

Roadrunner News



October 1, 2012

What's happening in Roadrunner Country?

Riverside STAR Night on "hold" until state releases official API

Every year Riverside Meadows hosts a STAR Night and recognizes students who made great gains on the California Standardized Tests. We will do the same this year but we want to wait until the state releases our API Score and have a huge celebration. Why the delay? Well, somewhere in the state students posted pictures of the test on facebook which has caused the state to delay the release of all API scores until mid October. Not a big deal for us, it just delays our celebrations a bit. Two years

ago we began our mission to reach 800 and we are confident that we finally made it!!!! This is a huge accomplishment since the state's goal for all schools is 800. Staff and students have worked so hard to get us there and we want to have a huge celebration when the results are made official. We are looking forward to recognizing our staff and students for their hard work and will let you know once the state has released our new API score.



Mr. Hofhenke

September Students of the Month:

Students who are chosen by Riverside Staff members show respect, responsibility, thoughtfulness and make our school a better place. Congratulations!

Grade 6: Madelyn Gold & Ashley Wilson

Grade 7: Ellisia Quintana & Sergiu Amarie

Grade 8: Ashley Getz & Joshua Sferle



Roadrunner Athletics



The Riverside Meadows Football and Volleyball seasons are now in full swing.

The 6th-7th and 8th grade Football teams both have a 1-1 record so far. Riverside dominated Bear River on Sept. 25th! The 6/7th graders won 14-6 and the 8th graders won 22-12 Mr Pounder says, "I am extremely pleased with the way they played with confidence, great sportsmanship, integrity and pride and really represented Riverside Meadows in a mature and respectful manner. I couldn't be more proud to be their coach and look forward to continuing our

success on the field!" Your parents and teachers are also very proud of you.

The Riverside volleyball team has competed in six of its ten league game schedule thus far. The 7th grade team currently has a record of 2-4 with a very nice victory over Yuba Gardens on Sept 13th. The 8th grade team currently has a record of 4-2 with victories over Foothill, Sycamore, and Bear River. Both the 7th grade and 8th grade girls placed 3rd in the YCHS tournament on Oct 21st and 22nd. The girls enhanced their skills from serving to hitting. Great job girls, we

are very proud of all of you.

Please come out and support Riverside Athletics!

Mr.
Almond



Upcoming Events

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month! Wear pink on Fridays!

Oct 2 Volleyball/Football @ Yuba Gardens

Oct 4 Volleyball @ Riverside

Oct 9 Volleyball @ McKenny

Oct 11 Football/Volleyball @ Riverside

Oct 26 Halloween Dance

Oct 31 Halloween



Student 411

Who's Who?

See if you can match the pictures with the student names:

6th grade:

Natalie Sierra

Andrew Fisher

7th grade:

Megan Cornelius

Miguel Rocha

8th grade:

Erin Bowker

Caleb Rodgers

CHRISTIAN'S CORNER

Hi, this is Christian Johnson. Welcome to "Christian's Corner!"

This month I would like to talk about a problem that me, and A LOT of others have been struggling with: following. I've been a follower and guess what? I get in trouble EVERY TIME. I beat myself up mentally asking, "Why did I do that?" I hate seeing other people following and just getting busted for it. It's MUCH easier if you just don't do it.

Don't be a follower. I'm not talking about following good things, like trying to stop bullying. I'm talking about being a follower in being

disrespectful or making wrong choices.

Just be yourself. Life is what you make it; what you create. Don't worry about what others think, or act how they act just to fit in. Be true to yourself. At least then you're not worried about what people think of you. Make YOUR OWN CHOICES. Why not start now? You will be MUCH happier with yourself and your choices.

Christian

Student Quotes:

Thoughts on bullying:

"Bullying is terrible! It's not cool. It needs to stop!"
Madisen Knappenberger, 8th grade

"Bullying should not be tolerated at our school because it hurts people's feelings and it lowers their self-esteem."
Angela Pasquale, 7th grade

The Roadrunner News is looking for writers!

If you are interested in writing a story for our school newspaper please contact Mrs. Markusen.



Student Writers

Thoughts from a 6th grader

by Ashley Wilson

Many people say Riverside Meadows is a great school, but to some students it is much more. If you think about it, how many hours a day are we here? 7 hours a day! That makes it like a second home.

