



The Ram Report

Rousseau Elementary School – 3701 South 33rd Street – Lincoln, NE 68506

CALENDAR

JANUARY

26 PTO Board Mtg. 6:30 PM
27 PLC Early Release at 2:18 PM

FEBRUARY

2 Books & Beyond Kick-off
2-6 Gr. 4 State Writing Assessment
5 Book Fair at Indigo Bridge Books
6 Spirit Day
6 Report Cards Sent Home
10 Ram Report Articles Due
13 Valentine's Day Celebration

PLC

January 27, 2009

Professional Learning Communities
(PLC) Early Release Day
K-5 will dismiss at 2:18 PM

Kindergarten Registration

Thurs. March 19th 8-6 PM
Fri. March 20th, 8-4:30 PM

Rousseau School is updating their Kindergarten list for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have not been contacted by the Rousseau Office and will have a child attending Kindergarten next year, please call the office at 436-1165.

From the Principal's Notepad

By Sue Braun



Dear Rousseau Families,

As teachers, we often get asked by parents about what they can do to help their child do well in school, particularly given the increased expectations for student learning. The answer is simple and well founded in educational research - READ! The findings are clear; children who read more do better in school than children who don't engage in reading outside of the school day. Developing a habit of reading at a young age will serve our students well throughout their school careers, enrich their lives, and open up vast new worlds to them.

Again this year, students will have the opportunity to participate in our annual PTO-sponsored **Books and Beyond** recreational reading program. Books and Beyond is a program that brings students together with family and friends to encourage reading and to build literacy skills. The program goals are simple - to improve attitudes toward reading and to foster a love of books. Books and Beyond will kickoff on February 2nd and run through March 20th, with fun family activities planned along the way. Stay tuned for further information!

The main focus of Books and Beyond is a school-wide read-a-thon. The read-a-thon promises to be a fun, exciting journey for all participants as they read their way to awards, certificates, and finally gold medals for those who complete the entire journey. Participants may read on their own, with family or friends. Listening to someone else read, in any language, or reading to someone else also counts toward the total books/minutes your child will need to read.

A record sheet used to keep track of the books/minutes your child reads outside of school will be sent home with all students during the first week of February. When complete, please sign this sheet and have your child turn it in to their teacher. Additional sheets can be downloaded from the Rousseau website.

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As parents you hold high expectations for the quality of education your child receives during the school day. By encouraging participation in the read-a-thon, you are expanding upon this learning and integrating it into your home life, whereby increasing the school's effectiveness and, ultimately, your child's school performance. As we all know, parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Your involvement in the read-a-thon will help your child develop a lasting love of reading - one of the best gifts we can give our children!

A special thank you to PTO volunteers Ingrid Sepahpur, Kris Costello, and Susan Gleason for organizing Books and Beyond and to all the volunteer parents that will help make the program a success. We look forward to having many Rousseau children and families participate. We will keep you informed about the progress of the program and ways in which you can help your child be successful.

Thank you for your help in making Books and Beyond a success for our students.

Most sincerely,

Sue Braun
Principal

Brrr! It's Cold Outside

During the cold winter months, please check the doors where you enter in the morning to see if we are **INSIDE** or **OUTSIDE** before school. There will be a sign posted.



PUT ON YOUR PARTY HATS!

It is time to celebrate reading!

The reading incentive program, *Books & Beyond*, kick-off is February 2, 2009. Recording sheets will be sent home in Friday folders, February 6, 2009.

SAVE THE DATES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

BOOK FAIR at INDIGO BRIDGE BOOKSTORE

4:30-8:00

701 Creamery Bldg. in the Haymarket
(across from Ivana Cone)

It will be a fun-filled night with guest readers, music, coffee, cinnamon rolls, prizes, and an ice cream cone with every \$20 spent.

So bring your family & friends to this wonderful event. They are giving 20% of all sales back to Rousseau PTO. It is a great time to shop!

More information soon!

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6

SPIRIT DAY-Dress as your favorite character from a book!



TEAMMATES™

MENTORING PROGRAM

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS National Mentoring Month

For the eighth year, the National Mentoring Partnership is sponsoring National Mentoring Month in January. The annual event is both a campaign to recruit adult mentors and honor those who volunteer as mentors.

When Tom and Nancy Osborne founded the TeamMates Mentoring Program in 1991, they recognized the power of mentoring. In partnership with Lincoln Public Schools, the school-based program has become a successful model for other communities.

