



Plumas Lake Elementary School District Community Newsletter

September 15, 2011

Superintendent's Message

A year ago I challenged our staff to work everyday to move our District towards greatness. I shared research that shows that truly the biggest difference between great organizations and good organizations are the conscious choice to be great and the discipline to work everyday towards that greatness. (Good to Great, Jim Collins) We began that journey in many ways over this last school year and our test scores are a testimony to the hard work being done at all three school sites.

We still have more work to do, but we have wonderful teachers, support staff, and administrators who are focused on moving this District towards greatness. We must continue important initiatives including collaboration on Mondays that focuses on student outcomes and planning, continue our work with the literacy coach, continue to use regular assessments to drive our instruction, and use the District's adopted standards for instructional lessons.

The principals and I have made it our goal to be great **educational leaders first and District/site managers second**. We have dedicated time each week to be in classrooms watching instruction and learning. We are dedicated to being instructional coaches for our teachers. **We are dedicated to having the conversations with our staff and with ourselves that will help us be a little closer to great everyday.**

Jeff Roberts, Superintendent



Amazing Academic Growth Seen at All Sites

District Wide– 33 Point Growth to 830 API
Cobblestone– 49 Point Growth to 819 API
Rio Del Oro– 30 Point Growth to 888 API
Riverside– 29 Point Growth to 793 API

The State has released the 2011 test score results. PLESD is very proud of the growth that occurred last year. The API (Academic Performance Index) score has been established by the State of California as a measurement of the effectiveness of schools and Districts. The State has set 800 as the API target for all schools to meet.

The Federal government has different standards to measure schools effectiveness. The AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) Report shows what percentage of students scored proficient on the STAR test. It looks at the entire student population of a school and then different sub groups. For 2011 schools had to have 67.6% of their student proficient in Reading/Language Arts and 68.5% in math for all subgroups. All schools are to have 100% of students proficient by 2013-2014.

Plumas Lake Elementary School District 2011 State Testing Results

	2011 API	API Growth	AYP Criteria
District	830	+33	16 of 17
Cobblestone	819	+49	13 of 13
Rio Del Oro	888	+30	17 of 17
Riverside	793	+29	14 of 17

We Need Your Help With Student Attendance

Your child's attendance is very important:

Reason 1: Student attendance is closely linked to student academic success.

Reason 2: Every day a student is absent (no matter the reason) the District loses money.

Not only is regular school attendance crucial to the development and education of children, but it is directly linked to our revenue. A large portion of the revenue we receive is determined by student attendance. Last year from August –March there were 4,987 absences District wide for a total loss of \$196,088

What can you do to help?

1. If your child is not sick send him or her to school. Many times students with minor complaints- stomach ache, headache, etc. should be in school.
2. Plan your family vacations around the school calendar.
3. If you must take a family vacation, please inform the school 1 week in advance and sign an Independent Study contract. This is only available for 5 or more consecutive days of absence.
4. Schedule appointments after school hours. If you must schedule an appointment during school please send your child for part of the day. Understand that any full day absence costs the District money. While we receive full funding for any partial day attendance .

School	Total Absences	Total Lost Money
Cobblestone	1312	\$52,020
Rio Del Oro	2040	\$80,886
Riverside Meadows	1635	\$64,827
Total	4987	\$196,088
Each absence cost \$39.65		

Neighboring District Comparisons 2011 State Testing Results

	2011 API	API Growth	AYP Criteria
Plumas Lake	830	+33	16 of 17
Wheatland K-8	825	+2	16 of 21
Marysville	750	+15	24 of 38
Browns	824	-29	8 of 13
Marcum-Illinois	832	+20	11 of 13

Plumas Lake Education Foundation

Plumas Lake Education Foundation is off and running. Last school year the group offered the PLESD Choir, hosted a Mother/Daughter Tea, and began an Enrichment Summer Program. The Foundation was created to promote quality education for all students in Plumas Lake through Academics, Arts, Athletics and Technology.

If you are interested in helping in any way to continue the start-up process for the Plumas Lake Education Foundation, please contact us right away! You can email us at plfoundation@plusd.org.

New Staff at PLESD

Megan Kaze

Teacher, Riverside Meadows

Megan is teaching 7th grade Language Arts. She has previously taught 8th Grade Language Arts in Visalia for three years before moving back to the Sacramento area to be closer to her family.

