

# Rattler Round-Up



May/June 2023

#### Dear MES families,

As we approach the end of another successful academic year, I am thrilled to reflect on our accomplishments and share our vision for the future. At Minden Elementary, we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience that prepares our students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. We continue to drive our EPIC work forward by building positive school and class culture while focusing on a learner centered environment. We have also moved towards developing responsive instructions within our classrooms. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss project-based learning as a key aspect of our school's approach.

Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging, and complex question, problem, or challenge. We believe that when students actively engage in hands-on projects and collaborative problem-solving, they develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter and acquire essential skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and effective communication. Project Based Learning unleashes a contagious, creative energy among students and teachers.

Throughout the year, our dedicated MES teachers have incorporated some project-based learning opportunities into their lessons, allowing students to explore topics in a meaningful and exciting way. This year, our students have been fortunate to participate in our talking Art Show, 100 days of school activities, and are currently preparing for the Cardboard Challenge in June. In isolated opportunities, some classrooms are researching a monarch waystation to create, conserve, and protect monarch habitats. Other students are working with published authors on their own Young Authors Project. Through these experiences, we have witnessed the tremendous benefits of this approach, as our students have demonstrated increased motivation, enthusiasm, and a genuine thirst for knowledge. In order to foster a love for learning that extends far beyond the classroom wall, we will continue to prioritize project-based learning across all grade levels and subject areas as an integral part of our curriculum for the 2023-2024 school year.

In pursuit of this vision, we will invest in professional development opportunities for our staff. Additionally, we will collaborate with parents and the wider community to establish meaningful partnerships that enrich educational experiences and provide valuable resources for our students.

We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead, and we are grateful for your ongoing support and dedication to our students' education. Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating summer break



# **Important Dates**

#### May 9th

**Picture Retakes** 

#### May 11th

4th Grade FLSE

#### May 12th

Hot Air Balloon Demo

#### May 15th

Early out, Dismissal 1:44pm

#### May 22nd

5th Grade PWL Tour

#### May 24th

**Book Mobile** 

#### May 25th

Spirit Day-Disney Day

#### May 26th

MES Talent Show (students only)

#### May 29th

No School- Memorial Day

#### May 30th-June 2nd

Fun Week- Walk-A-Thon Prizes

#### May 30th

Ag Day

#### May 31st

5th grade CVMS Tour

#### June 5th

**PTO Meeting** 

#### June 6th-June 7th

5th Grade FLSE

#### **June 7th**

3rd Grade FLSE

#### **June 8th**

**BOB Spring Competition** 

#### **June 9th**

Cardboard Challenge Showcase

#### June 12th

1st & 2nd Spring Music Concert

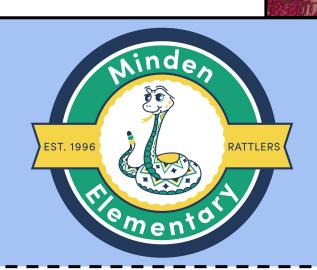
#### **Summer Activities**

Mrs. Goering, Counselor

- Create a summer routine! (Routines provide structure and safety for kids)
- Make healthy choices! (eating healthy foods and enforcing a bedtime will help your child's mental health)
- Explore a new hobby! (hobbies are like vegetables, kids may have to try them a couple of times before they like them)
- Go outside (Vitamin D is good for children's bones and moods)

Check out more ideas in my newsletter

bit.ly/mesnews



#### June 13th

3rd & 4th Spring Music Concert

#### June 14th

5th Grade Patriotic Performance

#### June 15th

Field Day 1-3pm

#### <u>June 16th</u>

Kindergarten Graduation 9:30AM

#### June 16th

Last Day of School, Minimum Day, Dismissal at 12:45

## Summer Reading Strategies from Mrs. Miller

#### MES Families,

I can't believe we are at the end of the year newsletter already. It feels like this school year went by so much faster than years past. What a year of growth we have had this year. This year we spent most of the spring semester focusing on reevaluating the way we teach reading to our primary students, and I am so excited for our next school year!

