

"IF WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN  
LEARN, AND THAT OUR MISTAKES  
ARE VALUABLE, OUR BRAINS  
GROW TO A GREATER EXTENT  
WHEN WE MAKE A MISTAKE."

DR. JO BOOLER, *Mathematical Mindsets*



GROWTH MINDSET

2016-17 RIVERTON ELEMENTARY THEME

# The Raccoon Reporter

*Riverton Elementary*



IMPORTANT DATES

## Principal's Message

by Cindy Tingey

### Cold Weather Procedure

Brrr, it's cold out there! I wanted to take this opportunity to review Riverton's weather procedures for inside days. The preventative care is that students wear appropriate clothing like coats, gloves, scarves, long pants, etc. I see many students that are coming to school appropriately dressed for the cold weather, but there are students that are underdressed for the cold temperatures. Please make sure that your student is dressed to keep them warm when they leave your house. The school will monitor the temperature and weather conditions. When the temperature is 20 degrees or lower, students are welcome to come inside the building. A red flag by the main entrance will indicate an inside day and signs at the grade level doors will also indicate an inside day. We also look at wetness and wind and make considerations as needed.

Air quality is checked before school and before lunch to determine if students need to stay indoors. If the air quality is red, all students have to stay inside. When the air quality is orange, students with asthma or other breathing concerns are advised to stay inside. This information is compiled from the health information survey that parents completed during registration. If air quality is yellow or green all students can go outside.

### Traffic Safety

Thank you for following the drop-off and pick-up procedure. I know our parking lot is not situated in the best way possible, but we can help make the parking areas as safe as we possibly can for our students and others that work and visit our school. That is the part we can individually control. Please remember that the pick-up area is one-way and you need to stay to the right and go around the parking lot. There are two crosswalks, one at the West end of the building and one by the main entrance. Please make sure to use them when crossing through traffic. Red zones are not for parking. Stay in the yellow zone to pick up or drop off or you can park and pick up your students. Let's make SAFETY be the champion over convenience and ease at Riverton Elementary.

### Attendance

Attendance in elementary school is the beginning of many habits for a lifetime. Students learn as much in academic areas as well as behaviors, socializing, working together, problem solving, and many more. These habits that are created and reinforced in elementary school are habits that develop in adult life. Attendance is so important to do correctly now when they are young and easier to support.

## Boys Maturation Program

Parents/guardians are invited to attend along with their 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at 2:00 PM.

February 3

## District Science Fair

Parents and community are invited to peruse projects at Daybreak Elementary on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:45-6:45 PM and on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM-3 PM.

February 7-8

## Spirit Night at Zupas!

Come join us for dinner or a treat from 5-9 PM at the Zupas in *The District*. A portion of proceeds goes to our school!

February 7

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Assembly at OHMS

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will attend a "rah rah" assembly at Oquirrh Hills Middle School from 9-11 AM.

February 8

## No School

President's Day Holiday

February 20

## School Climate Survey

Parents/guardians are invited to complete this survey online. We have to get a required number of participants, so please help us out!

February 20-March 31

## Spring Pictures

February 22

## Birthday Bunch!

Family of students with February birthdays are invited to eat lunch with their student.

February 22

The following is an article written by Jo Boaler for Stanford University's math outreach program called *Youcubed*. He is also author of the book *Mathematical Mindsets*.

"Do you remember how excited your children were about maths when they were young? (I use maths, rather than math, partly because I am from the UK and we say maths there and partly because maths is short for mathematicS, it is a plural noun. Mathematics was chosen to be plural to reflect all the many parts of mathematics - drawing, modeling, asking questions, communicating, etc. Math sounds more singular and narrow (Do the math, usually means do a calculation!), and I prefer to keep the idea that maths is a multidimensional and varied set of mathematical forms and ideas)). How they were excited by patterns in nature? How they rearranged a set of objects and found, with delight, that they had the same number? Before children start school they often talk about maths with curiosity and wonder, but soon after they start school many children decide that maths is confusing and scary and they are not a "math person". This is because maths in many schools is all about procedures, memorization and deciding which children can and which cannot. Maths has become a performance subject and students of all ages are more likely to tell you that maths is all about answering questions correctly than tell you about the beauty of the subject or the way it piques their interest.

