

THE ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

VOLUME 11,
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2017



6930 S. Seville Blvd. West, Gilbert, AZ 85298
480-224-3400 480-224-3403 (attendance)



“On the fast track to success...building character along the way...beep, beep!”

Dear Riggs Families,

We just completed the first of two, Parent/Teacher Conferences for the year and I am very pleased with the turnout. I applaud you for the high priority you have placed on your student's education. We at Riggs strive for ALL of our Roadrunners to be successful both in their educational and personal experiences here. I would like thank you for the arrangements or sacrifices that were made in order for you to attend this valuable opportunity to discuss your student's progress. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Riggs families who donated to the recent Chandler Education Foundation's "Cash for Classrooms" campaign. Your generous donations ensure that creative and innovative opportunities continue not only at Riggs, but district wide. Throughout the years, our teachers have been the fortunate recipients of many CEF grants providing them with additional educational items for their classrooms. Our school has also received school wide grants from the foundation for activities and assemblies which otherwise may not have been possible.

As you can see by the calendars below, we have a very busy schedule ahead of us. Our generous and active PTO has been busy with the Riggs Read-a-thon and have many more activities planned throughout the school year. We hope that you will consider joining us in some, if not all of the events that will take place. Your support of and participation in our school and the Riggs' PTO will not only have a tremendous impact on your child, but will also contribute greatly to the positive climate and partnership we are especially proud of at Riggs. As the newness of this school year fades, our dedication and desire to continue providing your child the best educational experience intensifies. We look forward to making Riggs Elementary a place where your child(ren) flourish and we thank you for your involvement and assistance.

I find it hard to comprehend that our Fall Intersession will be here at the end of this month and that we will have already completed the first quarter of school. What ever your family plans may be during the break, I hope that you enjoy some quality time spent with family and friends. Please be safe if you are traveling and we will look forward to seeing you again in October all refreshed and ready to begin our second quarter of the school year.

Sincerely,

Janis Weyenberg ~ Principal



Riggs' staff is always dedicated to keeping an open communication between home and school. Emailing your child's teacher is often times the best way to communicate with him/her. If you send an email and do not receive a timely response, please be sure to call the school's Front Office at 480-224-3400 so we may take a message for you. You can reach any Chandler Unified District employee that has email access by using the following format:

Last-name.firstname@cusd80.com

Example: jones.mary@cusd80.com

Thank you!



September

- 4 No School/Labor Day Holiday
- 5 Riggs Read-a-thon Ends
- 7 Riggs Robotics Begins
- 11 Riggs Advanced Robotics Begins
- 14 JA Volunteer Training
- 15 Read-a-thon Assemblies
Reptile Adventures for KDG
- 18 PTO Meeting @ 2:15 – C6
- 19 Site Council Meeting @ 3:30
- 20 5th Grade JA Biztown Field Trip
- 22 Read-a-thon Winners Limo Ride
- 25–29 Student Council Spirit Week
- 25 PreK, K-6 Picture Day
- 26 PreK Picture Day
Barro's Pizza Day
- 28 6th Grade Science Camp Parent
Chaperone Meeting @ 5:30
- 29 Donuts for Dads
6th Grade Skateland Field Trip
Character Counts! Assemblies
Last day of 1st Quarter

October

- 2-17 Fall Intersession
- 18 Students Return
- 20 Relay for Life Spirit Day
Mock Battle of the Books
Mr. Oskar Knoblauch – Holocaust
Speaker for 6th Grade
- 23 5th Grade "Boo Grams" Sale
- 24 1st Battle of the Books Competition
- 25-27 6th Grade Science Camp/Outdoor
Education
- 26 1st Grade Schnepf Farms Field Trip
- 30– 11/6 Scholastic Book Fair



SAFETY FIRST....

At the start of the school year, we are required to and focus on safety procedures at school. We perform fire drills, lock down drills and bus evacuation procedures.

Our Safety Officer, Jennifer Hall has also been visible on our campus almost every day walking both the grounds and the insides of our campus.

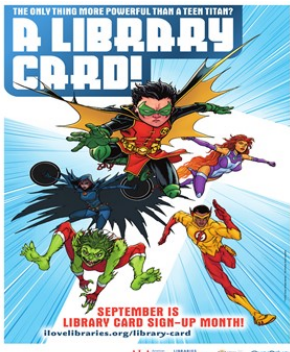
To help do your part with safety at our school, please be sure to do the following:

- Please sign in at the front office and notify the front office staff who you and where you will be visiting. Please be sure to wear an ID badge.
- Show ID when requested when picking up students before dismissal time.
- Use the designated crosswalks when crossing with or without your children. With the large amount of traffic before and after school, it is very important that we follow this important safety rule.

Most importantly, please set a good example to our students!!

THANK YOU!!

MEDIA CENTER MISCELLANY....



When is the last time you had a chance to visit the library? We have two great libraries close to Riggs! The Chandler Public Library is located at Basha High School and the Maricopa County Library is at Perry High School.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, a time when the American Library Association

and libraries nationwide join together to remind parents, caregivers and students that signing up for a library card is the first step towards academic achievement and lifelong learning. A public library card is a ticket to free educational resources and activities such as homework help, digital workshops for all-ages, STEAM programs/activities, book clubs, family story times and game nights.

