



THE RAPTOR REPORT

May 2020

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Principal
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A Message From The Principal



Dear Families,

The old saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers." I think of this not only in the literal sense, but also in a figurative way. The freshness of spring leads to beautiful things. I decided the May newsletter should be about beautiful things!

- **Volunteers are beautiful!** - THANK YOU to all of you that volunteered your time and talents to our school this year. Whether it be joining your child's classroom on a field trip once during the year or coming in weekly to help, all of your efforts contribute to the positive culture and climate of our school! We are so fortunate to have an involved parent community. From supporting fundraisers to organizing Friday folders, each thing a volunteer does makes the work load a little lighter and the school a whole lot sweeter. While we are unable to celebrate you with our annual volunteer appreciation breakfast we had planned this year, I lift my coffee cup to you and toast all that you do for Rice. We are blessed to have a multitude of helpers, a fantastic PTO group, an involved SAC team, and individuals that come to school because they care about students. THANKS again for your time.

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RAV4

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Rice Elementary Newsletter

A Message From The Principal *continued*



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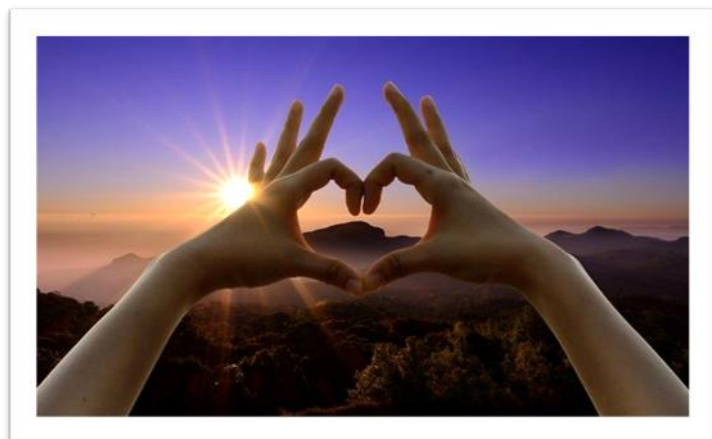
womensclinicnoco.com

- **Staff is beautiful!** - Our staff has completely rewritten their job descriptions over the last several weeks! I cannot think of a more dedicated and caring group of individuals. We are lucky to have such a committed and passionate group of people providing instruction and support for our students. And to top it off, they put together a beautiful video for our school community to shower families with love. While we all know virtual learning has changed our way of doing things, great teachers adjust and do the best they can because they care. I hope you appreciate their efforts and know how much they miss your children!
- **Students are BEAUTIFUL!** - Our kids see the best in people, bring out the best in people, and strive to do the best they can. We marvel at the perseverance, tenacity, and inquisitive nature of our students all the time. While they are home with you, don't forget to take into account their curious nature and nurture them to think on their own, explore things they are interested in, and to practice random acts of kindness. Children will learn in spite of their circumstances. Let their curiosity carry you away and enjoy their thinking. That is what makes life fun! We miss each and every child and can't wait to reunite again soon. Until then, let them know they are a beautiful person worthy of being celebrated, give them a hug, and tell them we are thinking about them.

Look for the May flowers. As they grow, they will add color to everything around you and make life more beautiful and enjoyable...just like our volunteers, staff, and students do!

With appreciation,

Melissa



Rice Elementary Newsletter

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Teacher Appreciation Week Information

Hello, Rice families:

We miss seeing our Rice community and hope everyone is doing ok during this unprecedented time! We are certainly grateful for our Rice Elementary staff members who continue to support our students and families from home. After balancing homeschooling and, for many of us, working from home, we can all appreciate how much effort it takes to instruct a classroom, remotely, while taking care of one's own family. Let's show our teachers how much we appreciate them!



During Teacher Appreciation Week happening **May 4th through May 8th**, Rice PTO would like to invite you to show support and appreciation for our teachers and staff members. Rice PTO will be providing each staff member with a small thank you gift.

continued ...



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Teacher Appreciation Week Information, continued...

