

Robert L. Merritt Junior High School

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November 2022

"Equitable Education for Every Student"

Principal's Message

Thank you for allowing the dedicated staff of Robert L. Merritt Junior High School to educate your child/children. I encourage everyone to make teaching and learning a **PRIORITY** each day. Not only do we promote the importance of a quality education, we expect our students to be contributing members of our society. By giving, sharing, helping, and sacrificing, our students can make a difference and change the world. Let's teach our children that it is better to **GIVE** than it is to receive and to **GIVE** thanks for their many blessings. Thanksgiving Break will begin on Friday, November 18, 2022. School will resume on Monday, November 28, 2022 at 7:30 a. m. In closing, I say to the school's community, **Thanks for Giving** to Robert L. Merritt Junior High school!!

Parent Center Corner, Geraldine Ray

The year has kicked off with a great start. Let's continue to practice safety and social distancing. As the holiday's approaches, let's enjoy family and food with love and care by continuing to wear our masks and sanitize. Remember, we have different ways you can be involved in your child/children education. Such as: Active Parents, School Status, and Canvas. My schedule is Monday through Friday from 7:00 a. m. to 4:00 p. m. I will adjust my schedule to assist you with your needs. You can reach me at gray@sunflowerk12.org or (662) 884-1270 ext. 317.

Assistant Principal 's Message

As we enter into the 2nd Nine Weeks, things seem to be slowing down here at RLMMS. The students are settling down and the teachers are working diligently to provide the best education for our students. On Oct. 30, we had our annual breast cancer awareness recognition and it was huge success. We were complimented on our decorations and the out pouring of love shown to our honoree. We are also looking to improve on our data from the benchmark assessments. The students were focused and we hope that this leads to the desired results. As we approach the upcoming holidays, we are looking to do some great things here at RLMMS that involves our staff and students. We are continuing to grow as a family at Merritt and we look forward to a brighter future.

Miss Mc Daniel's class had MEGA fun trick-or-treating.





The time has come again for our 2023 Scripps Spelling Bee to be held in our district. Students in 7th and 8th grade are allowed to participate. Our school-level Bee must be completed by January 13, 2023. Please encourage your child /children to participate in all school activities. Students can prepare by Reading books that are located in the library. November is Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month. Below are just some of the books that help readers in exploring Native Americans and the State of Alaska. Parents who read to their children every day and talk about what they are reading together promote a joy of reading and literacy achievement.

November is also Picture Book Month



Picture books for young readers are building blocks that promote literacy, vocabulary skills, sentence structure and story analysis. For young readers, picture books are an important part of learning how to read. Usually this type of format marks the first step in introducing a child to reading and is often the start of language development for many children. Libraries that include picture books to promote literacy to young readers are boosting beginner-level vocabulary skills, introducing sentence structure and developing story analysis.

Dr. Jessica James, Library Media Specialist

HOPE...PEACE...LOVE...ENDURANCE...FIGHT...BRAVE...CURE!



In Recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month...



Counselor's Corner, Naomi Fant-Ivory

November is the month of gratitude and thanksgiving. If you are concerned about how to raise teenagers who are grateful, please read the following excerpt from an article found on the following website <http://davewalsh.com/posts/tips//174> and posted by Erin Walsh on November 19, 2013.

5 Ways to Teach Your Child Gratitude- Plus Tis for Teens

Adolescence can be seen as a self-adsorbed time in life but it is also a great time for transformation when young people are opening up to the world around them and figuring out who they want to be. Gratitude helps teens be more resilient as they travel on the rocky and exhilarating road from childhood to adulthood. Here are a couple of tips for nurturing gratitude in teens:

- **Don't give up.** You may need to modify family gratitude traditions or let your teen shape them, but don't abandon them completely. They are likely more important to your teen than you know.
- **Gratitude is a practice, not a script.** Avoid "correcting your teen if he or she express gratitude about something that doesn't meet your expectations. It is okay if your teen goes in and out of taking gratitude seriously around you.
- **Modeling still matters.** While they may never tell you this, your actions will matter. A lot. Practice gratitude.
- **Give credit to others.** Teens are vulnerable to the "self-serving bias" which means that when something good happens they thinks it is because of them and when something bad happens they blame the circumstances or someone else. Encourage them to think of how others have helped them succeed and to take responsibility for their own actions.
- **Expand the conversation.** Talk to your teen things like rights versus privileges and equality versus justice. Gratitude calls on us to be more aware of our relationships with others.

The McKinney -Vento Act

When a family becomes homeless, there are two issues that usually occur with the effected children, 1) student attendance decreases and 2) financial situations destroy students' interest in school. The SCCSD recognizes the importance of education for all children and has adopted the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act that addresses the needs of homeless children. This policy aids with homeless students so that they can continue to be educated despite the challenges they face. If you know of families with children who are homeless, please let us know at (662) 844-1270. For more information visit Website: <http://www.serve.org/ncheor> E-mail homeless@serve.org.