

TWO RIVERS COMMUNITY NEWS

Two Rivers Community School
A North Carolina Public Charter School

"Home of the Otters" 

AUGUST 17, 2009

FROM THE DIRECTOR

If the summer has flown by for you as it has me, I am sure you are wondering where it went! As we are beginning our fifth year, we look forward to our continued growth and the changes that come with it.



We have a few changes to let you know about. First, as you know, Leni Smith retired and we hired April Ervin to fill her big shoes. April will be working closely with Halle Pilkington to maintain the multi-age concept for grades one and two. We have moved the Teacher Assistants around a bit too, so you may see a new face in your child's classroom. Laura Stone will be in kindergarten, Sandi Henri will be with Halle Pilkington, and Mimi Archer will be with April Ervin.

Matt Hendley decided on a career change and we are pleased to have Sandi Priest as our grade five teacher. Tracy Healy, Leeann Cronk and Rachel Wood will work as a middle school team. This model should help our students by having more teachers who specialize in their content area, and by modeling a more departmentalized approach that they will have in high school.

For those of you who send your children to aftercare, there are changes there too. Sophie Minis has fulfilled her long planned for enrollment to graduate school. She has gone to UNC Chapel Hill. We wish her the best, but she will be sorely missed. We have been fortunate to be able to hire Gabriel Lopez who has experience with child care and brings a theater arts passion with him.

We will be asking you to fill our several forms as the year begins. It is important that the emergency information is accurate and up to date. Please do not list yourself as an emergency contact. We would contact you first. The emergency information is for the instance when we cannot reach you. Also, please be sure that those listed are able to be reached by phone and able to pick up your child if necessary.

We ask that you complete the income survey that will go home too. It will be anonymous but very important. We are missing out on some funding opportunities because we do not have the information we need to qualify to apply. Please do not ignore this request for information. It could mean thousands of dollars to our school.

School begins promptly at 8:30 AM with dismissal at 3:00 PM. If you have misplaced your child's supply list, you can find it by visiting tworiverscommunityschool.net.

Children who arrive late must come to the office to receive a Tardy Slip in order to be admitted to their classroom. We also ask that students returning from absences report to the office to receive an admission slip for their classroom. These procedures will help us become more accurate in our record keeping with the state.

As in the past, Fridays will be Pizza Day **beginning next Friday, August 28**. Cheese or Pepperoni pizza can be ordered for \$1.50 per slice. Orders will be taken on Thursdays. Please plan your order and send the money with your child each Thursday. There are no extras slices ordered so please do not send money on Fridays hoping for a piece of pizza as it will not be available.

There will be a snack tray available in the office. A variety of snacks will be available for \$.50 each

Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25. The schedule will be part of the Wednesday Folder.

In addition to the Student-Led Conferences that we have annually, we have added two opportunities for Parent-Teacher conferences. Please refer to your copy of the school calendar for dates. Further information will come to you as the dates come closer.

We look forward to a happy and healthy school year. Welcome back!

~ June Gilch

THE RESULTS ARE IN! TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

Two Rivers Community School is proud to announce that we have been designated a "School of Distinction" by the state. We earned that status through our performance on end of grade tests (EOG). Our composite score of percent of students in grades 3 – 8 who are proficient in Mathematics and in Reading is 81.6%.

In Reading, we scored 88.5% proficient. The minimum percent of students passing the EOG with a score of 3 or 4 (proficient) to make Adequate Yearly Progress is 43.2%. In mathematics, we scored 81.6% proficient with the state minimum being 77.2%.

Our scores are up significantly from last year and we applaud the hard work of staff to help our students achieve at this level.

We have openings in several grades. Families who are not happy with larger classes in the county schools might like to consider Two Rivers since we are clearly able to perform academically. We have openings in K, 3,4,7,& 8.

NOTE FROM THE BOARD

On behalf of TRCS board of directors, - **Welcome back to school everybody!**

We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for another great year of exploring and learning. We particularly wish to welcome the newest members of our community - both among our staff and entering students and their families.

As Two Rivers enters its fifth year, our small, but dynamic and growing, community is entering a new phase. The early challenges and setbacks any new organization can expect were met and successfully overcome and I believe we are stronger for it. We now have a foundation of experience and practice from which to look forward and build on. Just as 5 years is the point when a child really starts to look and move out into the world, I believe that this year will see Two Rivers increasingly revealing itself as the most inspiring and exciting primary educational option in the high country.

During the coming year, the board has stated its intention to revisit the medium-to-long term vision of what the school will become. While we believe the school's core mission (see below) and basic academic design is as compelling as it was when we were first chartered, we believe it is time to revisit operation aspects of charter such as how many students and grades do we want to grow into to, what kind of facilities do we need to match this, etc.

Engaging in these exciting discussions, we are reminded of perhaps the most essential aspect of our school design, that it is community-based. This means that what it becomes is ultimately up to us, all of us-staff, parents, and students working together. In this vein, I encourage you to contact myself, board members, June, or any of our teachers, with your thoughts about how we can improve the school spirit and accomplishment. I also encourage each of you to consider how you get involved through volunteering in classrooms, helping organize community events, or joining one of our committees working to assure Two Rivers reaches its full potential. From personal experience, I can vouch that our community is an immensely satisfying, even fun, group to work with!

**So onward, Otter-boosters (Otterites? Otter-clan?)
And let's have a great year!**

TWO RIVERS MISSION STATEMENT

We will support each student's continuing discovery and development of self and community by providing a learning environment that is relevant, active and project oriented. All aspects of the student's experience at Two Rivers Community School will enhance his/her natural learning power. Our school climate is setup to foster respect, responsibility and a sense of community.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS AT TRCS

The Junior Great Books (JGB) program will begin again this Fall. This literacy enrichment program enhances children's understanding of literature and improves their critical thinking skills as well. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.greatbooks.org> (click on the "Junior Great Books K-12")

Parent volunteers are needed to make the program successful. The commitment is for one hour per week, plus some up front training.

There will be an informational meeting for those interested in volunteering on Thursday, August 27th at 3:15 at TRCS. For more information, contact Beth Jacquot, bethjacquot@bellsouth or 264-3669.

PTO MEETING

Tuesday, August 25th at 3:30

Please, join the PTO for our first meeting of the year!
PEACE FEAST is on the agenda!

If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to help out or have suggestions send your emails to TRCSPTO@GMAIL.COM.

TRCS PTO ~ "Building Community"

MOUNTAINEER SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Students that participated in the third annual Mountaineer Summer Reading Program should return their completed forms to Mrs. Vicki no later than Friday, August 28, 2009. Thank you!



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