



ROCK RIDGE ELEMENTARY

ROCK RIDGE REVIEW

400 Heritage Avenue, Castle Rock, CO 80104

DECEMBER 2021

Peter Mosby
Principal

Julie Roach
Assistant Principal

Attendance Line
303-387-5152

Office
303-387-5150

Weather Closure
303-387-SNOW

Hours
First Bell 8:30am
School Begins 8:35am
All Dismiss 3:30pm
AM Kinder 8:30-11:15
PM Kinder 12:45-3:30

School Website



*Advertising in this newsletter does
not imply endorsement by the
school or district.*

Note from the Principal, Mr. Mosby

Dear Rock Ridge Community:

It is the most wonderful time of year with so much to celebrate with friends, family, staff and students. It is an honor to work alongside these dedicated stakeholders. This first semester has been a roller-coaster of challenges ranging from unfilled Educational Assistant positions to our continued challenges with COVID. Thank you for your confidence in our work and understanding of these difficult situations these past few months.

With the new mask policy directed by the Board of Education, Rock Ridge has created a community that recognizes the needs of each individual. Students and staff recognize each person's specific choice regarding masks and respects that decision without judgement. We also continue to meet the needs of students with specific ADA accommodations. I ask that parents and the community continue to support Rock Ridge students and staff by reinforcing this respect of choice. The most important thing to remember is that we want to continue with our safe, positive and encouraging learning space that we have had at Rock Ridge for a long time. Thank you in advance for your help.

We strive to focus on a student-first mindset and to continuously improve. Rock Ridge will be adopting a new literacy resource that will be implemented next year and will also be aligned with the Douglas County High School feeder system. This will allow us to streamline professional development and accelerate students in their learning. The selection process for a new resource has been ongoing since last April throughout the district with pilot programs vetting several different options in search of the best one to meet the needs of our students and community. Rock Ridge has made the decision to transition to the resource Benchmark Workshop for K-3rd and Benchmark Advance for 4th-6th grades. For more information regarding this process and the different resources that were selected you can go to the [DCSD website here](#).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me via email or phone. Be safe and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Peter Mosby, Principal Rock Ridge Elementary



Mark Your Calendar, Important Dates to Remember

December

17th Teacher Workday: No School for students

December 20- January 4: Winter Break: No school



January

11th (6:00pm) – PTO Meeting (Zoom)

13th Chick-fil-A Spirit Day

17th No School

27th PTO Paint Night



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Newsletter

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these great companies!

CASTLEROCK
and Kids AUTOPLEX

When you buy a vehicle from Castle Rock we make a donation to the Children's Fund, which helps the hospital address the greatest needs of patients and their families.



Benefiting
Children's Hospital Colorado

3 Convenient Locations:

Castle Rock Ford
Castle Rock Chevy Buick GMC
Castle Rock Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

