

# Riverside PTA NEWS



January 2017

connecting parents,  
students, and teachers



## January:

- 4 - Birthday Mom
- 6 - 9:30 General Board mtg.
- 6 - Items due for the newsletter
- 11 - Books & Breakfast 7:30-9:15am
- 16 - No School
- 17 - No School
- 19 - Region Reflection Rewards Night
- 24 - Classic Family Skate Night  
5:30-8:30pm
- 27 - Eagle Nest Store

## February:

- 1 - Birthday Mom
- 3 - Items due for newsletter
- 10 - 9:30 General Board mtg.  
(Nomm. Committee presents  
2017-18 board)
- 7 - Zupas Night 5:00-9:00pm
- 14 - Valentine's Day Class Parties
- 17 - Eagle Nest Store
- 22 - APTT Night
- 24 - Grandparents Day,  
Early Birds 8:15-9:30,  
Later Gators 12:45-2:00



## Principal's Message:

Thank you to the many parents who took the time to fill out our survey about APTT. We were happily overwhelmed with the number of responses!! Your input is very valuable to us and we appreciate your insight. As this is new to all of us, it's nice to work together to make it the best experience it can be! We want to share the results of the survey with you. We listed the question with the percentage of parents who agreed or disagreed. Some parents were neutral in some of their responses. That's why the numbers don't always add up to 100%.

### Having team meetings with other parents in the classroom was a positive experience for me.

Agree/Strongly Agree: 78%  
Disagree/Strongly Disagree: 19%

### The academic reports (data graphs) were clearly explained by the teacher.

Agree/Strongly Agree: 88%  
Disagree/Strongly Disagree: 4%

### The activities demonstrated by the teacher helped me understand how to help my child at home.

Agree/Strongly Agree: 84%  
Disagree/Strongly Disagree: 3.5%

### The practice materials I received were helpful.

Agree/Strongly Agree: 86%  
Disagree/Strongly Disagree: 7%

### My child and I use the APTT practice materials at home.

Yes: 90%  
No: 10%

Though most of the comments were positive and supportive, the overwhelming majority of responses included a desire to meet individually with teachers. As a faculty, we, too, feel this is an important component to include in APTT. We've missed the relationship building opportunity one-on-one meetings provide between teachers and parents. This will definitely be included in the fall for next year's schedule.

Another suggestion we noticed that came up frequently was for more communication between teachers and parents. We agree with the importance of open two-way communication between parents and teachers. Your child should be taking home a planner on a regular basis. This planner includes assignments, spelling/vocabulary words, reminders, notes from teachers regarding behavior, etc. Teachers also send home corrected work regularly so you can see what your child is learning and how well he or she is grasping key concepts. Data Notebooks go home monthly. They include up to date data for many academic subjects as well as behavior and attendance. Many teachers use Class Dojo, Remind, Facebook, and other means of communication. We also want you to feel welcome to visit personally with your child's teacher as desired. We will continue to make communication a top priority.

As you probably know, we are under a commitment to follow the original APTT schedule this school year. We don't have the flexibility to make changes until next school year. We are asking you to please support us in our efforts to make APTT the best it can be this first year, and provide feedback to us for improvements for the future. Our next APTT is Wednesday, February 22. More detailed information will be coming soon. We look forward to celebrating the academic growth of your child with you!!

## The Kindergarten Dilemma: Full Day vs Half Day

Kindergarten is not a "one size fits all" experience. Some children benefit greatly from the extra time in school that full-day provides. Others aren't quite ready for that big of a time commitment. Wherever your particular child is on the kindergarten spectrum, we want to get each child's first school experience off on the right foot!!

The obvious choice is to offer both full-day and half-day options for kindergarten. We are finding, however, that each year we have parents who request half-day kindergarten, then change their minds and want to switch to full-day. That leaves us with a very small (often less than 10 students) class of half-day kindergarten with our full-day classes in the mid-twenties.

We are happy to offer a half-day kindergarten option for the upcoming school year if we have enough parents who are committed to it. If you are a parent of an upcoming kindergarten student and would be committed to a half day option, please call us at 801.565.7484 and let us know. We want to do what's best for the students in our community.

If you aren't sure which option you would prefer and would like more information, we'd be happy to talk with you about it and provide the information you need to make the best decision for your child.



This month, Riverside would like to spotlight Ms. Amelia Donars, our Speech Language Pathologist. Ms. Donars grew up in Minnesota and her favorite season is winter! She loves to cross-country ski and could probably give us tips on enjoying this cold weather! Ms. Donars has one "fur baby," a Newfoundland named Millie. Millie is 1 year old and weighs 70 pounds now, but will soon grow to be 120 pounds. Wow! We love having Ms. Donars at Riverside!

