



DECEMBER 2019

# Rollan Melton Elementary

Hello Rollan Melton Families,

## Principal's Note

November just came and flew by like a whirlwind. I hope you all had an amazing Thanksgiving. I have so much to be thankful for.

We are well into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. I enjoyed honoring the students at the awards ceremony for all their amazing efforts. Some of you had concerns to why we no longer are recognizing students for honor roll. Here is Melton's rationale for why we decided to end giving awards for honor roll: Each child should be on the path to mastery which can only be an improvement of his/herself, not a comparison to his/her peers. Learning is a very personal experience, how and what it takes to succeed varies from child to child. Having an honor roll in place that recognizes students who play the game of school well, only perpetuates the myth that ranking children based on arbitrary grades is useful and effective. GPA does not account for learning, only the appearance of learning which can be extraordinarily misleading. Compliance or playing school isn't a sound way to determine mastery as these rules can't be applied universally and don't actually account for transferrable skills. It is for the above reasons why we have decided to move away from awarding students for honor roll and have decided to implement awarding the students who display habits of scholarly character traits.

What schools, teachers, students and families need to focus on is personal innovation and mastery as well as collaborative connections that help the community thrive.

Every child does better without pressure, so a more communal approach that allows every child to be significant and grow would be preferable, allowing each child to persevere in the environment at the rate appropriate to him or her.

I hope this helps clarify our reasoning and anticipate your support with making our children a more well-rounded product of society.

If you ever need to get a hold of me, email is the quickest and easiest way. You may also call the office and we can set up a time to talk. Thanks for all the amazing work you are doing with your kids at home. It is because of you why Melton is the greatest school ever.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Batavia



## December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 MAP Testing Begins	3	4 Early Release at 2:45	5	6	7 Holiday Breakfast 9-10:30 
8	9	10	11 Early Release at 2:45	12	13 PJ Day	14
15	16	17	18 2nd Grade Music Prog @10 3:30 RELEASE	19 1st Grade Music Prog @10	20 TEACHER WORK DAY—NO STUDENTS	21
22	23 Hanukkah	24	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa	27	28
29	30	31	WINTER BREAK			
						

### CONNECT

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# Rollan Melton Elementary

Page 2

MELTON PFA MINUTES—NOV. 5, 2019



Financial Update - Marie Altshuler - Cookie Dough brought in \$32,080 and Harvest Festival \$6,458. Membership Dues has about \$3,800. Not much has been spent on Teacher Appreciation. Art has spent \$2,891 with most of the money spent on Nevada Museum of Art field trip, plus a few supplies. We have \$102,000 in checking and \$12,000 in savings. Money wise we are good. Jan requested money for holiday food baskets (an annual donation we budget for). Marie/Jenelle will get that to Jan.

Funding Request from the Kindergarten music teacher for \$80-\$100 for movement scarves and ribbon sticks. Mackenzie Winkelmaier 1<sup>st</sup>, Iwona Martin 2<sup>nd</sup>, and funding approved.

Principal's Report - Mr. Batavia - Kudos to Stefanie Cantu, Mandy Grotting and committee for everything they have done. We are waiting on 3 grants which should be reviewed November/December. EL Cord is for \$20,000 to take care of technology & with DEW grant of \$45,000 to help out Mrs. Tidrick. Also awaiting the Van Sickle grant for \$10,000 to be able to get iPads. Mr. Batavia is looking at taking a group of people for leadership seminar. He would rather take a group vs. go out and bring back the skills, etc. Working on looking at each individual kid to understand/know each child's story to best support/help each child. Teachers and staff have 2 sessions from district they are currently doing. Finding out what is going on with grades above and below and looking at benchmarks with literacy to find the best parts that support our kids. Kids are all still off to a good start.

Old Business: 3 memberships shy of Mr. Batavia shaving his legs. Stefanie Cantu gave an update on the Cookie Dough Fundraiser. We made \$6,000 in just donated money. Several parents were happy about just giving money, and the kids still received achievers (not prizes). Thank you to committee for counting money and helping with Cookie Dough. We got in the backorders this week. Run for Education - Lalita Cole. We had 20 runners. Should get a check at the end of the year. Box Tops - Lalita Cole. Order of \$400 worth of box tops was put in & we'll get a percentage. We will collect this Thursday again. Don't forget to scan your receipt so you automatically get box tops. Walmart will send a receipt via email and you can forward that to the box top email for the school to get box tops. Harvest Festival went well. Brought in good money. Venmo was popular. Donated 25 wristbands and it was well received. Committee made sure families that couldn't pay got donated wristbands through the counselor. Jenelle Stathes thanked the Cookie Dough and Harvest Festival committee for their hard work and gave them a thank you gift. Jan Comphele asked about cost of wristbands. If we do well with Cookie Dough next year, could we make wristbands cheaper, like \$5? Maybe do a family pack to help families save money? Another possible cost for wristbands is doing one for \$15 and \$5 for each family member after the one \$15 purchase.

