

Mt. Mahogany News for Rams & Ewes

Website: <http://mahogany.alpinedistrict.org>

Parents,

I would like to thank everyone, including our staff, School Community Council, and PTA, who were involved in any way as we transitioned to our Modified Extended Day schedule this year. The conversion to modified extended day from our former traditional schedule has gone very smoothly. From my observations I have seen not only tremendous educational and instructional advantages, but logistical advantages as well. I have spoken to many staff members, parents and students to get their feedback on the change and everyone has been very pleased. I know with any kind of change it takes time to become acclimated and again I thank you for your support.

I would also like to report that we began school with an enrollment of 950 students. This number is twelve students less than what we anticipated. Individual student totals for each grade are as follows: kindergarten/174, first grade/171, second grade/140, third grade/134, fourth grade/117, fifth grade/118 and sixth grade/96.

I am also pleased to report that our school achieved AYP and UPASS status under the guidelines of NCLB (No Child Left Behind) for this year. To make progress a school needs to meet criteria in 40 specific areas involving reading and math. I am delighted with specific growth our students achieved in both math and language arts. In language arts our student proficiency percentage increased by 4%. In math our proficiency percentage improved by 7%. We also saw significant growth in all subgroups. I would like to compliment our teachers for their hard work and effort in helping our students succeed at this level.

As you know we are facing a difficult flu (H1N1) season this year. I would like to remind you, as parents, to please keep your children at home when they are sick. This will help prevent the spread of the flu. I would also suggest you use a hand sanitizer at home and if you would like you can send one to school with your children. Our teachers have hand sanitizers in their rooms, but personal ones will help as well. It is also important to remind your children to frequently wash their hands.

Finally, I was hopeful that we would be in a position to utilize the on-line scheduler for our upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences on October 7th and 8th. Unfortunately, due to technical and logistical problems, we will not be able to use the scheduler until our spring conferences that will be held in February 2010.

Thank you again for your support. It is a pleasure to be associated with you and your children.

Mr. Westover

October 2009 Calendar

Professional Development Day (No School)	October 5
Parent-Teacher Conferences	October 7 and 8
PTA Walk-A-Thon	October 9
(Make up date)	October 14
Student of the Month Assembly	October 12
Fall Break	October 15 and 16
Red Ribbon Week	October 26 - 30

Welcome back to school. We are already enjoying sixth grade so much! We're off to a great year!

We had a very successful Student Council Election in early September. The sixth graders who will be serving as the Student Body Officers are:

President: Sarah Dzubak

Vice President: Cami Wakefield

Secretary: Sami Jo Carson

Historian: Savannah Larsen

We had our first rocket launch on Friday, September 18th. It was so much fun! Many thanks, again, to the "Rocket Man" who helps put on this event each year.

Officer Armitstead of the Pleasant Grove Police Department is our NOVA instructor. He comes each Monday to help us learn about healthy lifestyle choices with an emphasis on drug awareness.

Don't forget to help your child complete their daily math homework. We feel it is very important for these sixth graders to get into good homework habits before the move on to junior high school.

Important day to remember

November 18th - Field Trip to BYU Planetarium and World Fest

5th grade News

The 5th grade is well on their way to a great year! We've got lots planned to help us learn and grow to become responsible, mature adults.

Late in August we took our annual trip to Clear Creek, where we enjoyed the beautiful outdoors and got to know our new classmates. We had fun playing night games, hiking, stretching our abilities on a team-building ropes course, and doing tie-dye and other crafts. We had a great time!

Already we've completed our IOWA testing, and we're almost through our first specialty rotations. We're continuing with our math grouping and having great success.

5th grade is a great year; we can't wait to see all of the developments in our young students!

4th grade news

WOW! It's hard to believe we've been in school for nearly six weeks. We are off to a great start, and the students are quickly getting into the fourth grade routine. We've been studying our great state in social studies and have learned about our state symbols and the geography of Utah. An especially fun art project was making salt dough maps of Utah. We've been improving our math skills in place value, addition, and subtraction this month. All fourth graders have a math facts booklet they use to practice basic facts each night. In September, we enjoyed reading realistic fiction books, and October's reading genre is mysteries.

We've already been on a field trip this year. We took a step back in history as we toured Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn Park. It was fun and educational experiencing being pony express riders, making candles and adobe bricks, participating in military drills, attending class in a one room school house, playing old-fashioned children's games, and touring the old army buildings. We've been very busy, and there's much more to come!

It's great to be in fourth grade!

It's always fun to begin third grade with excited new students. We have a great curriculum in store for them this year. We began by studying light, heat, and cave formations. The culminating activity was to hike up to Timpanogos Cave for a tour through that wonderful national park. We have enjoyed the interactive rotations with all the classes. Mrs. Lindley is teaching us art appreciation; Mrs. Dobson is teaching health and nutrition; we are learning Map Skills by Mrs. Rutland; Mrs. Van Zant and Mrs. Van Wagenen are teaching us problem solving skills in our Prevention Dimension lessons. We are working hard on passing addition and subtraction basic facts so the students can begin adding and subtracting two digit numbers.

