



# The Ram Report

Rousseau Elementary School – 3701 South 33<sup>rd</sup> Street – Lincoln, NE 68506

## CALENDAR

### April

- 21 NO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
(Teacher Plan Day)
- 22 Bike Rodeo  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip  
(Mandl & Schirmer)
- 23 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip  
(Mattson & Tooley)
- 24 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip  
Kindergarten Orientation  
Character Council Meeting
- 28 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students visit  
Scott & Irving  
PTA Board Meeting  
6:30p.m. (Annual Board  
Election)
- 29 PLC Early-Release Day  
(details below)  
*Ram Report* Deadline

### May

- 2 Spirit Day
- 3 Mayor's Run



### EARLY-RELEASE DAY

**TUESDAY, APRIL 29**

-BUSSES WILL RUN ACCORDINGLY-

**Morning Kindergarten** will be in session  
from 9:00-11:14 AM

**Afternoon Kindergarten** will be in  
session from 12:04-2:18 PM

**Students in Grades 1-5** will be  
dismissed at 2:18 PM

## From the Principal's Notepad

By Sue Braun



Rousseau Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) At Work:  
Specialist SMART Goals

Professional Learning Communities are collaborative teams of teachers focused on monitoring individual and overall student learning. Teams review and analyze student performance data, monitor achievement on a regular and consistent basis, and develop intervention strategies to support individual student achievement. This important dialogue explores four critical questions: What do we want each student to learn? How will we know when each student has learned it? How will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning? How will we respond when a student has already learned essential knowledge and skills?

While grade-level PLC teams have met each month throughout the year on early-release days specialists have also been meeting and having similar discussions with job-alike colleagues from around the district. Following are short reports from Rousseau School specialists:

### Technology - Dan Tharp

Technology liaisons from across the district are reviewing research on how technology can be utilized to strengthen curricular areas, like reading, writing and math. We have focused on how teaching methods must change as a response to the changes in the 21st century. As a part of that work, we are continuing to develop a curriculum matrix that can be utilized by not only computer teachers, but grade-level teachers as well.

### Physical Education - Lana Peterson

Physical educators are meeting in small groups of 6-8 to continue our past three to five year's work on skill assessments. Each PLC has been assigned a grade level and are creating assessments appropriate to that grade level that focus on specific essential learnings. The group I work with is focused on first grade. We have created assessments for ball handling skills and concepts, considered rubrics that will standardize the assessments, written SMART goals and instructional strategies to help students achieve them and will consider their usefulness by the entire district.

### Music - Angie Berkebile

In Elementary General Music PLCs we have been focusing on two areas. First, we are reviewing each grade level's quarterly music objectives, checking for overlapping or non-essential objectives.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Secondly, we are learning about writing and performing assessments in music across all grade levels, kindergarten through high school. In the elementary meetings we are beginning with assessing singing in first grade, particularly matching pitch. After looking at our first results, we have discussed strategies for improving singing and will assess and compare results after a second testing with all of our schools.

### Library Media - Carol Hughes

Recommendations for SMART Goals: Expectations, by grade level, for what we believe all students should learn.

#### **Kindergarten**

- Students will learn basic vocabulary and develop listening skills (*Literary Appreciation*)
- Students will be able to choose appropriate books by looking at cover, spine, title page, illustrations (*Information skills*)
- Students will be able to demonstrate library borrowing procedures, basic book care, and library etiquette (*Lifelong Learning*)

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

- Students will be able to recognize and choose just right or good fit books (*Literary Appreciation*)
- Students will be able to recognize that stories and information are available in print and nonprint (*Information skills*)
- Students will learn how a library is organized (*Information skills*)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> grade**

- Students will be able to recognize and choose appropriate chapter books and resources (*Literary Appreciation*)
- Students will be able to use steps in at least one research model for finding, organizing, and presenting information (*Information skills*)
- Students will be able to use beginning reference sources for research: children's encyclopedia or dictionaries (*Information skills*)
- Students will be able to independently locate and select fiction and nonfiction resources (*Lifelong Learning*)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