"Our young people face different challenges today that affect them personally," note Tom and Nancy Osborne. "If we are going to make a difference, we have to get involved with them as one-to-one mentors."

Research shows programs that rely on volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence, while greatly enhancing a young person's prospects for leading a healthy and productive life.

The mission of TeamMates is "to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential." During the 2007-2008 school year, TeamMates matched 500 adult mentors with students.

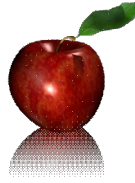
Adult mentors spend one hour a week with youth to ...

- Support and guide
- Build self-esteem
- Improve interpersonal relationships
- Assist with academics
- Encourage graduation

Annually, The Gallup Organization evaluates the effectiveness of the TeamMates Mentoring Program. **Recent results include:**

- 84% of students decreased overall number of unexcused absences.
- 59% of students had less discipline referrals than previous year.
- 40% of students improved academic achievement.

For information about the TeamMates Mentoring Program and how to become a mentor, call 436-1990 or go online to www.lincolnteammates.org.



Nominate your teacher

Thank your teacher today. In honor of Nebraska Teacher Recognition Day - Tuesday, March 3 - Lincoln Public Schools and KFOR/KFRX Radio collaborate to thank our educators with the annual Thank You Teacher contest.

Children, teenagers, university students, even grownups can pay tribute to a teacher or professor who has made a difference in their lives - by nominating that teacher for recognition from the Thank You Teacher contest. Six teachers will be chosen and honored at a breakfast on March 3 at the Governor's Mansion, where the students - and former students - who submit the winning nominations will be invited to attend and read their winning letters.

Anyone who lives in Lincoln/Lancaster County can nominate a teacher in any of six categories: preschool-grade 2, grades 3-5, middle school, high school, university and retired. In addition to a written description, explaining why a teacher made a difference in your life, entries should include the teacher's name, grade level and school (or contact information), as well as the nominator's name, address and phone number.

Nominations should be received by **Friday, Feb. 13**, at 5 p.m. and mailed to: Thank You Teacher, KFOR/KFRX Radio, 3800 Cornhusker, Lincoln, NE, 68504.

The event is part of the Nebraska Teacher Recognition activities. Sponsors include Lincoln Public Schools, KFOR/KFRX, the Lincoln Education Association and the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools.

For more information contact Mary Kay Roth, 436-1609, mkroth@lps.org.

KFOR

106.3KFRX

Looking for Ways to Reduce your Taxes in 2009?

The Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools invites the devoted teachers and staff of LPS and the families and friends of students to a FREE seminar on tax efficient charitable giving. The speakers will discuss ways to reduce both income and estate taxes in 2009 while helping your favorite causes. We know you, who give so much of your skills and time to LPS, share in our desire to continue to make our schools great!

The seminar will be presented by Andrew Loudon, Attorney with Baylor, Evnen, Curtiss, Gमित, & Witt, LLP and Jaime Hemmerling, Trust Officer and CPA with First Nebraska Trust.

February 23, 2009

5:15-6:15 p.m.

Lincoln Public Schools District Office

Board Room E102

Please RSVP by Feb. 16 to the Foundation at 436.1612 or

foundation@lps.org
<<mailto:foundation@lps.org>>

We hope to see you there!

LOST & FOUND

Our lost and found box is getting quite full. Please stop by to check it out and see if anything belongs to you!

THE BIRTHDAY BOOK CLUB HOLDS ITS 2ND QTR. PARTY!

On a very cold January 14th, students in the Birthday Book Club warmed things up by celebrating their 2nd quarter birthdays! Many new books were added to the Rousseau library collection! Just a few of the titles include; Nixie's Song, Predators: Insiders, Dinosaurs: Insiders, Leven Thumps and The Wrath of Fire, Let's Find Pokemon #1 and #2, Judy Moody Goes to College, Gilda Jones: Ladies of the Lake, Dragon in the Sock Drawer, The Pain and the Great One, Melanie Takes Manhattan, and the book just released on January 13th, Diary of a Wimpy Kid #3!

The students in the Birthday Book Club were the first ones to check out these books and their names were placed inside the front cover of the book on a special sticker. A quick party was held with snacks, drinks and prizes. Look for the photo taken at the party on the bulletin board right outside the media center! 3rd quarter and summer birthdays will have their Birthday Book Club party on March 18 at 3:15 in the Media Center. If your child has not yet joined the Birthday Book Club, there is still time - even if their birthday was during the 1st or 2nd quarter! Simply return the form below along with a check payable to Rousseau School. Thank you for supporting your Media Center!

