

Thursday Thoughts - Nov 11, 2021

DRUMROLL PLEASE We are ECSTATIC to announce that we have raised over \$8,100 this year for the Read-A-Thon. These funds will help PTA continue to fund Art AND help STEAMIFY the library!

WE RAISED WAY MORE THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED. Therefore, we had to make additional purchases for prizes. Students will get "promissory notes" tomorrow and prizes will be rewarded as soon as they arrive!

I will be announcing our top 10 earners tomorrow during the Growth Mindset Announcement. These kiddos earned a special CAMP OUT on Friday, November 19th complete with campfire songs, s'mores and so much more!

Our top classroom earners are - Mrs. Ellyson and Mrs. Modica! These classes will receive a special treat from PTA!

Thank you to our PTA Board members- Alisa Mosher, Brenda Brock, Kerry Wells, Brooke Kyle and special thanks to Jeni Ellyson for going the extra mile!

WARNING, WARNING- THERE ARE SOME PRETTY BIG THINGS HAPPENING OUT THERE IN THE WORLD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION. Have you seen the news? Schools across the nation are closing down and moving to remote learning. For COVID CASES??? NO! They are closing down because they do not have sufficient staff to support a safe and optimal learning environment. They are closing because essential and critical positions are not being filled. They are closing because teachers are quitting and leaving the profession.

How can you help prevent this from happening in Mesa County?

First, do you need a job? There are MULTIPLE job opportunities posted on the D51 website.

Second, can you volunteer? Tope lost two positions from last year and we still have one position posted. We are doing our VERY best to maintain the level of service that our learners and families deserve and are accustomed to. We would love help in our library or with recess/lunch duty or even duties before and after school! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kerry Wells to get the Volunteer form.

Third, BE KIND! Our teachers and staff are covering for each other, finding creative ways to support each other AND continuing to work together to create optimal learning opportunities for our learners. We thank you for honoring this profession and keeping all of the politics OUTSIDE of this building.

Fourth, ENGAGE with your child! NOW MORE THAN EVER -- OUR CHILDREN NEED US. They need us to find hope in this world. They need us to find joy in this world. They need us to demonstrate LOVE. ESPECIALLY DURING THIS EXTREMELY EXHAUSTING HISTORICAL TIME. **THEY NEED US AND THEY DESERVE OUR BEST.**

Fifth, SUPPORT our STEAM program- A HUGE PART OF STEAM PROGRAMMING IS OUR ABILITY TO DO FIELD EXPERIENCES DURING PBLs. We need parent volunteers to help us chaperone

these excursions. You must have a background check to chaperon field experiences. To begin your background check process, contact Kerry Wells at the Tope office, or April Hart at the district level. april.hart@d51schools.org Background checks are good for 5 years!

SIXTH, feeling frustrated? Come see me, email me or call me. Please let me assist with problem solving and finding a solution. Please do not call your child's teacher frustrated and angry. I have directed them to redirect any anger to me. My job is to keep them here and support them so that they are serving our learners with joy.

FINALLY, we need funding- Thank you for supporting our fundraisers. Additionally, if you have not filled out your Free and Reduced form online, PLEASE DO SO! Title funding helps fund several essential pieces of STEAM. See link below~

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>

CURRENT PBLs

2ND GRADE PROBLEM ~ 2nd Grade completed an EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL panel on November 10th. More info to come regarding which VIABLE SOLUTIONS will be moving forward!

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 ~ Steam @ Tope 4th graders need a way to take ownership and action now to protect the sustainability of our recreational spaces in order to preserve our community's culture and heritage.

5TH GRADE PROBLEM~ Steam @ Tope 5th graders need a way to develop a sense of belonging so that all learners feel important within our school community

Create a beautiful life at home with your child,

Carnie Bollinger

"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

IMPORTANT DATES

November ~

18 - 2nd Grade Music Program

19 - Camp Out

19 - Student of the Month Assembly

22-26 - Thanksgiving Break

29 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Plan Day