



## THE COUGAR COURIER

February 27, 2017

Cottonwood Creek Elementary  
11200 E Orchard Rd  
Englewood, CO 80111

Dear Cougars,

Throughout the week, our teachers will be hosting conferences at Cottonwood Creek. We absolutely love this week as we get to celebrate the strengths and growth of our fabulous Cougar students. Thank you for your partnership in your child(ren)'s education. GO COUGARS!

Cottonwood Creek's ROAR Team would like to celebrate the excellence of the following parents for their fantastic contributions to our school community:

- Tammy Damrath – Cougar Cruiser Running Club coordinator, classroom mom, and fabulous volunteer; our CC running club is phenomenal, and we ALL—big and small--benefit from Tammy's active, outgoing nature; *Tammy, we celebrate you as a ROAR parent of the month...thank you!*
- Darcy Kinnersley – PTO Teacher Chance lead, amazing volunteer; Darcy embraced *Teacher Chance* and truly prioritized the 'community aspect' of the event; *Thank you for making the event visible to kids, successful and fun! Darcy, we celebrate you as ROAR parents of the month...thank you!*
- Annette Weiner – PTO Box Top chair, fantastic volunteer; Annette seeks opportunity to support our Cougar students in many ways; *Annette, we celebrate you as a ROAR parent of the month...thank you!*

At the March 13 Cherry Creek School District Board of Education meeting, our Cottonwood Creek Elementary School community will be acknowledged by the Colorado State Board of Education. We received the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award for outstanding academic growth during the 2015-2016 school year. Additionally, we received the John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award for outstanding academic achievement. These designations are granted based on exceptional performance as measured by the state assessment—CMAS/PARCC. Go COUGARS!

As warmer weather starts breaking in, please remember the following for the safety and welfare of our students:

**ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE** - The safety of students at Cottonwood Creek is of primary concern to all personnel at school. Students are asked to arrive at school no earlier than 8:45 A.M. and are encouraged to leave by 3:45 P.M. Prior to 8:45 A.M. and after 3:45 P.M., no outside supervision is available. To ensure your student's safety, please support our efforts to have them on school grounds when supervision is available. Additionally, the playground by Kindergarten is not available to the public as our Kids' Club will be using it. Thank you!

Please remind your child to exhibit safe behavior when coming to and leaving from school:

## Safe Walk Plan To and From School

- Walk on sidewalks or facing traffic if you must walk where there is no sidewalk.
- Cross only at marked crosswalks or at street corners.
- Look both ways for traffic and cars turning before crossing the street.
- Walk, rather than run, even if you think you may be late for school.
- Encourage students to walk in groups and not alone.

## Bikes at School

- Students are welcome to ride their bicycles to school.
- Students are required to wear safety helmets when riding their bicycles.
- Students must walk their bikes in pedestrian traffic and while on school grounds.
- Students must park their bikes in the bicycle racks provided and secure them with a lock.
- The school will not be responsible for damaged or stolen bikes.
- Students may not ride their bikes during the school day, such as at recess or lunch.
- The consequence for failure to respect these important rules will be temporary or permanent loss of bike riding privileges.

## Skateboard, Rollerblade, and Scooter Safety

- Roller blades are not to be worn on school grounds.
- Students may “blade” to school, but should remove the rollerblades at the edge of school property and place them in a backpack until the end of the school day. The same policy applies to skateboards.
- Helmets must be worn while skateboarding or rollerblading.
- Scooters must be walked when on school grounds.
- Students must be able to fold them up and carry them into school to be stored in an appropriate place that does not cause a safety hazard.

## Car Safety

- Please remember that precious cargo is being delivered and picked up each day. To keep the line of traffic moving, **please pull forward to the end of the straight-away (East corner of parking lot by pool) using the right lane. Do not drop-off/pick-up on Orchard next to the loop as our busses park here and it inhibits the flow of our drop-off/pick-up loop.** Once your child has exited the vehicle using a **curbside door**, please use the left lane to move forward at a safe pace. A School Resource Officer from the Arapahoe Sheriff’s Office frequently monitors traffic at our school. Please adhere to all street signage. When dropping off or picking up students, it is critical that we all observe common safety procedures. Contact the main office with any questions or concerns you have regarding pick up and drop off times.

