The Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning
Executive Director Communication

April 22, 2015

Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

The month of April is an exciting time at RMSEL. Students are beginning to finalize and revise final products as they prepare their portfolios for the end of the school year. Students in grades 3, 5, 8, 10, and 12 will present their portfolio to a professional panel during the portfolio reading and presentation day. In addition to completing portfolios, students are also participating in their spring crew trip. Most recently our 6th grade students traveled to Moab, UT, to study geology as well as the amazing mountain bike trails in the desert. This week our 7th grade students travel to the southwest to explore Mesa Verde and mountain bike in Cortez. An integral part of middle school is the study of civil rights during 8th grade. As a capstone to this learning expedition, students travel to Birmingham, AL, where they engage in conversation with experts regarding civil rights. This year the students are visiting the Civil Rights Institute, 16th Street Baptist Church, and Little Rock Central High School. This trip is an exemplary experience connecting content to experience, truly solidifying student learning.

I am excited to introduce three new staff members to the RMSEL community for the 2015-2016 school year. Jessica Fangman joins us from High Trails Science Center in Angelus Oaks, CA, as our Assistant Adventure Coordinator. Along with her experience in outdoor education, Jessica has served as an Adventure Guide at the Yellowstone High Adventure Post in Cody, WY, and as a Program Guide at Pacific Quest Wilderness Therapy in Naalehu, HI. Jessica’s wealth of knowledge through her experience in diverse wilderness settings will be an amazing asset to our students, crew leaders, and adventure team.

Molly Kasper joins us from Green Valley Ranch Elementary School as our K/1 Crew Leader. While teaching at Green Valley Ranch, Molly has taught elementary special education as well as Kindergarten. Prior to joining the team at Green Valley Ranch as a full-time staff member, Molly served in the community as a Mathematics Fellow designing in-depth learning modules to engage the students in exploring Mathematics. Prior to her teaching experience, Molly gained experience as an outdoor educator while working at an Adventure Camp in Wenham, MA.

MacKenzie Gamble joins us from Hill Middle School as our 7th/8th grade Crew Leader and Mathematics Teacher. During the past year MacKenzie has taught Mathematics Intervention to 6th-8th grade students using the Connected Mathematics Curriculum and 360 Math. Prior to her experience at Hill Middle School, MacKenzie taught in English as a Second Language (ESL), Special Education, and Mathematics in Kansas City, KS. Along with her teaching experience, MacKenzie volunteered in New Zealand as a Math Tutor and at a Mercy Home Orphanage teaching English.

Jessica, Molly, and MacKenzie join our team with a wealth of experience directly tied to the mission of our school. They embody exploration in pursuit of academic excellence as they guide students in becoming lifelong learners. We are excited for each of them to join the RMSEL community.
Next week, I will complete the interviews of two finalists for our K-12 Art Teacher position. We have two strong finalists for the position and will announce our hire next Wednesday. We also have two additional recent resignations in the High School. Mike Kuhn will be leaving Colorado next year to return to his home state of Washington with his family. Mike has served as our 10th/12th grade Humanities Teacher and High School Crew Leader for the past four years. Also, Clay Elkin, High School Crew Leader and 9th-12th grade Mathematics teacher will be leaving Colorado next year as his family transitions to Idaho in support of his spouse’s continued graduate studies. We thank them for their service and will begin the hiring process for both positions immediately.

Sincerely,

Chad