Over the summer, I would like to encourage all of you to work with your children. Without practice most children will experience the "summer slide" which means they don't retain their skills. When they come back in the fall they are having to relearn a lot of the skills they mastered the year before. Some resources that you could use with your child is MyLexia and Discovery Ed., both of these resources are found on your child's launch pad. The school is able to check out a chromebook to you for the summer if you need one.

The most important thing you can do with your child is allow them the time to read 20 minutes per day. Their vocabulary will grow immensely. For children who struggle with reading we have another great resource, Learning Ally. Learning Ally is a platform for audiobooks; your child can read books that they are interested in with the support of the audio to help with those harder words. If your child cannot log in to Learning Ally please email me at <a href="mailto:dmiller2@dcsd.k12.nv.us">dmiller2@dcsd.k12.nv.us</a>.

If you are a parent of a preschool student to first grade student focus on rhyming, nursery rhymes, and the sounds the letters make. Using letter names can be very confusing for students so if you focus on the sounds that make up the word "cat", your child will have most of the beginning skills for reading. When your child is trying to sound out a word, have them cover up some of the word and read it part by part. This skill is also helpful for reading multisyllabic words or words that have more than one syllable. It can be overwhelming for children to read all the parts at once.

For parents with children in grades 2-5 please focus on asking questions about what your child is reading. For example, who are the characters in the story? Where and when does the story take place? Tell me what happens in the beginning, middle and end? What lesson are the characters trying to learn in this story? Can you apply that lesson to your life? In addition, helping your child visualize the story or create pictures of what you are reading while you are reading it can drastically improve their overall reading comprehension.

Thanks for sharing your kiddo with us this year! We are so lucky to have the students we have here at MES. Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you all back here in the fall!

Happy Reading,

Damasa Miller Learning Strategist dmiller2@dcsd.k12.nv.us

#### FROM THE OFFICE OF NURSE TAWNY



# HELLO

Spring has finally arrived! As have our seasonal allergies. Here are a few ways to help distinguish allergies from a cold.

Symptoms	Cold	Allergy
Cough	Usually	Rarely
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Never
Fatigue and weakness	Sometimes	Sometimes
Itchy eyes	Rarely	Usually
Sneezing	Usually	Usually
Sore throat	Usually	Rarely
Runny and or stuffy nose	Usually	Usually
Fever	Rarely	Never

As the end of the year approaches please reach out to me to

**Nurse Tawny Spires** 



# : CONGRATULATO

#### The following students will be performing in our annual MES Talent Show hosted by the Student Council:

**Brighton Joseph** 

Emma Guzy

Aspen Mayer

Mia Mayer

Kaydyn Wright

Patrick Hildebrandt

Reagan Gustafson

Suzy Ritchie

Taylor Archer

**Mackenzie Summers** 

**Asher Martinez** 

**Charles Thew** 

Natalie Roe

Reese Townsend

Talia Hastings

**Hazel Aspenleiter** 

Reagan Ginocchio

Koda Bandli

**Greyson Hess** 

**Jamie Goering** 

Lauren Jacobsen

Max Bonfiglio

Carleigh Deering

Capri DeRosa

Sofia Reid

Maggee Luna

Lillian Brock

Cora Owens

Lizzie Bonar

Liv Nilssen

EPIC means impressive or remarkable. EPIC learning is Douglas County School District's framework for personalized learning as we work to empower, prepare, inspire, and form deeper connections with our learners. I hope that every learner at MES has had an EPIC school year. As the school year comes to a close, your student may be bringing home important artifacts from his/her learning this

year. Take time to look through these items with your learner such as their Badge Book/Data Notebook, Roadmap(s) and Learner Profile. Reflection is an important part of learning. As you look through the learning artifacts your child is bringing home, you will want to ask your learner these questions about his/her school year:

What did you enjoy learning about this year?

What was something challenging for you this year? What strategies helped you deal with this challenge?

What do you want to learn more about?

What are your favorite memories from this school year? I hope by having this conversation you are able to hear about the accomplishments and growth your child has made this school year.



