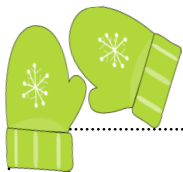
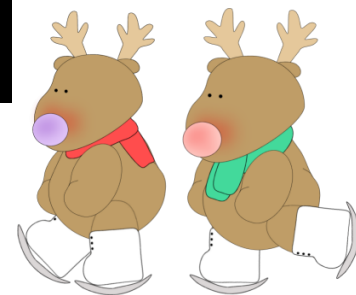


THE ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

6930 S. Seville Blvd. West, Gilbert, AZ 85298

480-224-3400 (Office) 480-224-3403 (Attendance)

"Kindness gets us on the fast track to success...beep, beep!!"



DECEMBER

- 1-7 Gingerbread Threads
- 3-5 DIBELS Testing for K- 3rd
- 4 Orchestra Concert @ 6:30/MPR
- 6 Band Concert @ 6:30/MPR
- 7 PTO Family Movie Night
- 14 PTO Butter Braid Delivery
- 17-20 Student Council Spirit Week
- 18 3rd Grade Winter Assembly & Concert @ 6:30
- 19 3rd Grade STEM Campout
- 19 Be Kind Traits Assemblies
2:00—K-3
2:30—4-6
- 20 Jingle Jog: 9:45 - 1st—3rd
10:30—KDG
2:00—4th—6th
- 20 Gilbert Student Citizenship Award
- 21 22-31 Winter Intersession

Dear Riggs Families,

The last several weeks could have been very busy as you may have been preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday. Most likely the hustle and bustle will continue through the month of December for many of us. This time of year can be a magical time but often high expectations and unreasonable demands are put on ourselves and others. Trying to create the "perfect" holiday atmosphere or find the "perfect" gift can be a stressful experience. As an adult I don't remember every toy or gift I received, but I do cherish the traditions and moments that were shared with those I love and care for. My holiday wish for you is to fully enjoy those special moments spent with family and friends. Our students have been hard at work preparing for the concerts and presentations they are excited to show you! Please consider attending one or more of these events to share those precious memories! Children grow up so very fast and then the time is gone. Here are some ideas for maximizing quality family time during this busy time of year.

- * Visit a library, park, the zoo, museum or other place of interest together.
- * Prioritize your time so that your children experience the best of you...not the leftovers.
- * Talk about the day's activities at mealtime or whenever all family members can gather. Give everyone an opportunity to speak and listen to one another.
- * Choose your attitude. Many things are out of our control and no matter the situation, try to remember to smile! It will lift your spirits and often will affect those around you in a positive way as well.
- * Assign every family member a chore. Sharing work builds responsibility and provides more time to enjoy one another's company.
- * Create a regularly scheduled time for study, sleep, eat, work and play.
- * Read daily. This practice will improve the quality of one's life, especially if you discuss it with one another.

As parents, it is also our job to instill in our children kindness, the joy of giving and caring for each other. We are so fortunate that our parents and community provide us with continued support and commitment through numerous volunteer hours and financial donations. Both of these efforts help to maintain a positive educational experience for our students. Please know that you are making a difference at Riggs Elementary!

If at times you feel a bit harried this season, take a deep breath, think a positive thought, close your eyes and remember all that we have to be grateful for...and smile! I wish you all an enjoyable winter break and may you all have a restful, relaxing, fun, safe, and wonderful start to another incredible new year!!!!

Warmest regards,

Janis K. Weyenberg— Principal



JANUARY

- 1-7 Winter Intersession
- 14 Open Enrollment Begins
- 8 Students Return
- 8 Online Intent to Return Begins
- 9 KDG & PreK Registration Begins
- 14-25 CATS Gifted Testing
- 14 PTO Meeting @ 2:15—Room C6
- 16 CCHS Administrator Visit for 6th Grade & 7th Grade Registration
- 17 Fast Track Lunch Bunch
- 21 MLK Day/No School
- 21-26 School Choice Week
- 23 Boosterthon Begins/Pep Assembly
- 24 CCHS 7th Grade Registration Due
- 25 PTO Mom/Son Dance
- 29 Running Club Meet @ Tumbleweed Kindergarten Open House
- 31 Fast Track Lunch Bunch Riggs Family Learning Night



Media Center Miscellany.....



