

# Mesa View Elementary News

September Edition 2017

(970)254-7970

(970)243-1449 Fax

D51 Vision: Engage, Equip, and Empower our learning community today for a limitless tomorrow.

Si usted desea una explicación en Español de este artículo por favor llame a la oficina: ESL 254-5484.  
Estamos para servirles.

**Honesty Always Respectful Willing Learner Kind Safe**

Our school expectations for students, staff and parents.

## September Rappin' and Chattin' with Mrs. M.C.

Dear Mesa View Families,

Learning should be fun. Yep, that's right, I said fun! But fun is a pretty subjective word. Everyone has their own ideas about what that means, so here is how I think of fun in terms of learning:

Learning should be appropriately challenging, encouraging the brain to grow strong.

Learning should allow students to grow academically, socially, and emotionally, addressing the needs of the whole child.

Learning should provide opportunities for students to be partners with their teachers, and when appropriate, have voice and choice as they learn.

Learning should be engaging, inspiring curiosity and collaboration with all members of the learning community including families.

Learning should provide opportunities for students to respond to the world around them with wonderment and awe.

As the new principal of Mesa View, I am filled with wonderment and awe at the amount of "fun" learning opportunities I have already observed in classrooms and in our school community. Learners have:

Worked together to create classroom visions, codes of collaboration, and standard operating procedures, as they built classroom communities.

Participated with joy and enthusiasm to learning addressed to meet the needs of the whole-child.

Participated in a school-wide assembly and Eclipse Day where they came together as a community as they practiced whole-body listening, learned about golden moments, discovered what it means to be a self-scientist, and genuinely responded with wonderment and awe to a natural phenomenon.

Enjoyed Back-to-School Night with families and Eclipse Day with multiple volunteers.

September is only the beginning as Mesa View continues its journey of transformation to the D51 Learning Model. Community work also currently in progress includes:

Evolving and aligning our behavior practices to teach students reflection (giving opportunity to learn from mistakes) and restoration (making it right, accepting our actions often come with consequences) when a discipline issue arises.

Making learner-centered decisions around building usage to utilize our space better (for example, our Art room is now a STEAM room, more on that another time) .

Creating a plan to better utilize technology for both student learning and to improve parent communication and community participation, for example we hope to broadcast our PTO meetings live on Facebook and, beginning next month, we are adding new

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Dear Mesa View Families,

My name is Amy Shepherd-Fowler, and I am honored to introduce myself as the Assistant Principal of Mesa View Elementary. I am beginning my 19<sup>th</sup> year as an educator, and I have had various roles within District 51 including teaching first through fifth grades, instructional coaching, and most recently I supported teacher learning and growth.

As your assistant principal, I believe that we learn every day and each learner has gifts and contributions to share within our learning community. Through these experiences, we learn and grow—becoming our best selves. Additionally, we must teach our learners to be independent thinkers and problem solvers as we prepare our children to be contributing members of our larger community.

I look forward to collaborating and working with you this year,

Amy Shepherd-Fowler

## PTO NEWS

September 11-Please join us for our first PTO and SAC meeting in the Library. Babysitting provided.

September 13- Spirit Night at U Top It 2:00-8:00

September 19- Great America Fundraiser Kick Off

September 29- Great America Fundraiser Wrap Up

October 20- Super Hero Night!!

## Please Welcome Our New Staff Members!

Stacey Morton-Cohen.....Principal

Amy Shepherd-Fowler.....Assistant Principal

Max Robinson.....PE

Emily Youmans.....4Th Grade Teacher

Sheila Adamson.....5th Grade Teacher

Samantha Clark.....Kindergarten Para

Victoria Claydon.....Preschool Para

Quinton Barnhart.....Day Custodian

Hi there, HAWK parents!

It is your school counselor coming to you from Mesa View Elementary.

My position has been expanded to full time this year, so I am really excited to work with your kids!

I am trying a new kind of schedule this year. I will be meeting with groups on Mondays and Tuesdays each week. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, I will be doing whole class lessons. Social Emotional learning is at the base of our district 51 learning model (also known as Performance Based Learning). The classroom lessons will largely be focused on 2 of our 4 district social emotional quadrants...self-awareness and self-management.

As part of the self-awareness piece (and as a lesson that we do every year), we will be doing safety and child abuse prevention lessons. For the child abuse prevention lessons, we have 3 DVDs that we show (one for k-1<sup>st</sup>, one for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and one for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades). If you would like to view any of the DVDs, please let me know and we can arrange a time for you to view them at school.

We will be offering the same groups as we have offered in the past as well as a couple of new groups:

Girls Rock (to deal with social bullying)

Grief group (for kids who have lost someone to death by any circumstance)

Be CLASSY (setting a positive mindset and using that positive mindset to interact with others)

Roller Coaster (stress management strategies)

FISH (Families In Separate Homes...divorce/Changing families group)

I ROCK (mindful self-compassion)

DOSE group (activities designed to increase chemicals in the brain that promote happy feelings)

Groups will start as needed...as I gather students to participate in the groups. When I am starting a group, I will send an invitation note home with information about the group with an option to opt your child out. With a couple of exceptions (grief and FISH), you will not need to sign and return the group notes to have your child participate.

If you have any questions about anything at all or want to visit with me about your child, please let me know. I can be reached at [monica.nave@d51schools.org](mailto:monica.nave@d51schools.org) or 254-7970 extension 52122.

## Health Office News



Our classrooms now have emergency kits for extended

lockdowns! A huge thank you to **Orchard Mesa**

**True Value Hardware** for supplying the five-gallon buckets for the kits.

### Reminders:

Prescription medications can only be given at school if we have a medication form with a parent and physician signature. Prescription medications need to be in their original pharmacy-labeled container and not expired.

Children's strength over-the-counter medications, including cough drops, need to be in their original packaging and need to have a medication form with a parent's signature. Medication forms are available from the school health office, online, or at most physicians' offices.



We will be testing preschool and kindergarten vision on September 26<sup>th</sup>. If your child has glasses, please be sure and have your child wear them that day.

## Keeping Our Students Safe

For the safety of our students please do not drop them off at school before 8:30 in the morning. There is no adult supervision available on the playground until 8:30. Our staff is involved in meetings and preparations for the day therefor they are unavailable to supervise your student any earlier. Extended hours care is available if you need earlier supervision. Information is available at [www.extendedhoursprogram.com](http://www.extendedhoursprogram.com)

Breakfast opens at 8:30.

**All Parents, Visitors, and Volunteers** must stop at the office and sign in to get a visitor or volunteer badge to be on campus. Anyone not wearing proper identification will be asked to go to the office to check in.

**Thank you for your understanding!**