Given the performance and test-driven culture of our schools, with over-packed curriculum and stressed out students, what can parents do to transform maths for their children? Here are some steps to take:

**1-**Encourage children to play maths puzzles and games. Award winning mathematician, Sarah Flannery reported that her maths achievement and enthusiasm came not from school but from the puzzles she was given to solve at home. Puzzles and games – anything with dice really – will help kids enjoy maths, and develop number sense, which is critically important.

**2-**Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on maths problems. Instead, find the logic in their thinking – there is always some logic to what they say. For example, if your child multiplies 3 by 4 and gets 7, say – *Oh I see what you are thinking, you are using what you know about addition to add 3 and 4, when we multiply we have 4 groups of 3...*

**3-**Never associate maths with speed. It is not important to work quickly, and we now know that forcing kids to work quickly on maths is the best way to start maths anxiety for children, especially girls.

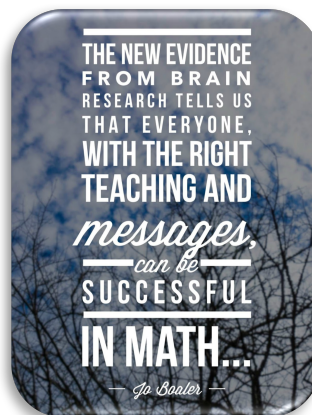
**4-**Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at maths at school or you dislike it – especially if you are a mother. Researchers found that as soon as mothers shared that idea with their daughters, their daughter's achievement went down.

**5-**Encourage number sense. What separates high and low achievers is number sense – having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine numbers flexibly. For example, when working out  $29 + 56$ , if you take one from the 56 and make it  $30 + 55$ , it is much easier to work out. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is what is called number sense and it is very important.

**6-**Perhaps most important of all – encourage a "growth mindset" let students know that they have unlimited maths potential and that being good at maths is all about working hard. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall. When children have a fixed mindset and they encounter difficult work, they often conclude that they are not "a math person". One way in which parents encourage a fixed mindset is by telling their children they are "smart" when they do

something well. That seems like a nice thing to do, but it sets children up for difficulties later, as when kids fail at something they will inevitably conclude that they aren't smart after all. Instead use growth praise such as "it is great that you have learned that", "I really like your thinking about that". When they tell you something is hard for them, or they have made a mistake, tell them: "That's wonderful, your brain is growing!"

*Reference:* Boaler, Jo. (nd). *Advice for Parents from Professor Jo Boaler*. Youcubed. Stanford University.



## Survey YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

We feel it is extremely important to communicate the mission, vision, goals and happenings at Riverton Elementary to parents and the community. We piloted the newsletter this year and we want your feedback! We want to see if it was effective or if there is a more desirable way to communicate.

Please take this very short survey so we can meet your needs more effectively. It will only take approximately 2 minutes!

Link:

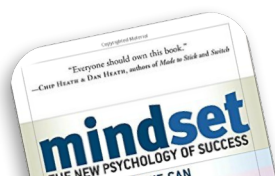
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YBKPFNF>

## Parent Book Study!

The Utah State Board of Education and the Utah Parent Center are sponsoring a parent book study. Carol Dweck's *Mindset* will be the focus of the study. Since this has been our theme for the year, we are excited to advertise this opportunity! All parents who participate will receive a free copy of the book. The discussions will be held online from 7-8:30 PM, so you can participate from your own home!

**Dates:** February 7 and 21<sup>st</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Register at <http://cona.cc/2gbZM1o>



## Teacher Spotlight

Mrs. Roper and Mrs. Bates—Library

This wonderful team has worked at Riverton Elementary for a combined total of 24 years! Mrs. Roper (left) and Mrs. Bates (left) teach students how to use the library and engage them in different types of books.

Mrs. R has 3 kids and Mrs. B has 2.

They both prefer happy endings over scary movies.

Obviously, they both would be found reading a book on their day off!

Both Mrs. R and Mrs. B said that they really, really love their job in the library!