Thanks also to all the volunteers that made the **Scholastic Book Fair** such a huge success! We sold almost \$12,000 in books! This allowed the library to purchase \$1,500 worth of books and provides an additional profit of \$3,000 which becomes the library budget for the school year and is how the Media Center can purchase new titles and replace old worn copies of much loved books. Sadly, with district budgets being tight, the Media Center does not receive other funding sources for our new library books. We are so appreciate to our Riggs PTO that we are allowed to keep our profits for this purpose. We so appreciate all of our Riggs' families and of course, all of our fantastic volunteers!

Want to help out the Media Center in other ways? We love gently used books, both paperback and hardback. Chapter books or popular books that your kiddos have outgrown are great ways to keep our collection fresh and allow us to have several copies of popular books. You can drop your books off in the library! We also would love any old Lego sets or building blocks!

Be Kind People Project for the month of December is: ***Be considerate.***

*The core of all relationships begins with being polite, displaying fairness, and appreciating differences. Open communication within your family, with your friends, and with members of the community promotes **considerate** relationships. Focus on communication that is honest straightforward and trustworthy.*

Here are some family ideas to help your child learn to be considerate to others:

- *Be polite to one another, your children, their friends, family, neighbors and colleagues.*
- *Honor different values than the ones you hold.*
- *Celebrate individual and group differences. Discuss how boring our lives would be if we were all the same.*
- *Listen to each other with respect, staying focused with your ears and not your mouth.*
- *Set family guidelines of one another such as individuality, patience, empathy and trust.*
- *Practice good manners at home. If we allow unkind responses or actions at home it will be difficult for our children to use good manners elsewhere.*
- *Talk about **respectful** actions of the day.*
- *Reach out and volunteer at charitable organizations.*
- *Take some time each day to celebrate those actions.*

"We must be the change we hope to see in the world." ~ Gandhi



CELL PHONE USE IN PARENT DROP OFF PICK UP LANE

We realize that everyone is busy, especially this time of year and we are all multi-tasking these days. However, we implore you to end your cell phone calls once you enter the school campus in the drop off/pick up line as it only takes a few minutes to get through the line. When you are talking on the phone, it is impossible for you to be paying attention with 100% diligence to our students and other vehicles. **TALKING ON THE PHONE PUTS CHILDREN AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS AT RISK.** Please be courteous and safe and end your phone calls when you drop off/pick up your child!!



The Corner Room with Mrs. Houvener Riggs Student Services Coordinator

As an adult, being a parent can be one of the most difficult jobs one has. The holiday season can sometimes be challenging and demanding for us as parents. As we move into this busy and fun yet sometimes stressful time of year, we as parents need to step back and remember that our children do best with calmness and routine. Most often it is us, the parents that are in a rush (we should learn from our children more often on this one.) Here are some ideas to help parents refocus and make the season a more pleasurable one:

- * *Laugh at their jokes!*
- * *Tell them how terrific they are!*
- * *Create a tradition with them and keep it.*
- * *Give your child compliments.*
- * *Attend their concerts and events.*
- * *Listen to their music.*
- * *Read aloud together.*
- * *Praise your student.*
- * *Make an activity together...bake, craft, wrap presents.*

Most importantly, concentrate on one of the very best things in your life...your child!!!

Please feel free to contact Mrs. Houvener if you have any questions at 480-224-3406 or via email at Houvener.lanci@cusd80.com.

Health Office Happenings....

Attention all 5th grade parents!

Please be aware of the New Immunization Rules.