Here are some ideas and ways you can show your appreciation for your homeroom teachers, impact teachers, and other staff members via email throughout Teacher Appreciation Week:

- ✓ Send a thank you card or special note
- ✓ Share your favorite classroom activity
- ✓ Share your favorite thing about your teacher/staff member
- ✓ Send a virtual hug
- ✓ Draw a picture
- ✓ Send an e-gift card from a place of your choice, keep in mind those local community businesses who supported our Walk-A-Thon

Let's come together and fill those teachers' inboxes with our appreciation and well-deserved gratitude! We look forward to seeing our Rice community together again soon.



~Rice PTO



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Counseling Corner



It is officially May! Can you believe it?

Below are some additional social-emotional resources to explore during this time of remote-learning. I encourage you to check out the counseling site filled with resources for parents and students too!

Rice Counseling Website: <https://padlet.com/smcwilliams8/5i3we0gckh1t>

Websites to help develop social and emotional skills:

SEL on BrainPOP and BrainPOP Jr.: helps children develop social and emotional competencies, such as managing stress, resolving conflict, persevering, and more. <https://go.brainpop.com/family/home>

Calm Together: offering meditations, sleep stories, movement exercises, journals, and music for the whole family. All of the resources on this page are free to use, and to share. <https://www.calm.com/blog/take-a-deep-breath>

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exhale
Banner Health

An advertisement for Huntington Learning Center. It features a smiling girl with a pink backpack. Text includes: "SAVE \$100*", "HUNTINGTON BEST SCHOOL YEAR EVER CENTER", "GET OFF TO A GREAT START WITH HELP FROM HUNTINGTON", "Personalized Attention. Proven Results.", and "970-223-5738". The Huntington Learning Center logo is at the bottom right.

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Rice Elementary Newsletter

Is it just a phase?



CAYAC

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answers, options and support.



Counseling Corner, continued...

Go Noodle: hundreds of free movement and mindfulness activities for kids. www.gonoodle.com

Mind Yeti: offers 19 short, guided audio sessions featuring diverse voices and immersive soundscapes that invite kids and their adults to practice mindfulness techniques like deep breathing, stretching, and emotional self-regulation. <https://youtu.be/j8sYqsD2WZQ>

Apps to help develop and practice social-emotional skills:

Breathe, Think, Do with Sesame is tailored for younger children (ages 2-5). It focuses on problem solving, self-control and persistence with interactive games. This app is available in either English or Spanish. Kids love playing it!

Dreamy Kid has affirmations and exercises meant to help calm kids of all ages. Dreamy Kids is offering 25 of their lessons free during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Go Noodle app makes screen time active with yoga exercises, dance videos and mindfulness activities that are fun and engaging.

Smiling Mind has options for adults, kids and families all in the same place. It goes beyond standard meditations with activities developed by psychologists - like mindful listening, mindful eating, and more.

Stop, Breathe & Think / Stop, Breathe & Think Kids apps have a big variety of meditations and breathing exercises that come free. The Kids version has a check-in screen to find the right exercise based on their emotions, so kids 5-10 can navigate the app on their own.

Thisissand allows you to create art with sand. Making art in this way is both relaxing and fun.

Wellbeyond Kids offers 5 free meditations that focus on feelings, kindness, falling asleep and focusing attention. The meditations range from 3 to 10 minutes and are great for ages 5 and up.

YouHue gives students the tools to reflect, learn, and grow using mood tracking to empower them to understand their emotions so they can better manage and communicate them. For children ages 4+.

PE News

Hey Raptors!

The weather sure is looking nice and the sun is shining bright which makes for a great time to get outside and move our bodies. I've been continuing to walk LOTS and getting outside makes me feel really good.

****Your goal is to stay active and keep your body moving for at least 60 minutes every day, so it is a good idea to create a plan or **routine** to help you know what you will be doing each day. Write it down and make changes as often as you like to keep your activities fun. **You are in control of your health and fitness!!!****

Make sure to check out the Rice Specials webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/psdschools.org/ricespecials/home>

for ideas and to access all of the **new weekly activities** to help keep yourselves moving. Also, keep in mind all of the activities we did together in the gym. These are movements you can do for the rest of your lives to stay healthy and fit.

