



10300 W. NASSAU AVE, DENVER CO 80235  
720-961-9200 VP 303-984-5749 V  
WWW.RMDS.CO

## JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2017

### LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR: AMY NOVOTNY

#### Upcoming Events:

##### February 6-10:

- Book Fair

##### February 9:

- RMDS Family Literacy Night

##### February 10:

- RMDS Toddler Program
- Teen Night Out

##### February 16:

- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Board Meeting

##### February 17:

- STEAM Day
- Early Release at 1:00

##### February 20:

- President's Day-No School

Dear RMDS families,

Welcome to February everyone! It is hard to believe that the year is more than half over, but we are full steam ahead with students working hard in the classrooms on curricular learning outcomes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter report cards were sent home last week.

It is also the time of the year when weather may impact the transportation to school. If RMDS closes due to the weather, we will announce it to on our website, Facebook and on 9NEWS. If there is any time when school is in session and you feel it is not safe to transport your child due to the weather, please let us know.

February is also a good month for reflection and caring. I encourage you to take the time to share your child's wonderful accomplishments and growth. Our parent/teacher conferences are coming up very soon, don't forget to sign up for a conference with your child's classroom teacher. Please contact your child's teacher directly to schedule a conference. We look forward to seeing you again to celebrate how much your child has grown this year.

RMDS'ly Yours,

*Amy Novotny*  
Director



# RMDS NEWS



## SCHOOL HOURS

**Office Hours:**  
8:00AM to 4:00PM

**School Hours:**  
8:30AM to 3:30PM

**Wednesdays:**  
8:15AM to 3:45PM

**Before School Program:**  
Starts at 7:30AM

**After School Program:**  
Ends at 5:30PM

**Early Release:**  
Day ends at 1:00PM  
Nov 4, Feb 17, March 17,  
April 28, June 2

## LATE? ABSENT? CHANGE OF PICK UP PLANS?

Please notify Front Desk as soon as possible.

**Email:** [attendance@rmds.co](mailto:attendance@rmds.co)

**Call:** •720-961-9200 (VP)

•303-984-5749 (V)

**Text:** 303-263-6800

## HEALTH OR CLINIC QUESTIONS?

Contact Vionna at

[vsoto-balderas@rmds.co](mailto:vsoto-balderas@rmds.co)

## BOOK FAIR

The book fair will run from February 6 to 10. Students will preview the book fair on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and make wish lists. Middle and high school students can purchase books during their lunch period. Elementary students will have a scheduled time to purchase on Thursday during class. Parents that pick up students from school are welcome to come to the book fair until 4:00pm when it closes for the day.

## BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

There are board scholarships available for seniors who wish to attend college and those that wish to attend a summer camp. You can find the scholarships on the Board page on our website. If you have questions, please contact our Board President, Kathy, at [ksevier@rmds.co](mailto:ksevier@rmds.co). To view the scholarship guidelines please click on the scholarship you want to view.

### CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

#### RMDS Board Camp Scholarship Opportunity

Up to \$500 per applicant available!  
**NEW Requirements! DEADLINE is on April 1<sup>st</sup>**

##### Requirements for Pre-School to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students:

1. Essay, video, or project request written or made by the student explaining about the camp they want to go to.
2. Letter from the parent to the Board about the student, the camp, and how the camp will benefit the student.

##### Requirements for Middle School to High School Students:

1. Essay or video request by the student to the Board explaining:
  - a. Who you are.
  - b. What camp you want to attend.
  - c. How the camp will benefit you.
  - d. How it will be applied to your school learning.
2. One letter of recommendation from the school or community.

Please send essays and videos to Board President Kathryn Sevier at [ksevier@rmds.co](mailto:ksevier@rmds.co) and give projects to the front secretary labeled as "Camp Scholarship" by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Note: Winners will be required to come and present about their experiences to the Board during a Board meeting in the fall.

### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

#### RMDS Board College Scholarship Opportunity

\$3,000 available for graduating seniors with a 3.0 GPA or above (can be used toward tuition, room & board, and/or book costs)

**Requirements:**  
Letter or essay explaining who you are and why you are deserving of this scholarship

Two letters of recommendation (one from RMDS and one from the community)

Please email essay and letters of recommendation to Board President Kathy Sevier at [ksevier@rmds.co](mailto:ksevier@rmds.co) by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ASL WORKSHOP WITH JUSTIN JACKERSON

One of our Elementary teachers, Jeni Jackerson had her brother, Justin Jackerson visit RMDS to present an ASL workshop to our Elementary students. Justin is an ASL instructor at California State University of Northridge (CSUN) and he is also an actor and Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) in Southern California. Our students learned about how important ASL classifiers and Non-Manual Markers (NMS) are and how to incorporate them in our improv acting/storytelling. Justin also gave a workshop on Visual Vernacular (a combined of classifiers and pantomime). Our students had a blast playing with their native language to a new level. We hope to have Justin come back and provide more workshops in the future. See some of his videos at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/justjackerson>



## FROM OUR BOARD

Dear RMDS Families and Friends,

We hope you all are having a good start in this new year of 2017! Once again in this letter, in our efforts to keep you up to date with what is happening in our school, we would be sharing with you some of the things that were discussed during the board meeting on January 19th. The draft minutes for information on other topics will be posted on the RMDS website under the Board webpage soon.

We have decided to begin the search for Avery Camp and College Scholarship winners earlier this year to give families enough time to plan for summer and college. The program is now open as of February 1st and will end on April 1st. The annual Avery Camp Scholarship of up to \$3,000 for all grades and the annual Avery College Scholarship of \$2,000 for a graduating senior are made possible by the yearly fundraising efforts of the Board. Please find the document for each scholarship that explains the process to apply on the [Board webpage](#) and within this newsletter. Good luck to all who will apply!

The Board approved the 2016-2017 Staff and Parent Surveys, therefore a link to the survey questions will go out to families on Monday, February 6th. The deadline for the survey on Friday, February 17th. The Parent Survey will also be made available for you to fill out either online or on paper during the Parent-Teacher Conferences at the school on February 16th. The surveys are so important for you to fill out as they help us see what is working and areas that need to be improved on. Furthermore, if you fill out a Parent Survey, you will be automatically entered into a prize drawing with a chance of winning a \$50 gift card to a restaurant of your choice!

We have also approved to pay for a one year membership to The Endeavor magazine under the American Society of Deaf Children Organization. The Endeavor focuses on issues of importance to families and covers topics such as transition, deaf culture, ASDC's activities, upcoming events, stories of family experiences, and so on. The Endeavor will advertise and promote our school on their website and in the magazine. The magazine is published three times a year and mailed to all ASDC members including each family attending RMDS. We would love to know if this membership is beneficial to you.

The Board members have been busy brainstorming and planning for several upcoming community and fundraising events. Barbara Wingfield, our staff representative, is planning for the ASL Bicentennial Celebration that will be on Saturday, April 22nd. We will be celebrating 200 years of Deaf Education in America with several well-known ASL performers. Kathryn Sevier, the Board president, will chair the 5K event again in the fall of 2017. This event will be a community event to promote a healthy lifestyle for all. Jeni Jackerson, also a staff representative, has started planning for the Gala in the spring of 2018. This gala will be very special as it will be RMDS' 20th anniversary! Please contact any of the three Board members if you would like to help as a volunteer and/or as a donor.

Our next board meeting is on February 16th at 6:30 pm. The Employee Handbook, the 5 Years Strategic Planning/ Unified Improvement Planning update, and the 2017-2018 School Calendar approval are among the few topics to be discussed at the meeting. Please contact any of the board members at any time if you have questions.

Have a wonderful short and sweet month!

Sincerely,

Kathy, Kristen, Mike, Susan, Jeni, Barb, Nora, Shelley, Dan and Jim  
RMDS Board of Directors



## Healthy Habits

By: Dr. Rachel Kapustka  
Realm Chiropractic, Lakewood CO  
drkapustka@gmail.com

### EAR INFECTIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Not only are ear infections one of the most common childhood ailments, up to 90 percent of children experience this kind of infection by 10 years old, this is the most common time of year for children to experience otitis media. There continues to be much confusion in conventional medicine as to how to best treat ear infections as research has shown that antibiotics are often not helpful as it's typically a viral infection and long term effectiveness of ear tubes has been shown to be negligible. For most kids, the "watch and wait" method for 48-72 hours is the best approach as their body will handle the infection on their own. For those kids whose bodies are more compromised and the concern is recurring infections, then medical treatment may be necessary. There are proven natural approaches that have been researched that support the prevention, treatment and recurrence for most kids with ear infections and those are listed below.

- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians and the CDC have recommended since 2004 that doctor's hold off on prescribing antibiotics for ear infections initially. Research done over 20 years ago has shown little benefit of antibiotics and contributes to the spread of drug-resistant bacteria. Watchful waiting is recommended for 48-72 hours and if there is no change in symptoms, then a possible prescription may be helpful.
- Following a nutrition plan that eliminates dairy, sugar (including soda and fruit juices) and grains has been shown to increase the immune system and make them less susceptible to these kinds of infections. Also, subclinical gluten intolerance can contribute to recurring infections.
- Consider chiropractic care: A specifically trained chiropractic in pediatric adjustments can help open the eustachian tube and allow it to drain properly. This draining of built up fluid is relieved and decreases pain and allows the infection to dissipate.
- Additionally, keeping babies away from second hand smoke is critical. Breastfeeding for up to 6 months has been linked to fewer ear infections than kids who are not breastfed. If you bottle feed your baby, make sure they are upright and not lying on their back while feeding. Bottle feeding while on their back has been linked to increased risk for ear infections.
- As long as the ear drum is not perforated, you can drop breast milk with a dropper in the ear. A few drops every few hours and will help to clear up the infection in 48-72 hours and is much safer than antibiotics. If you don't have access to breast milk, a few drops of coconut oil is antimicrobial and anti-viral. Make sure the oil is in a liquid state by placing oil in a small container then placing that inside a glass of hot water.

For more information or to sign up and get access to previous articles go to [www.realmakewood.com](http://www.realmakewood.com).



# FUNDRAISING/UPCOMING EVENTS

We have some fun events and fundraisers coming up. Be sure to click on the flyer for more information.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Book Fair February 6-10</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">RMDS Family Literacy Night February 9</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">RMDS Toddler Program February 10</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Teen Night Out February 10</h2>
			
<h2 style="text-align: center;">PTO/SAC Meeting February 23</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Author Visit March 10</h2>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Deaf Ski Day March 12</h2>	
			
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Summer Camp Opportunities – start planning now!</h2>			
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Aspen Camp</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="https://aspencamp.org/">https://aspencamp.org/</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Session 1: ages 13-17 Session 2: ages 10-15 Session 3: ages 8-12</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">RMDS Board Scholarship Opportunities:</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u>College Scholarship</u></a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#"><u>Camp Scholarship</u></a></p>	



## WITH OUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST: AMBER RUSH

Happy New Year!

### ECE:

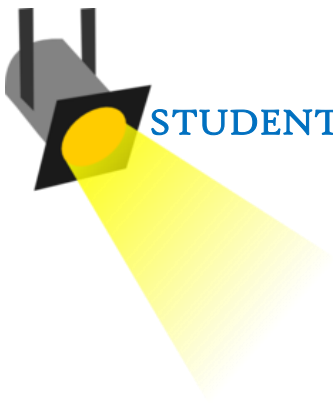
The students have been learning classroom rules and how to apply these rules in different settings. Lately, they have been learning about diversity and that they can still be friends who are similar or different from them! I have to admit that it was a little confusing for them at first, but now they know they all can be friends no matter what! 😊

### ELEMENTARY:

As of January, we did not focus on the new pillar, instead, we reviewed the last three pillars including Respect, Responsibility, and Caring. The students focused on multiple activities that reflects the three pillars. They did role-plays, following-directions activities, and working together. This month, the students will learn more about Fairness! Please review these pillars with your children at home and discuss how they can apply these traits in their home environment. Luci, our PE teacher, has been reviewing and applying these traits in PE class. Luci shared that it has been a great learning experience for the students! Thank you, Luci! 😊

### MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL:

Team-Building activities has been the focus for this month. They have learned to communicate with one another in various ways and still be patience, optimistic, thankful, and motivated to complete the given tasks. It was difficult at first, but they sure have picked up on new skills in order to complete the activities. 😊



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT - CONGRATULATIONS!



**Ella Knight**



**Todd Sevier**

## CITIZENSHIP CLUB AND HONOR ROLL

Students worked very hard this past semester and it shows. There are 3 levels to middle and high school honor roll: honorable mention: 3.0-3.49 GPA; honor roll: 3.5-3.74 GPA; and, highest honors 3.75-4.0.

Congratulations to our middle and high school students who earned an honor roll certificate.

### Middle School Honor Roll



*Edward Tinker, Greg Vasquez, Andi Keller, Ramon Balderas-Soto, Latif Greenles, Sammy Raacke, Daniel Cruz, Rhiannon Flores, ZaniBelle Hoglind, Cate Martinez, Savannah Jones*

### High School Honor Roll



*Freshmen Jameson Healy and Makayla Hoy. Absent are Aidan Harris and Victoria Ponce de Leon.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Citizenship Club

Elementary teachers recognized their hard work and self-growth to become a wonderful peer! They were amazing role models. The students who earned 3's and 4's on their learning attributes got to attend the Citizenship Club Party! They made valentine crafts and played fun games. They sure had a blast! Congratulations to...