I asked some of my 6th grade classmates what they thought about our school and here is what most of us think:

Every person at this school is always helpful and caring, because a student can walk up to anyone on campus, even the toughest looking person, and ask where a class is located and they will tell you.

A lot of us sixth graders were nervous to start a middle school and even more on the first day. We had heard

the stories about how scary the teachers were and how you have to switch classes all of the time, but now when you ask around, the students like their teachers and think they are awesome.

Overall, Riverside is an amazing school with loving people. The food is great, the staff is helpful, and a student has much more freedom than in elementary school. It will be great to see what comes next in this middle school journey.

Ashley

Student Quotes:

What do you think about Riverside?

“Our school is better than most school because it incorporates learning and fun. Our teachers are really good at teaching and incorporating students.”

Angela Pasquale, 7th grade

“Our school is great!”

Madisen Knappenberger, 8th grade

Leslie Pasquale

William’s Video Game Wisdom

Super Smash Brothers Brawl (SSBB) for the Nintendo Wii is a game that is fun for everyone. The game is basically the same as the previous version; beat each other up and knock them off the stage with added features like endurance battle. Unlike previous Smash Brothers like Melee for the N64 (Nintendo 64) they made some changes. For one thing, they updated the graphics greatly in my opinion on both the characters and levels. They also increased the roster of characters in the game by adding more characters like Sonic and Falco from the Star Fox series.

However there are some characters I don’t think belong there,

like Snake-considering the company that made him was Konami, not Nintendo-but they still managed to make it work. One last thing is the story mode, and it needs just a little more. You don’t know what is going on since there is no dialogue and some times you’ll fight a boss unexpectedly. Other than that, it is a great game of a somewhat high price. I got my copy for \$45, but I had lot of fun and it will last you a long time. I say it’s worth the money.

William Robinson



Student Writers

Halloween: Boo! Or Boo?

by Shannen White

I personally LOVE Halloween. I mean, think about it; free candy! FREE! I am going to make a costume myself this year, but I don't know exactly know what. Hopefully I can get some ideas!

I went to different students asking if they are going Trick-or-Treating. If not, why? Kiley Gray, 7th grade, says that she's not going this year, not because she's too old, but she says she's too tired. Kaitlyn Hatch, 7th grade, is probably going to be a red Angry Bird. When I asked Mrs. Kaze she immediately replied, "Ehh..." Then she said that it's fun for her kids, but November 1st should be a holiday. And it should Mrs. Kaze, I agree.

Mikah Wilson, 6th, is going to be a zombie cheerleader. Justin Bryner, 8th, will be Peeta and Katie Conner is going to be Katniss. Kyle Miller, 8th, says he will be Yoda. Ana Marquez, 8th, says she's

not going Trick-or-Treating this year because she is going to a concert. Katie Clancy, 8th, is going to be a Princess fairy. "I'm dressing up as a Soc from 'The Outsiders,' but I might stay home" says Frosty Horton, 8th grade.

Here's what some other students will be dressing up as:

8th graders:

Lucas Carpenter: Football player

Alyssa Marquez: Hotdog

Payten Schoreder: himself

Tylor German: Justin Bieber

Cynthia Alvarez: Football player

Madisen Knappenberger: Robin Hood

Christian Johnson: Hobo

7th graders:

Dallen Bair: Astronaut

Madelyn Hargreaves: excited to Trick-or Treat!

Ramneek Sangeria: Vampire

6th graders:

Hailee Sutton: scary angel

Zachary Weigel: chainsaw massacre

XyaVenai Powell: bumble bee

What teachers think:

Mr. Xiong: too old for Halloween

Mr. Cruz: Halloween should be banned

Mrs. Kaze: "Ehh..."

Mr. Almond: fun loving holiday for kids

Mrs. Markusen: can't wait to dress Landon up

Pictures!



Student Writers

Top Most Endangered Species!

By Matt Crum and Patrick Purta

There are tons of animals and plants yes, plants becoming extinct (aka, endangered). Just like the Ploughshare Tortoise. This animal only has 440-770 individuals left. That may seem like a lot but it's not.

Another animal that's endangered is the Spoon Billed Sandpiper. There may now be fewer than 100 breeding pairs left in the wild. They breed in Russia and migrate along the East Asian Australasian Flyway to wintering grounds in Bangladesh and Myanmar. The primary threats to them are the trapping on wintering grounds and land reclamation.