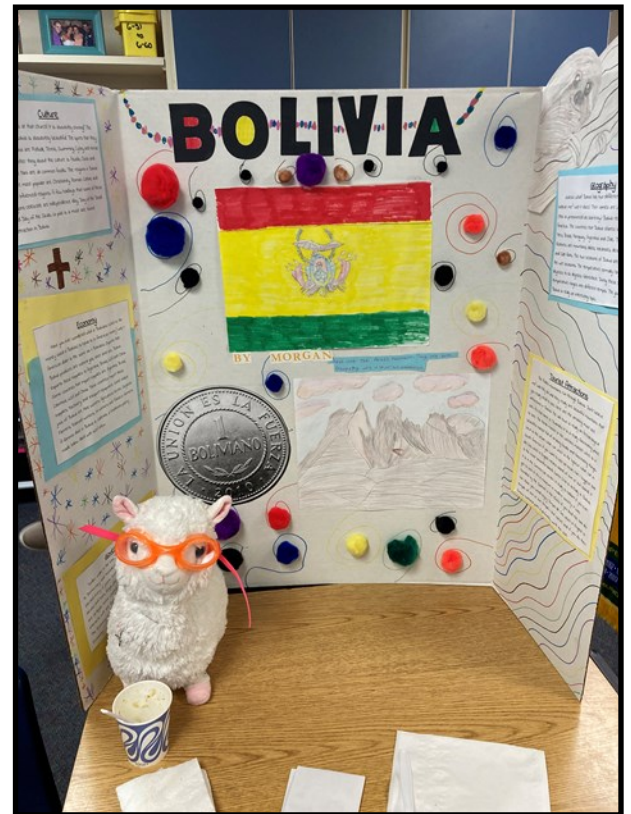
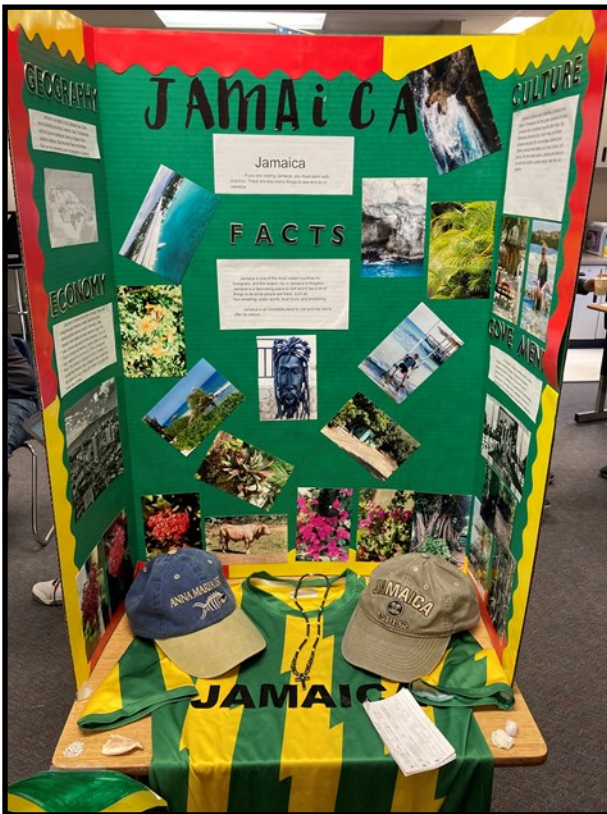


Learn more at CastleRockAutoplex.com or call/text 720-538-9881

Celebrating our Students!

6th grade Western Hemisphere country projects

6th grade students explored Western Hemisphere countries as part of their Western Hemisphere social studies unit. They learned about their history, culture, government, economy and nature. Their final project for the unit was to do research on a WH country of their choice and then present their projects to parents and classmates. Great job, 6th grade!



Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who contributed to RRE's Food Drive! All items were donated to Help and Hope Center and were much appreciated!

THANK
You
SO VERY
much





Specials Spotlight



Spanish:

In Spanish, in all grades, we've enjoyed all three parts of a wonderful animated musical story about "La Señorita Amarilla" and "Señor Azul," which I translate while students are watching the installments until they know them by heart, thus understanding a large amount of language fairly effortlessly. All grades are also playing Spanish Math Bingo (or "Orgnib," as we like to call it), tailored to each level. K-2 is making color flashcards. In 1st-6th grade, we're using "cootie catchers" and a slide show accompanying them to practice asking and answering basic questions in a fun way. In 3rd-6th, we've been finishing up a guided reading with a slide show on el día de los muertos, and finishing our running of the bulls unit. As part of the running of the bulls unit, we have done (and some still have yet to do) a "movietalk" exercise where students listen to a description of a short video they have just seen with lots of vocabulary supports to ensure that they can follow it, a "storyasking" exercise where students get up and act out a story spontaneously narrated in Spanish (again, with lots of vocabulary supports in sight to ensure that they can understand what's being said), and a "matamoscas" exercise where students match pictures to captions. The week before winter break, all grades will, of course, learn songs and stories about Navidad, but I am also going to treat 2nd-6h grades to a mathematical magic trick that I'll perform in Spanish (with lots of audience participation) while they can see the translation of everything I'm saying on a slideshow. I'm very excited to see how that goes! All of these materials and much more--including a video of me reading the guided reading with some extra information thrown in, materials to make the cootie catchers and an instructional video on how to do it, the slide shows, the music videos, etc.--can be found on the "useful links" page of the Spanish website on the RRE website. I encourage the whole family to get in on the fun!