- Amariana Allen-Bruns
- Joshua Hoffnagle
- Sara Needham
- Ryder Allen-Bruns
- Noah Kapustka
- Marley Romo
- Marley Burger
- Ella Knight
- Shiloh Sandager
- Lilly Daniels
- Alejandro Martinez
- Todd Sevier





# EDUCATIONAL CORNERS



## BOOK FAIR, LITERACY NIGHT, AUTHOR VISIT!

This year we are excited to have two deaf authors come to RMDS! Sheena will come for our Family Literacy Night and Sara Novic will come for Authors Day. This is in collaboration with Colorado Council International Reading Association. Big thanks to Colorado Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for making this possible through grant money.



## FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00-7:30PM At RMDS

Come along with us as we enjoy a night of camping fun and a visit from Sheena McFeely!



Enjoy a yummy dinner, including s'mores with your family.



ECE and elementary children will explore camping activities while their parents learn from Sheena McFeely about ASL language development and reading with your deaf child.



Middle school students and parents will have fun exploring their reading and the Jefferson County Public library!



Finish up the evening with a hike through the book fair!

## GUARANTEED TO BE A GREAT TIME!



## BOOK FAIR FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>

Books will be on display and set up for purchase in the Board Room all week. Book Fair will be open on Literacy Night as well.



In collaboration with Colorado Council International Reading Association.  
Thanks to Colorado Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for making this possible through grant money.



COLORADO COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

## SARA NOVIĆ

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we have a special author coming to RMDS. Be sure to save the date! Click on the flyer for more information.

RMDS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE:  
**SARA NOVIĆ**  
DEAF AUTHOR OF THE NOVEL "GIRL AT WAR" AND MANY SHORT STORIES AND ESSAYS

Sara Novic will be coming to share her novel Girl at War.

**IS COMING TO RMDS!**  
Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
7:00-8:30 PM

Light refreshments will be served.

**WE WELCOME RMDS FAMILIES AND ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.**  
(This is a free event for ages 14 and up.)

CCDHH  
Colorado Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

in collaboration with Colorado Council International Reading Association.  
Thanks to Colorado Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for making this possible through grant money.



## "BENEFITS OF PUZZLES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT"

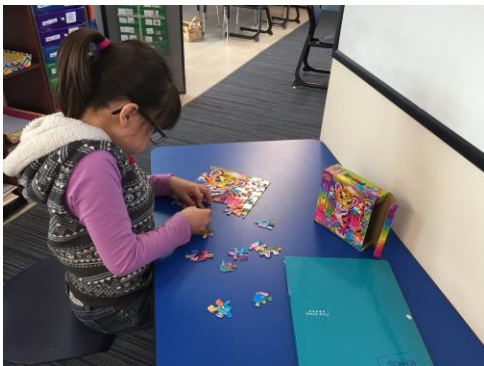
The basic skills of assembling puzzles do develop the physical, cognitive, and emotional skills among youngsters. These three basic skills are the building pillars for a well-rounded person. *"Puzzles allow an opportunity for young children/learners to focus on an activity that has an ending"*-N. Maldonado. In addition to these three basic skills, your child will develop a relationship between what their eyes see, what their hands do and what their brain do with the given information. The students can acquire the growth of social skills as they work with their peers or family member and to communicate about what fits where. Either the puzzle piece fits or otherwise, your child uses critical thinking skills to complete the puzzle with problem-solving abilities.

Benefits of a puzzle in childhood development and it start with YOU. Give your child opportunity to continue learning from simple shapes, to build the skills toward solving jigsaw puzzles, lastly moving upward to puzzles with abstract shapes. To think another way that the puzzles are united by a mathematical concept that is similar to a game board but with a twist! Happy puzzling!

For further reading:

<https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/child-activities/why-puzzles-are-good-for-your-childs-development/#.WI-dqvrKUK>

What are puzumi puzzles? <http://puzumi.co/>





It has been a busy, productive month in ASL Arts/Deaf Studies classes since our return from the holiday break. Most of the classes have been analyzing the story elements and the meaning of “Deaf Gain” (see #deafgain). They are to create a story relating to this theme to make a short film for the Jr. Deaf Rochester Film Festival that will occur on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Rochester School for the Deaf. Parents and guardians, thank you for signing the permission forms for the submission. The students have until February 15<sup>th</sup> to submit their

**WITH BARBARA WINGFIELD**

edited films.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/DeafRochesterFilmFestival>.