The CUSD health computer program will be updated soon with new AZ Department of Health guidelines. Students turning 11 years of age will need to have their 11 year old immunizations within 5 days. Our system will now flag them as non-compliant and you will have 5 days to get their immunizations to compliant before they are excluded from school. These immunizations will no longer be considered 6th grade immunizations.

PARENTS: If your student has borrowed clothes, shoes or flip flops from the Health Office please check around and return them as soon as possible. Clothes must be washed prior to being sent back and any borrowed undies are theirs to keep. Thanks for your assistance!



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SOME HARD "COLD" FACTS:

- ◆ The symptoms for a common cold are runny or stuffy nose, sneezing, coughing, sore throats and watery eyes. The symptoms for a common flu include a fever, headache, muscles aches, and congestion.
- ◆ Washing your hands is the best way to prevent a cold or flu. You should wash your hands with rapid rubbing motion including between fingers, palms and back of hands while singing your ABC's (the appropriate length of time needed to kill germs)
- ◆ The first few days of having a cold are the most contagious.
- ◆ The flu is the most infectious disease in the world.
- ◆ Antibiotics cannot treat a cold or flu virus.
- ◆ There is no cure for the common cold. Why? Because there are more than 200 different viruses that can result in a cold.
- ◆ Colds are more common during seasonal changes when humidity is low.
- ◆ Most adults suffer from 2 to 3 colds a year. Children can have 4 to 8. Children attending school can have almost 12!

Please feel free to stop by and say hello or call her with questions or concerns. Mrs. Novak can be reached at 480-224-3402.

MANY THANKS TO:

The Riggs PTO, the Riggs Staff, and Volunteers for coordinating the **Veteran's Day Breakfast!**



The MPR looked fabulous and the presentations from the Student Council was very moving. We had a wonderful representation for each one of the Military Forces and the event was enjoyed and the

effort very much appreciated by everyone in attendance!!



We would also like to thank **Eva Cooke** for her assistance during our **Picture Retake Day!** She was a one woman show and did a remarkable job in getting retakes completed in a timely and efficient manner. Thank you Eva!!!!

Attendance Reminder...

We are happy to report that there were **341 students that earned Perfect Attendance Awards for the first quarter which is 75 more students then last year at this time!** Way to go Riggs!! Students received



a personalized certificate, perfect attendance "dog" tag key chain, a pencil and a certificate to Skateland. Students had to be in attendance the first day and have only 1 tardy. This is fantastic and our hope is that the trend continues for the remainder of the school year!! Please remember that if your student is tardy or leaves school early it will affect their attendance and their opportunity to receive perfect attendance awards.

If your student does have to miss a day of school, please be sure to report your child's absence to the Riggs' Attendance Line at **480-224-3403**. This line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provides you the opportunity to leave a voice mail message indicating your student's absence, no matter what the time of day it may be.

Most importantly, even if the information has been given to your student's teacher, we ask that you also call the Attendance Line as the teacher could be out that day and the information not forwarded. When leaving a message please include: **Your student's name, grade, teacher's name and the reason for the absence** such as cold, sore throat, doctor appointment, fever, etc.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated!!!



TESTING INFORMATION—2nd Grade

Second grade parents, please make a note that your student will be tested for the CUSD gifted program—CATS (Chandler Academically Talented Students) in January. All 2nd grade students in the Chandler Unified School District are tested for giftedness. CATS testing for students in 3rd—6th grade will also be tested in January upon parent request and/or teacher recommendation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lanci Houvener our Student Services Coordinator at 480-224-3406.



PRESCHOOL is looking forward to learning about all kinds of awesome animals this month! We will be learning about the different kinds of homes they live in, how they grow and change and how they are alike and different. We will also be learning about "Astonishing Air" in our science unit. In math we will be learning all about numbers 1-10. We will know how to subitize, investigate, compare and match quantities to their number symbols when we are finished. We also can't forget about all of our fun winter holiday activities and that we will be learning about how different people around the world celebrate with their friends and family!