Gym:

6th-K: The week before and the week after winter break, we will start and finish a short cup stacking unit. Any student grades 2nd-6th will have the opportunity to compete at a local cup stacking tournament in March. More details after winter break. Following cup stacking, we will start a hockey unit. Hopefully we will be able to end our hockey unit with a school wide hockey tournament for grades 4th-6th.



Counselor's Corner

Have you ever felt the “winter blues?” Colder temperatures and bad weather can make socializing more difficult. While holiday celebrations are often fun, they can also cause a lot of increased stress. The isolation paired with stress and shorter amounts of daylight are a perfect recipe for Seasonal Affective Disorder, appropriately abbreviated to SAD. If you or your children experience an increase in irritability, a decrease in energy levels, interrupted sleep patterns, and a general feeling of sadness during winter months, you are definitely not alone. SAD is quite common. Visit this [Link](#) from The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) about SAD and how to treat it.

I want to wish all Rock Ridge families a very happy and safe winter break. See you in 2022!

~Dawna McKnight



Important PTO Information

Kringle Week

Kringle Week is coming! We will be showering our staff with appreciation during the last week before Winter Break (Dec. 13- 16). We have something planned for each day of the week and need some help! On Tuesday (Dec. 14), we will be wrapping gifts for the staff. If you love to wrap presents, this is the perfect way for you to share your talents! On Wednesday (Dec. 15), the PTO will be providing a baked potato bar for the staff lunch. We are looking for donations of baked potatoes and desserts for this fun meal. Please see your email for more information!

Staff Favorites List

If you'd like to get your favorite staff member a gift this holiday season, be sure to check out our staff favorites list! This list includes favorite snacks, drinks, stores, restaurants, and more for each of our amazing staff members. This list can always be found on the school website: https://rockridgeschool.org/get_involved/pto/staff_favorites



Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!

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Want to sponsor this school? Please contact Rob Mangelson at Rob@tscacolorado.com or (720) 878-4107.

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Rob Mangelson
(720) 878-4107

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Supporting Schools & Local Businesses



B.A.S.E

Rock Ridge is proud to present the Rock Ridge Rockets Before and After School program (rocket B.A.S.E. for short). This program provides a fun and relaxing way for your students to start or end their day on site here at Rock Ridge Elementary. Your kids have the opportunity to play gym games, participate in crafts and learn in a safe, professional environment right here in their own elementary school. Hours of operation daily are 6:30-8:30am and 3:30-6:00pm. B.A.S.E. also provides full day care during breaks and school closures from 6:30am-6:00pm.

If you think you may need care for your children or have general questions please visit them at the Rock Ridge B.A.S.E. website or feel free to reach out to the program manager, Amanda Pierce.

Also... Our B.A.S.E. program is growing!!

We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic people to join our team.

This is a great position for a high school student, or someone just looking for a few hours per week (10-15). If you or someone you know is interested please reach out to:

Amanda Pierce
Rock Ridge BASE Manager
303-549-7283



Box Tops

We will not be conducting the Box Tops competition between classes this year, but WILL continue collecting Box Tops. Please remember to scan all of your receipts!

For more information about Box Tops for Education as well as instructions for downloading the app, go to:

[https://
www.boxtops4education.com/](https://www.boxtops4education.com/)

International Baccalaureate

Each month we focus on an IB Learner Profile and *Inquirer* is our focus for the month of **December**.

Students who are Inquirers are curious about the world. They can conduct research independently. They love learning and discovering new things and will carry this love of learning with them throughout life.



How can parents help to develop students who are Inquirers at home?

- Encourage areas of your child's interest by visiting the library to borrow books that explore these topics.
- Develop an understanding of the Internet. Work with your son or daughter when the Internet is being used and try to instill the understanding that some Internet sites are not reputable.
- Model being an inquirer. Admit when you don't know the answer to a problem or a question and seek out answers in front of your child.

Happy Holidays!

