



# Rees Eagle Update



School News

September 1, 2009

Hello Parents!

We welcome you and your children to Rees for another great school year. We are grateful to be your partner in the education of your children. We hope that this partnership will continually be strengthened as we work together to ensure the learning for all students. We invite you to volunteer in the classroom and to be part of class and school activities throughout the school year. We invite your input always. We look forward to working together and making this a very successful school year for all students.

Sincerely,  
Mike Larsen

## **We Introduce Mrs. Nielsen, Rees Assistant Principal**

My name is Lori Nielsen and I will be here at Rees Elementary for the next three months as I complete my studies with BYU. I will be working with Mr. Larsen and learning what it is that makes this school such a great place. I was born and raised in Spanish Fork and love the area and people. I am a Weber State graduate and have been in education for about fifteen years. I have five children of my own and understand the importance of a good education. I love working with children and seeing them find success in learning. Some of my favourite things are reading, spending time with my family, outdoors, Bajio and chocolate. I am amazed at the level of dedication at Rees on behalf of your children. I look forward to visiting with you and working with your children.

## **Literacy Thought from Mrs. Bev Miner**

Back to School means the beginning of new routines for parents and kids. Success in school starts at home. Setting patterns now will make the rest of the school year much easier for everyone. Have a place for backpacks, homework and books. Set a time for homework and reading that works for you. For me as a working mom, that was after dinner. Some kids (and teachers!) really need a break right after school.

**Expect your child to read every night.** This may take only 10 minutes for a kindergarten or first grade student. These are the years that are most important for you to sit with your child as they read. If they don't know a word, tell them to try something they learned in school. Reward their attempts! Then just tell them the word. You don't need to be a teacher as much as your child needs lots of practice reading. Re-reading the same book many times is great practice. From second grade (or when a child is able to read an early chapter book) they will need encouragement and a quiet place to read. Their goal is stamina! Encourage large blocks of time to read. Sometimes the only quiet place at my house was in an empty bathtub. They took a big blanket, their book and they often lost track of time. Once your child is lost in a book, they will truly be a reader.

## **It Pays to Read-Road to Success Reading Program**

We have again partnered our *It Pays to Read* program with Ken Garff and the *Road to Success* program. We encourage families to read together. Please read with your children and encourage your children to read. Each month your child will receive a monthly reading calendar. We ask that students and parents complete this calendar and return to your child's teacher at the end of each month. For each week on the calendar that a student meets the reading goal, a raffle ticket will be added into a drawing for books and other prizes. Thank you for your support for Reading!

## **Back-to-School Night**

Our Back-to-School Night was held last week. If you were unable to attend, we invite you to schedule a time with your child's teacher to receive the information/materials that were shared that evening. Throughout this evening parents scheduled times for SEP Conferences. If you have not scheduled your times for SEP conferences, please call the school office to schedule times.

### **Checkout Procedures**

Please know that when you check a student out from school before the end-of-school bell rings that you will need to complete the following procedures. *First*, share with Mrs. Olsen that an early checkout is necessary, *second*, fill out information on checkout sheet and sign name, and *third*, wait in the office area until your student arrives in the office. Thank you.

### **Emergency Management Plan & Drills**

The Emergency Management Plan for Rees Elementary is written and is part of the school information handbook. It consists of off-premises evacuation locations and procedures for emergency situations such as; fire and other hazardous situations, earthquakes, and lock-downs. To help us be more prepared in case of a real emergency, students and staff members will conduct a drill once a month to teach and reinforce emergency procedures. I invite parents to help children understand the importance of these drills and to visit with the school administration if you have any questions regarding our emergency plan and drills.

### **School Picture Day**

School Picture Day will be held on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. More information will be coming soon.

### **School Safety Information from our School Community Council**

The safety of our students is our number one priority. In efforts to provide increased safety for all students at Rees, we will continue to lock the doors to the building except the main entrance (front office) and doors leading to our portable classrooms. By locking the doors we are increasing our school safety by helping all individuals visiting the school to follow the check-in policy of Nebo School District.

### **Spirit Day**

We have school spirit at Rees, and have designated each Friday as our School Spirit Day. We have nice school shirts and encourage children to wear their school shirts (from past years as well) or school colors (maroon and gold) on Fridays. We have a lot to be proud of at Rees School and want to do all we can to build school pride.

### **Student Safety Getting To and From School**

The safety of all students before school, during school hours, and after school is a top priority for all parents and staff members. Students are supervised in loading and unloading zones, bus zones, and crosswalks by faculty members and crossing guards before and after school. Students have been instructed to follow directions of adult supervisors and to obey school rules. Please help maintain the safety of all students by encouraging your children to use sidewalks, to cross Rees Avenue and other streets only in crosswalks, by not loading children into cars in the middle of the street or in the busing zone, and by reminding children not to cross through the bus zone. We encourage parents to provide their students with specific instructions for how, where, and when they will be picked up from school. We ask parents who have students who walk to/from school to walk the route with them, to share your expectations, and to provide training for increased safety. Thank you for all you do to help our students remain safe.

## **Calendar of Events for September**

Tuesday, September 1 <sup>st</sup> .....	Safety Poster Contest Begins
Wednesday, September 2 <sup>nd</sup> .....	Timpanogos Storytelling Assemblies (All Grades)
Monday, September 7 <sup>th</sup> .....	Labor Day/ No School
Wednesday, September 9 <sup>th</sup> .....	PTA Birthday Table
Thursday, September 10 <sup>th</sup> .....	Hearing Screenings at Rees
Thursday, September 10 <sup>th</sup> .....	PTA Meeting (11:00AM)
Thursday, September 10 <sup>th</sup> (3:30pm).....	PTA Room Helpers / Teachers Orientation
Monday, September 14 <sup>th</sup> .....	Safety Poster Contest Ends
Thursday, September 17 <sup>th</sup> .....	Constitution Day Celebrated
Thursday, September 17 <sup>th</sup> .....	Vision Screenings at Rees
Friday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> .....	PTA Penny Wars Ends
Monday, September 21 <sup>st</sup> – Thursday, September 24 <sup>th</sup> .....	Green Ribbon Safety Week
Monday, September 21 <sup>st</sup> .....	Walk to School Day
Tuesday, September 22 <sup>nd</sup> .....	School Picture Day
Friday, September 25 <sup>th</sup> .....	District Development Day / No School