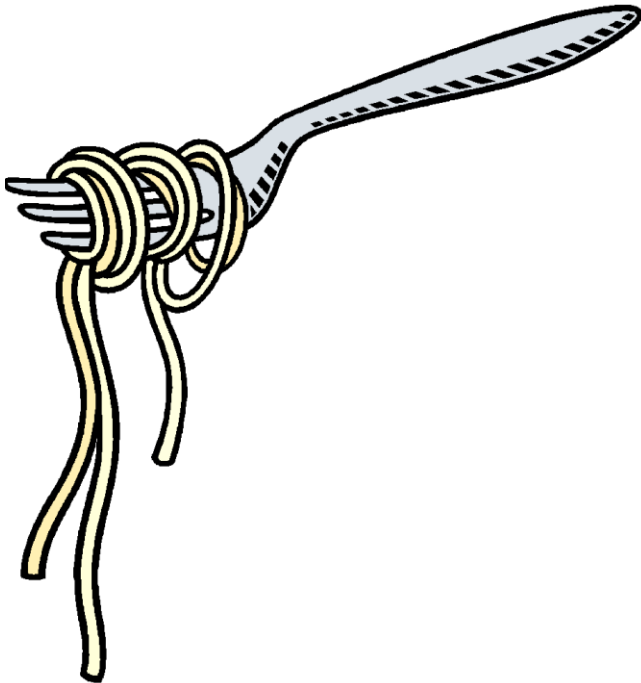


Important Dates:

February

- 2 *Jump Rope for Heart Assembly*
- 5 *National School Counselor Week*
- 9 *Friday Frenzy*
- 12 *Cottonwood Spaghetti Dinner*
- 14 *Parents Council Meeting*
- 14 *Class Valentine's Day Parties*
- 19 *President's Day - No School*
- 20 - *No school*
- 23 *Report Cards*
- 26 *Conference Week*



School Phone Numbers:

Main Office: 720-554-3200 Fax: 720-554-3288

Attendance: 720-554-3295

Kids Club: 720-554-3266 Before and After School

Cottonwood Kitchen: 720-554-3271

Cottonwood Nurse: 720-554-3208

SCHOOL HOURS: 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.



Class schedules are
available on the COT
website:

<http://cottonwoodcreek.cherrycreekschools.org/>

KINDIE NEWS

We recently completed our mid-year reading assessment on each child, and we were so pleased with the growth they demonstrated. Wow! Their reading strategies are really taking off! They are also learning to add more details in their writing, and are working on stretching out their stories over several pages. It never ceases to amaze us how much these little guys change in such a short period of time.

We were fortunate to have Katherine Dines (<http://hunktabunkta.com/wp/>) from Think 360 Arts visit our classroom and do some fun songs and storytelling with our Kindies. A big thank you goes out to our PTO for providing this wonderful SEM program for our students.

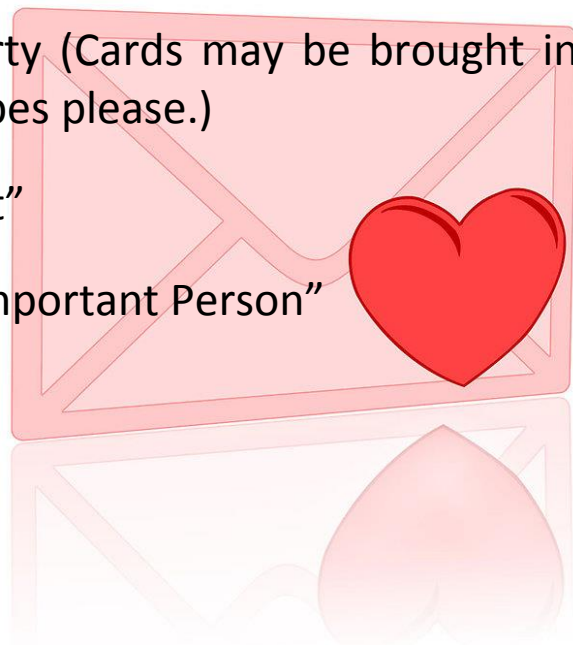
Here are some activities we have coming up:

Friday, Feb. 9th—Share about a favorite activity

Wednesday, Feb. 14th-Valentine's Party (Cards may be brought in Feb. 13th or 14th. No names on the envelopes please.)