The MS/HS students learned how to do a storyboard, a script, manage the camcorders and lights plus editing. Most importantly of all, the students learned how to work together as a crew to make their short film project successful as much as possible. They are starting to learn the true meaning of PATIENCE. I hope they will apply that outside the classroom as well.

Each of them had a role such as director, camerapersons, lighting crew, editors, actors, etc. So far, it has been an amazing experience despite growing pains and mistakes. Also, a lot of laughter and tears are included making plenty of bloopers! They surely benefit from this kind of opportunity to understand what it takes to make this work.

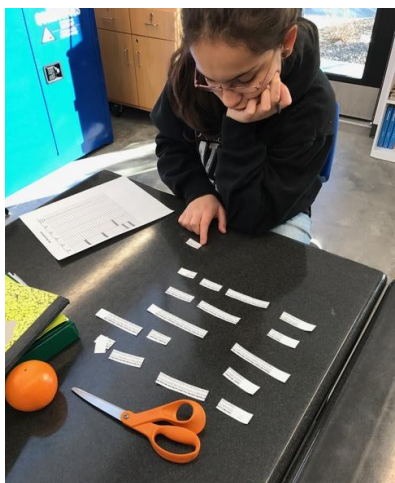
They also recognized better ways to sign their lines using ASL grammatical features that they needed to use to make their messages clearer. Last but not least, they learned how to self-advocate for themselves as a Deaf person facing potential conflicts and how to solve problems in these case scenarios.

Their films (without bloopers) will be released on YouTube in April so be sure you subscribe [RMDS ASL Education](#) at YouTube! The films with bloopers will be released in RMDS community in Sorenson video center. If you don't have Sorenson, please sign up to get a free videophone that comes with awesome videos to watch.

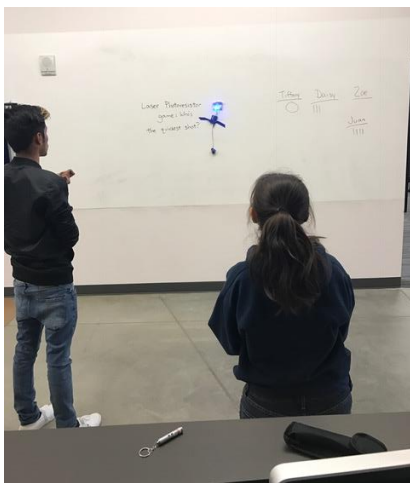
<p>ASL Arts students were discussing their plan for a story, and designing a storyboard.</p>	<p>Jameson developed a script using ASL.</p>	<p>The students are learning how to act, direct, film and work together as a crew.</p>	<p>The students are learning how to act, direct, film and work together as a crew.</p>
<p>Zee uses a clapsboard right before Makayla acts.</p>	<p>Jameson and Zee act out military roles.</p>	<p>Students discussed their discovery on William "Dummy" Hoy who played pro baseball in 1890.</p>	<p>Andi and Marie greet their "mother" Cassie in a hospital room as they learn how to act in a more convincing way.</p>



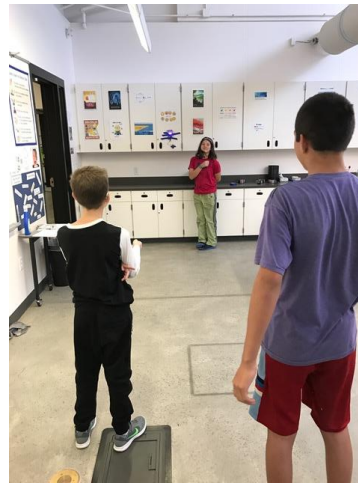
All of the RMDS science students have been busy since returning from winter break. They've learned a lot and worked really hard.



Zoe sorts DNA segments cut by restriction enzymes, to determine who is guilty.



Using a photoresistor, Zoe and Juan play a laser-based target game.



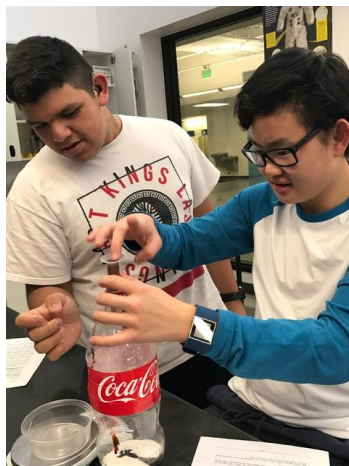
During Robotics club, Jonathan and Sebastiane compete to see who is more accurate with their laser.



