Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

The last month of the school year is one of the most challenging for students as they prepare all their final products, which are reflected in their individual portfolios. Grade levels that do not participate in the passage process are also completing learning expeditions as the year comes to a close. In 11th grade High School Humanities, Lyn Williams has designed a learning expedition focusing on current events in the State of Colorado. In conjunction with this learning expedition, a guiding question for learning focuses on the impact of events in relationship to how they are reported by journalists in diverse mediums ranging from television, news print, radio, podcast, etc. In alignment with making learning come alive, the students are meeting weekly with journalists in Colorado. Most recently, John Daley from NPR and Kyle Clark from 9 News, shared their news medium in connection to current events. This learning expedition is an exemplary example of in-depth, engaged, student-led learning connected to real world events and topics.

Last week our High School Seniors showcased their final products from their Senior Learning Experience (SLE). I had the opportunity to assess a student who studied alongside a rocket engineer at Lockheed Martin. The student worked alongside his expert exploring current rocket technology in relationship to travel and the eventual habitation of Mars. While learning from the student, I asked him to slow down multiple times as the depth of this learning and presentation overwhelmed me with the quality and copious amount of knowledge he learned during his time in the field. The independent learning experiences this year ranged from surgical studies, engineering, music theory, to art therapy, etc.

This week marks one of the most important and exciting days of the school year. This year, almost 100 volunteers come together to read our student portfolios. Every volunteer will leave inspired by the depth and quality of student learning. Along with examples of learning expeditions, each student reflects on their learning through individual reflection. Each reflection provides the student with the opportunity to place their ownership and voice on their learning experiences. Thank you to each volunteer for committing annually to participate in portfolio reading and passage presentations!

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank our Athletic Director, John Stene, for the amount of time and energy he has invested in our student athletic program. John sets an example of leadership for our student athletes and this is evident in the culture of our Middle School. Currently our spring sports program has 1/3 of our middle school student population participating in Ultimate Frisbee and Girls’ Soccer. It is great to see students building strong relationships in the classroom and outside of the school day through athletics.

Next week, I will provide an end of the year PACK Annual Report to the parent community regarding revenues and expenses directly associated with fundraising this year. We are waiting on final numbers from the Run for RMSEL to create a final report for the parent community. I appreciate the dedication of our PACK leadership team and volunteers that contribute during community events and fundraisers.

Sincerely,

Chad