I miss you all! Have fun and stay active Raptors!!

Mr. Hannen



Art Newsletter

Hello Rice Raptor Families,

Wow! I can hardly believe April is over and we are entering May, the last month of the school year. I have been so happy to join all the Google Meets and see all my smiling students! I still miss them, their energy, and enthusiasm for creating in the classroom and LOVE when they send me emails of what they are creating at home! My HOPE is that they continue being creative and active in some way through the remainder of the school year. If you have missed any of the Art choice boards in April, you can check them out below. Don't forget to check out the Specials site every Monday for new ideas to explore with your students for the week at <http://bit.ly/RiceSpecials>

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact or email me at: btennyso@psdschools.org!

Take care, stay well, miss you!

Beth Tennyson

ART CHOICE BOARD
APRIL 6-10

Design and create your dream playground!

CREATE A STORY WITHOUT USING WORDS!

PICK 5 DIFFERENT OBJECTS AND CREATE DRAWINGS OF THEIR SHADOWS!

DIP LEGOS IN PAINT AND USE THEM AS A PRINTING TOOL TO CREATE A NEW PIECE OF ART!

Create your own idea!

INVENT YOUR OWN TIME MACHINE! HOW DOES IT WORK? WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME?

Transform your chalk art... Using a paintbrush and water!

CREATE AN ORIGAMI SAMURAI HELMET! LESSON FOUND ON METMUSEUM.ORG

COLLECT OBJECTS AROUND YOUR HOUSE TO CREATE A COLOR WHEEL!

Sp Adobe Spark

Music Information

Dear Students and Families,

We miss you so much at Rice! I especially miss making Music with you, dancing, reading stories, and just being together in the Music room. I hope that you have the chance to participate with the remote music classes. Please use the link below to find lessons for each grade level each week:

[Remote Music Classes with Mrs. Davis](#)

Thank you to those who have been sending me messages that your student has been participating with me in Music while we are apart!

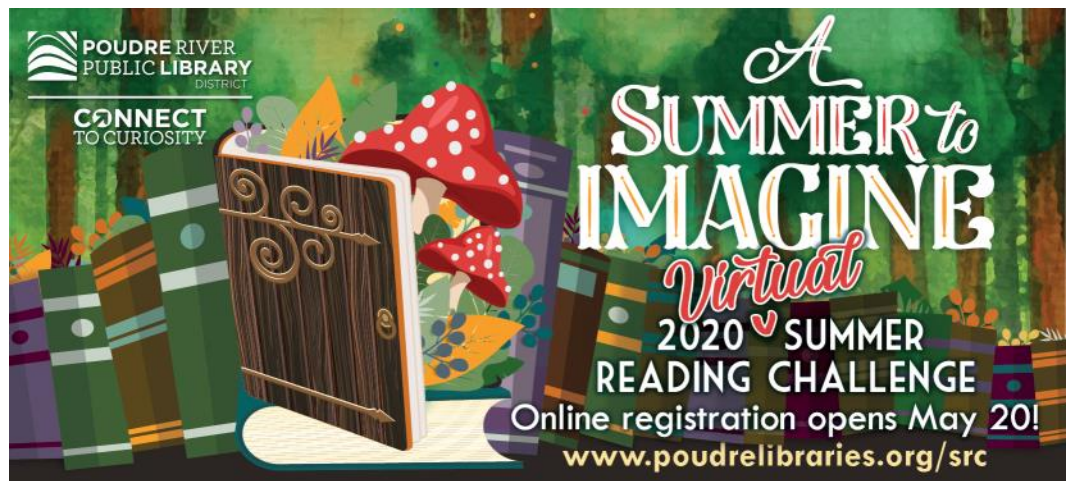
Performances

Because our fourth, first, and kindergarten performances were cancelled, we will most likely have those in the fall (for the new fifth, second, and first grade students).

