

Rocky Mountain Deaf School

January 2010



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan 6	<u>Return to School</u>
Jan 13	<u>Strategic Planning</u>
Jan 18	<u>No School: MLK Day</u>
Jan 22	<u>Honor Roll Assembly</u>
Jan 22	<u>Middle School Fun Night</u>
Jan 28	<u>Board Meeting</u>

HAPPY JANUARY!

Welcome to the New Year of 2010!

Several years ago, the RMDS community came together to create a 3 year plan of direction. They called their plan "The RMDS Strategic Plan". In the past 3 years, we have completed all of the goals set out for us. And now as we walk through the halls and classrooms, we see the living Strategic Plan in action.

As we enter a new year, we are also entering a new era at RMDS. It is time for a NEW plan. What will RMDS look like in 2013? What programs will be offered? What direction will we go? We need your BEST IDEAS! On January 13th, we will host a Strategic Brainstorming Session. Please stop by and share your best ideas with us. These ideas will help guide us through a growing spurt, as we step forward into a bright future.

Happy New Year,
Dr. Janet Dickinson

Honor Roll Assembly

Friday, January 22 2010

2:00pm-3:00pm



Families & friends are invited to join us as we recognize students who have shown high academic achievement during the first half of the 2009-2010 school year!

Students with a GPA of 3.0 or above will be honored.
Volleyball medals will also be given out.

What's Happening at RMDS

ACCREDITATION

RMDS was awarded the highest accreditation status:

Accredited: High Performing School

Accreditation Status is based on:

1. CSAP Scores & Gains
2. DRA II Scores & Gains
3. Survey Data
4. Meeting Safety Requirements

CHARTER RENEWAL

Every 5 years, our charter contract with Jeffco School District must be renewed.

The Renewal process requires an in-depth evaluation process and formal report to Jeffco School District regarding our progress. The final outcome is a formal hearing by Jeffco's School Board. We are currently moving through this process.

SPOKEN ENGLISH UPDATE

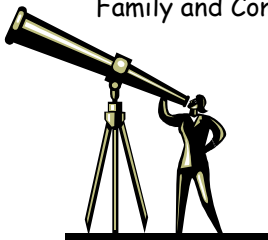
We would like to welcome our new Spoken English Facilitator, Eileen Kratzer! She will work with students in 2 ways:

1. In Classrooms in a specific Center: Helping students learn the correct spoken English terminology relating to curriculum.
2. In our new Spoken English / Auditory Learning space, filled with musical instruments & books on tape. Once a week, students with auditory skills are welcome to join our Spoken English Teacher for read aloud stories.

All Spoken English activities are optional for students and parents. These activities are in addition to the speech therapy offered to students.

ASSEMBLIES

At the end of every month RMDS hosts assemblies and special guests for our students. Family and Community members are welcome to join us for these events!



THIS MONTH:

Friday, January 15 from 12:30-1:30
Science Matters will be doing a
STAR WARS SCIENCE PRESENTATION

What's Happening at RMDS

RESEARCH to SUPPORT DEAF EDUCATION

We are participating in the following research studies through collaboration with universities & other organizations. Every research study *requires* parent permission before any action is taken.

1. University of Colorado & University of Washington
Topic: Quality of Life of deaf/hh children
Requirement: Students complete a questionnaire about the quality of their life
2. University of Texas at Austin
Topic: The effectiveness of Accommodations on test scores
Requirement: We gave students assessments with & without accommodations.
3. Mister Rogers Neighborhood
Topic: Quality of ASL production of Mister Rogers Neighborhood video
Requirement: Parents take home the new Mister Rogers Neighborhood ASL video and rate their perspectives of the educational value.
4. Gallaudet University: Visual Language and Learning Department
Explanation: We were asked to serve as a partner in research with Gallaudet's new Visual Language & Learning department. We are in the beginning stages of forming this relationship.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPEMENT

At RMDS, it is important that we offer a rigorous education equal to regular education. Our students are tested on the same learning goals, and we must be sure they are prepared.

