

# Riverside Meadows Newsletter

February 2009  
Volume 1, Issue 2

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## Contents

Dear Parents	1
Upcoming Events	1
Basketball	2
Tech Trek	2
Black History Month Quiz	2
Academic Talent Search	2
Staff Member Spotlight	3
Parent Portal	3
"Questions & Answers"	3

Dear Parents,

As spring time fast approaches, many families may be planning vacations or trips that require their children to miss school days. While many trips do enrich the child's life and provide opportunities that do not exist within the schoolhouse, absences can account for a significant amount of lost revenue and missed instructional time. Excused absences include illness, medical appointments, and death in the immediate family. Whenever possible, please have your child attend school for part of the day when appointments are scheduled.

Riverside Meadows students do maintain high rates of attendance. For the first 5 months we have averaged 96.9% in attendance days. That lost 3%, however, totals nearly \$25,000 in lost revenue. Thank you for your continued support.

Chris Morris, Principal

## Upcoming Events

Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup>	6th Graders leave for Shady Creek
Feb. 10 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball @ Bear River 3:45
Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup>	6th Graders return from Shady Creek 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball home vs. Foothill 3:45
Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup>	No School
Feb. 16 <sup>th</sup>	No School—Presidents' Day
Feb. 17 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball @ Yuba Gardens 3:45 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees – Rio Del Oro
Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup>	School Site Council 3:30–5:00 (Riverside Conference Room) 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball @ Sycamore 3:45 6 <sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball home vs. Sycamore 3:45
Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball home vs. McKenney 3:45 6 <sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball @ McKenney 3:45
Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Academic Talent Search Qualifying Exam \$15.00
Feb. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Yuba Gardens 8th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament
Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Yuba Gardens 8th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament
Mar. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Begins "Read Across America Week"
Mar. 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	7th Grade Writing Exam (Part of California Standards Test)
<b>Mar. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Minimum Day—End of Trimester 2</b>
Mar. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Report Cards Mailed Home
Mar. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Picture Day

**The Talent Show has been postponed until the end of March.  
The participants requested more time to prepare their acts.**

Visit the school web page for maps and directions [www.plusd.org/schools/riversidemeadowsis](http://www.plusd.org/schools/riversidemeadowsis)



With only a few games left in the season, the boys' basketball teams are showing great progress. The teams complete their seasons on February 24th with the 6th grade at McKenney and 7th and 8th grade at home vs. McKenney. The 8th grade season culminates with a tournament at Yuba Gardens 2/27—2/28.

### Tech Trek Science Camp for Girls

**Tech Trek** is a math/science camp designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in young women who will enter eighth grade in the fall. It features hands-on activities in math, science and related fields. All sleeping, eating, instructional and recreational facilities are located on a university campus where camps are held.

#### How Tech Trekkers Are Chosen

Every girl attending a Tech Trek Science Camp is on a full scholarship and was first recommended for the program by her middle school science or math teacher. Local AAUW, American Association of University Women, branch members provide the schools and teachers with guidelines for choosing girls who will be successful at camp. Recommended girls are contacted, along with their parents, and asked to complete an application and to write a short essay on a chosen subject.

Miss Dietz has recommended Kelsi Adams, Makenzie Meyer, Catalina Angeles, Alyssa Smith and Elise Johnson to compete for any of 6 spots reserved for Yuba County students. The girls have completed their essays and are awaiting interviews.

Visit <http://www.aauw-ca.org> for more information



### Celebrate Black History Month.

Take the quiz—Win a prize

Students, return your completed quiz to Mr. Morris and win a prize!

1. Who was the first African American woman in space?
2. Who was the first African American to graduate West Point military Academy?
3. Which was the first U.S. State to abolish slavery?
4. Who was the first African American woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress?
5. Who was the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?



CSU Sacramento's Academic Talent Search offers current 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to take part in challenging, unique, and fun courses held on the CSU Sacramento campus.

ATS classes are designed for high achieving students who desire additional academic challenges. ATS is designed to accelerate students' learning in a subject area they enjoy.

To be eligible for classes, students must first take the ATS Qualifying exam. It will be offered at Riverside Meadows on Thursday, February 26.

Visit the Riverside home page or ATS website for more information and to download information for students and parents.

<http://edweb.csus.edu/Projects/ats>

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys

Roman Anderson  
Mark Campos  
Tyler Gutierrez  
Mike Huerta  
Devon Johnson  
Andrew Orr  
Lucas Taylor  
Michael Trejo  
Osean Vang  
Brian Williams  
Justin Williams

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys

Dillon Clifton  
Austin Cooper  
Davis Dykstra  
Demetrius Hartsfield  
Eric Keller  
Justin Kinney  
Terrence Masse  
Austin Merritt  
Jermael Muhammed  
Tharon Trujillo  
Bruce Vang

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys

Isaiah Bommerito  
Kyle Blevins  
Dylan Cooper  
Brayan Cruz  
Jeremy Davis  
Blake Herring  
Robbie Hovey  
Alan Jones  
Dante Joseph  
Sklyer Smith  
Rahul Vaddipalli  
Jalen Yip

**Q: The first half of the school year didn't go so well for my seventh grader. His grades were lower than we both would've liked. How can I make sure he does better during the second half?**

### Questions & Answers

**A:** Encourage him to use the new year as a "starting over" point. Help him make a fresh start by adopting—or recommitting to—good school habits. Here's how:

- **Schedule homework time.** Has your child been slacking off on getting his assignments done? Insist on a regular homework time. If he's freshest right after school, then make that his work time. But if he does better with a little rest first, give him an hour before having him crack open the books.
- **Enforce bedtime.** If your child always stays up for "just one more TV show," there's a good chance he's not getting enough shut-eye. Research shows that sleepy kids don't perform as well in school, so insist that yours hit the sack at a reasonable hour.
- **Monitor his progress.** Don't wait until your child fails a quiz or brings home a note to discover he's struggling in class. Instead, touch base regularly with his teachers.
- **Set goals.** You can't expect your child to turn his year around overnight. But you can set reasonable, attainable goals for him. For instance, if he earned straight C's last time, see if he can bring at least some of his grades up to B's.

—Holly Smith,  
The Parent Institute

## Teacher Spotlight



Mr. Cruz  
7th grade English Language Arts / Social Studies / Journalism

What I enjoy most about teaching is that moment after working with a student when you realize that not only the light has come on, but that they now understand and comprehend the material and can begin to apply that which they have learned. It really is the best feeling a teacher can have.

What many students do not know is that I played drums in a 50's 60's Rock-N-Roll band and have driven a race car at the local track for the last few years.

I really enjoy it here at Riverside Meadows. Although I have worked locally in the healthcare field for over 15 years, I feel the staff here is in many respects more professional than some of the other folks that I encounter in my other job. In addition, there is a dedication and camaraderie that I feel is evident throughout the campus. The staff here is the best!



## Parent Portal



Parents and students can now go online and view:

- Grades
- Current Assignments
- Attendance
- Student information

To get started go to [www.plusd.org](http://www.plusd.org) and click on the "Parent Portal" icon. You will need your child's ID number and verification code that was mailed to you. If you do not have the letter and instructions, please call the school.

- *Please note that grades and assignments are usually updated weekly. Please check with your child's teachers if you have any questions regarding their specific grading procedures.*



Spirit Wear on sale in  
the school office

**T-Shirts \$12.00**  
**Sweatshirts \$25.00**



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