The countdown has begun, at least for Spring Break that is just around the corner. When we return we will begin state testing (PARCC & CMAS) for all 3rd-6th graders in the areas of Math, Language Arts, Science (5th grade) and Science (4th grade). Testing will be ongoing through the month of April. For a schedule of our testing please check out our website for more details.

These assessments are used in addition to other benchmark assessments as evidence for proper student placement, the development of instructional strategies to meet the needs of individual students, and with the development of individual plans for learning. This data, when used with other pieces of evidence, is a crucial part of planning for next year’s instructional goals and strategies. In addition, this data is carried forward with each student moving to Mesa Middle School for their planning. Finally, the information that is shared with parents gives us another format to gauge our student’s knowledge foundation. I urge you to share this information with your children when you receive the results at the end of the year so that your child has a better understanding of where they are academically. This will help your child understand where they excel as well as where they can benefit from additional support and focus.

Spirit week is from March 12th-16th so be sure to check the calendar for daily themes. This week we also have student led conferences on Wed and Thursday (March 14th and 15th). Be sure to schedule your time with your child’s teacher.

We will also be raffling off a brand new Compound Bow from Diamond. This bow is designed for ages 6-adult. A versatile bow that can be used for target or hunting. Tickets are $5/ ticket or 5 tickets for $20. Need not be present to win. You can buy tickets from Lisa in the school office and we will be drawing the winner on Friday, March 16th.

For those parents who are dropping off students along Heritage, please remember to follow all driving laws and not drop students off in no parking zones. This is for everyone’s safety and Castle Rock traffic police are monitoring the situation.

Thank you everyone for making Rock Ridge Elementary a great place to learn. Have a wonderful month and stay warm.

Sincerely,

Peter Mosby
March

March 12th-15th Book Fair
March 12th-16th STUCO Spirit Week
March 12th (7:30-8:20am) – Archery Club (3rd & 4th grades)
March 13th (7:30-8:20am) - Archery Club (5th & 6th grades)
March 13th (6:00-7:00pm) – PTO Meeting
March 14th (4:00-6:30pm) – PTO Ice Cream Social
March 14th (4:00-7:30pm) – Student Led Conferences
March 15th (3:30-4:15pm) – School of Rock
March 15th (3:30-4:00pm) – Book Club
March 15th (4:00-7:30pm) – Student Led Conferences
March 19th-23rd No School: Spring Break
March 26th (7:30-8:20am) – Archery Club (3rd & 4th grades)
March 29th (3:30-4:15pm) – School of Rock
March 29th (3:30-4:00pm) – Book Club
April

April 2nd (7:30-8:20am) – Archery Club (3rd & 4th grades)
April 5th (7:30-8:15am) – Guardians Meeting (1st & 2nd grades only)
April 5th (3:30-4:15pm) – School of Rock
April 5th (3:30-4:00pm) – Book Club
April 5th (3:45-4:15pm) – Spanish Club
April 6th (5-7pm) – Spring Dance
April 10th (6-7pm) – PTO Meeting
April 12th – Chick-fil-A Spirit Day! (all day)
April 12th (7:30-8:15am) – Guardians Meeting (3rd & 4th grades only)
April 12th (3:30-4:00pm) – Book Club
April 16th (3:45-4:45pm) – SAC Meeting
April 19th (3:30-4:00pm) – Book Club
April 19th (3:45-4:15pm) – Spanish Club
Celebrating our Students!

National Geographic Giant Traveling Colorado Map

Students had the opportunity to explore the Giant Traveling Colorado Map in the Learning Commons from February 26th-March 2nd. Teachers planned and facilitated cross-curricular activities using the map to connect Social Studies,

3rd grade In-school Rocks/Gems field trip

3rd Graders learned about the properties of rocks and gems and displayed this with a hands-on field trip.

They mined their own sand buckets loaded with gem specimens and then they applied their knowledge to categorize their findings.
Celebrating our Students!

Read Across America Day!

March 2nd was Read Across America Day. All student participated and enjoyed a day full of reading and listening to others read to them!

AmeriTowne

4th Graders had the opportunity to go on a field trip to Young AmeriTowne, a mini-town where students transform into professions they were ‘hired’ for such as Accountants, Service Technicians, Policepersons, etc. and learn about real life experiences and working together.
Specials Spotlight

Spanish: We are inquiring about How the World Works. Our focus is learning about weather patterns and changing seasons.

Music: We are also investigating How the World Works through the study of Science of Sound, Compositional Techniques and Sound Waves.

P.E.: We are exploring the similarities and differences between target and invasion game concepts.

