



NEWSLETTER

September 2012 Issue
Volume 6, Issue 1

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Begin the Journey of Learning



RCES MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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.



Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents, Students, and Members of the Community,

We are off to a great start at Ranch Creek Elementary School for the 2012-2013 school year! Our student enrollment has now topped 500, and we have many marvelous new teachers and staff members serving our students. We are working so hard to provide the best possible educational experience for all our students.

We strongly believe we can best offer the learning environment your children deserve through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. We offer the components of the programme as a Candidate School while we continue to await authorization. The process is lengthy and thorough, and IB leaves nothing to chance in determining that we are meeting all requirements of the programme.

Here is a timeline of our engagement with IB:

- Teachers and parents decided to pursue the IB PYP in the winter of 2009, and received Academy School District 20 support to proceed
- Initial application was submitted to IB on April 1, 2010, the earliest permissible date
- Initial application required some revisions
- Initial application revisions were accepted, and Candidate Status was granted on June 9, 2010
- Final application was submitted to IB on October 1, 2011, the earliest permissible date
- Application accepted without revision and Authorization Team Visit scheduled
- Authorization Team Visit occurred on May 3 and 4, 2012
- Request received from IB asking the school to create and submit an enhanced schedule of teacher collaboration meetings, due December 1, 2012. This schedule has been created and is currently in practice; a written response will be submitted to IB in early October.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the IB PYP or any aspect of the educational experience we are providing for your child.

Sincerely, in service to the children at Ranch Creek,

Susan Paulson, Principal



Library Media Center Highlights



Welcome to a new school year! I have been thrilled to see the students! Our students are off to a fast start using 21st Century skills with the resources in the library and computer lab. Our kindergarteners and first graders are already learning how to log onto computers with a personal login, are utilizing Lexia to practice reading skills and IXL to practice math skills. Second grade students are beginning a Kidspiration (graphic organizer) program to identify what is unique about them. Third graders are researching regions using the Culturegrams database, and are taking notes in a classifying map to identify important information. Fourth graders are researching the solar system, and are preparing a PowerPoint presentation to share learning. Fifth grade students are researching nonrenewable and renewable energy to prepare for debates. We are so fortunate to have the support of the PTA to help supply laptops and IPAD's so our students can gain the technology skills necessary for today's world.

We will be hosting the Scholastic book fair in the library on Monday, October 15th-Thursday, October 18th. A percentage of the profits will help to buy new books for our library. Please stop by during conferences.

I am emailing parents who would like to volunteer in our library. Please stop by to see me if you would like to volunteer, or fill out a pink sheet during volunteer orientation.

We will hold our annual Pajama Night on Tuesday, September 25th from 6:30-7:30 pm. We open up the library and computer lab for students and families. Come and hear a story, enjoy snacks, check out books and use the laptops. Please come!

Remember you are welcome to check out books for your family with your own family account. I can set this up for you if you would like to stop by.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the library media center.

Jessica Babbs
Teacher Librarian
jessica.babbs@asd20.org



Coordinator's Corral



International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme

Welcome new families and welcome back familiar friends!

Below are some of the basics of learning in an **International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme** (IB PYP) school. We hope this information will help you understand your child's educational experience at Ranch Creek. PYP or Primary Years Programme refers to the elementary school. Ranch Creek is in the process of becoming an IB PYP school.

The **Learner Profile** is a list of characteristics that make up an International Citizen. The Learner Profile is a foundational component to International Baccalaureate school programs at all levels.

We strive to become: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-takers, Balanced and Reflective individuals.

IB Attitudes are the behaviors we exhibit that support us in becoming International Citizens.

We show: Appreciation, Commitment, Confidence, Cooperation, Creativity, Curiosity, Empathy, Enthusiasm, Independence, Integrity, Respect and Tolerance.