Jose learns about the chemical phenylthalein, which turns pink in bases, but remains clear in acids.



Juan create his paper circuit to light a green LED light using copper tape.



Daniel and Jameson mix their root beer extract, yeast and warm water to learn about cellular respiration (and make root beer!)



Daisy carefully pours her yeast into the 2 liter bottle holding warm water.



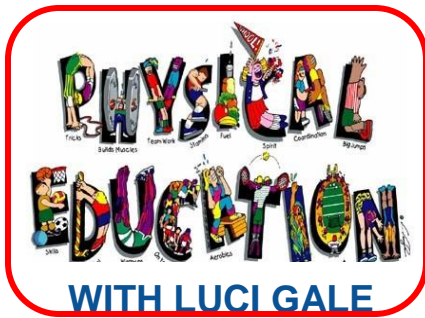
In Robotics class, Daisy and Zoe have fun shooting Nerf guns at bug projected on the wall.



Jose, Lisa and Zoe work hard to determine the pH level of the chemicals they're working with.

SCIENCE  
is awesome!





Elementary students create their own group stunt as team building skills in physical education. 100 days of school was celebrated on February 3, the students worked together to make the number “100” for 100 days of school!

---

**ECE/ELEMENTARY: BY STEPHANIE CARSON, INSTRUCTIONAL COORDINATOR**

## Innovation Lab

The elementary department has an exciting and new innovation way in teaching and learning in the pod area! The pod area is now known as the ‘Innovation Lab!’ Over the past few weeks, the teachers have been working hard ‘behind the scenes’ to engage with our new Innovation Lab and we are now beginning the gradual process of introducing the Innovation Lab to the elementary students.

The Innovation Lab will encourage our students to think out of the box and dig deeper with their critical thinking skills in communication, collaboration, and time management by doing various project based learning in the lab. Our goal is to give them experiences that are open ended and self-directed. The Innovation Lab is a place where our students have the opportunity to make, plan, design, produce and build based on their passion and interests that are unique to them.

In order for the Innovation Lab to be successful and to meet our goal with project based learning, we need your support by donating some items. The following items would be greatly appreciated by the Elementary Department team:

- Pretty containers
- Baskets of all sizes
- Cloth, felt, cotton material
- Marbles
- Clean recyclable materials (paper towel rolls, TP rolls, caps, bottles, card board, newspapers, magazines)
- Work aprons
- Construction Papers
- Glue
- Markers
- PVC pipes
- Any leftover construction materials (wood, tiles, wires, wood glue, etc.)

Please ask your child about this exciting new addition to their educational program, and have your child explain the projects they are doing in the Innovation Lab.

## TODDLER PROGRAM: HOSTED BY RMDS

January 20, 2017 at Monkey Bizness

Rocky Mountain Deaf School had their Toddler Program at Monkey Bizness in Parker on Friday, January 20, 2017. The Toddler Program serves Deaf and Hard of Hearing children ages 0-3 years old and their families. The theme for our program was “Move Your Body” where we read “Head to Toe” by Eric Carle aloud during our literacy activity time. The toddlers learned how to move like the animals in the book and doing various exercise activities. The toddlers enjoyed learning where the different body parts are, how the body moves, how the animals move, and exploring the play area. We provided the families with the “Head to Toe” book and taught them ASL storytelling signs using YouTube videos and the Aurasma app. The Aurasma app is a feature where families can use their phone to see the signs on each page of the book. Our next Toddler Program will be at the Link Recreation Center in Lakewood on February 10th. I hope to see you there!



Next toddler program is Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at The Links Recreation Center in Lakewood. Click on the flyer for more information.



### TODDLER PROGRAM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017 | 9:00-11:30 AM



**At The Link Recreation Center**  
1295 S Reed St, Lakewood

- Meet at The Link Recreation Center
- Literacy Activities
- Play Time
- Say our Good Byes and see you next time!

Kindly RSVP to Stephanie Carson at [scarson@rmds.co](mailto:scarson@rmds.co) or 720-961-9211



Toddler Program supported by:  10300 W Nassau Ave, Denver, CO 80235  
303-984-5749 [www.rmds.co](http://www.rmds.co)