## 2019-2020 Upcoming Events and Chairpersons (including write-up)

**Roller Kingdom for Rollan Melton** (Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 5:30p-7:30p) - Alyssa Peterson

**Holiday Breakfast** (Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9:00a-10:30a) - Kim Caldwell (Update: After the meeting, Kim volunteered to chair event.) Erin has touched base with Squeeze In. Starbucks coffee secured. We plan to use the Salvation Army bins to fill up with donated food. Erin has contacted Justin Hopes Foundation to do a toy drive as well. Stella Loseke will send out an email to members notifying them we need a chair for the Holiday Breakfast (see "Update" above). We have leftover Whip Cream and Oreos leftover from the Harvest Festival that we can use for this event.

**Chipotle Night** (Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 4:00p-7:00p) Alyssa Peterson - We will do 4 offsite fundraisers throughout the year.

**Spell, Rattle and Roll** (Kick Off: Friday, February 7, 2020) **Needs Chairperson**

**Sock Hop Dance** (Friday, March 13, 2020, 5:30p-7:00p) - Tori Conard and Jennifer Ross

**Rita's of Reno** (Spring 2020) - Jenelle Stathes

**Melton Mingle** (April 25, 2020) Stella Loseke, Tara Dieffenbach, Carla King, Colleen Woolley, Averi Benson, Erin Bozeat - We may need a venue. Somerset may not be able to do alcohol. Plan for Melton Mingle to support "The Arts" this year to use money raised for Art, Music, etc. If anyone has any venue ideas, please contact the PFA. Colleen Woolley will contact the Ranch House to see if we can use their venue. We are on the calendar at Somerset with the time and date we want, but we can cancel at any time.

**Mindful Cupcakes** (Spring 2020) - Alyssa Peterson

**Movie Night**: Exact Date TBD: Possibly May 2020 - **Needs Chairperson**

**Melton Clean-Up** - Heather Nichols & Marie Altshuler. We received 20 park hopper Disney tickets from our efforts with the clean-up. Going toward the silent auction for our Melton Mingle.

**Monthly Teacher Appreciation** - Colleen Woolley. This Friday, we will do a nacho bar for the teachers using leftover chips from the Harvest Festival.

**Teacher Appreciation Week** - Stefanie Cantu & Heike Rael. In May.

**Scholarship** - Mandy Grotting. Scholarship for a Senior at McQueen. We need to make sure an updated application is on our website. In March/April, committee goes over applications.

**Art** - Mandy Grotting - Last month, ballet dancers from UNR came during kid's lunch. We donated \$200 to the ballet dancers, to thank them for their time and show them we support them. Kids are learning about Frida Kahlo this month. We have a student at our school whose family knew Frida well. We plan to work with the family, to learn about a different side of Frida. Art is planning a field trip in Jan/Feb to the Lilley museum at UNR. The entire school will be able to go at no cost to parents. Robb Drive library will show our art at the library during Women's History Month. We will have an opening night and display as much kid's art as possible.

## New Business

**Asbestos** - Asbestos in A Hall in the school. It isn't hazardous. Any question in regards to this, contact Jeff Batavia.

**Crosswalk Safety** - We haven't had an incident yet. Parents shared concern about the crosswalks and kids. Maybe we can buy/make the same thing Billingshurst has at crosswalks. Las Brisas and Robb Drive would be one area to add the flags. Mandy Grotting will look at cost of getting the flags to set up at crosswalks. Jeff Batavia has made calls to the school police to get more support for safety. The school would welcome a group of parents that would volunteer with flags to watch kids at crosswalks, etc. The parents in the past have not been consistent with helping.

**Urban Roots** - Amber Yoder visited giving information about field trip opportunities. This spring, they are installing a kitchen. They do half-day field trips at \$11 per child; that includes district bus. During field trip, kids can do garden chores, hold chickens and have a lesson. Flyers have been dropped off in the teacher's lounge for anyone that is interested.

Future PFA meeting dates and times: Tuesday, 2/4/20, 5:30pm; Tuesday, 5/5/20, 3:45pm

5 Star School Status & Melton's 2019-2020 Vision



Happy December Melton Families!