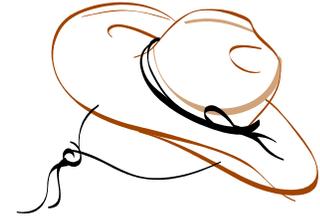
Our school's curriculum or **Programme of Inquiry** is divided into 6 **Transdisciplinary Themes** that are taught at all ages and by all teachers. They are: Who We Are, Where We Are in Place and Time, How We Express Ourselves, How the World Works, How We Organize Ourselves and Sharing the Planet. Each grade level has created a **unit of inquiry** that falls under each of the 6 themes. The **units of inquiry** are sometimes called "planners" because of the planning template used to organize the learning.

In the coming months we will address other aspects of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. If you have any questions for me you may reach me at 234-5526.

We welcome our parent community to the journey of learning and growing together.

Mary Anne Threet, IB PYP Coordinator

Counselor's Corner



As we begin this school year with great expectations and high standards we also want to encourage a *balanced* view of learning. We believe that mistakes are a necessary part of growth and we strive to support students in their progress by recognizing this. Instead of expecting perfection, we strive for excellence. That means doing ones best, working in a timely manner, paying attention to the details and working with integrity. There is a continuum within those characteristics in that we “learn to pay attention to the details” for example. When students make mistakes in behavior or academics our hope is that they can learn from that experience. The great scientists, inventors, athletes and politicians report repeated failure as a part of their road to success. Helping our children to accept that “failure” is a part of the process is essential to their well-being.

We appreciate your support as we provide a safe place for children to experience mistakes and to celebrate successes.

Mary Anne Threet, Counselor

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved."

Helen Keller
(1880-1968)

A Note from Your School Nurse



Lift-off's Nutrition Corner What's for Lunch?

Every parent wants his or her child to be healthy. It is amazing the transformation a five-year-old makes on his or her journey to become a teenager. Food intake plays a huge role in growth and development. Research shows that nutritious food not only makes a child healthier, it plays a big role in a child's emotional well-being and ability to focus in school.

If breakfast is the most important meal of the day, lunch comes in at a close second. Studies have proven that what your child eats for lunch plays a big role in how they will perform the rest of the afternoon at school. High sugar meals that include soda and sweets can interfere with your child's attention span and after a few hours make them feel tired. Lunches made up of chips, cookies, and candy have no nutritional value to your child's growth and development. They are empty calories that over time can lead to unhealthy weight gain.

Buying school lunch

Buying school lunch may be the first time your child gets to call the shots about what food he or she will eat. The upside to school lunch is there are many healthy choices your child can make. Take the time to look at the school lunch menu with your child and help your child make the healthiest choice. The **Lift-off symbol** on the menu points out the healthiest menu choice of the day. Your child's elementary school has a wonderful salad bar that is loaded with lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. All children who buy school lunch are encouraged to go through the salad bar before they sit down to eat.

A Note from Your School Nurse



cont.

Bring lunch from home

Research has shown that when kids are involved in packing their lunch, they have more interest in eating their lunch. Give your child plenty of choices like some of the following:

- lean turkey and cheese sandwich on whole wheat bread
- pita sandwich with ham and Swiss cheese
- soup, chili or spaghetti in a thermos
- peanut butter and jelly rolled up in a wheat tortilla
- fruit cups packed in their own juice
- carrot sticks with low fat dressing
- baked chips
- if you have a cold pack, yogurt or string cheese

PTA Newsletter



Your PTA is hard at work prepping for many wonderful activities this fall. Our goal is to keep you informed and connected. Thanks to all of you who have joined and volunteered to help with events and projects. If you have time or energy, we will find a place for you!

It was great to see old and new faces at our Meet and Greet August 21st.

If you are not already receiving email reminders please join the list by contacting ranchcreek.pta@gmail.com.

A school wide directory will be available soon, and look for a PTA Post, chock full of news and activities.

Our big fundraiser, **The Fund Run**, will be tied to Field Day again this year on October 1st. Please give generously. The success of this event means more technology for our school. Thank you for your support.

To stay connected bookmark the following site:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ranchcreekelementarypta/home>