Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

I want to begin with a sincere thank you to the RMSEL Parent Action Crew for Kids (PACK). This past weekend, PACK hosted the annual live and silent auction at The Island. The annual auction is our largest grossing fundraiser each year school year and one hundred percent of the proceeds go directly to instructional support resources at RMSEL. This year PACK raised over $50,000, which will be allocated to classroom renovation and adventure program supplies. We appreciate the continued support of our families in our annual fundraising efforts. If you see a member of PACK after school, in the hallway, or on fieldwork, please extend a personal thank you for the countless volunteer hours they invest in making events like the auction a huge success.

On Monday, March 9, 2015, we started the 2015 Spring PARCC assessment in grades 6 and 11. Since beginning PARCC testing, we have received numerous questions regarding the assessment. I will be hosting an additional “Chat with Chad” on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 8 am to answer questions/concerns regarding PARCC / CMAS assessments. I encourage you to attend in the event you have a question regarding the state assessments.

I also want to provide an extensive update regarding school safety at RMSEL. The Ashgrove Facility in which we reside is leased from the Denver Public School District. Our building certainly has dated elements, one of which we discovered as we conducted safety drills this year. In a small number of our classrooms, teachers would have to exit or prop their door to lock the classroom from the exterior in the event of a school lock down. Teachers also only had access to their individual classroom, and are oftentimes in other rooms through the course of the school day. I presented our concern to DPS as the property owner and they could not budget at this time to replace and/or rekey our facility. In response, I elected to authorize the project at a cost of $5,000, which was completed this past Saturday.

The new “Safe Key” system places a new core on the inside of classroom doors that could be locked internally, and cores were installed on the interior of doors which previously could not be locked from inside. Every room in the building now has a new lock. Each teacher and staff member has a key that is assigned to their classroom and a secondary key titled the “Safe Key.” Each and every room can now be locked from the inside with the new “Safe Key.” For example, if the 2/3 grade crews are upstairs being picked up from Art class and are in the hallway walking back to class and we enter a lockdown, they can immediately enter any open room and lock the classroom. This system is one additional precaution in ensuring that we provide a safe school for kids to learn and grow.

This Friday, March 13, 2015, we do not have school for students as teachers are completing Winter Trimester Progress Reports.

Sincerely,

Chad