Enjoy your conferences with our fabulous teachers!

Take care,

*Julie*

Julie Jaeger, Principal

# IMPORTANT DATES

## March

- 1 Hilarious Hat Day  
Cat in the Hat visit to K-2nd
- 2-3 NO SCHOOL: CONFERENCES
- 9 Cherry Creek Schools Foundation GALA
- 10 SOCK HOP  
Cherry Creek High School 6:00-8:00p
- 13 Class and Individual spring pictures
- 16 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip: History Colorado
- 17 Happy St Patrick's Day
- 23 3<sup>rd</sup> grade program 2:30 & 6:30 pm Gym

## 27-31 Spring Break



LOST and FOUND

WILL BE EMPTIED

AT 8:00AM ON TUESDAY MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>.

ALL ITEMS WILL BE DONATED AT THAT TIME

## 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

**SCHOOL HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**



**Snow Delay and Closure Line**

**720-554-4701**

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

## 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

Girl Scouts

Chess Club

Tae Kwon Do

### *From the Clinic...*



*The cold, dry air is back and with it comes chapped hands and cracked lips! Please send your child to school with hand cream, lip balm, and water bottles so that they can minimize their clinic visits and maximize their classroom time!*



*Thank you!!*

*Nurse Barb*



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

## **MUMPS ALERT**

### **Important Notice to Parents and Guardians**

*February 10, 2017*

The school administration would like to inform you about an increase in mumps cases in Colorado. As of February 8, there have been 27 cases of mumps in Colorado, and this number is expected to grow. In order to minimize the spread of mumps in schools, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has asked us to provide the following information.

Mumps is a viral infection that causes painful swelling of one or more salivary glands, a low-grade fever, and headache. Typically, persons with mumps have swelling of the parotid gland located in the cheek area near the ear and at the back angle of the jaw. Some people with mumps infection will have no symptoms at all. Severe complications from mumps are rare, but can include swelling of the brain, inflammation of the ovaries or testicles, or deafness.

Mumps is spread by coughing and sneezing or direct contact with the saliva of an infected person, such as by sharing cups or eating utensils. Symptoms of mumps usually develop 16 to 18 days after being around someone with mumps. People infected with mumps can spread the virus from 2 days before through 5 days after gland swelling develops.

**Please contact your child's healthcare provider if your child develops any swelling of the glands around the ears or neck. If the health care provider thinks your child has mumps, he/she can be tested for mumps and must stay home for 5 days after gland swelling begins.**

All students (kindergarten through 12th grade) are required to have two *valid* doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine for school entry, unless a vaccine exemption has been filed. MMR vaccine is usually given at 12-15 months of age with another dose given at school entry (4-6 years of age). Persons born prior to 1957 probably had mumps disease and are likely immune to mumps.

Please review your child's immunization record to make sure your child has the right number of valid MMR vaccinations (1 vaccine if in pre-school and 2 vaccines if in kindergarten through college). If you need assistance locating your child's immunization record, contact your healthcare provider or call the Colorado Immunization Information System at 303-692-2437 or 1-888-611-9918. Contact your child's health care provider or local health department if your child needs an MMR vaccination.

People who have received two doses of the MMR vaccine are about nine times less likely to get mumps than unvaccinated people when exposed to mumps. However, some people who receive two doses of MMR can still get mumps, especially if they have prolonged, close contact with someone who has the disease. If a vaccinated person does get mumps, they usually have less severe illness than an unvaccinated person.

**If mumps affects your school and your child is not appropriately vaccinated, he/she could be excluded from school for 25 or more days depending on how many people have mumps at the school.**



# Kindergarten

The month of February has been a party kind of month. We celebrated our 100th Day of school. It's hard to believe we've already been in kindergarten this long. We also had a great Valentine's Party. A big thank you goes out to our party moms and volunteers for being so organized and helping us have a great time.