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

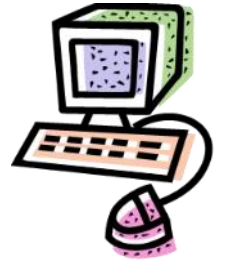
Sincerely,

Laura Davis
Music Teacher
ladavis@psdschools.org





Integrating Technology & the Media Center



Battle of the Books

Congratulations to all our students that participated in the Battle of the Books – virtually! It was so exciting to have our 15 teams practice & compete online. The students have been reading since October and we were determined to give them the opportunity to show what they know and participate in a battle. A huge thank you to our volunteer coaches that met with their teams once a week & were true cheerleaders, the PTO for their support & sponsorship, and to Megan Larsen for designing the t-shirts! Also, a big thank you to the homeroom teachers that supported BOB and their students, and to all the parents for your support, flexibility, and help in getting students to their Google Meets! All the grade level battles were close. Our teams were amazing, and everyone is a winner!

3rd Grade Battle of the Book Teams

- Wednesday Snowflakes – Coach Miss Melany, Grace, Sienna, Lauren, & Tessa
- Raptor Readers – Coach Peggy, Levi, Barrett, Gavin, David
- Reading Owls – Coach Anna, Gwen, DiLynn, Katelyn, Layla, Aubraya
- Reader Fever – Coach Elaine, Landon, Avery, Will, Kennedy, Emmie
- Snow white & the Seven Books - Coach Rachel, Arrowyn, Elivia, Jordyn, Sienna

3rd Grade Champions

Reading Raptors – Coach Louise, Jack, Carter, Melinda, Evelyn, Hunter

4th Grade Battle of the Book Teams

- Reading Raptors – Coach Betsy, Tanner, Tyler, Catherine
- Reading Maniacs – Coach Stephanie, Journie, Meghan, Abi, Olyvia, Calla
- Gummy Book Worms – Coach Katie, Everette, Olivia, Jacob, Blake

4th Grade Champions

Rockin’ Readers – Coach Jessica, Brady, Henry, Jackson, Richard, Anthony



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5th Grade Battle of the Book Teams

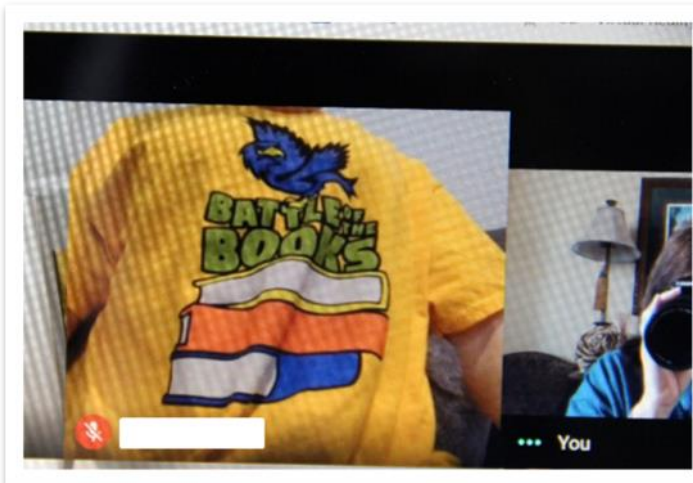
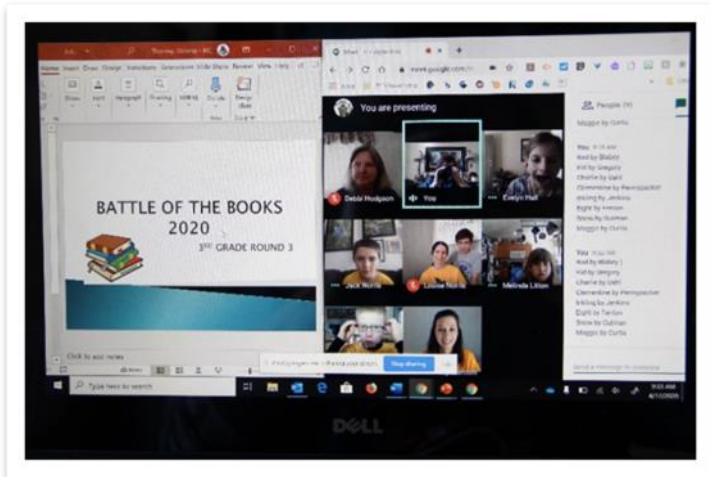
- Lettuce Read – Coach Mabel, Sarah, Julia, Eliora H., Aeva, Sophia
- BOB Bumbles – Coach Karen K, Bea, Jaci, Penny, Kaylee, Ellie

