



THE RAPTOR REPORT

November 2020

A Message From The Principal

Rice Elementary
7000 Third Street
Wellington, CO 80549

Principal
Melissa Duve'

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970.488.8701

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970.488.8702

**[https://
ric.psdschools.org/](https://ric.psdschools.org/)**

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Dear Families,

On the one hand, I cannot believe it is November. On the other hand, I cannot wait to have 2020 as a distant memory. This has most definitely been a year of challenges. Yet the eternal optimist in me comes out and I remember that November is one of my favorite months of the year. Why you ask? Several reasons, but most importantly because November is a season of thankfulness.



Thanksgiving, the holiday, is about family, food, togetherness, and an opportunity to celebrate why we are thankful. While we can all rattle off a million reasons why this year has been stressful, perhaps shifting our focus for a *brief* moment to focus on gratitude, thankfulness, and appreciation will cause our stress levels to decrease and our moods to lift.

continued on next page



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Rice Elementary Newsletter

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A Message From The Principal *continued*

I am thankful we have all students back at school with us. We love our kids and are passionate about their learning and social emotional growth. I am thankful for this staff, whose professionalism, dedication, and commitment continue to amaze me. I am thankful for the parents and families that are persevering through the adversity of COVID and all the many things that go along with it. This Rice community is truly a special place. Thanks to all of you for who you are, what you do, and for supporting us through these challenging times.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful November and a happy Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,

Melissa

"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."

~ Robert Brault



All Women. Always.

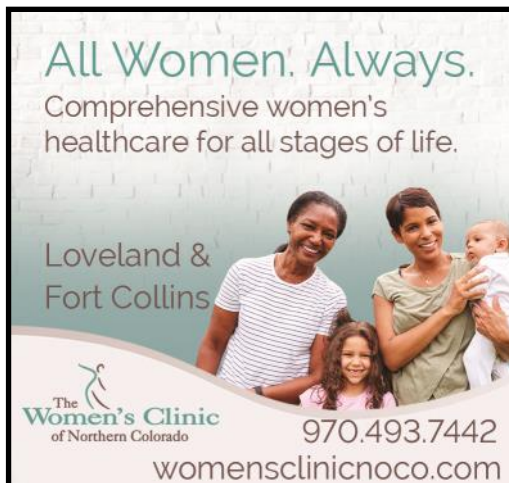
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE

Please read the following regarding important office procedures:

* Please call the **Attendance Line** at **970-488-8701 before 9:30 AM** if your child(ren) will be absent from school or late due to an appointment. You can also document the absence by logging into your ParentVUE account. The absence will be marked **unexcused** if we are unable to reach you.

* **After school changes must be called in by 3:15** to ensure your child(ren) receives the appropriate message. Please call the main line at **970-488-8700** to report these changes.

*We love your student and we want them to get the best learning experience possible on the two in-person days they are with us in the building. Please do not schedule appointments for your student during this time. If the situation is unavoidable and you have to pick your student up early, please allow for the additional time it will take to dismiss your student from class. We can no longer call your student down from class, someone from the office must go to the classroom and walk your student through the building and down to the front door.

*For your student's safety, always bring your **ID/driver's license** when checking your child(ren) out early from school.

*As much as we all enjoy birthday treats and celebrations – please do not bring any type of classroom birthday treat to school. Check with your teacher to find different ways of celebrating your student.

*Please make sure your student brings a refillable water bottle with them every day. Water fountains are not usable at this time and we want every one to stay hydrated.

* There is a \$5 fee to have a bus card replaced. Please let your student's teacher know if another card needs to be ordered.

*If you signed the Media Opt-Out form for your student, please know that he/she will be asked to step to the side when photos and/or videos are being taken at various events.

Please **keep your information on file current** (phone numbers, emergency contacts, address). You can update information on your ParentVUE account. *Please note that you must change your address with the office staff. You are not able to change this information in ParentVUE. Proof of address such as a current utility bill is required when doing so.

