

January's Gold Medal School of the Month

Mountainside Elementary

Principal: Greg Larsen

School Coordinator: Carolee Barrett

Mentor: Chanon Peterson



Last year, Mountainside Elementary in Mendon, Utah was a brand new elementary school. Right from the beginning they wanted to be a Gold Medal School. They completed bronze, silver, and gold levels all in their first year! This year, they continue the GMS enthusiasm working on Platinum level. In the first month of school, the Cougars were all about being safe! They participated in Green Ribbon Week September 21-25, 2009. The Youth 2000 (student council) made safety posters and tied green ribbons around the school. Both students and parents signed pledges and the students signed their name on a big safety poster in the hall. The students also tied green ribbons on their backpacks as a reminder to be safe. One of the days the students answered the question, "How did the chicken cross the road?" Those who participated got a pencil with a safety message on it. Thursday was Walk to School Day with the theme *Rock While you Walk*. Fun music coming from the school's outside intercom was heard all the way to the city park as the kids and parents walked to school! At the conclusion of safety week, several students decorated their helmets and sported them in a helmet parade during an assembly which was also their Gold Medal Mile kickoff.



The students are very excited about their Gold Medal Mile goal of walking 4,300 miles to get to Disneyworld! There are mini-destinations along the way: Dinosaur National Monument, Mount Rushmore, Mall of America, Curious Kids Museum, the Statue of Liberty, meeting President Obama in Washington DC, Toy and Train Museum, Museum of Aviation, and finally Disneyworld. There is a cool map marking the student's progress and the destinations they have reached.

When they reach Disneyworld, the entire student body will get to watch a fun Disney movie and dress up as their favorite Disney character. To keep the students and classes motivated, the "Golden Sneaker" is awarded to the class with the most miles for the month, and it stays in that class until the next month's miles are counted. Also, every time a student completes 5 miles they receive a foot charm to add to their charm chain. For a SUPER MILER REWARD the students who go 100 miles or more by the end of April will be inducted into the Walk of Fame. The student will get to put their handprint and name on a star painted on the walkway in front of the school at the end of the year.