



NEWSLETTER

February 2013 Issue
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An IB World School



RCES MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the RCES newsletter is to provide insight into the culture of our school. It is designed and formatted to be read on a computer screen. The RCES website is designed to provide comprehensive information about all aspects of our school. Please call the school at 234-5500 if you have any questions or suggestions regarding our website.

Our mission at Ranch Creek Elementary School, a collaborative, internationally-minded learning community, is to cultivate, educate, and equip the whole child, by fostering innovative, reflective thinking through inquiry-based experiences, and empowering active, principled participants in our world.



Letter from the Principal

Dear Ranch Creek Parents, Students, and other members of our IB World School Community,

Ranch Creek is now an IB World School, officially authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

After spending four years building our program from scratch—the last two-and-a-half of those as a Candidate School—we are so excited to have achieved this goal together. This is an accomplishment of the entire school community—including Ranch Creek students, parents, and staff, and the Academy District 20 leadership. The International Baccalaureate Organization has recognized the commitment of all Ranch Creek stakeholders to the principles and philosophy of IB, **which we believe is the best educational program we can offer to our students.**

The list of requirements for authorization is long and strict, and entails years of effort to put into place. I commend all participants for their perseverance in seeing this through, making sure that we have dotted every “i” and crossed every “t.” You can be assured that we have met every test to the full satisfaction of the International Baccalaureate Organization.

To learn more about the program, I encourage you to follow this link www.ibo.org/pyp

We will host a celebration for all stakeholders on Monday afternoon, February 11. More details and an invitation will be posted on our website, and sent home with students in the Friday Folder on February 8. Join us if you can!

Sincerely and in service to the children of Ranch Creek,
Susan Paulson, Principal





Library Media Center Highlights



We are so fortunate to provide new resources for learning in our school. We have the new iPads up and running on a rotating schedule by grade level. Beginning with Kindergarten this week, each grade level has the iPads for use for one week between now and May. Arts and Humanities, SPED, Tag, Preschool and Intervention groups are included in the schedule and get the iPads for a week as well. Needless to say, our students LOVE them! Thank you to the Ranch Creek PTA for providing this resource through Fund Run fundraising.

We also have brand new books in our library including new award-winners, popular titles, many new Kindergarten-First grade easy readers, and great new Spanish and bilingual titles. In addition, we are replacing 15 of our laptops in the computer lab with new laptops.

We continue to host a library night once a month to open our library to the community, and families have enjoyed snacks, story time, family reading time, book checkout and computer use. You always receive YoYogurt coupons if you come! It is a fun social time for families.

Our library model continues to promote our International Baccalaureate philosophy of learning across the disciplines, student inquiry, and meaningful learning and teaching of the units of inquiry. We display the central ideas of each grade level's current unit of inquiry along with books and magazines related to that central idea. We have book lists for each of our IB attitudes, and books put into the classrooms to help teach the units of inquiry. Our students use the computer lab to research and complete projects about the unit of inquiry. We have resources that provide global perspectives as well. Our IB curriculum is integral to our library media center.

Please stop by and visit at any time!

Jessica Babbs

Teacher Librarian

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Coordinator's Corral



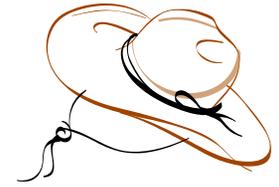
IB Authorization

By now you have heard the news that Ranch Creek has received official authorization from IB. You may be wondering what this means for our school. Authorization serves as a stamp of approval when a school has met the rigorous standards set by the program. Becoming authorized is validating for teachers because it recognizes the dedicated work that has occurred thus far. It is not an end point however. We will continue to learn and grow daily, always challenging ourselves to reflect on what is best for children.

The visible change may simply be a sign on our school exterior. In the classrooms students will continue to learn through units of inquiry and teachers will continue to plan and reflect on the best practices for learning. Our process is ongoing and we will support the learning opportunities for teachers as we improve on the worthy art of teaching. We thank our parent community for their support of our students and we look forward to each new learning journey.