If you haven't been to your local library lately, September is a great time for a visit!!

Please contact Mrs. Reininga or Mrs. Walters in the Riggs Media Center at 480-224-3421 for details.

School Nurses



A Few Reminders From The Health Office...

Medications:

All medications need to be brought to school by a parent/adult. No meds can be transferred via student.

If consent for emergency inhalers/epipens are given for student to carry – the student must be able to administer it themselves in an emergency (only exception would be priority preschool in which it can be in backpack and teacher would assist)

If consent is given for student to carry emergency medications – they are responsible for bringing the medication with them on all field trips. Only Emergency medications kept in the health office are automatically sent on field trips.

If you are needing a prescription medicine (including antibiotics – only 4x a day will be accepted) to be given at school –you must have the Consent form signed by the doctor before turning in the medication and it must be in a labeled prescription bottle (it cannot be transported back and forth each day)

Cough drops are considered medication by the district – they cannot be sent with a student to school

Health Protocol:

Fevers (100 or above), diarrhea, vomiting must stay home 24 hours after the last symptom without using medication to alleviate symptoms – there are no exceptions – they are most contagious within 24 hours of last symptom.

Persistent cough, headache, stomach ache, sore throat, earache and toothaches if prolonged or severe enough to interrupt classroom instruction are all reasons to keep your child home.

Rash with fever – student cannot come to school. If a student has a rash/hives with no fever - please make either the teacher or health office are aware when sending to school

Red itchy eyes that include watering, draining or crustiness – please take child to health care provider to rule out conjunctivitis before bringing them to school.

If a diagnosis of strep, conjunctivitis, etc. are received – a student MUST be on medication for 24hours minimum before returning to school.

Please call Loretta Novak in the Health Office with any questions at 480-224-3402. Thank you for helping to keep our school a healthy and safe learning environment!!



Huge thanks to PTO Co-Presidents Nicole Finucan and Ann Moeller for tallying all of the CEF Cash for Classroom donations! Thanks to the generosity of Riggs families and Riggs staff the results of the campaign were great!! We collected over \$2,200!

Save the date for CEF's next event, the Annual CEF Golf Tournament. **September 8, 2017, at 7:30 am at Whirlwind Golf Club at Wild Horse Pass.**

Join in for the annual golf tournament which includes a luncheon, silent auction, raffle prizes, specialty & place awards.

Go to www.cef-golf.com to register

Register and bid on silent auction items before the event!

Online: www.chandlergolf.auction-bid.org

Mobile: Text Chandlergolf to 24700



~ Student Services Section ~

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year and what a great start we have had this year! It appears that all of our students are getting settled into the routine of school.

As Student Services Coordinator, I am here to help students adjust to what ever is going on in their lives whether it is at school, home, with friends or a family situation that needs to be discussed. I really enjoy my time visiting with students and view this as one of the best parts of my job. After our Fall Intersession I will be starting discussion groups. In the past we have had a "Divorce Group" for Riggs' students as well as a "Social Skills Group." If you would like your student to participate in the once a week group, please let the classroom teacher or myself know. Look for more details to come home soon.



Please remember that I am always available to help you with any situation that may arise this school year. We at Riggs always want the best for your child, so please just let me know how I can help you.

I would also like to inform you of a great program that is available for all Chandler School Parents and Chandler Residents called:

Guardian Academy sponsored by the Chandler Police Department

This program is perfect for any parents with tween and teenagers. This program provides specialized speakers in the areas of cyber bullying, social media and social trends and their dangers, drug trends, local gangs, brain development and the affects of influences on tweens and teenagers including effects of video gaming and you tube videos. There is so much that is discussed that currently affect our teens today. As a parent we need to be aware and prepared with what is happening in today's world as we are in an ever changing world with phone apps and negative programs that are easily reached through technology. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in protecting and guiding your child.

<https://www.chandlerpd.com/guardian-academy/>

If you have any questions or would like additional information please contact Lanci Houvener, M. Ed.
~ Student Services Coordinator ~ Riggs Elementary School ~ 480-224-3406



Character Counts! RESPONSIBILITY!
Our Character Trait for the month is Responsibility.
What does this look like in today's world?

One of the best ways for children to be responsible is to be prepared for school. Carrying their own backpack, instrument, lunch, and remembering homework and signed papers is one of the first steps towards responsibility and what a great place to start...at school!!

As parents and teachers we guide and teach them so that our children are prepared and can be successful. A good way of looking at this is that school is our children's "job". School is their responsibility, just as our job expects us to be a responsible individual as well. It is so delightful to watch the tiny, little preschoolers arrive at school and carrying their own backpacks! As students, they are off on the right foot with being responsible!

"It is not only for what we do that we are held responsible, but also for what we do not do."



CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2017-2018
RIGGS STUDENT COUNCIL
OFFICERS

- President: Cooper Bentley**
- Vice-President: Macey Cushing**
- Secretary: Sophia Ervin**
- Treasurer: Isabel Schmid**
- Historian: Jake Eiss**

Three Riggs Roadrunner cheers to every student who ran for office!!
Beep, Beep, Beep!!!!!!

