



THE COUGAR COURIER

December 16, 2016

Cottonwood Creek Elementary
11200 E Orchard Rd
Englewood, CO 80111

Dear Cougars,

As we wind down 2016, please join me in congratulating our Cottonwood Creek students on a job well-done.

Congratulations, Cougars! Your dedication to growth and your ROARing manner have made the first half of the school year a gift to all of us. We appreciate you and look forward to phenomenal efforts in 2017. Thank you!

Also, we would like to send a special thank you to the Second Grade class for a fantastic, festive performance. Under the guide of Mrs. Lavrisha and the Second Grade teachers, they shared an amazing musical performance about being good to one another...a fabulous holiday message. Wonderful job, Second Grade!

As we acknowledge members of our Cottonwood Creek family, please join me in nominating a Cougar staff member for *CCSD Teacher of the Year*. Cherry Creek staff members who are in their fifth(+) year of employment are eligible to be selected for this honor. While not all staff members embrace the opportunity, each and every COT staff member deserves our celebration. ***Thanks, Cougars!*** We will move one nominee from Cottonwood Creek forward in the *CCSD Teacher of the Year* process. Members of our amazing PTO will support the identified staff member through the process. Between now and December 31, parents and staff have the opportunity to vote for a representative from Cottonwood Creek. Please click on the link below to identify the candidate you wish to support. The candidates include:

- Natalie Morris, 2nd Grade Teacher
- Tori Kark, 1st Grade Teacher
- Amy Bainbridge, GT Teacher
- Erin Wehrle, 2nd Grade Teacher
- Rebecca Buell, 2nd Grade Teacher
- Royce Wiersma, 4th Grade Teacher
- Kristina Layman, 4th Grade Teacher
- Becky Arnett, 1st Grade Teacher
- Angela Lang, Kindergarten Teacher
- Michele O'Brien, 1st Grade Teacher
- Megan Schultz, 4th Grade Teacher

To vote, click on the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScPkrzfzldprQn5NcK_r2ppYzmiCsAA8oUm_y5IFd-EX6lpw/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

Have a safe and enjoyable winter break. Happy holidays!

Take care,

Julie

Julie Jaeger, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

January

- 3 Back to School after Winter Break
- 6 Western Wear Day
- 11 5th grade Field Trip: Symphony
9:15am-2:00pm
- 13 1st Grade Field Trip: Arvada Center
9:15am-1:30pm
- 16 NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Jr.
- 25 Campus Middle School Visit to 5th
Grade 1:30-2:30pm
- 31 Battle of the Books
Gym 3:40-5:00pm

Important 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



Snow Delay and Closure Line

720-554-4701

<http://www.ccsd.k12.co.us/SchoolStatus/>



Winter Break 12/19-1/3 !



THE WINTER BACKGROUND BY TOLCHIK WWW.CRETOCK.COM

Community Information Corner

Many of our community partners share information with us. To access information from the following organizations, please visit the Cottonwood Community Information Corner at the entrance of the school:

Science Matters

Bike Path Learning: Foreign Languages

Young Rembrandts

Destination Imagination

Boys Scouts of America

Chess Club

Tae Kwon Do

Challenge School is a K-8 magnet school in Cherry Creek School District charged with the mission of meeting the needs of academically advanced and motivated students. Any student in the district may apply to Challenge. Challenge School is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year. Applications are accepted online only until midnight on January 18, 2017.

More information and the online application may be found at:

<http://challenge.cherrycreekschools.org/Pages/Prospective-Students.aspx>

Kindergarten News:

Our Thanksgiving feast was so much fun! The students looked adorable in their costumes. A special thank you to all the volunteers who helped us both donating food/supplies and also serving and cleaning up!

Your children's growth in reading and writing is quite amazing. They are really developing a large sight word vocabulary as well as learning strategies for what to do when they come to an unknown word. They are also beginning to apply their sight word knowledge in their writing.

In math we have spent time sequencing numbers, counting forwards and backwards to/from 30, counting forward from any given number, combining numbers to make 5, position words, and geometric shapes such as trapezoid, hexagon, triangle and square.

In Science, we wrapped up our Animals 2X2 Unit looking at goldfish/guppies, red worms/night crawlers, 2 kinds of water snails, and pill bugs/sow bugs. Your child learned many amazing facts and had so much fun with the hands on science experiments.

We hope you all have a safe and fabulous winter break!! Remember to spend some family time reading!

Snow is falling
and books are
calling ...

