

December Principal's Update For Rock Creek

Parents,

December 1, 2016

I will periodically be sending out this newsletter to update you on important updates related to Rock Creek. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me mwilliams@rocklin.k12.ca.us or (916) 788-4282.

Importance of Reading: I hope that all of you enjoyed your parent-teacher conference with our wonderful staff and were able to get a good understanding of your child's academic progress. As a friendly reminder, study after study has indicated that one of the strongest skillsets to ensure success in school is the ability to read effectively (fluency, comprehension, etc...). Please continue to encourage your student to read (either along with you or independently) for at least 20 minutes per night as this will have a significant impact on his/her continued growth in school. In addition, please work through your homeroom teacher to ensure you have access to all reading intervention materials that are available online such as Lexia, etc....

Importance of Attendance & Being On Time: The role of school is not only to teach students what they need academically and socially, but also to teach them the life skills needed to be successful later in life. Part of these life skills encompass showing up to work/school on time everyday. Please continue to make every effort to have students on campus each day and in their morning line-up by the warning bell at 7:45 (as well will begin the pledge shortly after in hopes of having students walking to class by the time the tardy bell rings at 7:50). Also, if your child will be absent for 5 or more consecutive days, please contact the office to pick up an Independent Study form. Thank you for continuing to emphasize strong attendance.

Grades 2-6 Assessments: In order to track student progress, the district has adopted an assessment program that will continue to be implemented at each site. **Students in 2nd - 6th grade will take a "MAP" Assessment for the 2nd time this December** (the first round was in September). For grades 2 - 5, this test will assess their reading skills, while in 6th grade, it will assess their math skills. These results will give teachers a better understanding of their students' strengths and areas of growth. More information about this assessment program can be found [here](#). The MAP Assessment will be given three times per year. This will be in addition to the statewide assessment ("CAASPP") that will be given to 3rd - 6th graders in January (Practice) and then the official assessment in the Spring.

PTC December Meeting Cancelled: PTC will not be hosting a December PTC meeting due to the upcoming holidays and everyone's busy schedule. We will however have our monthly PTC Dine out fundraiser. This month, Don Quixote's in Rocklin will be donating a portion of every meal purchased back to Rock Creek. The event is scheduled for **Thursday, December 15th (all day: 7:30am - 9:00pm)**. While you don't need a flier, you do need to mention you're a part of Rock Creek when ordering.

Scripts & Amazon Smile: Don't forget that if you shop at local grocery stores or shop online at Amazon, that there are "give back" programs available by these companies if you register as a Rock Creek parent. Visit the PTC [Give Back link](#) for more information on how to register for this very simple way on how to give back.

Staying up to date: Please continue to visit our [website](#) frequently as we often post updates on school activities and upcoming events. The website will also give you access to the school calendar which has all events posted. Secondly, please join our Facebook page as we are constantly posting great pictures of our wonderful students and all of their successes here at Rock Creek. You can access our Facebook page at the very top of our website.

Pick Up/Drop Off Reminder: Please remain in your car when in the drop off/pickup lanes in order to ensure safety of our students. If you need to leave your car, please park either on the street or in a parking stall. The reason for these guidelines is to ensure we are keeping our students safe before and after school. Thank you!

List of upcoming special schedules and holidays:

- **Minimum Day (12:20 release time):** Thursday, December 22nd
- **Winter Break (No School):** Friday, December 23rd - January 6th
- **School Back in Session:** Monday, January 9th
- **Martin Luther King Day (No School):** Monday, January 16th

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season! Go Red Hawks!