Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning
25 Years and Counting!

Executive Director Communication

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

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Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

It is nice to be experiencing the winter snowfall in the Denver metro area this year, as it is vital to our local watershed. While the environmental impact is much appreciated, the disruption to our morning commute is less than preferred. This year we have been subject to unforeseen circumstances with weather patterns resulting in school closure with little snowfall on campus, to school being open when a predicted snowfall of one inch turned into nearly a foot. RMSEL is the most geographically expansive district in the state, ranging from Castle Rock to the Arapahoe County border in Bennett.

As a reminder, when two or more of our partner districts elect to cancel school, RMSEL will cancel school as well. In the event one or more of our partner districts elect to delay the start of school, RMSEL will also be on a delay. I attempt to make the decision prior to 6:00 am in the event we have received information from districts. Our cancellations and closures will be posted on the RMSEL website and all major media outlets.

Staff Retreat

Every year our entire staff engages in two annual retreats, one prior to the start of the school year and one during the winter. The staff retreat is connected to the design principles, mission, and vision of our school. Some years we will travel to the top of a mountain pass and in other years we model our commitment to service learning in the community. This year on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 we will be volunteers at The Food Bank of the Rockies and then spending the afternoon honing our rock climbing skills at the new Earth Treks Climbing gym in Englewood, CO. On Wednesday, we will be on campus working with EL Education during Professional Development Intensive tied to our annual work plan instructional targets. On behalf of our staff, I want to thank our parent community for understanding the importance of our retreats and affording our team this opportunity to serve, learn, and grow.

Conferences

We look forward to seeing students and families at conferences on Thursday, February 21 and Friday, February 22, 2019 from 7:30 am – 3:30 pm. If you have not received an invitation to attend a conference, do not hesitate to contact your crew leader for assistance.
Last Sunday, RMSEL Music Teacher John Leavitt conducted fieldwork for the High School Vocal Music Class with the Denver Based – Kantorei Choir. The students were able to see firsthand a professional choir rehearsal and learn from professionals in the field of music. It is awesome to work alongside committed staff members who go above and beyond to make experiences happen for students even when they don’t fit nicely into the school day. A huge thank you to the Kantorei Choir for hosting our students and allowing them to actively engage in their rehearsal.

BEST Grant Update

We are presenting a draft grant to our division representative at the Colorado Department of Education this Thursday to receive feedback as we work to complete our final submission by Monday, February 25, 2019. On Friday, February 8, 2019 we will have a completed conceptual program design to share with parents that we will post in the document case outside of the main office. Feel free to come in and check out the new floor plan and additions to campus. Once the grant is submitted, I will host a Chat with Chad for parents to ask questions about our conceptual design and provide any comments as we work toward full-scale architectural design prior to May. This has been an exciting process and I look forward to the future as RMSEL continues to grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Chad