Another endangered animal is the Javan Rhino. Population size is 100 individuals, lives in the Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia. They're in danger by the people who are hunting them for traditional medicine and small population size.

The last endangered animal we area going to talk about is the Dusky Gopher Frog. There are only 60-100 individuals left. It lives in Harrison County, Mississippi. The primary threats are fungal disease and habitat limitation due to climate change and land-use changes. Some actions required to protect its population are protection of habitat and management of population to prevent spread of disease.

Information for this article was gathered from <http://bit.ly/OnYWmT>

Ploughshare Tortoise

Spoon Billed Sandpiper

Javan Rhino

Dusky Gopher Frog

The Roadrunner News is looking for writers!

If you are interested in writing a story for our school newspaper please contact Mrs. Markusen.

wmarkusen@plUSD.org, or (530) 743-1271 ext. 234

Roadrunner News Staff and Writers

Editor:



Mrs. Markusen

Student Editor:

Shannen White

Student Writers:

Matt Crum

Patrick Purta

Christian Johnson



Riverside Staff

We asked our awesome Riverside teachers, "How long have you been teaching?" Here's what they said:

Mr. Almond: Riverside 6 years, Rio, 1 year, Browns 4 years

Mr. Candlish: Riverside 3 years, other schools 20+ years

Mr. Coe: Riverside 5 years, Rio 3 years, other districts 17 years

Mr. Cruz: Riverside 7 years, Rio 1 year

Mr. Donahoo: Riverside 6 years, other schools 4 years

Mrs. DuShane: Riverside 7 years

Mrs. Garceau: Riverside 3 years, Natomas

4 years

Mr. Grant: Riverside 7 years, Rio 1 year, Watsonville 5 years

Mr. Hendrix: our district 8 years, Fairfield 2 years

Mr. Hofhenke: Riverside Principal 3 years, Dixon Principal/V.P. 5 years, P.E. Teacher 6 Years

Mr. Huck: Riverside 2 months, Nevada City and Grass Valley 6 years

Mrs. Kaze: Riverside 2 years, Visalia 3 years

Ms. Lyons: Riverside 6 years, Rio 2 years, Plumas 1 year

Mrs. Markusen: Riverside 3 years, Rio 5 years

Mrs. Milgate: Riverside 5 years, Highlands 5 years, River Oaks Center 8 years

Mrs. Slaughter: Riverside 7 years, Rio 1 year

Mr. Williams: Riverside 7 years, Rio 1 year

Mr. Xiong: Riverside 7 years

Who's New?



Mrs. Perez
Librarian



Mrs. Rai
Paraeducator



Mrs. Merrifield
Lunch Supervisor



Mrs. Mangurten
School Counselor



Mr. Clancy
Maintenance

Mr. Baisden
School Psychologist



Mr. Huck: Math Teacher

Mr. Jim Huck is the new 7th grade math teacher at Riverside Meadows Intermediate. Mr. Huck taught Pre-Algebra and Algebra to 7th and 8th grade students for 6 years in Nevada City and Penn Valley before coming to Plumas Lake. He and his wife and 13 year old son operate a small farm that raises organic vegetables and naturally pastured chickens, pigs, and lambs. Mr. Huck enjoys building robots and other electronic devices with his son, as well as beekeeping, gardening, playing with his dogs, and learning about astronomy. He's still learning about math, too, and works through at least one new math book per year so that he can learn something new. He grew up in Ohio, so he is a (perpetually sad) Cleveland Browns fan, but will root for the 49ers as long as they're not playing against the Browns.



Teachers are Interesting!

Mr. Huck Loves Bees!

Beekeeping is a new hobby for me; I started just two years ago. I decided to take on the hobby because our family grows a very large garden, and bees do an amazing job at pollinating OUR vegetable and fruit plants. We've doubled the amount of food we get by raising bees. Plus, the honey is delicious.

When I first started beekeeping, I was worried that I would get stung a lot, but it turns out that bees are very busy insects and have better things to do than sting people. I often open my hive (with over 20,000 bees in it) and take a peek inside without wearing any protective gear! Bees fly around me, and as long as my movements are slow and deliberate, they don't see me as a threat and they leave me alone.