Staff Recognition —We will continue the Staff Recognition Box that is located in the Riggs' Front Office. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and families to share their appreciation for any Riggs Teacher or Staff member who has gone above and beyond for you or your child. Please feel free to drop a note in the box recognizing that special Riggs individual. We would love to hear about it!

Roadrunner Staff Acknowledgement

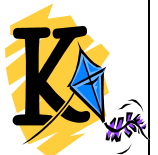
Has a Riggs teacher or staff member gone above and beyond for you or your child? We would love to hear about it! Please share your appreciation for a Riggs staff member and turn it in to the front office. I would like to recognize _____ for _____

From: _____

Preschool has had a great start to the school year! We spent the first month getting to know each other and our school. This month we look forward to sharing about the people in our family and how they are each important. We have been learning about patterns all around us and are beginning to learn about the different ways we can measure things. We had so much fun with our water investigations and can't wait to learn more about "Astonishing Air"!



Kindergarten—In September, Kindergarten is digging into our Dinosaur Unit! We will read fiction and non-fiction books about dinosaurs, dig up fossils, and erupt volcanoes after learning about earth materials. In reading, we will continue to focus on two letters per week and introduce new sight words as well. It is important to practice these sight words nightly with your child. In writing, we will continue to focus on handwriting and the proper formation of our letters. We will continue to expand our number sense with numbers 0-5 by modeling addition/subtraction, representing numbers in a variety of ways, and comparing numbers.



FIRST GRADE—We have been busy in reading learning about different genres, choosing "just right" books, and working with short vowels. We continue to learn various reading strategies such as drawing conclusions, predicting, and sequencing. During writing we are working on identifying and writing complete sentences. We have been working hard in using thinking maps to organize our writing. We are also working on writing letters correctly, using the correct line spacing, and ending with punctuation marks. We have worked on number sense in math to the number 10. We have been doing a lot of addition and subtraction, story problems and use a variety of strategies to come up with our answers. We encourage the kids to use their higher order thinking skills, explaining how they arrived at their answers. We write our conclusions in our math journals. In science we will explore living and non-living organisms and also do a unit on apples!



SECOND GRADE—We started the year meeting new second grade friends & learning about friendship by reading the stories "Henry and Mudge" and "Frog and Toad". Our language time was spent using Thinking Maps for our narrative writing. We also did sequencing, ABC order, and learned how to use a glossary. Our math curriculum stretched our minds by using numbers up to 1,000!! Second graders used new vocabulary terms and became familiar with our math books. We learned about our world as we studied geography and soon move on to states of matter in science. We are working hard in 2nd grade!



THIRD GRADE is off to an amazing start. Our students are excited about learning to write in cursive and beginning to learn our multiplication facts. Also, we now know all about the scientific method and doing lots of cool science experiments in each classroom! Third graders are studying geography in Social Studies, so you may hear about the seven continents and oceans. Thank you for ordering our 3rd grade shirts. We've seen lots of students wearing them. Remember to wear them on spirit days and field trips!!!



FIFTH GRADE is off to a busy school year! For the past few weeks, we have been learning about decimals and number sense, geography, tools & safety and scientific method in science, and have been reading some wonderful literature studies! Our first field trip is on Sept. 20th to JA Biztown. The students have prepared by applying and completing a job application for a preferred JA Biztown job, created a resume and presented their skills in a scheduled interview. They also learned how to write checks and make deposits. The students discovered the importance of supply and demand, created advertisements and worked cooperatively with fellow employees.



FOURTH GRADE is off to a great start this year! Our fourth graders kicked off the school year with one of our favorite Journey's stories, "Coming Distractions". This anchor text not only allowed us to practice our targeted skills, but let us gain experience and begin the year with an exciting informational text! In science, we've learned all about the scientific method and will soon begin conducting experiments with electricity and magnetism. Our fourth graders have been hard at work progressing in number sense skills as math becomes more challenging each day. We've had a productive start so far and we look forward to a successful year with all of our fourth grade superheroes.



SIXTH GRADE—In reading, students will be reading several different books Number the Stars, The Giver, Where the Red Fern Grows and Touching Spirit Bear. In Math, students will be working with decimals, fractions and percent. Please remember, most nights the students have some type of math homework. In Language Arts, students will continue learning about what a strong topic sentence sounds like and how the detail sentences must flow. Science, students will be exploring the science process skills that form the foundation for scientific method. There are six basic science process skills: Observation, Communication, Classification, Measurement, Inference and Predictions. In Social Studies, students will be navigating through two lands, Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece.



Specials—August has been a fun filled month with the Specials Team. Cosmic Bowling ended the month with disco balls and music as the students learned bowling skills. In band and orchestra, students have chosen their instruments and are getting started as new musicians in fifth grade. Sixth graders continue to advance with their skills. Music, Computer Lab, and library classes are also gearing up for a great year. Stop in anytime to chat with one of the teachers or see what we are doing in class! ☺