First Grade News:

We are in the middle of our study of Asia. In the days prior to our 'flight' to Japan the children were very busy preparing for their trip. They packed a suitcase and made passports. We boarded a pretend flight to Japan on Friday, December 2nd.

We have been learning a lot about the geography and culture of several Asian countries. We have been comparing features of Asian cultures such as food, music, school, clothing and family life with that of our American culture. This is an exciting unit and the children really get involved.

The first grade team would like to wish you all a Happy Holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Second Grade News:

Hello 2nd Grade Families! Thank you all for this amazing week before the winter break!

We are so proud of how well our 2nd graders performed in their *Gingerbread Musical* this week. Thank you for the time you spent helping them learn their lines and get ready to perform. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to organize and give our 2nd graders a fantastic winter party. It's a perfect way to start the holiday break!

When we return to school on Tuesday, January 3rd, we will be starting a new science unit on balance and motion. Tying into our science unit, we will be learning about how to write non-fiction science lab reports. In reading we will be talking about the purpose of nonfiction text features. We will be building our background and comprehension of nonfiction text features as we prepare for an animal research project we will begin in February. We have wrapped up Bridges Unit 3 in math. In Unit 4, students will explore measurement from multiple entry points. We will be looking at how to measure in inches, feet and yards. We will also be learning about ratios and proportional reasoning.

The 2nd Grade Team wishes you all of very fun, safe and festive holiday break. Please take this time to relax, unwind and enjoy time with family and friends. It's the perfect time of year to also cuddle up with some hot chocolate and a good book! Thank you for having amazing children and being such a special part of our lives this year. Happy Holidays and here's to a wonderful 2017! Love, Rebecca Buell, Kathy Feeley, Kate Howard, Natalie Morris & Erin Wehrle

Third Grade News:

It certainly was a busy time in third grade during December. Thank you to everyone for your support with the typing homework. We have seen great improvements in the students' typing skills in such a short amount of time. Thanks for helping us out in this matter - it will only benefit your student in the long run.

In math, we finished a unit on multi-digit addition and subtraction. As you know, skills learned in math are never really finalized. During Unit 4 in Bridges, we will be working with measurement and fractions. Students will learn to measure time, mass, and volume, as well as comparing and ordering fractions. At home, students should continue practicing basic multiplication facts (0-9). Knowing these facts with quick recall will definitely ensure success in math.

Using the FOSS Science, we wrapped up our study of Rocks and Minerals. Before the next Foss Science unit arrived, students have been learning about the Southeast region of the United States. After the Winter Break, we will resume science with the Life Cycles Unit. Students will learn about plants, crayfish, and the human skeleton.

We hope everyone has a restful and safe Winter Break. We look forward to seeing you in 2017!



Fourth Grade News:

Wow! How is it already Winter Break?! Time sure is flying in fourth grade. We have been very busy, but having a lot of fun! The 4th grade Winter Party was a blast! Thank you to the parents who helped coordinate everything!

Reading: We finished up our book clubs and literature circles. The kids did such a great job digging deep into their books and discussing their reading in authentic ways. We have been exploring the thinking strategies of making connections, making inferences, questioning, and determining importance. We are so proud of all their hard work!

Writing: The kids' descriptive writing of "In December" turned out wonderful. We looked at the mentor text "In November" by Cynthia Rylant to explore figurative language and sensory images. The kids did a great job applying these in their writing. Look for their "In December" poem to come home! We will be starting our informative writing unit after break. Kids will research about an important landmark or place in Colorado and write a nonfiction book about their research.

Math: 4th graders have wrapped up Unit 3 on fractions and decimals and will be moving on to Unit 4 after break. The kids showed a strong conceptual understanding of what fractions and decimals mean, how to add and subtract them, and how to compare them. After break, we will be exploring numbers in higher place values, rounding, and addition and subtraction strategies using larger numbers.

Science/Social Studies: We have been learning a lot about Colorado history such as the fur trade, Gold Rush, and settlers. After break, we will take a break from social studies and start our science unit on Magnetism!

We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and a very happy New Year! See you in 2017!

The 4th Grade Team!

Happy Holidays!

Fifth Grade News:



A brisk cold windy and snowy day
Has pushed December right our way
Your kids have been busy in work and play
And here are some words they have to say.

