Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

On Sunday afternoon, I stepped out of a children’s clothing store at the local mall, to hear a resounding “Hey, Mr. Burns.” I instantly knew the sound of that booming, young adult voice that I had not seen in two years. The voice was familiar and the use of “Mr.” identifying, as the student used this title in his previous neighborhood school before transferring to RMSEL after 9th grade. As I turned around, I was ecstatic to see the student accompanied by two additional RMSEL graduates. Each of us had smiles from ear to ear and instant bear hugs ensued between us all. Oh, and of course, the ceremonial young adult selfie could not be missed to capture the moment.

(Pictured from left to right: Milad Farzam, RMSEL Class of 2013; Hussein Muya, RMSEL Class of 2015; and Mohamed Salat, RMSEL Class of 2013)

These three graduates embody the tenets of education that Kurt Hahn founded Outward Bound upon, along with his early frameworks for Expeditionary Learning. Hahn stated, “As our society has become information rich, it has become action poor. It has become poor in the necessity and possibility for struggle against the environment. As affluence has increased, the young person's environment has become impoverished for responsible and productive action, or
any action that tests and develops him.” These young men demonstrate the very antidote to the apathy Hahn referenced!

It was heartwarming to see the three of these young men together while they were on spring break. As high school students transition to college, new relationships form and, at times, students drift apart. The bonds formed as members of this school, community, and crew, are truly lifelong. I am proud of and humbled by the success of our graduates every year. These young men are currently attending and thriving at Mesa State University, Western State University, and the University of Denver. While our time together was brief, it was inspiring, and rejuvenated my drive and desire to fulfill our mission and vision at RMSEL. This is crew and community, and I could not be more inspired by these successful young men.

We are in the process of hiring and intend to have our first candidates prior to spring break and complete finalist interviews the week of spring break. As candidates are selected and confirmed, we will communicate with the broader school community accordingly. I appreciate the time and energy invested in the interview process by our teachers, parent representatives, students, and administrators. I look forward to sharing exciting news in the weeks ahead.

As a reminder to families, Monday, April 3, 2017 is a Professional Development Day for Teachers and a non-contact day for students. In addition to Professional Development, the spring Crew Trip season will be in full swing; a group of students will be in the field every week until the end of the school year. Upon return from Spring Break, Crew Leaders will be in active communication with families regarding your son/daughter’s respective crew trip. Finally, to close our the school year, we will engage in Portfolio Reading Day on Saturday, May 20, 2017 and corresponding Passage Presentations are on May 30-31, 2017. If you are interested in joining our team as a Passage Panelist, please contact Marci Elder (melder@rmsel.org) to participate. It is one of the most inspirational events at RMSEL, as you will hear the story of each learner and get an inside look at the high quality work completed in the classroom.

Enjoy the time of reflection next week during Spring Break and let’s hope the 60% chance of rain for five straight days dissipates before our departure.

Sincerely,

Chad

Reminder DAC Communication Survey:
The link to the survey is located at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RCommunication1617

The survey will remain open until Thursday, March 23, 2017 (this will provide time over spring break for our team to begin the data analysis process).