

# MOLALLA RIVER ACADEMY

Dear Families--

Please carefully read the following information as it potentially **impacts the dates of winter break**. Winter break may be extended through the first week of January, with **students returning January 8th**.

MRA has a history of using Responsive Classroom strategies as a classroom management methodology. All newly hired staff are required to read three books supporting this method; *The First Six Weeks*, *Yardsticks* and *Growing Minds*. Our staff handbook provides deeper understanding of how to best use this approach and new staff are mentored through implementation of the strategies. However, no formal training has typically been provided. To date, only two staff members have attended the full four-day training.

MRA, like schools everywhere, has seen a significant increase in challenging behaviors. We have responded to this in various ways, including school-wide SEL lessons and the creation of our Robins Ridge to pro-actively teach and model Tier 2 skills.

We have recognized, however, that with no formal training in Responsive Classroom, we do not have a cohesive and consistent classroom management system that spans our entire school.

Responsive Classroom is designed for implementation in grades K-8 and is comprised of essential practices and strategies aimed at addressing the following

competencies:

- Cooperation,
- Assertiveness,
- Responsibility,
- Self-control,
- Academic mindset,
- Learning strategies, and
- Academic behaviors (Center for Responsive Schools, 2018).

During our 11/27/23 Board Meeting I will be asking the MRA Board of Directors, to invest in our school and our children by approving the complete, four-day training for every MRastaff member. Upon completion, all staff will be expected to implement the strategies in the classroom, at recess, in the gym, library, music room and outdoor spaces.

If approved, this training will take place at MRA January 2nd-5th ---requiring us to extend winter break for students. When our school calendar was created, we included 6.5 days for inclement weather. If we use four days for training and do not have to close school for more than 2.5 days this winter, we will not need to extend the school year. However, if we exceed those days, we will add days on to the end of our year.

If this request is approved, we will host a virtual informational parent night on November 29th @ 6:00pm. The link to join the meeting is [HERE](#). Please watch Parent Square for updates.

Thank you--  
Dr. Marrone

# Parent-Teacher Conferences

Child Care Available: If you need child care while you are at conferences. We will offer supervision in the gymnasium during all conference hours. Your child must be ages 2 and up to be allowed into childcare and you must sign them in and out with our care team.

# Robins Ridge

The Robins Ridge will be open Monday 11/20 from 10:00-2:00.

Stop by and learn more about our Tier 2 supports.



**NOVEMBER 16-17**  
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL

**NOVEMBER 20-21**  
DURING CONFERENCES

CASH, DEBIT/CREDIT CARD OR  
VENMO ACCEPTED

ONLINE SHOPPING IS ALSO  
AVAILABLE

*PCT  
Open Positions  
Vice Chair  
Treasurer  
Please email  
Amy Wheeler  
petchair@mra-  
k8.com  
if interested*

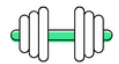


SEL  
UPDATE

GRATITUDE  
11/13-12/15



FAMILY



Hour by  
**Hour**

**Plan a family date night or day together. Have each member of the family plan 30 minutes to 1 hour of the date!**

Each person gets to own their portion and then you can all work together to figure out how to fit all the pieces into 1 agenda for the night.



# MRA Parent Cultivation Team

**CO-CHAIRS: AMY WHEELER**

**BETH JOHNSON**

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[PCT BOARD ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES EXPLAINED](#)

[NEXT PCT BOARD MEETING](#)

[NOVEMBER 17TH @ 10:00 LINK TO JOIN](#)

## Enrichment Coordinator

We are looking for an  
Enrichment Coordinator for the  
2023-24 School Year

Hours Vary

\$18.00 per hour

If interested, please email  
[iquinlan@mra-k8.com](mailto:iquinlan@mra-k8.com)

[Job Description](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

11/20-21	Parent-Teacher Conferences--No School
11/22-24	Thanksgiving Break
11/29-30	Wreath Pick-Up
12/1	Vision Screening
12/15	Holiday Parties
12/18-1/5	NO SCHOOL-- Winter Break