March 19, 2014

Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

We are currently two days into the annual state assessment. I appreciate the support of our parent community ensuring that we minimize the number of make-up assessments required next week that take students away from instructional time. Also, thank you to those families who have contributed snacks this week for students as they complete the assessment. We are fortunate that we only test for three days this year instead of four, as the Science assessment is now conducted later in the school year through the new computerized testing module.

As I walked the hallway yesterday, a third grade student gave me a huge high-five and told me “I am going to do great on these tests.” Our teachers have prepared our students over the course of the year with engaging and compelling topics taught through our Expeditionary Learning Instructional Framework. Teachers at RMSEL instruct students toward a mastery level of understanding to each state standard integrated into each learning expedition. Preparation for success on state assessments is continuous during the school year at RMSEL, and our student achievement reflects this annually on our School Performance Framework issued by CDE. The state assessment system provides us with value feedback annually, serving as an additional tool in measuring the success of our students.

Upon our return from Spring Reflection on Tuesday, April 8th, 2014, spring crew trip season will be in full swing. Prior to Spring Reflection, please take the opportunity to review any health changes or medication changes during the course of the year since the first crew trip and turn these in to Nancy in the main office by March 28th. We have a trip on April 8th to Moab, UT, and all medications are required to be accounted for prior to departure.

Finally, our junior class is currently having the trip of a lifetime, exploring the biodiversity of the rainforest in Costa Rica. The students arrived safely in San Jose yesterday morning and traveled to Puerto Jimenez to begin their spring grade level experience. I look forward to pictures, stories, and smiles from our students when they return next week. We are in the second year of international travel to Costa Rica and look forward to our continued excursions in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Chad