Office Hours 7:30 AM-4:30 PM

Rice Phone 970-488-8700

Rice Fax 970-488-8702

Attendance Line 970-488-8701

School Start Time 8:55 AM

Dismissal 3:40 PM

PTO NEWS

RICE PTO

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

JOIN TODAY!

Upcoming Meetings

November 2-10 AM Virtual Meeting

December 7-10 AM Virtual Meeting

Special Thanks!

Thank you to *Card Your Yard* for helping us celebrate our amazing teachers with this donated yard sign.



“Join PTO today
to support
students, staff,
and teachers!”

WHAT IS PTO?

We are made up of parents, community members, school staff and teachers. In addition to planning fundraisers for the school, we find ways to support students, families, teachers, and staff. This organization funds special projects, classroom funds, Thanksgiving lunch, winter craft night, and other fun events, staff appreciation, spirit gear, and organizes volunteers for all school events. If you are looking for a way to get involved, meet other parents, and become more engaged, PTO is the place for you! PTO has the opportunity to bring our entire community together to support our school! To get meeting invitations or find out more, email RiceRaptorsPTO@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISERS

Morning Fresh Dairy: Caps4Cash is a Morning Fresh Dairy program where schools can earn cash by collecting caps from Morning Fresh Dairy glass bottles. We earn 5¢ for each cap. Please send in your milk caps to school monthly. Last year we earned \$160. You can drop them off at Trim Salon on Cleveland.



SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES ONLINE?

Last year we earned \$744.40! You can still earn Box Tops for your school with your e-receipt! See how at <http://BTFE.com/emailgroceryreceipts>. You can scan box tops to support our school! Tell grandma and grandpa! Please download the BOX TOPS app for your smartphone ([apple](#) or [android](#)) or continue to collect your box tops and look for the next collection event.

continued ...

Rice Elementary Newsletter

PTO News, continued...

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9/20

Rice Elementary Newsletter



Art News

It has been extremely exciting to welcome K-5 back at school and be able to teach Art to everyone in person! I absolutely LOVE being able to see students create work and hear them talk to each other about their artwork and what they are creating. As many have figured out, the specials schedule is a bit different than it was during remote learning where we see 1 class a week (2 days of Art for the A group and 2 days for the B group). Then we transition to another class in that same grade level. The bummer is it takes three weeks for that first class again, but on the positive side safety is better for students and we can continue what we started in the first week!

We are focusing on the process of art making, and not entirely the project (or end result). Hopefully students are having fun and can show you what we did on the days they stay at home. Thank you again for encouraging your children to stay creative!

Mrs. Tennyson
Rice Art Teacher

PE News

Hello!

It has been so nice to welcome our Rice Raptors back to the nest! Thank you all for working with us as we navigate these challenging times in education, together.

Physical Education classes are off and running, quite literally! Students have been engaged in locomotor activities, personal fitness opportunities, and fitness goal setting. As students are encouraged to participate in physical activity for at least 60 minutes each day, they are learning a variety of personal fitness ideas and skills so they can stay healthy and active while away from PE class too. When the smoke from the wildfires permit, PE classes have been going outside where kiddos are able to take off their masks during class as long as everybody stays socially distanced to remain safe. Students will have PE class two times every three weeks, with each class lasting 45 minutes. Water fountains are not available for students so it is important for each child to have a refillable water bottle so they can hydrate during class. Also, weather is unpredictable in wonderful Colorado so please send warm layers to school so students can regulate their body temperature while outside. A warm coat will be essential for comfort as the temperatures decrease.

Stay healthy and active Raptors!

Mr. Hannen



Rice Elementary Newsletter

Music News

Hello students and parents!

We have been finding new ways to keep our musicianship skills and camaraderie strong in the Music room and in classrooms, playing games, reading music, and getting pretty good at humming! As of now, singing is not allowed within 15 feet of distance between singers, so we are using lots of chants, rhymes, rhythms, movement activities and humming to still have a wonderful music class. I have been impressed by how much students have remembered since last year! It has been a joy to have students in person and to make music together. They have been flexible, understanding and so much fun.