In an effort to continue to make Melton the greatest school to attend, we are expanding our climate survey this year. We are opting to take the district climate survey for 2nd–4th grades as well as 5th grade this year. If you have a child in 2nd–4th grade, you should have received a permission slip explaining this survey. The permission slip is to be returned to me if you **DO NOT** want your child to participate in the survey. **REMEMBER**—your child's answers are anonymous and are used by Mr. Batavia and myself to make this a safe, amazing school that your child loves coming to everyday.

The survey is taken during the class's designated computer time as to not interrupt academic learning. Please let us know if there are further questions relating to the survey.

Thank you!



Please visit the HUGE amount of lost and found items in the main hallway before or after school. All clothing will be donated during winter break.

Thank you!

#### 2019-2020 PFA Board Members

President: Jenelle Stathes  
 1st Vice President: Erin Bozeat  
 2nd Vice President: Dena Baumgardner  
 Secretary: Stella Loseke  
 Treasurer: Marie Altschuler  
 Teachers: Mrs. Dolan, Cristy Stoll, Jenny Fallon, Lalita Cole

PFA Email:  
 Meltonpfa@gmail.com



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**Holiday Breakfast  
& Community Food/Toy Drive**  
**Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00- 10:30 a.m.**  
**Melton's Multipurpose Room**

**Admission is FREE with the donation of:**

- a non-perishable, non-expired food item to benefit The Salvation Army OR
- a new, unwrapped toy to benefit the JUSTin HOPE Foundation

❖ Breakfast provided by Squeeze In  
 ❖ Fun Seasonal crafts sponsored by Melton's PFA  
 ❖ Melton's Honor Choir performs @ 10:15 a.m.  
 ❖ Adults and kids - wear your PJs!



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Dec. 18th  
**NO Early Release.**  
Students released  
at 3:30!



## Ga-ga Ball

### RULES

1. There are only allowed 20 people inside the pit at a time. If it is before school, it is kind of a free for all as to who can be in there. Otherwise for now Jeff will be announcing who is in the pit for the day. This allows the kids to be able to play with other kids that are the same size/ability.
2. If a child wants to play, they must form a line outside the pit door if a game is already in session.
3. The game begins with all of the players starting with one hand on the wall. The referee or player who has won the previous game starts the round. On the first bounce the players yell "ga". On the second bounce the players yell "ga". On the third bounce the players yell "go". At that time the players release their hand from the wall and the ball is in play. Any player can hit the ball at that time.
4. Players can hit the ball with an open hand or fist only. At no time can they stop, grip, or hold the ball against the ground or wall. There is no kicking of the ball.
5. Any player who is touched by the ball either directly or by a rebound off the wall below the waist is "out" and must exit the pit.
6. If a player is hit above the waist they are not out, however the player that hit the ball is out.
7. If the ball is hit out of the pit, the last player to touch the ball is out. The game resumes the same way as starting a new game in that players start with their hand on the wall and the ball has to bounce 3 times before players touch the ball.
8. If a player catches the ball before it bounces, the player who had the last contact with the ball is out (think dodge ball, I have not seen this happen yet but it is a rule.)
9. Once the player hits the ball, he or she must wait until the ball touches someone before touching the ball again. No double touches.
10. If there are only two players remaining, a player may hit the ball up to 3 times in a row.
11. You may use the wall to aid in the player jumping out of the way of the ball but at not time can the players lean on or sit on the wall.
12. If people are watching outside of the pit, they are not allowed to have contact with the ball at any time.
13. The game ends when there is only one player remaining. I have been allowing that person to remain in the pit for the next game and they also get to start the game. So technically, only 19 new players will be allowed to enter the pit.

Going through classrooms for this round of lessons, I am focusing on the topic of bullying. Helping students define what bullying means helps us to address this issue in a meaningful way. We talked about the difference between bullying and someone just being mean. We also talked about advocating for ourselves and are friends if there is a true bullying incident. Talk to your student about the difference between mean people and bullying. Something to keep in mind, to classify as bullying, the person's actions must meet the following criteria:

Unwanted aggressive behavior.

Repeated over time.

An imbalance of power (physical strength, perceived popularity, access to embarrassing behavior, etc.)

Intentional to cause fear, distress, or harm.



Below is a scenario you can read with your child. Talk about if it fits the criteria for bullying. Why or why not? Also talk about those trusted adults they have at school. Who can they talk to at school to get help? We strive to make Melton a safe, positive school environment and these conversations will help those efforts.

**Jay did a math problem on the board in front of the whole class. He got it wrong, and TJ yelled out, "go back to first grade, dummy!" Everyone laughed.**

I wish all the Melton families the Happiest of Holidays! If you need assistance during the holiday season please reach out. Thanks for being a great community!

Lauren Sabatino

775-746-7440 or Lauren.Sabatino@washoeschools.net