During the early fall, I frequently check my hive for Varroa mites. These mites have destroyed millions of bee colonies around the world. The red mites are about half the size of the period at the end of this sentence, and cause bees to die by attaching themselves to the bees' bodies and acting as a parasite. There are chemical ways to control Varroa, but our family prefers to use a method called powder sugaring.

Every week during the early fall, I open up my hive and sift powdered sugar over the bees. It makes them a little upset, and for about an hour, frustrated white bees fly around, wondering why sugar was falling from the sky. Bees are very clean insects, though, and as soon as they get the powdered sugar on them,

they begin grooming each other. As they groom, they pull the mites off their friends' backs and drop them to a sticky board that I place at the bottom of the hive. After a sugaring, the board sometimes has over 100 mites stuck to it!

If my bee colony stays healthy and survives the winter, it will pollinate next year's vegetables and produce about 60 pounds of honey!

Mr. Huck

Questions? Buzzzzz Mr Huck!

Have you heard an interesting story about a teacher you would like them to share? Contact Mrs. Markusen for suggestions.

Riverside Staff Pictures Around Campus

After a disappointing loss to the Giants in September, Mr. Grant decides to abandon support of his beloved Dodgers.

Baby Bumps!



Say CHEESE!





S'mores Galore!

Each year the 6th grade class does a "solar oven" project. Their job is to create an oven and use the solar energy from the sun to heat their oven. The objective is to cook a s'mores. S'mores consist of two graham crackers, a piece of chocolate, and a marshmallow. The classes used three different types of marshmallows; mini marshmallows, regular marshmallows, and s'mores size marshmallows (they were square and flat). The mini marshmallows worked the

best. The chocolate was easy to melt because it has a lower melting point than the marshmallows. All in all, the students had a blast. They learned that it helps to insulate their ovens and the darker the oven; the more energy it absorbed. The s'mores were delicious and there was not a crumb to speak of left. Alex Gaud's solar oven reached the highest temperature measuring 212 degrees.

Ms. Lyons

Alex Gaud's winning oven



Renaissance News

In September, the Renaissance class had a few visitors who came to discuss leadership skills with our students:

- Roger Abe, the District Supervisor, came to our class. He taught us about what being a leader is to him. He talked about how he ran for his position. Roger Abe targeted voters who vote every single time.
- Air Force Chief Anthony Mills, Jordyn Mills' dad, talked about some careers in

the Air Force. Joriel Peabody and Cynthia Alvarez were very interested. They both hope to be in the Air Force after high school.

- We had our first Anti-Bullying assembly and Riverside Meadows students are taking a stand against bullying.
- We are having our first school wide fundraiser, Cookie Dough! Please support our school and purchase a tub. All of the proceeds will benefit the students at Riverside Meadows. Our goal is to purchase t-shirts and academic

incentives for all students who earn a 3.0 grade point average.

- Please help us find a venue for our 2012-2013 Renaissance dinner. Last year we held our dinner at the Plumas Lake Golf Course. If you know a place please let me know. Mrs. Milgate

ASB Offices:

President: Shannen White

Vice President: Brenda Ayala

Secretary: Katie Piatt

Treasurer: Janelle Colmenares

Spirit Coordinator: To be announced

Thanks for voting!



Parent News

Balancing The Push for Independence

Some of you are already pros at this game of raising a Junior High kid. Let's get straight to the point, the Junior High years are challenging. They are tough for parents, students, teachers, coaches, mall security guards, fast food restaurants, etc. This is a wild time and you are the proud parents of the Junior High animal.

Why is this a difficult age? The simple answer is that your child is growing up. Right now, he or she is testing the limits to see just how much independence you will allow them. This is appropriate and normal. Kids at this age are becoming self and socially aware. Image and the opinions of others are very important and the perception of independence is the holy grail of popularity.

The difficult part for parents is balancing your child's desire for freedom while maintaining control as their parent. I think it is important to remember that just because a child acts like they are pushing you away, it doesn't mean that they don't still need you. While it is normal to want to become self reliant in Junior High, it doesn't mean that students know how to manage it. Whether it is letting them walk to school, go to the movies on their own, or increasing the data plan on their cell phone, parents still need to monitor this new found freedom and teach their child how to handle it. For example, sixth grade is when many students get their first cell phone. At this age, nothing represents independence more than having your own phone! When a child

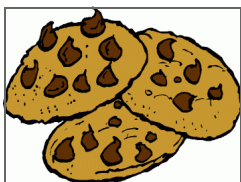
gets a phone, parents cannot assume that it will be used appropriately. I would encourage you to read their texts, monitor the data usage, Facebook, Instagram, and restrict the time they can use it at night.