____ YES, my child would like to join the Rousseau Birthday Book Club!

Name (print clearly) Birthday _____

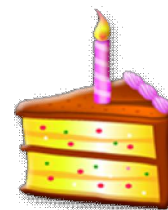
Grade / Teacher _____

Total enclosed @ \$15 per child: _____

* YES, I would like to help with the celebration party that my child attends:*

Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____



PTO Board Meeting

Monday, January 26, 2009
6:30 Media Center

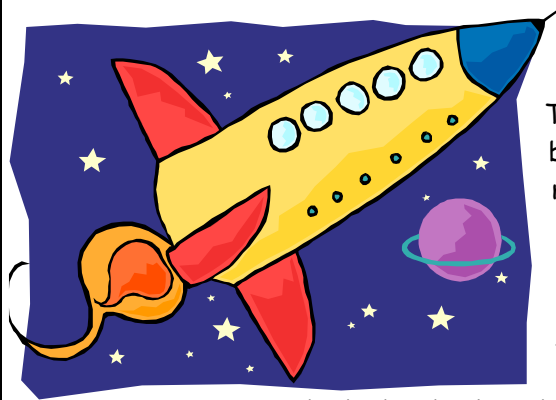
Don't miss your chance to hear about Mission: Moonwalk! The Mission Control Team will be at the PTO Meeting to talk with parents about Mission: Moonwalk, to seek their support and to offer suggestions for involvement.

Student Corner

Upcoming School Improvements

By Finley & Skyler Peterson,
2nd Grade

Rousseau will be fixing ceilings, lights, floors and the school is getting a new security system and heating/air conditioning. The construction will start this summer and last all next year. Mrs. Braun thinks being Principal during these adjustments is exciting. She said, "It is fun to think about how to make Rousseau School a better place for children." The students will benefit by having an energy efficient, nicer, cleaner, brighter, better place to learn. Kids will be kept away from the construction but, there will be places where it is messy and dirty. The workers will try hard not to interrupt learning with loud noises and bad smells but, it might be loud sometimes. The workers will work all summer and through the year. Workers will use lots of tools of all kinds. So be looking for these changes coming your way and have a good day!



Mission: Moonwalk News

The Rousseau Rams are beginning a "walk to the moon".

Mission: Moonwalk, a group project with Rousseau students, LPS Elementary Schools across the city, and

the high school students from the

Entrepreneurship Focus Program are working together to increase physical activity amongst all students everyday! Students will earn 'miles' for participating in activities and then the collective miles from Rousseau and 24 other Lincoln elementary schools will result in a 252,088 mile trip to the moon.

In our first all school activity, students simulated a rocket launch, putting on and securing all the important pieces of their space suits, reaching for the stars, gathering up a scoop of moon dust, and simulating a lunar landing! All of this resulted in 10 minutes of extra activity at the very beginning of our school day for all 500 students and therefore 500 miles for Rousseau space travelers!

Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are working this week on an activity log at home, identifying their personal activity minutes everyday. I hope you have all discovered this Mission: Moonwalk activity in backpacks or homework folders and are assisting in its completion and timely return by the due date (their next PE class)!

Watch this newsletter for more updates on miles, students earning pilot, flight specialist, or distinguished astronaut awards, how you will be asked to help at home, and how Rousseau is using this great partnership to build a culture of wellness through increased activity/exercise, nutrition and attention to healthfulness for all our young students!

"One giant leap..." from our Mission Control Specialists: Samantha Karnes and Hannah Tyrell, High School Students at LPS Entrepreneurship Focus Program and Mission Control Teacher Lana Peterson.

Lincoln Public Schools Food Zone

Elementary Breakfast Menu February 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
FEBRUARY 2 HOT OATMEAL CEREAL or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 3 CHEESE OMELET or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 4 PANCAKE & SAUSAGE+ ON STICK or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 5 BREAKFAST BAGEL or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 6 EGG, TURKEY HAM & CHEESE ON ENGLISH MUFFIN or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk
FEBRUARY 9 GOLDEN WAFFLES or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 10 SCRAMBLED EGGS or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 11 BREAKFAST TAC-GO or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 12 MAPLE PANEGGCAGES or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 13 BREAKFAST BURRITO or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk
FEBRUARY 16 NO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	FEBRUARY 17 BUTTERMILK PANCAKES or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 18 CHEESE OMELET or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 19 BREAKFAST BITES+ or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 20 TOASTED ENGLISH MUFFIN or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk
FEBRUARY 23 BREAKFAST BACON+ SCRAMBLE or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 24 BREAKFAST BAGEL or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 25 FRENCH TOAST STICKS or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 26 EGG & CHEESE ON BISCUIT or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk	FEBRUARY 27 CHICKEN BREAKFAST SANDWICH or COLD CEREAL WHOLE GRAIN TOAST 100% Fruit Juice Milk

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+Contains pork.

