

November
2011

Rainbow Notes

www.rmaschool.org

In this Issue:

Calendar

Sound of the Week

Nov. 7 & 8 – “N”
Nov. 14 & 15 – “P”
Nov. 21 & 22 – “I”
Nov. 28 & 29 – “F”

Dec. 5 & 6 – “J”
Dec. 12 & 13 – “W”

*We wish you a
tremendous season of
Thanksgiving.
You are among our
blessings.
Thank you for being
part of this school.*

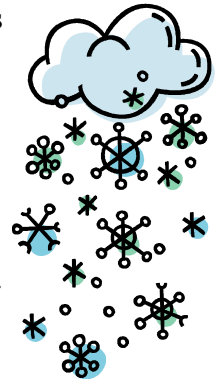
**Renaissance
Montessori Academy
will be closed
November 24 & 25
to celebrate
Thanksgiving**

Calendar of Events

Nov 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday (School Closed)
Dec 16 ½ day school – Winter Holiday Break begins
Children need to be picked up by 11:30 a.m.
Dec 19-Jan 2 Winter Holiday break

Colorado's Winter Weather

It was 86° last Tuesday - the day before last week's snow storm. Today (Tuesday again) children who had on long-sleeved shirts were outside and begging to take off jackets. Tonight we have a potential for rain, snow, a blizzard - or a heat wave. But you already understand that. Our colorful Colorado weather changes arbitrarily. Before anything more drastic happens, we would like remind you of our policies for extreme weather. Let's be prepared for winter.



Day Closures

Sometimes we have to close our doors. If snow is deep and getting deeper **or** a blizzard with strong blowing snow is threatening in Parker, Renaissance Montessori Academy closes its campus. The daily safety of these beautiful children that you put in our care and that of our staff members takes precedence.

We will announce exceptions to the status of our school on the major local tv stations and on our website **rmaschool.org**. Every time there is a major storm please check these early sources. This will help you plan your morning. If RMA is closed or on a storm delay, the caption “**Renaissance Montessori Academy**” will be specifically listed on the snow closure announcements on *KCNC (channel 4)*, *KMGH (channel 7)*, and *KUSA (channel 9)*. You can also check the stations' websites or **dcsdk12.org** to access the Douglas County School District website. School closings are listed on the district's main page.

We need outside, expert assistance when treacherous weather is predicted; we follow Douglas County School District's school closing

announcements. The district provides us with greater expertise and more eyes in determining the extent of any storm and its potential to present a dangerous situation. They have the personnel to travel roads through the night in order to come to a rational decision about our specific area. If the school district closes the schools that feed into Chaparral High School – in other words, this area immediately around RMA – we will close and immediately notify the local stations of *our* status for the duration of the storm.

Media announcements begin on the 5:00 a.m. news broadcasts. At that early hour, you want to scan for “**Douglas County School District - all schools**”, or “**DougCo Chaparral Feeder Area.**” The first wording will indicate a general storm that covers the entire county; the second, a storm that affects Parker specifically. In either case you will be alerted that Renaissance Montessori Academy also will be changing status as quickly as our announcement can be listed. Only exceptions to normal schedules are announced.

Early Dismissal

Occasionally deteriorating weather occurs in the early afternoon, and parents are notified that school, **including after care**, will be dismissed early. Please help us. Come get your children as soon as you can safely do so. We do not do this lightly. We understand the inconvenience. However, downtown Denver is at a lower elevation and *does not* have the same weather that Parker does. Help us get you and your child home safely before the worst hits. In addition if you hear a report on the radio about this area being closed early, please don't wait for our phone call. Roads into the Parker area may be slow and treacherous and traffic heavy by the time a phone call may reach you.

Late Start Days

Occasionally the Douglas County School District will list a delayed start to the school day. Please watch for the Renaissance announcement. RMA may follow with a one hour delay at the beginning of our school day. Please watch.



Now for our regular winter weather procedures:

Coats ...

Always (I'm not quite certain how to emphasize that word without sounding like an ogre, but still . . .) **Always** assume that the weather every day your child comes to school is going to be 30° with a wind chill of 25° - at midday. When TV weather offers a prediction, it is for the presumed high. 10:30 in the morning is going to be colder. Just realize that we have moved into winter weather. *Send a coat, hat and mittens labeled with your child's name every day.* If it is snowy send boots. We will adjust the children's clothing according to actual conditions on our playground when we go outside. When the sun is shining and the air is calm, we may let the children wear sweaters; when it is breezy we will add gloves, caps or hoods. Remember, **the children go outside three times a day. Please give us the materials to keep them comfortable and safe.**

If snow didn't arrive today, it is just waiting for you to turn your back. So, if you arrive on a morning when snow is on the parking lot and sidewalks, you will discover that the benches have been set up at the door to cordon an area for boot removal. Again, we do this for the comfort of the children. They sit and work on the floors throughout the school. We don't want them (the floor or the children) to be wet. So we ask that

- * you sign your child in at the small table provided,
- * have your child sit on the bench to remove boots,
- *swivel their feet over to the dry side of the floor,
- *give them their lunch boxes, coats if they didn't wear one in, boots and a kiss for the day.

Ms. Amy or a teacher will be on hand to help.

Do Not step over the benches with *your* snowy shoes to follow your child into the room. Your children are very good at hanging up their belongings. Remember, we are trying to prevent falls on slippery floors and children who are uncomfortable because they just sat in a wet spot on the rug caused by a large, snowy boot. Thank you for helping us.