I like how we switch classes for different subjects. A. Maynard

I love 5th grade because of the stuff we are learning this year. I have enjoyed the classes we have done. I like how we go to different classes. A. Campbell

I love 5th grade because of the teachers, all my friends, and all the fun things we learn. J. Glover

I love 5th grade because of the new subjects and all the new teachers and classrooms to explore. B. Zhu

I like how we switch classes because we get to know other teachers. M. Hu

I love 5 grade because I like all of the teachers and the things I have learned. J. Leach

I have enjoyed learning about how the colonists won their liberty from Great Britain. J. Ogren

I like how jokes are incorporated into our learning. It makes me enjoy learning so much more, and want to learn so much more. T. Kraetzer

I like my friends in 5th grade. P. McCarthy

I like how we switch for math and science. F. Pallai

I love 5th grade because it pushes me to do my best and work really hard. H. Park

What I love about 5th grade is all of the teachers and all of the fun things that we do. M. Ricketts

I have enjoyed learning all the different kinds of poetry. E. Threlkeld

I love the teachers and all the subjects I learn about. I have enjoyed learning about math and social studies. D. Silva

I have enjoyed getting together with my classmates in the reading corner in LA and reading some novel studies. It is really fun for me and it helps me think about the story more. D. Dwyer

I love fifth grade because teachers make me laugh. L. Shineman

I like how every teacher teaches with seriousness mixed with a little humor which makes them all my favorite. A. Kasu

I love 5th grade because there are all wonderful teachers that teach all types of subjects and plus, we have round squishy chairs! J. Taylor

I like how we get to sit on workout balls. I have enjoyed learning social studies. D. Holyer

I love 5th grade because all the teachers are so nice and they teach us awesome things. M. Haas

I have enjoyed learning about the everyday history in the mornings. A. Mandock

I like how we can switch to different classes. T. Grillo

I like how in social studies we watch videos to get a visual picture of what is happening in that time. E. Park

I love 5th grade because I have great friends that are fun, nice, and made my transition easy.

C. Mohr

I like how in math my teacher is always going over things that we don't understand. He teaches math in a way that makes me want to learn anything I can about math. C. Cecil

I love 5th grade because we go to specials in the morning, I have enjoyed learning about poetry, and I like how the teachers teach in a fun way. S. Himel

Thank you for the wonderful children you share with us each day. We hope that you enjoy your winter break full of life, laughter, and love. 2017 is right around the corner and it is our hope that your son or daughter will be ready to meet the New Year with vigor.

The Fifth-Grade Team





LOCATION:
Timberline Elementary
5500 S. Killarney Street
Centennial 80015

[CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)

DATES AND TIMES:
Tuesdays
January 10, 17, 24 & 31
February 7 & 14
5:00 – 7:00 pm

FACILITATORS:
Ms. Tyra Chambers,
School Psychologist
Dr. Cindy Stevens
Schppert,
School Psychologist

Cherry Creek School District psychologists, social workers and counseling staff present the Guiding Good Choices program throughout the district year-round. Guiding Good Choices is nationally recognized as a Model Program by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Think: Kids

Rethinking Challenging Behavior Using Collaborative Problem Solving

A new parenting approach to prevent and solve behavior challenges

Who should take this class?

- » Do you struggle with parenting a child who, in spite of his or her best intentions, seems to lack the ability to cope with frustration, perceived injustice or stress?
- » Does your child's emotional roller coaster leave you feeling drained and angry on a daily basis?
- » Do you find that discipline strategies that work well for most kids only seem to make the problem worse for yours?
- » Does your child get "stuck," seemingly unable to move on or think about things in a flexible manner?

If so, then this class is for you!

What is Collaborative Problem Solving?

The guiding philosophy of this approach is "Children do well if they can." The goal of Collaborative Problem Solving is to teach children and adolescents and adults how to work toward mutually satisfactory solutions to problems underlying difficult behavior. The approach is based on the belief that children's difficult behavior is often the byproduct of a delay in the skills of flexibility, adaptability, and frustration tolerance. This research based approach emphasizes a proactive focus on solving and preventing problems before they occur instead of focusing on rewards, consequences or time-outs to manage children's behaviors.

COST: \$20 Includes light snacks and class materials.

Full Scholarships available for families who receive free and reduced lunches.

Space is Limited!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

QUESTIONS?

EMAIL: lkoenig2@cherrycreekschools.org
PHONE: 720-554-4247



Dedicated to Excellence
Cherry Creek Schools

**Happy
New Year!**

The image features the text "Happy New Year!" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are three-dimensional and have a slight shadow. The text is decorated with numerous colorful streamers or ribbons in various colors including green, purple, pink, brown, black, yellow, and blue. These streamers are draped and twisted around the letters, creating a festive and celebratory appearance. The entire graphic is set against a plain white background and is enclosed within a thin blue rectangular border.