

Dear Colorado Rocky Mountain School families,

For those of you who were able to attend the presentations of learning at the end of the Interim week, I am confident that you left impressed with the depth and breadth of the opportunities all these collective experiences provided the school community. Our students were exposed to a multitude of experiences over the course of just one week, and I left the presentations having seen great progress in their individual instruction. Interim is just one part of our active program that students are involved in throughout the year. In order to provide a perspective on what the overall active program provides, I thought that I would share with you a collection of third quarter updates provided by the faculty members who lead these activities.

I would like to encourage you to read each of these sections rather than skimming through to only the portions in which your student is involved, as I think that they not only reinforce the work and opportunities for growth that are happening each afternoon, but also they capture the passion and enthusiasm of the individual authors. Keep in mind that this letter is only profiling a third of our overall program, and that the academic and student life programs provide a similar depth and breadth. For the student we believe it is important that they have numerous program areas in which they can discover themselves and their interests.

ACTIVE PROGRAM

The Active Curriculum continues to touch kids' lives, giving them some of the additional life experience and insight necessary to live with integrity and engagement. Thus far in the 2009-2010 year, we have watched work crews and sports teams accomplish a great deal. Following are some of the happenings from within work crews and athletics. (Drew Brennan)

SPORTS

River Program: A year away has given me some great perspective on the program that I have run for the last ten years. The completion of numerous personal trips as well as a recent certification by the American Canoe Association as a Swiftwater Rescue Instructor has served as a catalyst for a reorganization of the instruction of river safety and river rescue at CRMS. All current CRMS instructors have completed this course, and I intend to continue to offer this to people inside and outside the community. Additionally, I have decided to include the ACA curriculum in Advanced Kayaking every fall. Following some good conversations with alumni at the reunion this winter, I also decided to put some focus back into the competitive kayaking schedule. The Crystal River Races will be the final race of the high school cup this year. Due to the timing of this event, CRMS will be holding a freestyle event at the Glenwood Wave on May 8th and 9th, as well as the usual Slalom and Wildwater events. It should be a great weekend. Keep your bottom side wet! (Peter Benedict)

Cycling Program:

This spring the cycling program will offer beginner and intermediate cycling programs as well as a cycling team that will do a combination of road and mountain biking. Riders will have the opportunity to race in regional road and mountain bike races. In addition, CRMS cycling has played a part in the planning process for a Colorado High School Mountain Bike League. The league will consist of a four-race cross-country series that will occur in the fall - beginning with the 2010-2011 academic year. We continue to work at developing curriculum that maximizes skill development and safety. (Michael Hayes)

Climbing Program:

In order to compete in the Colorado High School Climbing League, the climbing program continued during the third quarter for the first time ever. This year the indoor season included competitions in Carbondale and Montrose. The season finished with Regional Championships in Grand Junction and State Championships in Colorado Springs. At the Montrose High School comp, senior Paris Yaffe and junior Tobin Sanson shared in a three-way tie for first. The CRMS boys' team placed first overall at that meet. The Regional Championships also provided a high point of the season. The boys' team emerged as Western Slope Champions with Paris Yaffe taking home the overall win. The State Championships included nearly 100 qualifying students from 4 regions. The team struggled a bit with an unfamiliar

format mixing roped climbing and bouldering. Despite this, junior Ben Dowson led the Oysters with a 7th place finish and the boys came in 4th place as a team. On the girls' side, Lea Linse represented an injury depleted squad and finished 13th overall. It was a great first experience at States and we look forward to a strong return next year. (Dave Meyer)

Nordic Skiing Program: The Nordic program is continuing to build and strengthen. We are proud to have greatly increased the number of students participating in the program, relative to the last few years-- we had a total of 15 students involved in our program this year. CRMS Nordic skiers competed in the full calendar of CHSAA races (6 races plus 2 days at state championships as a full team). This year 3 athletes qualified for the state meet during the regular season, and 3 more were given a bye to the state championships and they joined the team. We also had members of our team participate in six Rocky Mountain Division regional races as well as two citizens races. In total, we had members of our team start in 16 races. In a wonderful development, 1 athlete qualified to represent Colorado at the Junior Olympics in March in Presque Isle, Maine. Given the foundation of success that we've laid this year we are really excited about the potential for next year!

Some interesting highlights from the Nordic Ski Program include:

- Initiating the development of a summer program to support current members and introduce the program to potential students.
- Building reciprocal relationships with other clubs around the region, state, and nation.
- Doing local outreach, introducing area youth to CRMS programs.
- Community Service and Fundraising to support local partners and give back to the community which supports us.
- Introducing nutrition and physiology to students to enable them to better manage their own training and development, regardless of sport.
- Annual Goal Setting, evaluation and reflection: pursuit of personal excellence. (Nick Brown)