Each year, our teachers go out to regular ed schools to observe teachers who are teaching the same grade and subject they are currently teaching at RMDS. So far this year, 5 teachers have observed regular ed classes. Some of their observations include:

- Rigor & Pace of moving through the curriculum
- Grade level expectations and work samples
- Homework expectations
- Teaching strategies
- Level of independent work skills of students

Our teachers returned feeling quite proud of our program compared to regular education classes. But also, they returned with great ideas and insight into the rigor & pace of regular education curriculum.

Networking & Outreach

ASL Classes

Rocky Mountain Deaf School is now offering adult and child American Sign Language classes!

MONDAYS from 6:00pm—7:00pm

Winter Session: January 25—March 8

Spring Session: April 12– May 17

ADULT CLASSES

1) **Beginning ASL**

For brand new signers

2) **ASL second session**

For signers with some ASL knowledge

CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

1) **ASL for Kids ages 5-8**

2) **ASL for Kids ages 9-12**

COST

RMDS Individual: \$15

RMDS Family: \$25

Register online at www.rmdeafschool.net



New Social Networking

We have begun a new initiative to use the social networking sites to promote RMDS.

We have set up Facebook and Twitter accounts, and monitor the websites daily.

We send out messages about upcoming events and progress.

We are very excited about the potential these social networking sites have in spreading our messages globally.

DANCE & PERFORMANCE

RMDS Middle School students have formed a performing group.

They are preparing to perform for local schools, events, and parades to promote deaf awareness and our school!

Performance Groups include:

- **DANCERS**
- **DRUMMERS**
- **ASL PRESENTERS**

Collaboration & Partnerships

At RMDS, we recognize the value in partnering with other organizations.

Recently, our director has been very active in building collaborative relationships with outside organizations. This school year, these include:

- Colorado Neurological Institute
- Marion Downs
- Global Village
- Sorenson Communications
- Boettcher Foundation
- BEST Grant Team
- Children's Hospital
- Hand & Voices
- CSDB
- DOVE
- CAD

We will continue to meet with these organizations, and find new innovative ways to support each other's work.

Important Info For Parents

Board Meetings

Parents and community members are encouraged to participate in the monthly Board meetings held at Rocky Mountain Deaf School.

This month the meeting will be on **Thursday, January 28, at 6:00pm**. You may view the meeting agenda one day prior at the front desk.

Reminder to parents

The winter season is upon us! So we ask you to please make sure your student is dressed appropriately for the weather. Recess will be held outside if the temperature is 35° or higher. That means if the weather is cold, it is important for your child to have layers of clothing including jackets, gloves, hats, and long pants.

How Do I Know If School Has Been Cancelled or Delayed?

1. Watch television channels 2, 4, or 9 for up-to-date information regarding school closure. Rocky Mountain Deaf School will be listed on the captions.
2. Check our website for information regarding school closure.

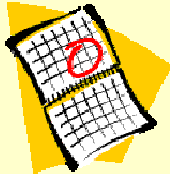
***Even if we are open, evaluate your decision to bring your child to school based on the road conditions near your house, temperature, etc. Our highest priority is for you to be safe!**

We have three additional days built into our calendar, so that we would not have to make up days for closing due to weather. If we have more than 3 snow days, then we may need to revise our original calendar.



Looking Forward...

Upcoming Events



Feb 1-5 - Book Fair

**Feb 3 - ASL/Literacy
Night**

**Feb 12-15 - No School
President's Day**

March 1-12 - CSAP Testing

**March 24-Parent/Teacher
Conferences**

March 29-

April 5 - SPRING BREAK

**April 8 - Spring Benefit
Dinner**

**April 14 - Middle School
Fun Night**

Early Years Program and Parent Group at RMDS



The Early Years Program provides a place for families to come together to build relationships with other families, adults who are Deaf / Hard of Hearing, and professionals. The Early Years Parent Group provides support to families and creates networking opportunities within their community.

Upcoming Dates

January 7, 2010

January 21, 2010

February 4, 2010

February 18, 2010