December 20, 2017

Communication Summary
1. “Blessings” – Outward Bound Book of Readings
2. BOCES All State Board Recognition
3. Exhibition Night
4. Infinite Campus – Habits of Scholarship
5. Middle School Learning Specialist Introduction
6. Winter Reflection

Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

“Blessings” – Outward Bound Book of Readings

December is always an exciting and interesting month, both professionally and personally, for many of us. The holiday season kicks off and we all seem to be running in a myriad of directions just to fit it all in. Our modern society during this time also lends itself to the continuous push for consumerism or the cliché “rat race.” With all of this going on, I took the opportunity to pick up the Outward Bound Readings book that sits on the corner of my desk and search for a grounding passage. I stumbled across the following and I felt compelled to share with the community as I have already shared with our staff and students. The reading is titled, “Blessings,” by an anonymous author.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not. If you can hold someone’s hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch. If you can read this message you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all. Count your blessings. – Anonymous

I found this reading to be very grounding and perspective-setting as we navigate the busy season of December and the holiday season. All of us are truly blessed beyond what we may realize on a day-to-day basis.

BOCES All State Board Award

Our school board is a member of the statewide Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB). This year, based on the success of last year, I applied for our school board to be recognized by CASB through the All State Board Awards. While we were not selected as one of two boards to receive the award, Randy Black, Director of Member Relations shared the following:
Thanks, Chad, for bringing RMSEL excellence to CASB’s All State Board Award process.

While this year’s spotlight will go to the Estes Park and Windsor governing teams, know that the judges were impressed with RMSEL’s application. Especially noteworthy is the successful collaboration of board members from several large districts and the PEBC in unanimously negotiating an IGA. The board’s dedication to providing the RMSEL choice to Denver area students and improving student achievement is also commendable.

RMSEL is clearly providing steady, courageous work in very challenging times.

Randy Black
Director of Member Relations

Exhibition Night

Over the past two weeks our lower school and middle school community came together to celebrate high quality student work at Exhibition Night. It was amazing to see student watercolor paintings with student writing samples, published “How To” field guides, and independent historical figures accompanied by student-created Colorado maps. In middle school, students presented a writing narrative titled, “My Name,” and shared the ancestry of where each student’s name originated. Our 7th grade students performed their “myths” while our 8th graders presented to a panel their research on alternative energy. Along with presentations, the building was filled with student work from each discipline in the form of a gallery walk throughout classrooms and the hallway. Both nights were filled with family and community members supporting our student body. This is always a highlight each year; I look forward to the presentation of student work in the spring through the annual portfolio process.

Infinite Campus – Habits of Scholarship

On Friday, prior to departure for Winter Reflection, all teachers will have updated each student’s Habits of Scholarship grade in each class. Parents are encouraged to log into Infinite Campus and review with your son/daughter their progress to date.

High School Teachers will update semester 1 grades as well and final semester 1 grades should post to transcript by January 12, 2018. If senior students require an updated transcript to be sent to colleges per admission standards of the institution, they can request an official transcript be sent on their behalf with Cris Veteto in the main office. Not all colleges require an updated senior transcript; students and families should check the independent admission standards of their respective applications.

The next Infinite Campus post will be January 26, 2018. If you have any questions regarding grades posted, reach out directly to your son/daughter’s teacher to schedule a phone conversation or meeting.

Middle School Learning Specialist Introduction

We are excited to introduce Yishaya Mehrenberg as our new Middle School Learning Specialist. Yishaya comes to RMSEL with a wealth of knowledge in his experiences ranging from local public schools to alternative school programs within our partner school district. Yishaya has a Master of
Science in Special Education from D'Youville College in Buffalo, New York. We are excited for Yishaya to join our staff, students, and parent community at RMSEL.

**Winter Reflection**

We wish you all a restful and rejuvenating holiday break and winter reflection. As a reminder to families, we return to school with students in session on Monday, January 8, 2018; we do not have staff professional development on Monday similar to fall and spring Break.

**Community Request**

We have received notification from the Denver Police Department District 3 Community Resource Officer that members of our parent community are parking in front of our neighbors’ driveways during drop-off and pick-up each day on Mexico Ave. We request that our community respect our neighbors as this is a public roadway. Neighbors have been directed to contact local law enforcement for citations if problems continue. I understand we are all in a hurry during drop-off and pick-up, I kindly request that we respect our neighbors.

Have a Great Holiday Season,

Chad