- Students will be able to recognize and choose quality literature through various genres (*Literary Appreciation*)
- Students will be able to generate research questions, take notes and read for information (*Information skills*)
- Students will be able to use print and online resources such as encyclopedia, dictionary and thesaurus (*Information skills*)
- Students will be able to use library independently for locating, selecting and borrowing materials (*Lifelong Learning*)

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

- Students will be able to recognize and choose quality fiction books including Golden Sowers, Newbery or Coretta Scott King awards (*Literary Appreciation*)
- Students will be able to identify major genre in children's fiction and recognize distinguished authors in those genres (*Literary Appreciation*)
- Students will be able to locate and utilize reference and nonfiction sources with assistance to complete and evaluate a research assignment using a variety of print and electronic resources (*Information skills*)
- Students will be able to use information beyond the library with at-home online resources provided by the district (*Lifelong Learning*)

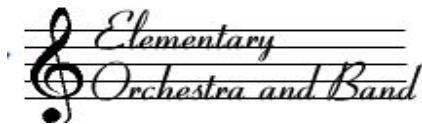
#### **5<sup>th</sup> grade**

- Students will be able to combine previously learned skill to locate, select and take notes for an inquiry-based project using a variety of sources to be evaluated according established criteria (*Information skills*)
- Students will be able to use and evaluate a variety of references including dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedia, periodicals, online encyclopedia and pre-selected websites (*Information skills*)
- Students will be able to exhibit the behavior of readers (*Lifelong Learning*)

## Music Concerts



**Chorus - May 6 - 7:00 PM**



**Instrumental - May 8 - 7:00 PM**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Rousseau 2008 Bike Safety Rodeo



Co-sponsored by the Rousseau PTA and the Kiwanis Clubs of Lincoln, the Bike Rodeo is about to ride into town! We will hold ours **at Rousseau on**

**Tuesday, April 22.** It will be an open house format from 4:00-6:30 PM on the playground. All Rousseau students are welcome to enter the event and the top 4 or 5 in each age division may represent Rousseau at the City Finals.

Put on your helmet and practice the skills of balance, stopping, signaling, rules of the road, bike control and maneuvering. During P.E. we will review the safety skills you must have to be "on wheels" of any kind and I hope you use your good safety and best judgment when riding in the neighborhood!

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Please call Mrs. Peterson at school if you would like to volunteer for the Bike Rodeo. If you signed up earlier in the year to help with this event, give Mary or Chris in the office or myself a call to let us know you will indeed be able to help! We will need at least 12 volunteers for one hour each (or more if you can spare the time)! Be the first to call to get your choice of events to work! ☺

**CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS!** The city Bike Rodeo Championships will be held May 17, 2008, 9:30-10:30 AM on the UNL East Campus.

We hope to see you all at the rodeo!  
Mrs. Peterson, Rousseau P.E. Teacher



## Bright Lights Summer Classes

Summer...Swimming...Baseball...Bright Lights!

Come, have a Summer Learning Adventure with Bright Lights this summer. Over 100 classes and 8-day camps are planned for the weeks of June 9-13, June 23-27 and July 7-11. Most classes will be held at Randolph Elementary School (37th & D).

What makes learning about physics, literature, history and writing exciting?

You can learn physics while launching your own stomp rocket; enjoy literature while taking a trip with knights and dragons; explore history with 17th century pirates; discover your creative writing side using contemporary technology tools. Visit our website at [www.brightlights.org](http://www.brightlights.org) <<http://www.brightlights.org/>> for a listing of all our classes. Registration begins April 1st and will continue until classes are filled. Registration forms are available online beginning April 1st and in the Bright Lights 2008 brochure.

Brochures were included with the April issue of LPS Free Times. You can also look for brochures at your school, or at locations around town including Amigos and Runza Restaurants. Complete information is also available at [www.brightlights.org](http://www.brightlights.org) <<http://www.brightlights.org/>>, or call 420-1115.