Savannah Bunch

Teacher, Riverside Meadows

Savannah is teaching 7th grade Math. This is her first teaching job and Savannah brings her energy, organization, and a love for math to the position. Savannah graduated from Chico State and National University.

Aubree Bond

Special Education Teacher, Cobblestone

Aubree is joining us as the Learning Center teacher at Cobblestone. She will be working to support struggling students through our intervention programs and with our students receiving special education services.

Teresa Enrico

P.E. Teacher, Cobblestone and Rio Del Oro

Teresa is teaching P.E. at Cobblestone 4 days a week and at Rio Del Oro once a week. Teresa has taught P.E. at Buckeye Union and Sacramento Unified school Districts for the last several years.

Mia Cesano

Food Service Manager, District Office

Mia is our new Food Service Manager who will be overseeing all of the hot lunch/breakfast programs in our District. Mia worked for several years at CA Department of Education in the Food Service department. mcesano@plUSD.org

Megan Spears

Teacher, Cobblestone

Megan is teaching 5th grade at Cobblestone this year. We are thrilled to have eliminated all combination classes in our District. Megan was a long term substitute last year and is a graduate of Sacramento State and UC Davis.

Lydia Ranger

Teacher, Rio Del Oro

Lydia is teaching 1st grade at Rio Del Oro. Lydia taught for two years in Navato Unified School District in the Bay Area as a First grade teacher. She relocated with her family to the Sacramento area a year ago.

Deanna Wiseman

Teacher, Rio Del Oro

Deanna is rejoining our staff as a 1st grade teacher at Rio Del Oro. She had previously taught music in our District and earned a multiple subject credential so she could teach in a full time classroom. She has been in Education for 13 years.

Wendell Bolar

P.E. Teacher, Rio Del Oro

Wendell is teaching P.E. at Rio Del Oro half time throughout the year. Wendell has taught P.E. in both Woodland Unified and Marysville Unified School Districts and has also coached baseball at the collegiate level.

Lisa Bacile

Bus Driver/Custodian, All Sites

Lisa is our new bus driver and will also be a custodian at several of our sites. Lisa has driven buses for 11 years for the E Center Head Start program in Marysville.

Riverside Meadows Implements the Renaissance Program

The Renaissance Program is a nationally known program that focuses on recognizing students for academic and social success. It is a student driven program that allows students to take leadership positions to create a school atmosphere that is positive, academically centered, and inclusive of all students.

Thousands of schools throughout the county are members of the Renaissance Family. Riverside started a leadership class that will be leading spirit days, rally's, award assemblies, and other events throughout the year. The first rally was a huge success and they just completed the first "Fun Friday" at lunch, where students who were "caught being good" were rewarded with a special lunch and activities.

We are thrilled with this program that will help make Riverside a wonderful place to go to school for the students both academically and socially.

SMART Boards in Classrooms

Over the summer, the schools purchased and the District installed SMART Boards in most of our elementary classrooms and several classrooms at the middle school. SMART Boards look like normal white boards but are connected to a computer and projector. These allow teachers to create interactive lessons on their computers and have students participate in class through the use of technology.

Most of the boards were purchased using money from our Parent Teacher Organizations, gifts, and other site moneys. For those of you who were able to witness their use at Back to School Night, I hope you were impressed and could see the tremendous uses for them in our classrooms.

District Office: 743-4428
Rio Del Oro: 749-0690
Cobblestone: 634-9723
Riverside Meadows: 743-1271



State and District Budget Update

- The State actually passed a budget on time. It is very close to what we planned for this year. There are \$4 Billion of overestimated revenues that could mean a potential mid-year cut to our budget.
- District enrollment is UP 53 students from the end of the year last year. This is close to the same level that we were at the end of the 2010 school year. Every new student brings roughly another \$5,100 to the District's budget.
- We have hired two additional teachers this year and have zero combination classes.
- District continues to keep 20:1 student to teacher ratio in most K-3 Classrooms.
- District continues to fund half time P.E. teachers at both elementary sites, band at the middle school, an elective wheel at the middle school, library clerks at all schools, a technology docent, and a district literacy coach.

PLESD Leadership

School Board

David Villanueva Derek Bratton Dora Buck
Craig Bommarito Michele Perrault

Superintendent
Jeff Roberts

Principals

Baljinder Dhillon– Rio Del Oro
Lori Greenwood– Cobblestone
Jason Hofhenke– Riverside