

# THE GROWLER

## Paws from the Principal

Dear Parents,

Happy October! This year is flying by. We have enjoyed incorporating our theme, "Be the magic," in our everyday routines. Our students are doing a good job of helping create a magical learning environment by following our "Black Ridge B's." They are becoming experts! We hope that you have enjoyed hearing about their magical experiences when they bring home their Bear Paws.

As you may have heard, the state issued school grades in September. We were originally given a B, based on our SAGE proficiency and student growth scores, but because so many schools earned A's and B's, the grading curve was changed and many schools in the state dropped. Our grade was changed to a C.

As we look at our data, our area of greatest need is literacy, which we already knew. Our school goals and professional development are focusing on helping our students gain stronger literacy skills this year. We have put most of our financial resources given to us from the state into literacy. We will be collaborating with teams of teachers from other schools



## Important Dates

**October 5-28** School Fundraiser

**October 12-13** Parent Teacher Conferences

**October 14** PTA Birthday Table for October

**October 20-24** Fall Break-No school

**October 25-31** Red Ribbon Week

**October 25** School Community Council Meeting 4:00 p.m.

**October 31** Halloween Parade (A track 8:10 a.m./B track 1:45 p.m.)

in the school district to share ideas on how to better help our students, as well as further implementing a literacy program that the school district has adopted that focuses on essential literacy knowledge. We are also looking at how we can translate the good things that are going on in math and science, as well as in literacy, to help all of our students achieve at high levels. We are grateful that you trust us with your children and assure you that we take this responsibility very seriously. Please contact the principal if you have any questions.

## Black Ridge Choir Performs at the Capitol

Our school choir had the opportunity to sing at the Utah State Capitol last week. The Governor invited schools from all over the state to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the capitol building. They sounded wonderful and made some great memories!



## School Fundraiser

Our school fundraiser is in full swing! Based on your feedback, we are doing a direct donation fundraiser again this year. We are planning to just have one school fundraiser this year. (The PTA will still hold the Bear Crawl in the spring.) Please help support our school! All funds raised will help supplement our selection of books, technology, student incentives, supplies, and field trips. We appreciate your support. Thank you to all who have already donated. We are extending the deadline to October 28, so there is still time to participate.



## Watch DOGS

Attention Dads! Have you been looking for ways to be involved in your children's education? Come spend a day with us as a Watch DOG. Dads (or other role models) can spend a day at school volunteering in your children's classrooms, playing at recess, and eating with the kids in the lunchroom. There is a link to sign-up in the weekly email, "News from 'The Ridge.'" For more information, contact the school or our Top Dog, Tim Heise ([tjheise@yahoo.com](mailto:tjheise@yahoo.com)). You can also look online at <http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs>.

## Sharing Table

We will now offer a sharing table in the lunchroom. The school district has instituted this new policy to help decrease some of the food waste happening in the lunchroom. Students may put whole fruits/vegetables and unopened food items on the sharing table for other students to take, if they are interested.



# Black Ridge Code of Conduct

We introduced the first character trait from our code of conduct last week. It was “believe.” All week the students heard examples of believing. Here are a few highlights from Walt Disney:

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

“If you can dream it, you can do it.”

“It’s kind of fun to do the impossible.”



## Sub Help

We are always in need of substitutes. You can choose the number of days you work, as well as the location. You could even choose to just work in your child’s classroom. Please contact the office if you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher through Kelly Services.



## Background Checks

Due to Utah state policy, background checks are required for classroom and field trip volunteers. The background checks are \$55 and will not expire. These can be done through the school district and may take up to three weeks, so please plan ahead. You can call 801-610-8586 to set up an appointment.

