

roots & wings COMMUNITY SCHOOL



January 22, 2021

Dear RWCS Community,

This week has been a busy and historic week with the Presidential Inauguration and a successful and peaceful transfer of power. Hopefully, this shift along with the more widespread distribution of the vaccine will help us all to move forward toward getting back to a more normal life. The bi-weekly call I participate in with the Secretary of Education and PED was much more positive last week in terms of school funding and trying to get more schools opened. We will have more information in the coming weeks. So please continue to practice good COVID protocols so we can get students back into the classroom.

IMPORTANT: ALL 3rd – 8th Grade Parents and Students

There is an art supply pickup scheduled for Tuesday, January 26th (this coming Tuesday) at TiLT (Peg's house) (215 La Posta Rd, Taos) and in the Greenhouse at the School. Taos area students should pick up at TiLT and Questa/Lama students at the school. The kits will consist of art supplies for the Wednesday required art classes with Sarah Newberry. In addition, thanks to our friends at Twirl Taos there will also be a mask-making kit that you will pick up at the same time. **PLEASE only take kits for students in 3rd – 8th grade, the K-2 students already did the mask making and have the supplies they need for their art classes.**

Just a reminder that this Wednesday, January 27th, is a Regular School Day for all students and staff. Art and Music classes will occur as scheduled. Just a reminder, these are required school days and classes.

State Testing Update

NMPED is applying for a waiver of the required state testing that usually occurs in the Spring, similar to what was done last year when testing was canceled. Several states are applying for this waiver, and we are hopeful it will be approved. PED put testing on hold and Districts and Charters can choose whether or not they want to test this year without it being mandatory. RWCS will **NOT** be participating in the optional testing as it would require bringing in small groups of students (1:5) for the testing. Parents would have the additional option of participating or not and the logistics and the amount of time committed to it just doesn't seem to justify the very limited benefits that the school

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would see from the testing under these circumstances. I believe we will get much more reliable and useful data from the in-house assessments that all our students participate in throughout the school year.

Note from Veronica

Families, if you have not yet filled out and turned in your Free and Reduced Lunch Forms, please do so. These forms are what the state looks at to determine if you will receive a P-ebt card. [Link to the Free & Reduced Lunch Form](#). Please fill out the form and send it to Veronica (vgarcia@rwcs.org) as soon as possible, or call to request a form be sent to you through the mail. **Directors note:** PLEASE fill these forms out even if you don't think you will qualify, or if you do qualify, don't want to participate. This data is used to determine funding options for the school and helps reduce the cost we pay for internet access, etc. We have had a low response on this and that may cost the school thousands of dollars! Please take a few minutes to fill these forms out if you haven't done so yet. **Thank you to everyone who has completed them, but we are still missing a few.**

Family/Parent Portal

The [family and parent portal](#) on the PED website has been redesigned to improve accessibility and highlight important resources. Please check it out and share the link with families in your community.

The next Governing Council Meeting is February 16th at 5 pm. G.C. Meeting Agendas with the Google Meet link are posted on the school [website](#) 72 hours before the meeting. All are welcome to attend.

I hope you all have a good weekend
Sincerely,

Jon Orris

Jon Orris, Director
[school calendar](#)

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