



Inspiring & Empowering
Students to Lead
Successful Lives



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Rocky Mountain Elementary School Newsletter

December 2009

Principal's Message:



Dear Parents,

We hope your Thanksgiving was as wonderful as it could be possibly be and that you're geared up and ready for the Christmas Season. We love having your children with us each day and look forward to the time we're able to spend with them.

We've been reviewing data for our School Land Trust Plan. The funding associated with School Land Trust is explained on a site maintained at the state level. It can be accessed at <http://www.schoollandtrust.org>. It states: "The U.S. Congress, in exchange for not taxing federal land, gave lands to Utah schools at statehood. The lands are held in a legal trust for our schools. Schools own 3.3 million acres. The lands are managed by the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and must, by law, be used to generate money for our schools. The money is put in a permanent savings account, which is never spent, but invested by Richard Ellis, Utah's State Treasurer. An Investment Advisory Committee appointed by education representatives act in an advisory capacity to the State Treasurer. The interest earned from the permanent fund now goes to each school in the state."

Our school plans and reports can be viewed from the same website. We were excited to see that after implementing our 2008-2009 plan, we noticed a dramatic increase in fluency level for all of our students across every grade level throughout the school.

Second Grade had increase of 43% of our students at independent levels, Third Grade and increase of 36%, Fourth Grade and increase of 22%, Fifth Grade an increase of 16 %, and Sixth Grade and increase of 22%. Our teachers and para educators have worked tirelessly along with our students. Thank you for your effort in supporting literacy development at home. We know that reading makes such a difference in student achievement across the board.

In our recent BYU Partnership Conference, we were shown a correlation of test scores linked to number of minutes read daily. It's amazing to think of the benefit that comes from that extra practice in the home. The presenter reported:

<u>Score on Standardized Tests</u>	<u># of Minutes Read Daily</u>	<u>Words Read per Year</u>
98	90.7	4,733,000
90	40.4	2,357,000
70	21.7	1,168,000
50	12.9	601,000
20	3.1	134,000
10	1.6	51,000

Just think of the huge benefit 20 minutes a night is to the reading your child does at school. Those minutes combined can easily push a student into those higher scoring areas and make a difference in your child's total educational experience. READ, READ, READ.

Thank you for all you do to help support your child's education. It's a privilege to work with them and you!

Sincerely,
David Turner
Rocky Mountain Elementary School Principal

PTA President's Message



I hope it is O.K. to take the liberty to be a little personal in this month's letter. I have much to be thankful for, and I hope you all are thankful for much of the same. I am thankful for four healthy children, three of which attend Rocky Mountain Elementary. I remember when my oldest (now a 5th grader) was first start-

ing school and I had the big dilemma of whether to send him to public school, charter school, or even a private school. I wanted the 'best' for my kids as we all do. I spoke with so many parents and today I am so grateful I listened to those who loved Rocky Mountain.

I have an ever increasing admiration for the teachers at Rocky Mountain. I am now on my 11th experience with teachers and I can thankfully say my children have greatly benefited from each one. Not only do I feel my children are challenged, taught, and cared for, they are loved, respected, and individually understood by their teachers. Rocky Mountain teachers go above and beyond in making their classes a family of friends, learning and living together.

I am so thankful for an administration that values education, leadership, and whose number one priority is our children. Mr. Turner has made some difficult decisions in the four years he has been at Rocky Mountain, and each decision he has made with integrity and concern for the students. I know my kids are listened to, respected, and valued.

I am thankful that my kids are greeted each day with a smile at my car door (even if I am still in my pajamas). I am thankful that they are looked out for by the greatest office staff I have ever met at a school.

I am thankful for great parents who are involved in their kid's education and school. We not only have an incredible PTA Board which runs great programs, we have great parents who support activities and classroom education.

But I am especially thankful for the great kids at Rocky Mountain. Last Friday, hundreds of the Rocky Mountain family had a fun skate night at Classic Skating. This is the second time I have been told by the Classic Skating staff that Rocky Mountain not only has the best attendance of any other school, but they are always amazed at how polite, considerate, and well behaved our kids are. It is a privilege for me to walk the halls of Rocky Mountain, get high-fives, smiles, and hellos from such great kids.

We have much to be thankful for. I wish you all a great holiday season with your family and our own Rocky Mountain family.

Sincerely,
Carol Theurer
Rocky Mountain Elementary PTA President

December 2009 Calendar:

- **Orchestra / Choir Concert for Families** (Gymnasium)
Tue, Dec 01, 2009 - 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm
- **PTA Board Meeting** (Room 007)
Wed, Dec 02, 2009 - 10:00 am to 11:00 am
- **Spanish Christmas Program** (Gymnasium)
Tue, Dec 08, 2009
- **Orchestra / Choir Concert for School** (Gymnasium)
Fri, Dec 11, 2009
- **School Christmas Sing-a-long** (Gymnasium)
Tue, Dec 22, 2009
- **NO SCHOOL (Christmas Break)**
Wed, Dec 23, 2009 to Fri, Jan 01, 2010

Visit the Rocky Mountain Website at
<http://www.RockyMountainElementary.org>
to view the full 2009 / 2010 Calendar

Spanish Christmas Program



Family and friends are invited to come celebrate the holidays with a Latin flair! Performances will be presented by our Spanish students on Tuesday, December 8th, at 6:30 PM.

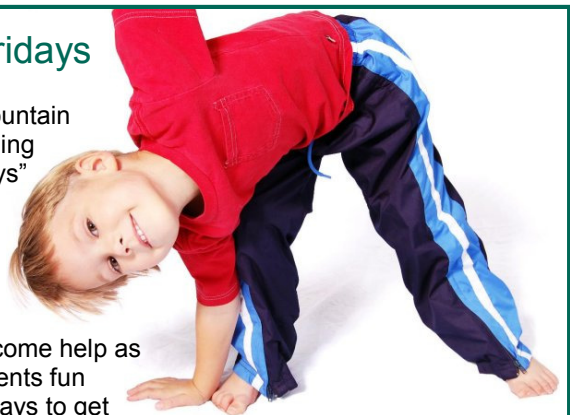
Students should arrive at 5:45 pm wearing a white collared shirt, dark dress pants or dark skirt, and dark socks and shoes. If your child has a Santa hat, please label it with their name on the inside and send it in advance to their Spanish

teacher. If you have extra hats you don't mind sharing, please send those along also.

Before or after the performance, please stop by the registration table to make sure your student is signed up for the next Spanish session that begins in January. You can also pay your tuition at that time.

Fitness Fridays

The Rocky Mountain PTA will be doing "Fitness Fridays" with students every Friday during lunch recess. We need parent volunteers to come help as we teach students fun and exciting ways to get exercise and stay fit during the cold winter months.



If you would like to help on "Fitness Fridays" during lunch, please contact Alicia Bender at alicia_forest@yahoo.com.