February 16th-Share a "Mystery Object"

Feb. 21st-23rd - Share about a "Very Important Person"



First Grade News:

Our First Graders had an exciting “Tour of Asia”. During this unit, we read both fiction and non-fiction stories about Asia. The children especially enjoyed their Asia Art day while on their field trip to the Arvada Center. We also celebrated the end of our Asia unit with a wonderful lunch from Kokoro!

We are now studying the animal kingdom. The children will learn the basic “likes and differences” of animals in the various animal classifications. In addition the children will learn the characteristics of living and non-living things. A lot of non-fiction reading will be included in the unit so the children will gain a good understanding of reading for meaning as well as beginning research skills. To enhance our animal unit we will have the Denver Zoo Outreach Program come to our school. The animal discovery educator will talk about animal classification and bring an animal from each group that we will be able to see.



phillipmartin.info

We are finishing up our science unit on Pebbles, Sand and Silt. Our investigations centered on the properties of rocks and the uses of various rocks sizes (pebbles, gravel, sand, silt and clay). We will have a geologist visit us soon as well.

Hello 2nd Grade Families,

We hope everyone has had a wonderful start to 2018! In Bridges math, we have been working on measurement and learning to measure in standard and nonstandard units. We have started a science unit on balance and motion, and the kids have been learning about the center of balance, counterweights, and forces that set objects in motion. In literacy, we are reading nonfiction and learning about nonfiction text features. We have been working on the format for writing organized paragraphs that include a topic sentence, details, and conclusion.

We are looking forward to meeting you all for spring conferences. If you didn't receive the invitation from Sign Up Genius, please let your child's teacher know.

On February 12th, the Colorado Ballet will be coming to Cottonwood to help reinforce concepts learned in our balance and motion science unit.



Our grade level Valentine parties are on Wednesday, February 14th at 1:45. Please feel free to join us. Thank you to all of the party parents for your hard work and for organizing the fun event. Thank you for your continued support!

**The 2nd Grade Team,
Rebecca Buell, Kate Howard, Kathy Feeley, and Natalie Morris**

Happy New Year from Third Grade!

Now that our measurement and fraction unit is just about over in math, our next unit of study using Bridges is a return to multiplication, especially as it relates to division. Story problems will play a major role as students encounter two different interpretations of division – sharing and grouping. Thank you for encouraging the memorization of basic multiplication facts (0-9). That is an important skill for all third graders to master now and carry with them to fourth grade and beyond! In addition, students will also be introduced to area – a topic that will be revisited later in the year.

We have enjoyed several great science experiments with the FOSS science kit. Boys and girls observed four soil types and are working to determine from where those particular soil samples may have come. We have learned that soil is composed of earth materials and humus. Students have been learning about physical and chemical weathering of rocks. One activity enjoyed by many was creating a model of a flood zone. We observed the erosion and deposition of earth materials.

Our Valentine's Day celebration will happen on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 14. We ask that children bring a valentine for each child in his/her classroom. Students should sign their name on each card, but they should NOT put their classmate's names on the valentines. If they would like to give cards to friends in other classes, they are certainly welcome to do so. We anticipate sharing lots of love and having great fun together!

Coming up in the first part of March will be parent – teacher conferences. We are looking forward to meeting with you and talking about your child's progress in the near future. Watch for more information and sign-ups as the time draws nearer.