Feel free to contact me anytime!

Laura Davis

Music Teacher



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Integrating Technology & the Media Center



Media This Year

- A and B Groups will alternate checking out books on a bi-weekly basis.
- A Group's books will be delivered to class on Monday of their week to check out
- B Group's books will be delivered to class on Tuesday of their week to check out
- Book Returns
- A Groups will return books on Wednesdays - every other week
- B Groups will return books on Thursdays - every other week
- Crates will be provided to each classroom. Books will be quarantined for 24 hours before being checked in.
- K - 2nd grades - surprise books will be checked out to students
- Kinder - 2nd - 2 books
- 3rd - 5th grades will reserve books in the Online Card Catalog and books will be delivered to classrooms on a bi-weekly basis.
- 3rd - 5th - 2 books

[Reserving library books online](#)

[Media A/B Calendar](#)

Typing Club

This year, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders are using typing club. We are practicing proper keyboarding, using all ten fingers and returning to the home row. We go slow to get fast. Our link to Typing Club is <https://rice-psd.typingclub.com/> Students log in with their PSD Google account. Please encourage your student to practice using proper keyboarding techniques – this will help increase their speed.

Remember, students can access websites used in school.

Go to: Rice's Homepage - <https://ric.psdschools.org/>

Click on the Students tab on the top right

Icons are in alphabetical order

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Integrating Technology & the Media Center



2020 Rice Elementary Food Drive and Turkey Round-up



Rice Raptors are collecting canned and boxed food for the Wellington Food Bank, along with frozen turkeys. Help support our local food bank by sending in items with your students.

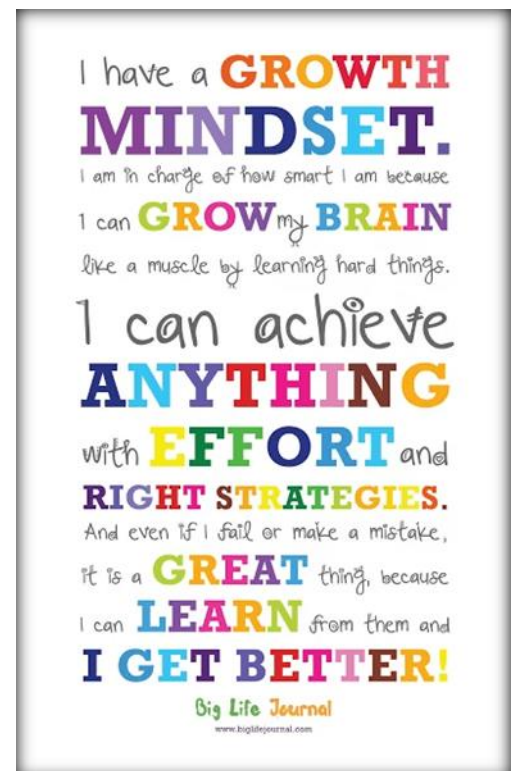
Canned food will be collected in homerooms from November 1st – 21st. More information will follow on when to bring frozen turkeys. Let us fill Wellington Food Bank's shelves!

PSD Tech Portal

This tech help website, designed specifically for students and parents, offers device troubleshooting information, application technical support and covers other common technical issues that sometimes come up. [PSD Tech Portal](#)

Clever family portal available: Clever is an easy way for students to log in and learn with online programs they use at school. With their own personal portals, students can learn with resources selected by their teachers and the district. The Clever Family Portal allows parents/ guardians to create an account and help their students with learning at home. [Learn more on the PSD Community Tech Portal.](#)

**Have fun creating & reading,
Mrs. Thornley**



Counseling Corner

Since students are now in person at Rice, the weekly social emotional learning class has ended. I enjoyed getting to 'see' them every week online! Students are still able to see me around the building, outside at recess, and when I check in on their classes. I will also be meeting with students individually in the hallway or outside as needed. It is great to have the students back in the building!

Please reach out if your family needs any resources.

