April 9, 2014

Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

Welcome back from spring break and to spring weather. This is an exciting time of the year as we have students getting back into the field on overnight crew trips and daily fieldwork. With spring break culminating in April this year, we also only have five weeks until Portfolio Reading day. The year truly does fly by as we enter into the final two months of the school year.

During spring break, we were hard at work having our new voice communication system installed at RMSEL. The primary function of the system is to ensure student safety and security on campus at all times. Every classroom, office, and common space has a phone that can communicate directly with the office and vice versa. We can enter into safety protocols at any time from any location on campus. Prior to the installation of this system, the outdated system we were operating from was inconsistent and not reliable to communicate in the event of an emergency. We are fortunate to have the new system and look forward to additional features, which will assist in increased communication with teachers.

Each teacher now has a direct voicemail that is fully functional. This voicemail can be accessed internally and externally by staff members in the event they are off campus. Parents can contact teachers directly by dialing their extension beginning with 4 and followed by the room number, or by accessing the dial by name directory from the main line. You can access updated voicemail extensions on the website (http://www.rmsel.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Crew-Staff/index.html).

Our professional expectations for returning voice mail are as follows; phone calls are more direct than email communication and invite parent conversation. Parents have access to teacher voicemail. Upon receiving a voicemail, a phone call response can be expected within 48 hours.

Every spring we have to celebrate new opportunities for members of our staff community. As an Expeditionary Learning Teacher, we are also life long learners continuing our journey, taking on new challenges that stimulate our growth and development as educators. Next year, Katey Edson and JH Sava will be departing RMSEL and taking on new challenges and adventures in their career. I asked they share this in their own words which is included below:

It's with both an excited and a heavy heart that I share with you the following news: I'll be moving on from RMSEL next year to teach 3rd grade at the Downtown Denver Expeditionary School. As excited as I am for this new adventure at a fledgling school, I'm equally sad to be departing this incredible place. The RMSEL community has been my home for the last 12 years and has shaped me into who I am today; for that I'm so incredibly grateful. I will dearly miss each of your children, our brilliantly innovative and compassionate staff, and the dedicated families that make up RMSEL, and I hope I can bring a little taste of our unique community to my new school. Expeditionary learners consistently seek out new adventures, and I hope you can join with me in celebrating how those new adventures always bring challenge and growth! I would be more than happy to speak with you about this transition if you have questions or just want to hear more about this new school. And, of course I would like to say farewell to you and your children before the school year is over. Thank you for your support through this transition, and for the support over the last many years.

Love,
Katey
Over the last eleven years I have had the wonderful opportunity to learn and embrace the true meaning of community with your students, you as parents, an incredibly talented and driven group of teachers, and with a supportive and inspirational group of administrators. I am excited and saddened to say that I will not be returning to RMSEL next year. As many of you know, the role that I have embraced at RMSEL has allowed me to explore the intricacies of our teaching art and start to explore some leadership opportunities within our community. I have found that the time that I have been afforded to build new programs within our community has inspired me to seek other leadership experiences outside our community. RMSEL’s philosophy of education insists that we, as students, seek what it takes to become an expert. With this in mind, I applied to a program called Get Smart Schools to participate as a fellow within their leadership program. I was accepted and given a Wallace Fellowship that will allow me to serve as an assistant principal in a DPS/EL school called Centennial K-8. The Wallace Fellowship will allow me to seek my principal’s license while serving under a mentor principal. I truly believe in the educational approach that we take here at RMSEL and feel that I would not truly embrace the philosophy unless I seek to challenge myself as a learner. My time here at RMSEL has been one of the most influential experiences in my life. This community has influenced my approach to teaching, my understanding of great leadership and my role within a model community of friends. Your children have become an extension of my own family in my heart.

If you have any questions please feel free to stop by my office or write me an email. I would love to talk with you.

All the best,
JH

We are in the process of posting the positions and seeking qualified applicants for the positions. As information develops regarding new hires, we will share with our parent community. We look forward to an amazing spring filled with learning and adventure.

Sincerely,

Chad

PS: Chat with Chad, regularly scheduled for 4.11.14, will be cancelled because of a scheduling conflict. I will host Chat with Chad next Friday, April 18, 2014, at 8:00 a.m.