Art: The District Art Show is coming up, so Mr. A will be passing out invitations to those who will have work on display.

Specials Rotation Calendar

B.A.S.E.

Looking for childcare? How about Douglas County’s very own co-curriculum program B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enterprise). Throughout the years, B.A.S.E. has provided children with a safe, learning, and friendly environment! B.A.S.E. is offered before school, after school, and all day (on specific days where students do not attend school). Children may pick from several different areas to enjoy their time including: the gym, playground, Tech Lab, and the Craft Club in the cafeteria. Homework Club is also encouraged!

More information can be found online at https://sites.google.com/a/dcsdk12.org/rockridgebase/ or you can contact Johnathan Hawkins (Program Director) at jhawkins1@dcsdk12.org.

Yarn Donations

Mrs. Eads (Music teacher) is looking for yarn donations for Recorder Karate. Any color. She can even use old remnants of unused yarn laying around the house. Please bring your donations to the front office.

Thank you!
Box Tops

March is Kindergarten and Preschool competition! Please bring in your Box Tops

Make a difference, Volunteer!

If you are interested in volunteering in your child’s classroom or would like to help with a school wide event, please contact Brittany Shiner at bshiner@desdk12.org. Your precious gift of time provides much needed assistance to our amazing teachers and allows you to actively participate in our children’s academic success. THANK YOU!

Library opens at 8:20am!

Good news! In conjunction with our students being able to enter the school building at 8:20am in the morning, we will have the library open from that time. Students will be able to check out books and/or return their books before getting to their respective classrooms.
International Baccalaureate

Each month we focus on an IB Learner Profile and **Caring** is our focus for the month of **March**

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Students who are CARING want people around them to be happy and are sensitive to their needs. They think about the world and work to take care of their community and the environment. They remember to treat others how they themselves would like to be treated. Caring people make friends easily. As Anais Nin, the French-born American author of novels and short stories says, “Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.”

Continued on next page......
How can parents help to develop students who are Caring at home?

- Model the caring behavior you would like to see in your child all the time. Your child has big eyes and ears and notices everything you do. Using kind words, helping people without being asked, being an active listener all show your child that you care about people. Even a simple thing, like holding a door for someone, shows your child that you are aware of others around you and want to help them.

- Think about how your family can get involved with community organizations.

- Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. Make the effort to establish these habits in your home. By developing children who care about the environment, you are helping the future of the globe.

- Smile.

- After reading a book, spend some time considering how the people in the book acted. Was someone in the book caring? All of the time or just some of the time? Were all of the characters in the book caring or just some of them? Some books to consider:
  
  Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse, Kevin Henkes
  The Giving Tree, Shel Silverstein
  Yertle the Turtle, Dr. Seuss
  The Grouchy Ladybug, Eric Carle

More information about International Baccalaureate-Primary Years Programme.
Watch D.O.G.S.

Calling ALL Dads, Stepdads, Granddads, Uncles, Brothers! Ever feel like you want to get involved with your kid's day but not sure how? Watch D.O.G.S. is an innovative program focusing on education and safety in schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father-figures.

You can be a positive role model and provide an extra set of eyes and ears for our students' safety by:

- Monitoring the school’s property
- Working one on one in small groups
- Reading
- Flashcards
- Lunch and recess

Or whatever needs to be done to PLANT SEEDS OF SUCCESS

A Big Thanks to those who have already volunteered as WATCH D.O.G.S. this year:

Aaron Edwards  Collin Cacchione  Sean Graham  Charles Flether III  Brandon Juenger
Cliff Waite  Gary Clayton  Art Rodriguez  Christopher Parkins  Daniel Gallegos
Clinton Ellerbe  Trey Walters  Zach Utsler  Don Trujillo  Kevin Grider
Bryan Goodland  Tyson Hurley  Justin Smith  Trey Walters  Kent Christie
Angel Arias  Jerome Revis  Tyler Ensign  Mike Lindsay  Roy Burcham
Nathan Bergland  Tony Karas

Please get in touch with Brittany Shiner at bshiner@dcsdk12.org if you have any questions or would like to volunteer!
Download our RRE Mobile APP today!

The RRE mobile app is an important communication tool that helps us better serve our RRE families. You get instant information about yellow flag release day, school closures and other important and time-sensitive information.

You also have easy access to pertinent information such as:

- School calendar
- Staff directory
- Lunch menus
- Social Hubs

One-touch calling to school numbers
School Closures and Delayed start
School newsletter
Search: Rock Ridge Elementary

Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!

Reach parents in your local community & support schools!

Businesses that want to sponsor this school, please contact TSCA at info@tscaschools.com or 970-239-1641.