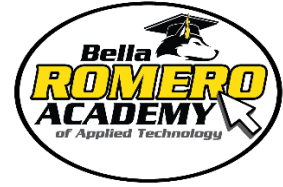


10/22/14



News from The Academy

Hello Bella's Family. Hard to believe it, but we are already a quarter of the way through the 2014-2015 school year! The 1st quarter officially ended this past Thursday and you should be receiving your student's report card today along with this newsletter. We have had many celebrations throughout the past couple of months and we feel fortunate to be entrusted with educating such a fantastic group of young people.

Our year began with a K-8 event called "Hands Across Romero". Your student likely shared with you about the human link we created between the K-3 and 4-8 campuses, the helicopter "drone" that took photos, and the painting that Armando Silva created in front of the crowd. It was a great way to launch the first year of The Academy and remind us all that despite the ½ mile between the campuses, we are connected as one family.

The following items are just a few of the highlights from the first quarter of the year.

School Performance – The Academy Earns Strong Rating from State

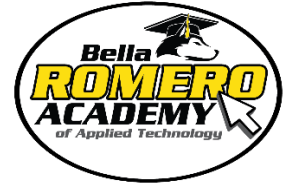
The state of Colorado assigns a performance rating to all schools in the state each year. We are pleased to announce that our new rating is "Improvement". There are 4 categories in the rating system and this designation puts us only one notch away from the highest of those 4 levels. In fact, we were only 3.7 points away (on a 100 point scale) from the highest category (called "Performance").

Living the Family Values – Students Off to Great Start

Each day we remind students of the importance of living "Bella's family values" of consistent attendance, positive behavior, and excellent achievement. We are pleased to report that we have 185 students that have not missed a single day of school to this point. That is certainly consistent attendance! We also have over 350 students that have earned positive behavior recognition (awarded a lanyard tag for behavior) this quarter. We appreciate the self-control and social awareness these students are showing. Furthermore, achievement is also on the rise. Our percentage of proficient (on or above grade level) students is continuing to rise with each passing day. We are so pleased with the responsibility and persistence that students are showing to keep growing academically.

Extracurricular Programs – Students Participating in Record Numbers

The after school programs at both the K-3 and 4-8 campus are up and running with huge enrollment. We are excited to be serving 80 students in the K-3 program and 152 students in the 4-8 program for an overall enrollment that represents 30 % of our total school population. Students are participating in a variety of classes; iCare, iHealth, Healthy Living, Tech Lab, Art, Yoga, and Leadership. In addition, we just wrapped up fall sports seasons with athletes from 2022 and 2023 taking part in Flag Football and those from 2019, 2020, and 2021 competing in Volleyball and Tackle Football. We are proud of the hard work they put into the season and we enjoyed watching them compete against schools from Greeley, Eaton, and Loveland.



Fall Parties

We are hosting fall/Halloween parties at the K-3 campus on Friday, 10/31 from 3:15 – 3:45. Please come and join us for the fun. We do ask that costumes are brought to school and are ones that can be worn over their school uniform. Toy weapons are not allowed to be brought as part of the costume. Class of 2019 students (8th grade) will be traveling over to the K-3 campus to help at the classroom parties. At the 4-8 campus, students in grades 4 and 5 (Classes of 2023 and 2022) will have parties from 3:10-3:40 pm on 10/31. Grade 4 and 5 students do not bring or wear costumes to school. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 (Classes of 2021, 2020, and 2019) will be going on a field trip on Thursday 10/30 as their special event and will not be having parties on 10/31.

Parent meetings

We hosted our first parent meeting this year in September and we had a good group of parents to hear about school to home communication. Our next parent meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 11 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the 4-8 Campus. Join us for dinner and some information about student learning in the area of reading. Other parent meetings for the year are:

- 1/3/15 campus K-3
- 3/10/15 campus 4-8
- 5/12/15 campus K-3

Blended Learning

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 are now learning with an innovative new approach called “Blended Learning” that uses computer software to give students practice according to their individual needs and also then allows the teacher to focus on serving student needs in small group instruction. We are excited to be one of the first schools in the state, and among a relatively small number nationwide to be using this technique. We are planning to expand this approach to include grades 3, 4, and 5 next year and grades K, 1, and 2 the following year. Just another reason to be proud that your student(s) attend The Academy – where we are determined to be “Tomorrow’s school... today”.

2nd Grade is Taking Action

Students in 2nd grade are starting a community service project as part of their social studies unit. The students are leading a project to collect non-perishable food items for the Weld County Food Bank. The food drive will begin on October 27 and end on November 21. Please help 2nd grade in supporting their service project and helping others in the community by bringing non-perishable food items.