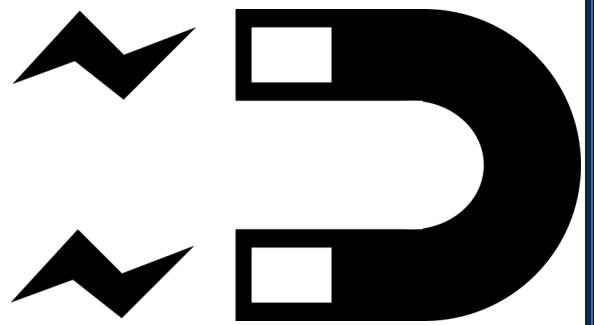
Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help each student be successful!

Fourth Grade

It is hard to believe it is February! We have already been reading so much this year! We have been developing our reading responses and using our thinking strategies to help us with our comprehension. We will be starting a new reading group in February as well, so we will have lots of chances to discuss our reading and write about it.

In writing, we have been busy researching our informational writing about a place in Colorado. The kids have been researching the history, geography, attractions, and local government of their town, and we will take this information and develop a non-fiction book about it. They will have pictures, captions, maps, a glossary, a table of contents, and a lot more. We are excited to be working on this great project!

Our science time has been revolving around magnets and electricity. We have learned about the attraction of magnets and how strong that force can be. We have been experimenting with how to make circuits to get a light bulb to work as well as a motor. Our classes will be talking more about electromagnets and even do some work with Makey-Makeys as the unit progresses.



In math, we have been learning and sharing our addition and subtraction strategies for larger numbers. The kids have been doing a great job with trying new strategies and finding patterns in those strategies. We are proud of the learning and perseverance they have been showing!

Throughout our day, we have been continuing to talk about mindset and how we can use our thoughts to create positivity and growth. This is something we will continue to talk about all year!

We feel so fortunate to have so much support from our wonderful parents!

Thank you!

Fourth grade team

5th Grade

January has flown by and February is banging on the door. Here in 5th grade, we have kept our feet to the ground and will continue to keep on running.

Students have been working hard in all subject areas. In language arts, students have jumped into several novel studies including *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and *The Magician's Nephew*. Students will begin to work on argumentative (persuasive) writing and continue to use other writing skills in their everyday work.

Science has rotated in a new group to learn about Systems in Living Things. Mrs. Singh and Mrs. Derbish are teaching with hands on experiments to promote the scientific method.

Social Studies is digging deep into the Colonial period, the American Revolution, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Mrs. Litschewski and Mr. Waller are bringing to life the wonderful places, events, and people that shaped our country.

Students met with the Campus Middle School counselors to learn about electives. They received a green card to sign up for and get your signature on. In early February, the counselors will return to collect and answers questions with the students.

LAST but not least, HIGH TRAILS planning is in full gear. Mark your calendars for the March 14th meeting at 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the gym. The camp director and Cottonwood staff will be there to give you all the information you need, as well as answer any questions you might have. The overnight tip to High Trails is scheduled for April 30th through May 2nd. This tradition at Cottonwood has been a wonderful outdoor education trip that we are sure your child will enjoy. If you have a teenager at Creek that would like to volunteer for the trip have them email Mr. Waller at awaller@cherrycreekschools.org.

Thanks,

The Fifth Grade Team



Dear Cougar Parents~

Cherry Creek Schools began the school year with new start times designed to support student learning and wellbeing. Since that time, two metro-area districts have followed suit and additional districts are considering doing so.

While existing sleep research indicates the change in start times will have an overall positive effect, we are committed to understanding the impact this

change has on our own students, parents and staff. Thus we are asking students, parents/guardians, teachers, and staff to complete a brief survey about sleep, daily routines, and general wellbeing.

You will receive an email on February 8th with information on the student survey, including opt out instructions. A later email will be sent with instructions on how to access the parent survey. All surveys will need to be completed between February 26th and March 10th.

Thank you in advance for completing the survey, which should take no more than 10-15 minutes. Your feedback is extremely important.

From the Clinic



Flu season is in full swing, and although we have not seen large numbers here at Cottonwood to date, precautions still need to be taken:

- *Get your flu shot! It's not too late!
- *Promote good hand washing with your children and teach them to cover their cough
- *Keep your children at home if they have signs/symptoms of illness
- *Report all cases of suspected or diagnosed flu to the front office or health clinic

Is it a cold or flu?



