**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For Immediate Release**

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Solar eclipse presents learning opportunity

Red Bank Elementary School will be one of several Clovis Unified schools taking advantage of Monday's rare solar eclipse April 8 to educate students about the natural occurence.

According to Principal Amanda Torres, who secured safe solar glasses for all staff and students, a visitor from NASA (David McGee) will be on hand narrating the event that occurs around 11:10 a.m. In addition, the school has deemed Monday as "Shine Bright" dress up day, as a nod to the sun, and the Parent Teacher Club is providing everyone "Moon Pies" as a nod to the moon.

Media interested in attending, please see details below:

WHAT:       Red Bank Elementary students learning about eclipse

WHERE:      Red Bank Elementary, 1454 N. Locan Ave., Clovis

WHEN:       Monday, April 8

              11:10 a.m\*. - Approximately when viewing begins (\*Media may arrive at 10:45 a.m. to talk with Principal Torres and a teacher) Media - check in at front office

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**ADDITIONAL** – *The following message has been sent to all Clovis Unified families about the safety steps and more about the solar eclipse:*

On Monday, April 8 a solar eclipse will occur in the United States. Here in the Clovis-Fresno area, we will experience about a 40% eclipse of the sun at 11:14 a.m. Monday. Along with some great learning experiences, the eclipse also creates the need to take a few precautionary steps to keep our students safe from potential eye injury that can come from viewing the eclipse without the proper protection.

At school, we’ll be taking the steps below to maximize our students’ experience.

·       At all elementary schools, we will operate a rainy or Red Air Quality schedule from 10 a.m. (the start of the eclipse) through 12:30 p.m. (its conclusion) on April 8.

·       If a teacher or school has planned an outdoor lesson involving the eclipse, it will be conducted using all of the safety measures recommended by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) that can be found here: <https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/safety/>.

·       Staff will review with students at all grade levels safe and effective ways of viewing the eclipse and the importance of avoiding any temptation to look directly at the sun at any point during the eclipse.

Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the sun. We encourage all parents, regardless of the age of your student, to reiterate with them the importance of never looking directly at an eclipse.

Please contact your school if you have questions about eclipse activities occurring at your local school. Thank you for your partnership as we make the most of this rare experience for our community!

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