Lincoln Public Schools Food Zone

Elementary Lunch Menu February 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Caesar Salad	Diced Turkey Ham Salad	Oriental Chicken Salad	Chicken Ranch Salad	Turkey Ham Chef Salad
FEBRUARY 2 CHICKEN NUGGETS WITH BREADSTICK BBQ RIBLETTE SANDWICH French Fries Tossed Salad Orange Wedges Applesauce Milk	FEBRUARY 3 TACO SALAD EGG ROLL Tossed Salad Baby Carrots & Dip Fresh Grapes & Kiwi Pineapple Tidbits Milk	FEBRUARY 4 CHEESE PIZZA BBQ CHICKEN SANDWICH Green Beans Tossed Salad Sweet Cherries Peaches Milk	FEBRUARY 5 CREAMED TURKEY WITH ROLL BREADED COUNTRY BEEF SANDWICH Whipped Potatoes & Gravy Tossed Salad Apple Wedges Pears Milk	FEBRUARY 6 HAMBURGER ON BUN GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH Tomato Soup Salad/Veggies Fruit Mixed Fruit Brownie Milk
FEBRUARY 9 PEPPERONI+ PIZZA BEEF TERIYAKI WITH RICE Broccoli & Celery with Dip Tossed Salad Dried Fruit Applesauce Milk	FEBRUARY 10 CORN PUPPIES NEBRASKA BUN Potato Wedges Tossed Salad Apple Wedges Pineapple Tidbits Milk	FEBRUARY 11 BREADED PORK+ SANDWICH CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP WITH CRACKERS Sweet Peas Tossed Salad Orange Wedges Peaches Milk	FEBRUARY 12 SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS HOT HAM & CHEESE SANDWICH Cauliflower & Green Peppers with Dip Tossed Salad Banana Pears Milk	FEBRUARY 13 CHICKEN POPCORN WITH ROLL TACO HOT POCKET Baby Carrots & Dip Salad/Veggies Fruit Mixed Fruit Sugar Cookie Milk
FEBRUARY 16 NO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	FEBRUARY 17 CHICKEN TERIYAKI ON RICE BEEF & BEAN BURRITO Broccoli & Cauliflower with Dip Tossed Salad Orange Wedges Pineapple Tidbits Milk	FEBRUARY 18 FRENCH TOAST STICKS WITH SAUSAGE+ LINKS TACO CHALUPA Hash Brown Potato Tossed Salad Apple Wedges Peaches Milk STRAWBERRY MILK WEEK	FEBRUARY 19 BREADED CHICKEN SANDWICH HEARTY CHILI & CINNAMON ROLL Baby Carrots & Dip Tossed Salad Strawberries & Banana Pears Milk	FEBRUARY 20 MAC & CHEESE POLISH DOG+ ON BUN Sweet Peas Salad/Veggies Fruit Mixed Fruit Milk
FEBRUARY 23 BREADED BAKED CHICKEN WITH ROLL SALISBURY STEAK WITH ROLL Whipped Potatoes & Gravy Tossed Salad Orange Wedges Applesauce Milk	FEBRUARY 24 SOFT SHELL TACO SAUSAGE+ PIZZA Lettuce & Tomato Refried Beans Dried Fruit Pineapple Tidbits Milk	FEBRUARY 25 CHEESE STUFFED BREADSTICKS WITH SAUCE TURKEY SUB Tossed Salad Baby Carrots & Dip Apple Wedges Peaches Milk	FEBRUARY 26 ITALIAN DUNKER FIESTADA Broccoli & Cauliflower with Dip Tossed Salad Banana Pears Milk	FEBRUARY 27 Under the Sea Day FISH HOOK NUGGETS WITH POPCORN SHRIMP HOT DOG BAIT Overboard Veggies Sea Weed Lettuce High Tide Sweet Cherries Sea Blue Gelatin Foamy Sea Milk

+Contains pork.

*Menu subject to change without notice
/ELEMENTARYLunch

<http://www.lps.org>