The Group – Coach Karen T, Natalie, Casen, Jude, Presley

5th Grade Co-Champions

- Dem Classic Books – Coach Whitney, Tucker W., Eliora S., Caleb, Tobin, Mackenzie

MATERR – Coach Elaine, Mazie, Aiden, Tucker N., Reagan G., Reagan S.



Early Childhood

Early Childhood is studying Insects:

We've noticed that children are often interested in life's most ordinary things. Whenever we go outside, there is always a lot of interest in insects. Children find them, watch them, follow them, and try to capture them. In their play at school, the children have shared their curiosity about the different types of insects they see, how insects move, where and when we see insects, and the kinds of jobs that involve insects. We think a study of insects will be a great opportunity for children to explore their interests while at home participating in remote learning.



What You Can Do at Home:

Talk with your child about the different kinds of insects you see. If possible, examine harmless insects you notice in your community. What features do they have? Point out interesting features, such as the colors, patterns, where they live, how they move (e.g., do they fly, crawl, or jump?), and how some insects are harmless and some are dangerous. Notice people whose work involves insects, like gardeners, exterminators, or beekeepers. What equipment do they use? Invite your child to think about why some insects are pests and why some are helpful. What kind of supplies do you need to capture and examine insects without hurting them? Help your child to release captured insects after you've had a chance to explore them.

Look for our learning plans and participate in what your schedule allows.

WE MISS and LOVE YOU!

Teaching teams:

Cindy McCarthy, Stacey Trewartha, and Leeann Ekanger

Mary Glaze and Mindi Castaneda



Kindergarten

- K-** Kind words you send to us
- I-** Inviting us into your homes
- N-** Need for TEAMWORK
- D-** Delivering instruction together as one
- E-** Everybody working as a team
- R-** Relying on each other for success
- G-** Growing those sweet kiddos
- A-** Always being there for the kids
- R-** Recognizing the potential in all
- T-** Taking the time to teach
- E-** Endless emails – (full of love)
- N-** Never giving up on your kids or us



Parents we thank you for all that you are doing. We miss you kids so incredibly much!

Hugs and Love,

Sari Bosch

Lyn Karnes

Gretchen Lenzner

First Grade



Dear First Grade Families!

We hope this letter finds you well and enjoying this Colorado sunshine!

Thank you for all the support and effort you continue to put in to our new way of learning. We miss our First Graders terribly, but we are so very proud of all the work they are doing. Make sure to continue to read 20 minutes a day and get outside to play! Keep checking in with your child's teacher's email to keep up to date with upcoming information, a week at a glance, and the platforms we are using for remote learning (seesaw, YouTube, google meet, WebEx). We miss you all and can't wait to be reunited soon!

Warmly,

The First Grade Team

Second Grade



Hello to all of our wonderful remote learning support teachers out there. We APPRECIATE you! We know that this time is not how we all envisioned our last couple of months of second grade, but we've got this! As the weather turns warm and the desire to escape the house increases, we have some suggestions that can continue your child's learning while getting some exercise and fresh air. Scavenger hunts are super fun and encourage mindfulness. When you are out and about your child can look for 2D and 3D shapes, then make a photo journal of what they find. Another fun scavenger hunt idea is to find text in our environment that follow the abc order - no skipping around in the alphabet. First, they must find a word that starts with A, then B, then C and so on. This can be an ongoing activity because some letters are going to take a bit to find.