A Summer Adventure is waiting for you!

ROUSSEAU  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild. one voice.*

Thanks!

Thank you to all the parents who helped with the various Fun Night activities. I would like to send out a BIG THANK YOU to all the Gift Basket Leaders for making such great baskets with the donations they received. I would also like to thank the teachers for putting up with "the box" for two weeks+ as well as the small interruptions due to collections and letters home.

Margaret Diesl



# ALL- SCHOOL SKATING PARTY!



WHEN: Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: A&R Skate Center; 3800 Old Cheney.

WHO: EVERYONE is invited! Let's pack the place with friends, families, neighbors and teammates!

COST: \$4 for quad skates. Parents skate for just \$1  
(\*In-line skates are \$3 extra. Snack bar will be open.)

Sponsored by Rousseau's Destination Imagination teams! One team, the PresiDIntial Peeps will be travelling to Global Finals in Knoxville, TN in May. \$2 from every admission will support Rousseau's DI program.

**The DI teams will be selling 'glow necklaces' for \$1 at the skating party!**

**21th ANNUAL KID'S GRAND PRIX  
AND MAYOR'S RUN  
May 3, 2008 8:00 AM  
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

**Enter by April 18<sup>th</sup>**

Rousseau is proud to have more than 100 runners annually in this great, one mile, CHILDREN'S ONLY event! To enter the event and receive a Mayor's Run t-shirt, **bring your registration to Mrs. Peterson, Physical Education Teacher, or the Rousseau office BY APRIL 20th.** You must register by April 26<sup>th</sup> to be guaranteed a t-shirt. I will pick up and distribute the t-shirts on May 2nd at school and meet our Rousseau runners at the event on Saturday. We hope many of you will participate in this all-school, city-wide event!

**CHECK OUT THE Community News** (Lincoln Public Schools newspaper found once per month in your Friday folder) or [www.lincolnrn.org](http://www.lincolnrn.org) for information on the running events in the Kid's Grand Prix Races for 2008. There are many great events and terrific prizes for participation. The first event was on March 29 and the next is the Novartis Run on April 19<sup>th</sup>. See the Lincoln Track club website at [www.lincolnrn.org](http://www.lincolnrn.org) for more information. The Grand Prix continues with the **KFRX MAYOR'S RUN on May 3rd!** Call Mrs. Peterson, Physical Education teacher at school with questions.



**106.3 KFRX MAYOR'S RUN** (for children only)

Name (last) \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Fee payable to Lincoln Track Club**

\$10.00 received on or before Saturday, April 19th.  
 \$11.00 received April 20th - 26th.

**Mail to:** Lincoln Track Club  
 4500 Lowell Avenue  
 Lincoln, NE 68506

**Family Plan:** \$6.00 for each additional runner from the same family providing:

- 1) Each additional family member fills out a separate entry.
- 2) Entries are mailed or submitted together before Saturday, April 19th.

**After April 26th entries will not be accepted by mail**  
 \$6.00 late entry without T-shirt will be held at Embassy Suites on Friday, May 3rd, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. No race day entries.

*Return to school  
 Mrs. Peterson, P.E.*

*Child's Signature*

*Guardian's Signature*

*Date Submitted*

**ONE CHILD PER ENTRY**

**Entries must be received by  
 Saturday, April 26th to receive a T-shirt.**

**Make payable to Lincoln Track Club**

**Check Shirt Size:**  Child 10-12  Child 14-16  
 Adult S  Adult M  Adult L  Adult XL

I know that running a road race is a potentially hazardous activity. I or my child should not enter and run unless medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my or my child's ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in this event including but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and or humidity, traffic and the condition of the road, as such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of Lincoln Track Club, the city of Lincoln, all sponsors, their representatives and successors from claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my or my child's participation in this event though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, and recordings of my child, or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose. I agree that an adult may accompany my child during the run.