Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

We are excited to share that we have completed the hiring process for four of our open positions for next school year. I appreciate the dedication of our teachers, parents, and administrative team members in serving on our hiring committees. The hiring process at RMSEL is more extensive than other programs as we include multiple interviews along with in-person or electronic viewing of direct instruction and lesson plans. Our teams work to ensure that we hire the best individual for our students and program.

Nicole Hiebert will join our staff next year as one of two K/1 teaching positions. Nicole is currently teaching 3rd grade at an elementary school in San Jose, CA, where she has been for the past three years. She is excited by the opportunity to work in an Expeditionary Learning school, setting the foundation for success with K/1 students. She will be moving to Colorado in June and will begin working with the new K-2 Core Curriculum from EL Education to implement for next year. This curriculum will integrate Expedition and Literacy into a deeper experience for students. Former RMSEL staff members were instrumental in the design and we look forward to working closely with EL and this exciting new material.

Denise Hutter will join our Special Education Team as the Lower School Learning Specialist. After an extensive career in private childcare, Denise returned to college to receive a Master’s degree in Special Education. This return to universities was also at the same time in which her family joined the community at RMSEL. Since receiving her Master’s in Special Education, Denise has most recently been a Learning Specialist in the Cherry Creek School District. When the opportunity arose to join our team at RMSEL, she instantly applied, as it was her desire to work in a school in which she believes so deeply. We are excited for Denise to join our team, assisting our students and teachers in reaching their full potential.

Tara Furey was originally a long-term substitute in 6th grade at RMSEL in 2012. She learned about RMSEL from one of her summer campers who told her all about this “awesome school he goes to.” Tara went to the website to learn more and saw the posting. While we did not have a full time position for Tara in 2012, she transitioned to work at an EL school in Leadville, and most recently at a middle school in Douglas County. We are excited for Tara to return to RMSEL and join our current 5th graders as they transition to 6th graders and welcome new students to our community.

Jesse O’Dell is currently the long-term substitute in 7th/8th grade Science and Humanities for Lucas and Julia. We had the opportunity to hire Jesse for the entire second semester of the current school year, during which she has also assisted with crew trips, state assessments, and any additional tasks to support our school and community. She is familiar with our program and curriculum and ecstatic to continue as a middle school crew leader for next year.

We are in the final phases of hiring for other open positions and will make those announcements accordingly. It is always challenging to be in transition in the spring, but we are excited to welcome new members to our team!
Great things are happening in the classroom and beyond. As you stand in line to get your next cup of coffee, make sure it is a cup from local business, Sojourner’s. Art Teacher, Michelle Gouge, organized the most recent gallery of art at the coffee shop, exclusively from RMSEL students for the month of April. Over spring break, I had the opportunity to accompany high school senior, Jonas Snyder, to be recognized by Colorado Representative Paul Rosenthal. Last Friday, many of you attended the RMSEL Talent Show hosted by RMSEL PACK, and prior to the Talent Show our BOCES Board hosted an Open House at RMSEL. During the Open House, Superintendents and District Leadership Team members connected with teachers and students to learn more about our amazing school. It is a busy and exciting time of year at RMSEL and I wanted to make sure to catch a few highlights.

Sincerely,

Chad