-Beth Roberts

elizabethr@psdschools.org

970-488-8718

Early Childhood

Hello Families! Our classes are beginning to study Trees! We'll be observing and comparing trees to learn about what lives in them, what can be made from trees, seasons, and who cares for them. We hope that this study will help children explore and appreciate nature. As we study trees, we will use literacy, math, the arts, and technology to explore the topic in depth. We will learn important social studies and scientific concepts through firsthand investigations.



What You Can Do at Home: You can help your child explore and appreciate nature by learning about trees. Invite your child to talk about trees. Wonder aloud with your child to encourage his or her thinking about trees. "I wonder why leaves fall from trees." "I wonder what makes some trees grow so big." At home, collect parts of trees, and encourage your child to sort them. Your child might also enjoy making a collage by arranging and gluing tree items on paper.

Please check out our Learning Pages on the Rice Elementary website: <https://ric.psdschools.org/>.

Teaching teams:

Cindy McCarthy and Leeann Ekanger

Mary Glaze and Mindi Castaneda

Kinder

Hello Kindergarten Families;



We are moving right along in our new Kindergarten world. We have been very busy learning in every subject! In math we are continuing to work on our making 5, recognizing and comparing numbers 0-10. You can be practicing counting to 100 at home. In literacy we work on the letters and their sounds, how to use the sounds we know along with the pictures when reading, the sight words... I, a, am, can, look, my, see, the, this, is, like -and how to stretch the words so that we can write each letter in a word. Whew! In science, we have learned about trees and how they change with each season. We have also talked about animals and their homes. In Social Studies we have been discussing the qualities that a

person needs to be a good friend to others. Kindergarten is such a great place to learn how to be a great friend every day. As we roll into November, we are going to continue these skills and apply them to the next level in our learning. We continue to enjoy being a part of your world as we teach and nurture your student throughout this monumental year of their life. Thank you for all the support and working with your child at home. We are growing so much!

Sari, Gretchen and Lyn



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1st Grade



Hello First Grade Families,

We have started our year strong and our first graders are doing a great job. We are thrilled with the flexibility that the students show and their positive attitudes toward our different school year. Here is what is happening in first grade in the month of November:

Reading:

- Phonics every day! We are working with blends.
- Building stamina in reading.
- Finishing Unit 2 Reach for Reading “How do you know if something is living?”
- Unit 3 Reach for Reading “How do we get what we need?”

Writing:

- Informative writing- Students will continue the informative genre. We will focus on being experts about our passions. As authors, we will continue to explore the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish. Students will focus on ideas, conventions, word choice, voice, presentation, organization, and sentence fluency.
- Writing about things we know a lot about.
- Planning, writing, revising stories
- Continuing Narrative genre. We will focus on writing small moment stories with independence while exploring the writing process to plan, draft, revise, and edit.

Math:

- Finishing up Topic 3: Addition Facts to 20
- In this unit, students will develop skills to make 10 to add, explain addition strategies, solve addition word problems with facts to 20, critique reasoning, count on to add, count on to add using a number line, doubles, doubles plus 1, and doubles plus 2
- Topic 4: Subtraction Facts to 20

- In this unit, students will develop skills to use a number line to subtract, make 10 to subtract, count on to subtract using 10 as a landmark, make addition and subtraction facts, explain strategies to solve unknowns, use reasoning to solve story problems, and use addition facts to find subtraction facts

- Unit Vocabulary Words: add, sum, plus, equation, equals, part, whole, difference, subtract, minus, more, fewer, addend, number line, doubles fact, near doubles fact, open number line, doubles plus 1 fact, doubles plus 2 fact, make 10, fact families, related facts.

Science:

- Life Science Standard 2: All organisms have external parts that they use to perform daily functions
- Mystery Science- Hands-on inquiry based lessons and activities

Social Studies:

- How We Express Ourselves
- Central Idea: Traditions connect people.
- Lines of Inquiry:
- What are traditions?
- Why do people create and celebrate traditions?
- What traditions are in your family?
- How do traditions change over time?
- How are our traditions similar and different?

