Dear RMSEL Parent Community,

The 2020-2021 school year calendar is now posted on the website and available for your family to begin planning for the summer and the start of next year. This calendar is less than ideal, as it has been constructed to provide two additional weeks of time for the general contractor to begin the first phase of our remodel and renovation project. This calendar is transitional for this one-year period and we will recommend a return to our traditional calendar once construction is complete.

**Important Calendar Notes:**

- High School Students will begin on August 17th, 2020 offsite to begin the Colorado Trail Trip – Segment 3.
- Kindergarten will begin on September 2nd, 2020.
- High School will end on May 14th, 2021.
- Elementary (Kindergarten – 3rd)/ Intermediate (4th – 6th) / Middle (7th – 8th) will end on May 28th, 2021.
- Fall Break in October is eliminated.
- Thanksgiving Break is extended to one full week.
- Winter Break is abbreviated by two days.
- Fall Conferences are abbreviated to one day instead of one and a half days.
- Spring Conferences are abbreviated to one and half days instead of two full days.
- Professional Development days after Fall and Spring break are eliminated.

(Please note that this is a calendar for one year only)

We will work hard as a team to remind families at times throughout next year when the calendar is different from prior years. Thank you for working with us as this calendar provides additional time to our contractors who will be working diligently to complete our project.

**High School 8th to 9th Grade Transition**

Every current RMSEL 8th grade student had the opportunity to shadow in the high school this past week. Additional communication has been sent to 8th grade families regarding upcoming events for students who are considering attending the RMSEL high school. In addition to internal recruitment, a group
of students from the RMSEL High School student government and I conducted outreach at the Odyssey School of Denver on Wednesday. We are dedicated to sharing the joy of learning and monumental success of the RMSEL High School with our internal and broader community. RMSEL is one of the highest performing High Schools on the CDE School Performance Framework. While limited in size, the results of our students exceed those at traditional schools who have a larger selection of courses to choose from. Our graduates consistently reflect on the positive aspects of attending a school that fosters a love of learning and a compassionate community.

Kindergarten Kudos

If you ever need a quick “pick me up” or moment of joy, take a minute to walk through the hallway at the end of the school day and interact with a Kindergarten student. The joy that radiates from their learning experiences is infectious. This week three students shared their mathematical learning with me as they are mastering what attributes make up two-dimensional shapes. The students each contributed a tile to create a square quilt. The quilt had equal side lengths of 7 on each side, “which makes it a square, Chad!” I can’t thank our teachers enough for their commitment to mastering academic content, while always ensuring that learning is a joyous activity.

A Gift Idea …

One of the most important texts on the establishment of Expeditionary Learning and our connection to Kurt Hahn’s original vision for education is the book Roots: From Outward Bound to Expeditionary Learning by Emily Cousins. This book is a quick read, oftentimes read in one to two sittings, and would make a great stocking stuffer for a parent, student, or loved one this holiday season. The text was out of print for many years and EL Education, who obtains the copyright, put it back into circulation. It can be found for $10 at http://el-education44.mybigcommerce.com/roots/ .

I wish you all the best this season and look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming exhibition nights!

Sincerely,

Chad