Remember, independence doesn't mean that parents quit paying attention. Over the next few years you child will push for more freedom. Keep in mind that granting those freedoms gives you more responsibility. It doesn't mean there is less to do, it means there is more to keep an eye on. If monitoring doesn't occur, the outcome is often negative.



Mr. Hofhenke

Announcements



Cookie Dough:

Please support our school and purchase a tub. All of the proceeds will benefit the students at Riverside Meadows. Our goal is to purchase t-shirts and academic incentives for all students who earn a 3.0 grade point average.



Shady Creek Outdoor Camp

When : January 14th -18th, 2012

Cost: \$222

All forms and payments due by: Nov. 15, 2012

Don't forget your sweat-shirt, t-shirt or hat!

Questions – Ms. Lyons at tlyons@plused.org

The P.E. Department needs equipment donations!

Any donations of used or new equipment are greatly appreciated!

- 35 Basketballs
- 20 Volleyballs
- 50 Tennis Balls
- 10 Soccer Balls
- Footballs: 5 regular and 7 Nerf
- 20 Softballs: rubber practice variety
- 20 carpet squares: approx. 18" x 18"
- Gift Cards to stores that carry sports equipment: Walmart, Big 5, Sports Authority, etc.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or e-mail us. Your generosity is very much appreciated by our staff and students! Thank you!!!

Mrs. Markusen and Mr. Williams



Parent News

Parent Portal is now active!!

The Parent Portal is now active. Parent Portal allows you to go online and view your child's grades, assignments, attendance, and other relevant information. In order to access the parent portal, you need do the following:

Go to www.plusd.org and click on the Parent Portal icon.

What you will need:

- Internet-Connected computer
- Microsoft Explorer 5.0 or newer for Windows

- Microsoft Explorer 6.0 or newer for Mac (Available at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/>)
- Home telephone number, with area code
- Student permanent ID number (included in information received from you child's school)
- Verification code (included in information received from your child's school)

There are detailed instructions on the PLUSD website that will walk through the process of accessing the Parent Portal. If you experience any issues in gaining access, feel free to call us at Riverside Meadows and we will help you out.

When do teachers update the information?

All teacher grade books should be updated by the end of each week. If you have questions regarding an individual teacher's grading system, please contact that teacher directly.

The GraceSource Family Resource Center (FRC) at Plumas Lake is a collaboration between PLUSD and GraceSource, Inc., a non-profit organization, to offer supportive and educational services to Plumas Lake families. The FRC has center-based activities such as links to community resources; an employment binder; emergency needs support; and Parent University classes. The center also offers a home visitation program to work one-on-one with families. All of our services are free and confidential. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at 743.1271 ext. 206 or e-mail us at T.Gentile@gracesourceinc.org. You can also stop by our office in building F room 6 on the Riverside Meadows campus.

PTSA

Last year the PTSA raised \$1,000 to donate to our sports dept. for uniforms and \$500 for our library to help stock books. In addition, our PTSA officers painted the Roadrunner mural on the side of the gym wall in the quad area.

The PTSA has a very busy year ahead of us. We have some fun events planned for our Riverside students and some for the entire family. One example is our new after school club called "Student Voice." Interested students should see Ms. Cookie Molina in the office for more information.

Want to join to come out and support our Roadrunner? Complete

your enrollment form and turn it in to the office today!

Your help and ideas are needed and very much appreciated. To contribute:

- Join us at our community meetings held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.
- E-mail us at ptsa.riverside.meadows@gmail.com
- Check out our face book page Riverside Meadows PTSA.

~Hope Morgan

PTSA President

Riverside is looking for a few volunteers with ART SKILLS!

We would like to paint a mural containing our Roadrunner mascot and "Riverside Meadows." This mural will personalize our gym and create a great welcome for visiting athletic teams and other visitors. If you are interested please contact Mr. Hofhenke at 743-1271 ext. 105, or email jhofhenke@plusd.org.

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