We are thankful that you share your children with us every day!

Sincerely,

First Grade Team



Second Grade

Hello 2nd Grade Families,
November is upon us! It's a busy month with parent teacher conferences and our Thanksgiving Holiday.

Science and Reading

We just completed our second unit in reading with the BIG question: "What does it take for living things to survive?" We have enjoyed learning about animal adaptations and habitats. This month, we'll begin our new unit, switching to science and the water cycle.

Fall Conferences

November also brings fall parent teacher conferences. While again, this will be a change from previous years, we look forward to meeting with each of you to discuss your child's academic goals and progress, as well as their social emotional needs as they continue to face the challenges of the unknowns of this school year. 2nd grade conferences will be held between November 3rd-13th. You should have received an email from the Rice office to sign up for a conference day/time. Please contact your child's teacher for special arrangements for conferences.

Halloween

Halloween was a spooktacular event here at Rice! We were so excited to see all the creative and fun costumes that the kids wore. We had a great day of Halloween math activities and we hope they shared their Halloween book they created with you!

As always, we are here for you and your child. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions, suggestions, concerns, or whatever else we can help with. Thank you for sharing your fun-loving, curious children with us!

Ms. Leatherman, Mrs. Steketee, and Mrs. Weedon

Third Grade

“What is so amazing about plants?”

That is the big question we are exploring in third grade’s next literacy unit. To answer it, we are reading, writing, and talking about the life cycles of plants and the many kinds of plants on Earth. Be a part of our exploration! With your student, read the New Words below. Then follow these directions.

Directions:

1. Talk together about how vegetables grow. Try to use some of the New Words in your discussion. Then share family potato recipes.
2. Work together to write directions for your favorite potato recipe on the card below. Include a list of ingredients and steps for how to make the recipe. Use the New Words when you can.

Unit 3 Vocabulary

blossom depend seed characteristics growth soil conditions produce sprout
 cycle root city organism vine desert protect weed diversity rainforest
 environment unique

What We’re Reading in this Unit:

“Two Old Potatoes and Me” by John Coy

In this story, a girl and her father plant potatoes and tend them until they are ready to eat.

“America’s Sproutings” by Pat Mora

Three haiku poems tell about amazing foods.

“A Protected Place” by Elizabeth Sengel

In this article, the author tells about Explorer Corneille Ewango’s work at the Okapi Reserve in Congo, Africa.

“Rosie’s Reports” by Rosie Ruf



Fourth Grade



It finally has felt like school again for us! We are proud of how students have embraced the new procedures at school. Teamwork is at an all time high with learning to navigate on a rope and thorough handwashing.

On days in the classroom, we continue to work on becoming better readers and thinkers. Our reading has been focused on non-fiction and main idea but is shifting to fiction. During fiction reading, we are focusing on character, setting, and plot. Writing also has focused on writing a paragraph and including details from a text. We are in the process of stretching paragraph work into an essay which is three to five paragraphs. Math is focused on larger digit multiplication. Please continue to practice multiplication facts at home! Science is exciting with our study of plant and animal adaptations.

Expectations are being model at school and reinforced with the work for home days. We are expecting students to work about 3 hours on their days they are not at school. This is important to reinforce concepts at school. We appreciate your support.

5th Grade



Greetings from fifth grade!

We are all excited about the transition to in person learning. Here are a few reminders as we move forward with the A/B hybrid learning model.

1. **Morning Meetings** - ALL students will participate in **EVERY** morning meeting Monday-Friday at 8:55 am.

2. **Nightly Reading** - Your fifth grader should be reading at least 20 minutes. All students learned how to reserve library books online. Please reach out if your fifth grader needs help finding a good-fit book.

3. **At-home Learning materials** - Your student will bring home materials for at home learning. The materials will be placed in their binder as well as the choice board attached in their Google Classroom. A group will return ALL work on the following Monday and B group will return ALL work on the following Tuesday.

-Mrs. Hediger, Miss Holmes, and Mrs. Neill



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