Fantastic First Graders—December we will continue our unit on traditions and holidays. We will study diversity and learn how different cultures celebrate various holidays. Each week we will learn about a different holiday.

First graders are continuing to use a thinking maps to write various writing pieces. We did a wonderful job of adding transition words to our writing in November and will focus on adding adjectives in December.

In math, we are increasing our number sense and learning about place value. We are building an understanding of the base 10 system and comparing numbers 10 through 120.

THIRD GRADERS are practicing and getting ready for our holiday concert! Listen for those holiday tunes they are learning. We look forward to seeing all of you on Dec. 18th in the MPR. Students enjoyed their fall celebrations in each of their classrooms. Many thanks to our parent volunteers who made this a day to remember. Also coming up in December is our annual Stem Day camp out. Watch for details to come.



FIFTH GRADERS are busy preparing for the Chandler Invention Convention in lieu of the science fair. The students have generated a real world problem that can be solved using the design process to produce a prototype invention. The 5th graders are very excited as this will be their first time to have their project judged in hopes of moving on to the district display at the Chandler Innovation Fair! In reading, the students are reading some wonderful literature studies. In social studies, the students have been learning about the colonization of American. Each student has been researching a scientist or inventor that they will be writing an informational essay on and creating a poster that will be part of a science timeline displayed during our Family Learning Night. Finally, many 5th graders are busy practicing their instrument for their first upcoming band or orchestra concert!



SIXTH GRADE—In Math students will begin their exploration of Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability. Students will build their skills through investigations of different ways to collect and represent data, and describe and analyze variation in data. In Reading, students will be reading *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, written by Barbara Robinson. This tale is about *The Herdmans*, who are the worst kids in the history of the world; so no one is prepared when this outlaw family invades church one Sunday and decides to take over the annual Christmas pageant. In Language Arts, students will be working on propaganda techniques within their persuasive writing. Students will create video commercials to help get a better understanding of propaganda. In Social Studies, students will travel through time to Rome. Students will learn how the Roman Empire was constructed, important artifacts and monuments from that time, and the development of Christianity. Lastly, in Science, students will begin their Science Fair project.



All aboard! Kindergarten is off to explore the Holidays around the World! In this unit, students will learn about different cultures and the holidays they celebrate.

This is a great unit where students learn about cultural diversity and become more understanding of our differences. In reading, we will continue blending "sounding out" words and will be finishing our spotlight on each letter. Please continue working on sight words to ensure your child passes the next level. In math, we will be representing numbers 6-10 in a variety of ways. In writing, students are continuing to write words phonetically and beginning to write more than one idea about a topic. Lastly, continue reading to/with your child each night to create a love of reading!



Second Grade: History has been our focus in reading stories- Hellen Keller, Sarah Plain & Tall, and Buffalos Before Breakfast. Our Journey's stories included seeing how children in other parts of the world attend school. In math we are adding & subtracting multi-step word problems that require regrouping (borrowing). Junior Achievement has been a blast as our parent volunteers teach us about economics.



Fourth Grade-December is a busy month in fourth grade! In language arts and writing, the students will finish a poetry project and we will have a grade level awards ceremony to celebrate our fourth grade poets.

Reading and Social Studies will be integrated during our study of The Great Depression and Pearl Harbor. In science, students will be exploring and creating inventions that could solve a real world problem and we will be reinforcing our skills in patterns and sequencing in math. We look forward to a very productive month!



Tales of a Technology Teacher...

November wrapped up our Code-a-Thon on "Code Monkey" with a whopping 5,000 lines of code written! Now that we are all warmed up...December 3 - December 9th is National Computer Science Week. Kinder through 6th grade are all participating in an Hour of Code. K-2 will code on Tynker.com and 3-6 will be on Code.org. For example, we will be writing code in 5th grade for a game app that can be shared by email or text with others to play. And in 1st grade will be navigating an astronaut through space by creating an algorithm.

Coding fun for all!