Mary Anne Threet, IB PYP Coordinator

Counselor's Corner



Counseling Lessons over the next several weeks will engage your child's leadership skills. Children will have the opportunity to be in charge and also be responsible group participants. While playing a variety of small group and large group games, primary kids will be learning to wait for a turn and manage disappointment when waiting is difficult or when they don't get a turn with the role they want. Intermediate students will be trying out leadership roles as well as designing routines for how they will deal with common group challenges. They will begin to evaluate their own participation and recognize how their behavior contributes to or distracts from the group goals.

Mary Anne Threet, Counselor

A Note from Your School Nurse



Please help us minimize illnesses in our school setting. **These guidelines should be used to help you decide whether or not your child should come to school.** We also ask that you:

- **Keep Infinite Campus updated with current phone number and emergency contact information under Parent Portal.**
- Make arrangements in advance for home care of your child if he becomes ill at school.

Illness Guidelines: When to Keep Your Child Home

Children **with severe cold symptoms** should not attend school.

Cold symptoms may include:

- constant runny nose, especially with abnormal color or consistency
(this is especially important if your child is unable to use a kleenex by him/herself)
- Nasal or lung/chest congestion
- Coughing that is constant or persistent
- Recurrent sneezing that is not allergy related

Do not send a child to school with an **abnormal temperature- any temperature over 100.5 degrees F.** Symptoms to watch for might be a flushed face, chills, paleness or skin abnormally warm to the touch. One or all of these symptoms might be present. If in doubt at all, please take your child's temperature. Please keep an obviously sick child at home. **A child with a temperature needs to stay home for at least 24 hours. Remember, if you reduce your child's fever with medication like Tylenol or Motrin, your child is STILL ill. Please do not medicate your child and send them to school. Children spread their illness most during the time they have a fever.**

A Note from Your School Nurse



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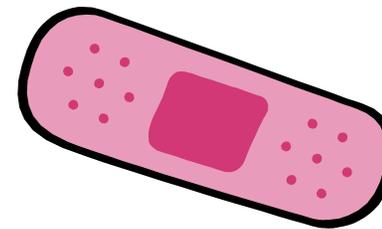
Do not send a child to school that has been **vomiting** within the last 24 hours.

Do not send a child to school that has had **diarrhea** in the last 24 hours.

Flu symptoms: fever over 100.5 degrees (usually high) **and** one or more of the following body aches, sore throat, cough, and/or headache. Do not send your child back to school until he has had no symptoms for at least 24 hours.

Guidelines on keeping your child healthy:

- **Wash hands** using soap and warm water for 15-20 seconds (sing the ABC song once)
Wash before eating, after using the bathroom, after playing outside, after using a tissue.
- **Cover cough /sneeze** into your sleeve. If a tissue is used, throw away tissue and wash hands.
- **Sleep** 8+ hours per night
- **Healthy eating** habits



Thank you for helping us keep students and staff healthy!

Penny Bost
School Nurse

PTA Newsletter



Congratulations to Ranch Creek for its official designation as an IB school. Our parents and families are wonderful and play a huge supporting role in such an outstanding school.

We need you now more than ever. We will have 3 board vacancies at the end of May (**President, Secretary, and Treasurer**). Please stop by our next meeting, Thursday, February 14th in the cafeteria/common room. Our gatherings are fairly short, beginning at 8:20am and often over by 8:45am.

Our slate of activities is light this spring, but important nonetheless. We're bringing back Popcorn Fridays for all the students. Each Friday we will feature a grade. The buttery smells and kernel popping sounds will fill the halls as we deliver bags of this time treasured favorite. We will continue honoring our teachers each month with lunch in the lounge. January's taco bar theme was a hit. March will be the big month for showing our thanks. We will have treats during Teacher Appreciation Week. Stay tuned for more on how you can help with baked goods and donations.

Finally, don't forget the monthly **Spiritraiser** lunches and dinners at area businesses. Participating restaurants are part of the Ranch Creek family and they give proceeds of sales to our school...Little Caesar's on the first Tuesday of each month and Five Guys Burgers and Fries on the second Wednesday.