

Thursday Thoughts - September 30, 2021

Hello fabulous STEAM @ Tope Families! It is the last day of September and IT SURE FEELS LIKE IT OUTSIDE! Love seeing some rain in the valley and hopefully, we will be able to see more moisture!

OCTOBER WORD OF THE MONTH - HEROES Tune into our website for our daily Word of the Month lessons and activities. Help support this new skill at home with strategies and activities!

MASKING VISITORS - All visitors and volunteers MUST WEAR A MASK in the building. This includes student observers, parent volunteers, Watch Dog Dads, RSVP volunteers, etc. Please be respectful as Tope staff members have children to educate and we would like to focus our time and attention on them and not on adult behaviors.

MASKING STAFF/STUDENTS- As cases continue to rise in Mesa County so might the potential for masking. NO MATTER HOW STAFF MEMBERS MIGHT FEEL ABOUT MASKING -- WE WILL DO IT AND WE WILL DO IT GRATEFULLY AS WE ALL CONTINUE TO CARRY A LITTLE PTSD FROM REMOTE LEARNING -- **WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO BE IN SCHOOL and SERVING OUR LEARNERS.** We anticipate the need for masks to ebb and flow throughout the year. Thank you for supporting your child's ability to remain in school by supporting this requirement. Children not here are children not accessing their learning.

CONFERENCES WERE A HUGE SUCCESS! Thank you to all who were able to make it to conferences! We LOVE sharing your child's progress and goals. We look forward to maintaining a positive relationship as we continue this journey at STEAM @ Tope.

FINALLY, A LITTLE BIT ABOUT LUNCH!

It is IMPERATIVE that you take a moment to fill out the link for Free and Reduced lunch. It is located on the D51 website under "Quick Links"

<https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict> Free breakfast and free lunch will eventually end and we will need to ensure that we have funding to support continuing needs.

Speaking of breakfast and lunch, we are seeing some unbalanced lunches for kiddos and it shows in their ability to sustain learning and behavior throughout the day.

HEALTHY KIDS EQUAL HEALTHY MINDS~

Packing a healthy school lunch is as easy as 1, 2, 3! What helps make a child ready to learn? Besides a good night's sleep, it's healthy food to fuel their brains and bodies. Making sure kids have time for a healthy breakfast that includes protein is key for preparing them for the first half of their school day.

CHECK OUT our [D51 STEM WEBSITE](#)

WHAT IS PBL?

Problem Based Learning takes your child on a journey of discovery. Children are presented with a problem in the community. They learn from experts in the field, field experiences and their own personal research. All of this knowledge fuels them to become a mini-expert in the field. They begin to develop solutions to the problem with a collaborative team. The team presents their solutions to a panel of experts in the field. The experts provide feedback and determine the viability of solutions. Next, staff determines which solutions are most viable to move forward.

2ND GRADE PROBLEM ~ Steam at Tope 2nd graders need a way to investigate, preserve and honor our past, celebrate the present and envision our future journey on our path to awesome for our schools 80th birthday celebration.

3RD GRADE PROBLEM ~ How do we prevent White-Nose Syndrome from entering the caves of Colorado to prevent the endangerment and eventual extinction of bats?

4TH GRADE PROBLEM ~ Coming soon.....

5TH GRADE PROBLEM~ Coming soon.....

With October comes the excitement of Halloween. We are already hearing the buzz about Halloween costumes, and we wanted to remind everyone of the following guidelines when planning costumes.

- Students **WILL** be allowed to wear costumes to school. No face painting or hair coloring- it is distracting and **ITCHY AND MISERABLE!**
- We **WILL NOT** provide any classroom time to change into costumes. Our kiddos sure play hard here at Tope so parents please take that into consideration when planning the costume your child will wear to school.
- There will **ABSOLUTELY NOT BE ANY GORE, BLOOD, VIOLENCE, WEAPONS, ETC.** allowed.
- Do not send any "accessories" that accompany the costume (sunglasses, crowns, gloves, full masks, etc) as they run the risk of being lost and/or broken.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER that WE DO NOT HAVE A LOST AND FOUND. Please label your child's jackets, coats, gloves, etc. and it will be returned to them. THANK YOU!

Create a beautiful life at home with your child,

Carrie Bollinger

IMPORTANT DATES

12 - PTA 4:15pm

13 - End of 1st Quarter

14 & 15 - NO SCHOOL

"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. **We keep moving forward**, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious ... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." ~ Walt Disney