

GROWTH MINDSET

2016-17 RIVERTON ELEMENTARY THEME

IMPORTANT DATES

The Raccoon Reporter

Riverton Elementary



Principal's Message

by Cindy Tingey

It is crazy that we are already in March! The following are some important reminders:

Parent Teacher Conferences: Parent Teacher conferences will be held on March 15th from 3:30-7:30 PM and on March 16th from 2:00-6:00 PM. To schedule an appointment, go to the following link:

<http://rivertonelementary.jordandistrict.org/>

and click on the Online Scheduler icon: Select Riverton Elementary.



Press "Go." The

password is "raccoons." Type in your student's number or look them up. Select your teacher's name and continue as directed. Select your appointment time. The window to schedule appointments online will close on March 8th.

The PTA book fair will be held the week of Parent-teacher conferences. Proceeds from the book fair go to support school-wide activities and other events sponsored by the PTA.

Traffic Reminder: 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 our school.

School Climate Survey: Lastly, we want to encourage you to complete the climate survey for our school. This survey gives us feedback on areas of strength as well as areas of improvement. We value this feedback and use it yearly to improve our programs, facilities, school climate and other areas that impact student learning. You can access this survey at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/JSDParentSurvey>

You can access this survey until March 31st.

For your convenience, the office will set up computers to complete the survey during Parent-Teacher Conferences. We would appreciate you filling out the survey and giving us your opinion. It takes less than 5 minutes to fill out and the information is invaluable. Once you complete the survey, bring your

student(s) to the office and they can collect a bead to put on their lanyard.

If you have any questions about any of the above items, please don't hesitate to call the school at 801-254-8050. Thank you for your support of Riverton Elem!

No School and Early Out Day

Students will be excused at 1:25 PM on Thursday, March 9th. There is no school on Friday, March 10th due to grade transmittal day.

March 9

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Make sure to make an appointment on the online scheduler.

March 15-16

No School and Early Out Day

Students will be excused at 1:25 PM on Thursday, March 16th. There is no school on Friday, March 17th due to Parent-Teacher Conf. compensation day.

March 16

Birthday Bunch!

Parents/guardians are invited to eat lunch with their student if they have a birthday this month.

March 29

Kindergarten Orientation

Parents/guardians are invited to attend from 2-3 PM.

March 31

The following is an excerpt from an article by Sarah D. Sparks entitled *In Math, Positive Mindset May Prime Students' Brains: Scans Provide Support for Theory*:

Having a positive mindset in math may do more than just help students feel more confident about their skills and more willing to keep trying when they fail; it may prime their brains to think better.

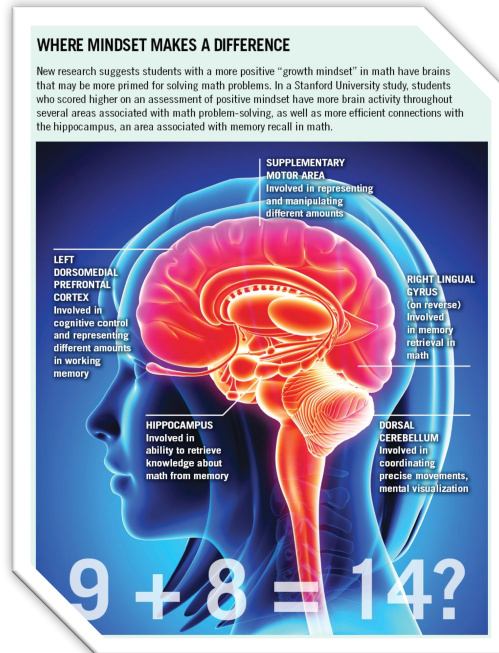
In an ongoing series of experiments at Stanford University, neuroscientists have found more efficient brain activity during math thinking in students with a positive mindset about math. It's part of a growing effort to map the biological underpinnings of what educators call a positive or growth mindset, in which a student believes intelligence or other skills can be improved with training and practice, rather than being fixed and inherent traits.

"Our findings provide strong evidence that a positive mindset contributes to children's math competence," said Lang Chen, a Stanford University postdoctoral fellow in cognitive psychology and neuroscience.

"Beyond the emotional or even motivational story of 'positive mindset,' there may be cognitive functions supporting the story."

Seeing a Mind in the Brain

In a forthcoming study previewed at the Society for Neuroscience's annual meeting in Chicago in October, Chen and colleagues tested 243 children ages 7 to 9



for intelligence, numerical problem solving and math reasoning in word problems, reading ability, working memory, and math-anxiety levels. Chen also gave the students a survey designed to identify positive-mindset levels in math, such as questions about how much they enjoyed solving challenging problems and how competent they felt in learning math.

The researchers focused on math because other studies have found that a student's mindset can be different for different domains—he or she could believe that reading ability can be improved but that skill at soccer is innate, for example—and math is a subject often

associated with a fixed mindset. Of the children in the study, 47 were asked to either stare at a fixed point or identify whether a series of addition problems were correct while being scanned using functional magnetic resonance imaging, or fMRI, a noninvasive method of identifying brain activity by measuring changes in blood flow in the brain. Chen and his colleagues found that students with higher positive-mindset levels in math were more accurate at identifying correct and incorrect math problems, even after controlling for differences in IQ, age, working memory, reading ability, and math anxiety. A lower positive-mindset level was likewise associated with lower math performance.

"This is very, very exciting," said Carol Dweck, the Stanford psychologist who first coined the terms "growth" and "fixed" mindsets, but who was not involved with Chen's study. "We've typically asked how does [mindset] affect students' willingness to take on challenges and their ability to stick to that challenge when they hit setbacks. This opens up a whole new area, which is getting ready to solve a problem.

"My hunch is that often in the fixed mindset, your mind is preoccupied with 'Is this hard?' 'Will I look smart?' 'What will happen if I don't do this?' 'I'm not good at math,' instead of getting that brain ready to do it," Dweck said.

Reference: Sparks, Sarah D. (2015). *In Math, Positive Mindset May Prime Students' Brains: Scans Provide Support for theory*. Education Week.

Survey

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>

Upcoming event

Our recent Moms and Minutes event was fabulous! Join us for Dads and Donuts on May 5th at 7:30 AM.



Teacher Spotlight

Mrs. Becknell Grade: 6th

This is Mrs. Becknell's 23rd year teaching and she is retiring this year! She has definitely made an impact on students at Riverton Elementary and we are sad to see her go.

Mrs. Becknell received her Bachelor's Degree at BYU.

She has two children and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Becknell has two cats and two leopard geckos!

Her dominant personality color is blue.

On a day off she would most likely be found shopping or lesson planning.