Alpine Ski Team: The nine girls and two boys of the Alpine Ski Team had a great season. The whole team competed in the Colorado High School Ski League races, and several athletes also competed in national and international points races. Two girls competed with the CRMS Nordic Team as well. The CRMS Alpine Team has always provided, and continues to provide, an important opportunity for students to be a part of a team and learn to support their teammates. The team continued the traditions of the past by dedicating themselves and taking the sport seriously. However, the team always remembered to have fun. The team moved ahead this season by forming a partnership with the Aspen Valley Ski Club (AVSC). This helped the team in numerous ways. We practiced at Aspen Highlands on a world-class training hill. Craig Carlson, a former AVSC athlete and current Aspen High School ski coach, helped coach the CRMS team. CRMS trained with Aspen High School, and the CRMS athletes enjoyed the opportunity to get to know other high school students in the valley. The AVSC partnership also provided CRMS skiers the opportunity to compete at higher levels with the club. The Alpine Team is an important component of CRMS's history of winter sport and is poised to continue to be so. The relationship with AVSC will continue to provide opportunities for CRMS ski racers to strive for excellence. The Alpine Team will also continue to challenge students to live the CRMS mission: being a part of the team asks the athletes to excel as individuals, contribute to the team, and participate as thoughtful members of the team. (Max Stevens)

Girls' Soccer: The girls' soccer program is currently benefiting from an immensely dedicated and energetic group of girls who, in an effort to be more competitive and physically fit this season, have initiated morning workout sessions throughout preseason beginning at 6:30 am. These student-led, voluntary, early morning workouts have witnessed tremendous attendance (AO and I have been politely asked not to come!) and tend to focus on core strength, agility, and endurance. Thanks to Katie Grant, we have even seen the return of the jumprope as a physical fitness regime (no longer is it just for young girls and boxers). Such dedication and enthusiasm promise to embolden our athletes and heighten our competitive and physical edge for this coming season. The girls have also organized spring break soccer sessions with Dan Pittz (dependent upon Mother Nature's snow removal plans), and we will

officially begin the season on Friday, March 26, with double day practices at 9:00am and 3:00pm. I commend each and every soccer player for embracing a new level of determination and competitive spirit this season. (Amanda Leahy)

WORK

Tutoring Work Crew: The tutoring work crew has been very successful in offering extended math assistance at our neighboring Carbondale Community School and leading a group through their first science fair project at Ross Montessori this quarter. The connections that the CRMS students have made in such a short time with their younger counterparts are wonderful to see and have a strong effect on their academic engagement. This has been an amazing work crew this quarter. (Dan Pittz)

Garden Crew: During the third quarter, with snow on the ground, it might appear that there is little to do in the garden. Actually, the cold weather provides an opportunity to get ready for the spring plant sale and spring planting. Students have taken cuttings, sown seeds and transplanted seedlings, made signs and sorted tags for the plant sale, oiled and sharpened tools, done general cleanup work in the greenhouses and straw-bale building, and planted greens in the greenhouse for spring harvest. This was a small work crew, which meant that everyone had to be engaged and working, and the students were. Thanks to the students' efforts, we will go into spring ready to hit the ground running.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust made a significant grant to the CRMS Organic Garden Learning Center for a new greenhouse to replace the aging ones in the garden. The new greenhouse will allow for a longer growing season, and it will enable students to cultivate more plant starts for the annual Community Plant Sale. (Linda Halloran)

Bike Shop: The bike shop has expanded its services in the past few years. The focus of the shop is to teach basic through advanced bicycle repair as part of a community service to CRMS and the greater community. In addition to offering a full repair service to CRMS students, faculty, and staff, the bike shop has worked at refurbishing used bikes which they provide at an extremely low cost to community members. (Michael Hayes)

Jossman Cleaning Crew: The Jossman Building work crew consists of a group of approximately four students who clean the Jossman Building alongside one of the school's housekeepers. Students are engaged in vacuuming classrooms, taking out trash, and wiping tables and whiteboards. With only two housekeepers responsible for cleaning 6 dorms, administrative offices, the Bar Fork dining hall, Barn, Gym, and many other buildings in addition to the responsibility of doing laundry for 82 boarding students, it is nearly impossible for the housekeeping department alone to handle all these tasks. Therefore, we rely heavily on the help that students offer through household jobs and the Jossman Work crew. The Jossman Building sees some of the heaviest traffic throughout the day and therefore needs additional attention than what our housekeepers can provide. Through the help in this work crew, we expect the student to not only learn the tasks to complete the chores but also to do the hard work that is involved in picking up after others. We hope that after participating in this work crew, students are more aware of the trash they leave behind and of the hard work that is required to upkeep the space we learn and live in. (Monica Rhodes)

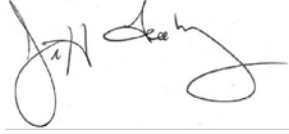
Construction Crew: Construction crew this quarter tackled remodeling the kayak shed trip room. We removed old shelves, designed new storage facilities, and completed the work. This was a great project for students because the design was relatively simple. This allowed the students to complete the design and planning process themselves. The three members of the crew learned basic carpentry principles and the use of hand tools. Most importantly, they took considerable responsibility for the project and we all worked hard together. (Dave Meyer)

Glassblowing:

Working with molten glass is very magical and engaging, so students are eager to learn skills and practice teamwork to make pieces that add value to the community (lots of tumblers find service in the Bar Fork). Students often come early and stay late in order to have more time to work, while mastering the shop credo: having clear intention, taking deliberate steps, and reflecting on outcome. (Dave Powers)

I hope that you all enjoy the spring vacation. The fourth quarter, by its nature, seems to progress rather quickly, and it won't be long before we will all be gathering in the Jossman to listen to seniors present on their individual projects, followed the next day by graduation ceremonies on the lawn out in front of the barn.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Leahy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "L".

Jeff Leahy
Head of School