December 20, 2013

Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

I wish you and your family a restful and joyous winter break. After many of our extended breaks from school, we often return with a Monday Professional Development Day for staff. Upon returning from break, we will begin school on Monday, January 6, 2014, as the Professional Development Day is allocated as part of our annual Staff Learning Retreat.

Leading up to winter break at RMSEL has truly been amazing and exhausting. We have hosted three community events this week in which our students have showcased many aspects of our learning community. On Monday, we began with our winter Choir Concerts, which featured the vocal performances of 300 students in grades K-8. Both concerts were full with not a seat remaining. Kelsey Bilodeau, our Vocal and Instrumental Music teacher, truly works musical magic in preparing students for the winter concert. On Wednesday evening, we kept the momentum going as students shared various final products from the beginning of the year tied to their learning expeditions at the Lower School Exhibition Night. Students presented a variety of final products and synthesis of learning. During part of the evening, the 2/3 crews demonstrated their learning from various scientific experiments as they attempt to grow sustainable foods. Finally, to close out the week, the High School students performed and showcased various pieces of art during their gallery walk from the first semester of electives. This was a great way for our community to enter into the winter holiday season.

We are excited to announce to the community that we have hired Erin Billet as our K-12 Spanish teacher. Erin has seven years of teaching experience from a vast range of school levels. Most recently, Erin taught middle school and high school Spanish at Noel Community Arts School in Denver. Erin will begin on Monday, January 6, 2014. To assist with Erin’s transition to RMSEL and a mid year start, she will be working closely with Katey Edson, our Instructional Coach, to ensure she has the time and resources to rejuvenate our Spanish program.

Thank you to all our families who completed the RMSEL Parent Community Survey. We had approximately 40% of our school community respond to the survey. We will be sharing the results of the survey with our staff and the BOCES in January. The results of the survey will also be shared with the community when we return in January. We will utilize this feedback to assist in writing our EL Work Plan Goals for next school year.

Upon our return from winter break, the BOCES will vote to approve our school calendar for the next two years. After the approval of the calendar, we will share it with the community. We appreciate the feedback regarding our school calendar through the survey, emails, meetings, and input to the District Accountability Committee.

Sincerely,

Chad