This leads us to the shoes the children have in their cubbies. The fire department requires that, for safety sake, all shoes should have rubber soles to protect feet. When your child changes from snow boots to indoor shoes they need to have hard soles. We are no longer calling these indoor shoes “slippers. We need some type of slip-on tennis shoe that your child can put on by him/herself. They must be able to protect your child’s feet in case of an emergency. Please check the type of shoes that you have supplied. Crocs, flip-flops, socks or soft soled shoes in place of wet shoes are not an acceptable alternative (again, it is for your child’s safety).

Your child should change back to boots before going home after school..

Butter Braids are Back!

The order blanks will be in your folders next week.

This seasonal offer is back by parental request. Imagine the scent of fresh bread wafting through the house while you are *still* lying in bed dreaming of sugar plums. Ahead of you lies the activities of Thanksgiving Day (or New Year’s) but it doesn’t start until after breakfast. And breakfast is drifting on the air, beckoning you to come. No demands. Just an invitation.

Please look for the descriptive brochure from Ms. Lisa. These are the breads that parents continue to request. If you would like to take some of the stress out of your holiday cooking, you can chose between several flavors of delicious frozen, holiday bread that you thaw, let rise and bake into a loaf that fills the house with memories of the scents of the holidays. (If you wish to be kind to your friends, let them know they can order for this year’s Thanksgiving holiday. If they wish to order more, they can freeze it for later.) However, orders **MUST** be turned in soon and will be ready for pick-up by noon on the 21st. Check the brochure for the due date.

Later this month the cookie dough order sheets will in your folders. These frozen, unbaked cookies allow you to bake your specific quantity of fresh cookies on a moment’s notice without the hassle of flour, eggs, or special ingredients. With two or three varieties, you can cater to individual tastes at the drop of a cookie on a baking sheet.

We hope you will participate. Fund raisers allow us to provide the children with additional materials in the classrooms and on the playground, and to keep teacher training on the cutting edge without raising tuition or fees. We carefully screen companies for those who will offer quality for a good price. These two holiday desserts are back by request. You know they are good!



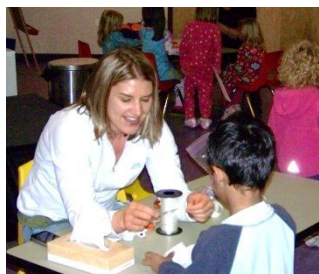
This is where we started in 1995 - in one double wide trailer on a dirt lot within the quadrangle that was the Renaissance Charter School. We’ve changed a lot in the last sixteen years. What has not changed is the parental involvement that makes us what we are today.

The silent auction committee will be meeting soon to get plans under way for the Spring Silent Auction. Yvonne Stewart mentioned that an immediate goal is to get letters out to potential sponsors before the December break. Please be part of growth for the next sixteen years. You can reach Yvonne (Morgan’s and William’s mom) at yvonne_j_stewart@yahoo.com or just catch her in the mornings as she walks the kids to school.

The Pajama Party was Great!

Thank you for all the time and effort you put into our Pajama Party. Thank you for the cookies and the frosting. Without you we wouldn’t have made such creative pictures or found our way through all the projects we set up.

When everything was over, you swept the floor, put the tables back where they needed to go, and made sure we were ready for the rest of the day. You have the greatest appreciation from the children and the teachers to each of you who helped make this day everything that we so enjoyed. Thank you.

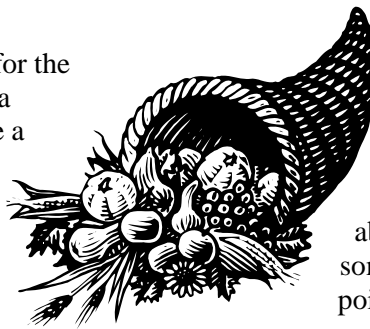






A Season of Thanksgiving

Autumn is a time to gather in our harvest for the whichever tradition you follow); it is also a community who may need our help and be a children empathy and to model it for We may even say, "Empathy is being ourselves." The discussion may be treated. It may be making a card for Whatever the discussion, we make the even if we are small.



coming winter (to give thanks in time to be aware of others in our blessing to them. We try to teach our them through the activities we introduce. aware of the needs of others instead of about the way we know someone wants to be someone who is sick or just to say "I love you." point that we have the ability to give to others,

Traditionally we collect cans and boxes of food to present to the Parker Food Bank. During this economic climate in particular our collection and the food the children bring to share is very important. More than 2000 families in Parker are still hurt by the economy and come to the food bank during a month for help in feeding their children. The classes will be decorating boxes and discuss their purpose. Please send 2 or 3 items that your child can put in the box as we reach the middle of the month. Use the opportunity to continue building your family's culture of helping others. We will be making our donation to the food bank on November 21.

Our "giving tree" will go up the last week of November. All the decorations are made by the children and labeled with items needed by a family in our community. We work with the Visiting Nurses Association to reach out to someone who needs the encouragement of a helping hand. Others helped in the past by RMA families have included an immigrant family with twin infant daughters and a grandmother who had become the sole support of her grandchildren. Our children delight in giving to other children.

We never demand that you participate. Please, look at your blessings, realize that there are others who need help, and give whatever is within your ability. Above all, we ask that you involve your child in the act of giving.