Please reach out to us / your child's teacher if you have any questions, suggestions, ideas, or just want to share what your little co-workers are up to. We are always happy to hear a funny kid story and miss having our own to share

around the dinner table.

Here again are the useful links for you and your child:

Spelling city
<https://www.spellingcity.com/users/Rice2017>

Rice quick links
<https://ric.psdschools.org/quick-links>

AR quizzes
<https://hosted124.renlearn.com/246370/>

Epic class code pxd7490
<https://www.getepic.com/sign-in/educator>

Rice Elementary Specials website updated weekly
<http://bit.ly/RiceSpecials>

Third Grade



Third graders have been working hard this past month through remote learning. They have been involved in a world of Google Classroom and teacher videos. We asked them what they enjoyed the most about remote learning and this is what they said.

“My favorite part about remote learning is sleeping in every morning and then getting on the computer to do school work. It’s fun to be able to do some of it with my friends like we did in school but it gets kinda boring and sometimes I wish I was back in school to see everyone.” --Caleb

“My favorite part of remote learning is that I can listen to music and I can stop and come back anytime.” -- Evelyn

“My favorite part of remote learning is being able to sleep in and having more time with my family. I’m also able to be flexible with my day.” --Jack

“My favorite part of remote learning is that you have help with your work and I also like that it is challenging.” --Mya

“My favorite part of remote learning is that I don’t have to be by anyone.” --David

“ My favorite part is you can take as much time as you need.”-- Jacob

“ My favorite part is my literacy. I like going on Epic and working on non literal and literal language. “-- Arrowyn

“ My favorite part is to do everything at my time.” -- Barrett

“My favorite part of remote learning is writing because I get to type instead of write.” -- Sienna

“My favorite part about remote learning is math. Math is an opportunity to learn more about fractions, time and more. My other one is writing. Writing is so fun because you can write personal narratives about your life. Last, is literacy . Literacy is super fun because you can read on epic and do fun activities.”-- Kaydence

“My favorite part of remote learning is reading because I like cat ninja and non literal meanings.”--Sergio

Fourth Grade

Hello Families,

We hope our May news finds your family healthy!

Our appreciation for your support, flexibility, and perseverance during remote learning is far-reaching. We are gracious for your willingness to navigate new technology and be flexible.

Google Meetings have been exciting! We have enjoyed hearing how the students are doing, meeting pets, and listening to them help each other with technology.

We wanted to share some ideas that don't include screen time for your family.

- Go on an alphabet scavenger Hunt in the yard
- Create an obstacle course, time yourself, and/or siblings and try to beat your time.
- Play the "Ground is Lava": determine where the "safe zones" are, set a timer, and have someone call out "The ground is lava!" All players need to get to a safe spot before the timer goes off.
- Play "I spy yard cleanup/house": Set a time and call out items.
- Dance your Heart Out: set up a virtual dance party. Zoom is a great tool.
- Play Charades
- Play Water Balloon Toss
- Card Games

Enjoy the beauty of spring!



5th Grade



Hello Fifth-grade Families,

We hope this finds you in a new routine and excited about the warmer weather. Thank you for all you are doing for your child during remote learning. We appreciate you! We are excited to share an awesome outdoor resource with you to help students stay away from the computers. Generation Wild provides opportunities to explore the great outdoors while having a little fun. We have added some of our favorite spots on their website to inspire outdoor learning and exploring. Enjoy!

- What is Generation Wild?

o “We all grow better outside.” Generation Wild provides inspiration and tips to keep everyone enjoying the great outdoors.

<https://www.generationwild.com/>

- o 100 Things to do Before you are 12
- o You can download the PDF and check off new adventures.

<https://www.generationwild.com/the-list>

- o Parent Tips & Strategies to get kids outdoors

<https://www.generationwild.com/get-kids-outside>

- o Backyard Hacks
- o Find new ways to use your backyard.

<https://www.generationwild.com/backyard-hacks>

- o Generation Wild Library
- o Books and apps about the wild and outdoors.

<https://www.generationwild.com/library>

Stay WILD with the help of GENERATION WILD!

~ Miss Holmes and Mrs. Neill