Signs and Symptoms	Influenza	Cold
Symptom onset	Abrupt	Gradual
Fever	Usual	Rare
Aches	Usual	Slight
Chills	Fairly common	Uncommon
Fatigue, weakness	Usual	Sometimes
Sneezing	Sometimes	Common
Stuffy nose	Sometimes	Common
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common
Chest discomfort, cough	Common	Mild to moderate
Headache	Common	Rare



If you are cleaning out your closet, the clinic is in need of pants for boys and girls sizes 4-12, preferably stretchy or adjustable waist band.

If you have clothes that your child borrowed from the clinic, please return as soon as possible. Thank you!



Cottonwood Creek
Englewood, CO

Newsletter
Issue 16

Cottonwood Creek Café Newsletter

Winter Olympics! Valentine's Day!



Join us Friday, February 9, as we kick off the Winter Olympics. We will be offering Welch's Rips. Students may choose the Rips as their fruit choice with the hot lunch.



Green Eggs and Ham!

Do you like them? Green Eggs and Ham will be offered on Wednesday, February 28, all day! Join us for breakfast as we celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday with fun giveaways! We will still be offering the traditional breakfast of toast and cereal along with the special Green Eggs and Ham. Students may purchase the Green Eggs and Ham during lunch as an a-la cart item.



Contacts: (720)-554-3271
Gretchen Wilkinson, Kitchen Manager
gwillkinson@cherrycreekschools.org
Melodee Clark, Assistant Manager
mbibeauclark@cherrycreekschools.org
Andrea Kadavy, Kitchen Specialist
akadavy2@cherrycreekschools.org

Join us as we celebrate Valentine's Day! We will be offering a heart shaped red sugar cookie to all students purchasing a complete meal. A complete meal must include a fruit or vegetable choice. Feel free to join your students for lunch on February 14! We are serving Blackjack pizza! We will need you to R.S.V.P. by February 7th to the kitchen at 720-554-3271 if you will be joining us. An adult meal is \$4.05. We look forward to celebrating with you and your students!



February Fun!

- National Hot Breakfast Month
- National Snack Food Month
- National Frozen Yogurt Day (Feb. 6)
- National Pizza Day (Feb. 9)
- National Random Acts of Kindness Day (Feb. 17)
- National Chili Day (Feb. 22)
- National Toast Day (Feb. 23)
- National Tortilla Chip Day (Feb. 24)
- National Strawberry Day (Feb. 27)

WALK, BIKE OR ROLL TO SCHOOL

As part of CCSD's Safe Routes to School grant, we encourage you to consider the many benefits of safe, active transportation to and from school for you, your children and our community!

Students who walk, bike or roll to school

- Exhibit increased concentration on academics after getting physical activity
- Help reduce traffic congestion, pollution and stress during school drop off and pick up times
- Are more likely to get the recommended 60 minutes of daily moderate to vigorous physical activity
- Develop a better sense of direction and connection to their community
- Gain confidence and independence when old enough to travel alone or with friends
- Spend quality time with a parent or caregiver when accompanied by an adult

What can you do to support safe, active transportation to and from school?

- Teach children rules of the road, use crosswalks and practice safety at all times
- Always wear a helmet when biking, riding a scooter or skateboarding
- Organize a walking school bus where a group of students meet and walk together with adult supervision
- If you live far away, park a distance from school and walk the rest of the way
- Walk, bike or roll to school at least one day a week with your child or encourage them to go with friends
- Learn more by checking out the links below

Click the topics below for research summaries and more information:

Safe Routes to School Programs

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information

Educating Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Physical Activity and Academic Performance



Apply for Free and Reduced Meals

Online meal applications will be available starting **July 1st, 2016** for School Year 2016-2017.

Visit our website ccsdcafe.org

Please Note: A new application is required each school year.

For further information, please call
Roxanne Hernandez - Food and Nutrition Services
720-886-7172