr 03, 2009  
For 4 & 5 graders

Visit the Rocky Mountain website at <http://RockyMountainElementary.org> to view the full March 2009 Calendar.

## Principal's Message (continued)

demonstrated competency are able to apply the concept in deeper and more enriching ways. Our students are not sitting idly waiting for the others to get it. They are moving forward and experiencing growth at levels appropriate for them. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has implemented a similar practice with their students. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has worked collaboratively on several projects that have stretched their students to meet new heights as they have researched and presented information on famous Americans through a wax museum and student reports. Several of our second graders are also becoming masters of their language as they work to publish information books in hard cover complete with table of contents, indexes, and glossaries. Kindergarten is sound in providing all of the basics so our students are well prepared for first grade. Our teachers are energetic and sound in their teaching methods. We consider our kindergarten the best of the best. Our students are reading and writing and loving every minute of their experience at school. Our special education department knows how to tailor instruction at individual levels and continues to show their commitment to the success of all students as they implement elements of Balanced Literacy and Math to ensure student progress. Our specialty teachers never tire of delivering engaging instruction in the areas of music, computers, and PE, rounding out our students' educational experience.

All of this is complimented by our after school programs of orchestra, choir, ballroom, and a just up and running Friday program featuring the arts where just last week our students tried their hands at pottery and ceramics. Our PTA is always involved in lunch time activities like our current Caring Campaign where students are volunteering their lunch break to complete hygiene kits, food kits, and blankets for those in need. We are also looking forward to our Cultural Arts Week and a special assembly entitled Roots of Freedom where our students grades 4 through 6 will enact the immigration process at Ellis Island right in our own school gym!

There is so much going on at our school and not near enough room in this newsletter to share. Thank you for all you do in support and interest of our school. It truly is a marvelous place to learn. Continue to check out our website and watch for all our good news! You're welcome anytime to stop by for a visit. We love working with you!

David Turner  
Rocky Mountain Elementary School Principal

## PTA President's Message

What a fantastic month this has been for Rocky Mountain Elementary! The Caring Campaign has been a great success. We thank you for sending in numerous food and hygienic items and fleece for blankets. The first and second graders have been compiling hygiene kits, the third and fourth graders have made food kits and fleece blankets, and the fifth and sixth graders have completed over 100 fleece blankets. I want to especially thank the many volunteers (you know who you are!) who came during their busy days to help kids cut fleece, do crowd control, and offer support and assistance. We couldn't do it without you wonderful parents! A special thanks must be given to Carol Theurer, Heather Fry, and Margie Holt for their contributions!

A wonderful PTA moment of appreciation happened this month when our amazing third/fourth grade teacher, Tami Beach, won the Alpine School District Golden Apple Teacher of the Year Award! Mrs. Beach is very deserving of this high honor. I am also pleased to announce that our PTA Technology Commissioner, Sam Farnsworth, won the Alpine School District Golden Apple Volunteer of the Year Award! Both of their nominations have also been sent on to State. Congratulations to you both from all of us at Rocky Mountain Elementary! We love our teachers, administrators, and volunteers!!

PTA plays a critical part of your students learning and development at Rocky Mountain Elementary. Because of the PTA, we, as parents, are able to be directly involved in ensuring our children's success in school. This valuable resource gives open access to many cultural, language, social, and health programs to benefit your children and your families. PTA is the GREATEST advocate for children in the nation. I would encourage you to continue your support to this superb organization. The value of the PTA is immeasurable!

Thank you for your support!

Andrea Motto  
Rocky Mountain PTA President 2008-2009



## Family Skate Night

Family Skate Night will be on Friday, March 6th, from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm at Classic Skate in Orem.

**ADMISSION IS FREE** for all Rocky Mountain students and their families.

Skate rental is \$1.00. Roller Blades and Scooter rental is \$3.00. You can bring your own skates, blades, and scooters.

The snack bar will be open. The dinner meal is only \$2.00, and it includes a hot dog, nachos, or a pizza slice and a drink.

**Bring the whole family for a fun night of skating, eating, prizes, and family fun!**

Location:  
Classic Skating & Fun Center  
250 South State Street  
Orem, UT 84057  
801-224-4197

## Elementary Orchestra Spring Fling

The Rocky Mountain Orchestra will be attending the annual "Elementary Orchestra Spring Fling" at Northridge elementary at the end of March. We will be performing with other elementary orchestras in the area.

Orchestra students and parents, watch those backpacks and instrument cases for more details about date, time, and transportation!

Also, get geared up for our spring choir and orchestra concert which will be April 7th at 6:00 pm.

And don't forget to...  
**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE !!**