# LEARNING



**Lauren Spires FPIC** Instructional Coach



# **Friday June 16th**

11:30-11:50 (after lunch)	11:05-11:30
(after lunch)	
10:55-11:15	11.15.11.40
10.00 11.10	11:15-11:40
11:10-11:30	11:30-11:55
11:20-11:40	11:40-12:05
11:35-11:55	11:55-12:20
11:50-12:10	12:10-12:35
	11:35-11:55

## Family Life & Sex Ed (FLSE)

The curriculum for FLSE will be taught to students on the following dates:

- 3rd grade, June 7th
- 4th Grade, May 11th
- 5th Grade, June 6th & June 7th

Families, you may access all the curriculum on the MES website homepage, <u>www.mes.dcsd.net</u>. An signed permission slip to participate is required. If there is no permission slip, or you have declined permission, your child will participate in an alternate activity.

# concerts



1st & 2nd Grade Concert

MONDAY, JUNE 12 @ 2:30PM

3rd & 4th Grade Concert

TUESDAY, JUNE 13 @ 2:15PM

location: MINDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MPR

attire: PLEASE DRESS YOUR BEST!



practice: PLEASE FIND PRACTICE LINKS ON

MS. KUEHNER'S LANDING PAGE







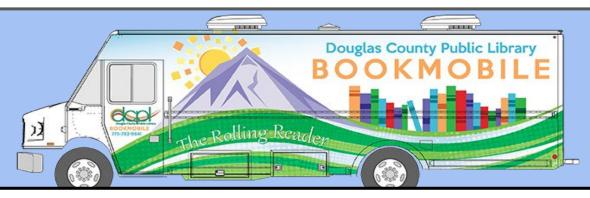


# **MES WALK-A-THON**



Thank you for all the donations and the hard work of the PTO, students, families, and staff for organizing and participating in our biggest fundraiser of the year. We exceeded our goal of \$30,000 and we raised over

\$40,000!!!



Douglas County Library's Book Mobile will be visiting MES on May 24th!



#### 5th Grade Patriotic Performance

Wednesday June 14th 2:15pm 5th grade families are welcome to attend! Please wear Red, White, & Blue to support our Spirit Day!

### **Rattler Raves!**

Mr. Esquivel and Mrs. Carter have implemented a positive office visit called "Rattler Rave". The following students have received a Rave:

**Clayton Tierney** Alex Esquerra **Macy Crawforth Cullem Miller** Gabriela Ruedas **Rowan Insell** Isaac Trask Savannah Koontz Truman Almeida

**Austin Vangorder** Charlie Bacon Eli Wood **Skyler Deakin** Miranda Diaz Jacob Oddo **Julia Trujillo** 



#### **Kindergarten Graduation**

Friday, June 16th 9:30AM Kindergarten families are welcome to attend!

#### **PTO Meeting**

Monday, June 5th 6:00PM in C-1 Everyone is welcome to attend!

### **Congratulations to Miss Ertel's 3rd Grade Class for** winning PBS Writers Contest!

Out of the seven Nevada counties that participated and approximately 2,800 essays, Mrs. Ertel's class won the award for best essays overall!



Meal Prices Student 1st Lunch: Adult Lunch:

FREE \$5.00

No School

Follow us online! Facebook: DCSD School Nutrition Instagram: @schoolnutrition\_dcsd

OR Grilled Cheese Sandwich (V)
OR Yogurt Meal (V) OR Corn Dog OR Yogurt Meal (V)

Cucumbers Garden Salad Honey Carrot Coins All "Mixed" Up Canned Fruit Green Beans Awesome Applesauce sonal Fresh Fruit Seasonal Fresh Fruit

> TIPMIC Menu subject to change without notice.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Each student can receive one free breakfast and one free lunch daily. Second meals and snacks still cost money and cannot be charged. You can add money through your Infinite Campus Account!

Ice cold skim 1% white &

chocolate milk.



Meal Prices: nt 1st Lunch: Adult Lunch

FREE

Follow us online! Instagram: @schoolnutrition\_dcsd

Facebook: DCSD School Nutrition

Menu subject to change without notice.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Each student can receive one free breakfast and one free lunch daily. Second meals and snacks still cost money and cannot be charged. You can add money through your Infinite Campus Account!