



GROWTH MINDSET

2016-17 RIVERTON ELEMENTARY THEME

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

by Cindy Tingey

Wow! What a wonderful start to the school year! As I have had the opportunity to chat with students in the lunchroom and on the playground, I have learned that students at Riverton Elementary are motivated and love to learn! Your student may have mentioned to you that Mrs. Tingey has a "new helper!" That is me! I am so grateful to get to work with your student and I am loving how thoughtful and kind they are.

Thank you for your help as we try to manage the drop-off and pick-up procedures. We truly appreciate your willingness to follow procedures so that we can keep all students safe!

As Mrs. Tingey mentioned in last month's newsletter, September is Attendance Awareness Month. There is a great resource online called *Attendance Works* ([attendanceworks.org](http://attendanceworks.org)). This site provides tips and resources for principals, teachers, parents and others for improving attendance through education. I would like to share a few tips for parents suggested on the site:

1. Establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your child develop the habit of on-time attendance.

2. Talk to your child about why going to school every day is critical and important unless they are sick. If your child seems reluctant to go to school, find out why and work with the teacher, administrator or afterschool provider to get them excited about going to school.

3. Come up with back up plans for who to turn to (another family member, a neighbor or fellow parents) to help you get your child to school if something comes up (e.g. another child gets sick, your car breaks down, etc.).

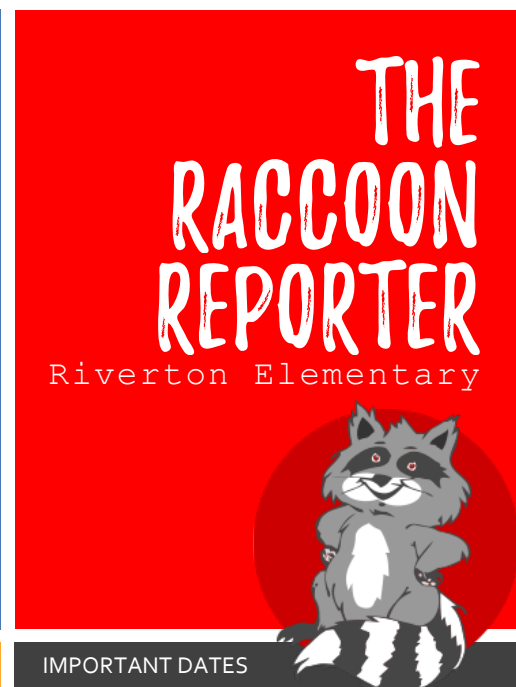
4. Reach out for help if you are experiencing tough times (e.g. transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) that make it difficult to get your child to school. Other parents, your child's teacher, principal, social worker, school nurse, afterschool providers or community agencies can help you problem solve or connect you to a needed resource.

5. If your child is absent, work with the teacher to make sure she or he has an opportunity to learn and make up for the academics missed.

You have heard the saying "a rising tide lifts all the boats." We feel as though attendance is a tide that can lift all other "boats" in the educational experience.

As you know, concepts build over time and attendance is crucial for students to keep up. Mrs. Tingey and I have made a goal to look at historical attendance data to we can start asking questions about. As we all wo

Will be  
changed to  
your  
message...



IMPORTANT DATES

### Say BOO to the flu Event

Get vaccinated at this event and \$2 of each administration goes to our school! The event runs from 4-7 PM and cash price is \$35. Many insurances can be billed—Medicaid/chip accepted.

October 4

### Reflections Projects DUE!

Turn in projects to your teacher. The reflections assembly will be held on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM.

October 11

### Fall Pictures

Bring your best smile!

October 12

### Early Out Day!

Students will get out of school at 1:25 PM.

October 19

### Fall Break

No school.

October 20-21

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

November 9-10

## GROWTH MINDSET TIP

Modeling a growth mindset means being willing to try hard even when failure is likely because that's how growth happens. For example, parents should try to get excited when their children make mistakes because these mistakes can reveal important conceptual gaps that should be filled. When adults get excited about the learning that mistakes can facilitate, children start to think of mistakes as a natural part of the learning process. This leads to a few important changes in learning behavior:

Children stop avoiding challenging work just because it could mean making more mistakes.

Children become less likely to try to "sweep mistakes under the rug" because they stop thinking of them as something to be ashamed of.



Psychologist Jason Moser studied the neural mechanisms that operate in people's brains when they make mistakes (Moser et al., 2011). Moser and his group found something fascinating. When we make a mistake, synapses fire. A synapse is an electrical signal that moves between parts of the brain when learning occurs... [this] is hugely important for math teachers and parents, as it tells us that making a mistake is a very good thing. Mistakes are not only opportunities for learning, as students consider the mistakes, but also times when our brains grow.

## MODEL MAKING MISTAKES

### Action Ideas

Make mistakes in front of your kids, have a positive reaction to those mistakes, and openly reflect on what could be learned from the mistake. Try to show that it's all about learning, not about being right.

At the dinner table, talk about a time that you struggled with something and how hard it is and how you overcame it. Then ask your kids if there's anything they struggled with, how they overcome it, and what they learned from the experience.

Get excited when your child makes a mistake and help her think through what could be learned from it. Even mistakes that seem careless can be good learning opportunities. For example, if your child forgot to study enough for an important test, it might be an opportunity to learn about prioritization and to-do-lists.

Reference: [mindsetkit.org](http://mindsetkit.org)

## REMINDERS

## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Mrs. Mathews Grade: Kindergarten

Mrs. Freeman is new to our school this year but not new to education. She received her Bachelor's Degree at BYU and her Master's Degree at USU. She has endorsements in Gifted and Talented and Math.

She has 8 children and 21 grandchildren.

On a day off, she most likely would be found shopping!

Her personality color is white (peacekeeper).

She would choose a mountain hideaway over a beach house!