

January Principal's Update For Rock Creek

Parents,

December 23, 2016

I will periodically be sending out this newsletter to inform 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.

Lost and Found: Please drop by the peace pole (in between the library and main office) today and tomorrow, anytime during the day, to find your children's cherished clothing. We plan on taking all unclaimed clothes to a local shelter in early January.

Morning Line-up: I am asking for your assistance in reinforcing with the students a new protocol for the morning line-up routine (prior to school starting), when we return from winter break. Beginning January 9th, students will have 2 options before school: Line up on their number **or** walk with friends on the designated lap. **See below for my reasons for this decision:**

- **Safety of students:** First and foremost, due to so many people on campus before school, it is difficult to monitor students for supervision. Ensuring they are only in one general location and participating in one single activity (walking our fit walk lap), will lead to increased safety for students.
- **Promoting/reinforcing an important skill:** In today's world due to so many distractions, technology, etc... the art of students learning to communicate with each other through simple discussion is becoming less and less. By providing an avenue for students to simply walk and talk with their friends, they will be practicing an important life skill and one that can build and strengthen relationships (at any age).
- **Promoting exercise:** It is important for students to see the benefit of exercise. This activity is a great way to stay in shape **and** prepare themselves for school (as light exercise leads to an increased focus).
- **Final Thoughts:** Students have 3 recesses throughout the day to play with their friends. In designating the morning for a fit walk, we can provide them a different outlet for being with their friends but also getting them prepared to start the day in a relaxing and "mindful" way.

Community Art Night: Our wonderful Art Docent parents will be hosting a Community Art Night on January 12th from 5:30-7:00pm. This is a free event and open to all students to come and participate in hands-on activities provided by our Art Docent parents **and** the Crocker Art Museum. See [this flier](#) for more information!

Enrichment Classes for Winter: Please review [this flier](#) for all enrichment classes that will be offered starting in January. These classes are run by organizations within the area that provide hands on opportunities in Engineering, Art, Robotics, etc...

Hour of Code: In early December, Rock Creek participated in the nationwide "Hour of Code" program that promotes students learning computer programming. We had many classes participate through free programs such as code.org and Tynker.org. Please see our website ([link here](#)) that highlights the great job so many of our students did.

Importance of Reading: Studies show that one of the strongest skillsets to ensure success in school (**in addition to strong attendance**) is the ability to read effectively. Statistics below were taken from the work of Doug Fisher and company (book "Visible Learning for Literacy") who through research concluded the following in regards to the importance of reading daily.

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| ● Student A: 20 minutes per day | = 1,800,000 words per year | = 90th percentile on assessments |
| ● Student B: 5 minutes per day | = 282,000 words per year | = 50th percentile on assessments |
| ● Student C: 1 minute per day | = 8,000 words per year | = 10th percentile on assessments |

PTC Update: Our next PTC meeting has been moved to January 10th in the school library at 6:00pm due to our holiday break. Please feel free to join us as we plan for the upcoming events (including the Pancake Pajama Jam Breakfast on Saturday January 28th). In addition, Rock Creek spirit wear sweatshirts are now on sale. Fliers can be found in the main office!

List of upcoming events and holidays: (See main page of the Website for complete list)

- **PTC Meeting:** Tuesday, January 10th,
- **Community Art Night:** Thursday, January 12th,
- **Martin Luther King Day (No School):** Monday, January 16th
- **PTC Pancake Breakfast:** Saturday, January 28th

Go Red Hawks!