The students did a wonderful job with their "show and teach" assignments. We were impressed with how well prepared they have been. Thank you for practicing with them at home.

This month for Science, we have been learning all about wood. We have learned about several types of wood and about what items are made of wood. We have also been seeing what happens when wood gets wet and also how we can change the shape of wood.

In language arts, we are busy, busy, busy reading and writing. The students are amazing us with their progress! We look forward to seeing you at conferences and sharing with you how much they have grown!

# 1st Grade

We are looking forward to meeting with all of you during conferences! Sharing your child's progress is a time for celebration!

In First Grade we have been learning all about animals. From mammals, birds, and fish to reptiles and amphibians, it has been many weeks full of great learning and fun! We will even have a visit from the Denver Zoo!

We have finished 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.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE

Hello Second Grade Families!

It is hard to believe that second trimester conferences are this week. We are looking forward to discussing your child's progress in second grade with you.

We are well into writing our nonfiction reports on rainforest animals. We have done research in the library and are now using our notes to write a multi-paragraph report that includes a variety of text features that we have learned during reading nonfiction texts. Students will also write an alliteration poem about their rain forest animal.

We are in the middle of Unit 5 in Bridges math. Kids are working on place value to 1000's, critical thinking, and problem solving. We continue working on our Balance and Motion science unit. Students are learning about the motion of spinning, direction of forces, and how objects roll in different ways. We are continuing to learn cursive, which the kids love!

Thank you for all of your continued support. We look forward to meeting with you during conferences.

Take care,

Rebecca Buell, Kathy Feeley, Kate Howard, Natalie Morris & Erin Wehrle.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

We are enthusiastic about our study of biographies. The books chosen by the students represent a variety of accomplishments. This is such an eye opening experience that shows the students the many possibilities that life has to offer. Thank you for your support at home with the reading of the book and the notes. It promises to be an educational and fun event. In addition to our study at home and at school of biographies and famous people, students are working in music to create a special evening of musical enjoyment for you. Please plan to be with us on **Thursday, March 23, at 6:30 P.M.** as students will be sharing a **musical production** of the many things they have learned..

In math, we are studying multiplication, division, and area. Of course, memorization of basic multiplication and division facts is important right now, too. Thank you for your support in this area.

We have just completed and returned the Structures of Life Module in Science using the FOSS program. This particular module consisted of four investigations dealing with observable characteristics of organisms. Students learned to identify properties of plants and animals and to sort and group organisms on the basis of observable properties. Students watched plants grow from seeds and observed the plant's life cycle. Crayfish were studied and observed as part of an animal's life cycle. In addition, students investigated the food chain and studied skeletal systems using bones, images, and models.

Third graders have certainly been busy all year preparing for the upcoming state tests. Testing will begin in April after Spring Break. Specific dates for testing will be posted throughout Cottonwood communications. Once dates are posted, please plan in advance to keep these dates free from doctor's appointments, vacations, or other interruptions in the school day.

We look forward to this week as we share the many successes of your student during the parent / teacher conferences coming up. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to meet and talk with us.



# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

It is hard to believe conferences are this week! In reading, we have been discussing our thinking strategies and using those to help improve our comprehension and discussions about books. We have started our next book clubs, and the kids have been busy reading, writing their thinking, responding to their books, and sharing with other kids.

In writing, we have been busy working on our informational books about Colorado. We have finished up our writing and are editing and starting to put our books together. The kids have done such a great job with developing their categories and adding non-fiction text features to their writing. We can't wait to share the final product!

Our science time has wrapped up, and we are moving back to our study of Colorado. We will focus on the Colorado government, economics, and civics. This will be our final study into our Colorado unit.

In math, we have been studying geometry. Our learning has been focusing around measuring angles and the different types. Our vocabulary around polygons is growing as we learn all about parallel lines, interior angles, congruent shapes, and a whole lot more! We will end our unit by doing a lot of work with area and perimeter.

Throughout our day, we have been continuing to talk about mindset, mindfulness, and executive functioning. Ask your child what they have been learning in these areas! They have been doing great!

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

Thank you!

Fourth grade team

# 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Dear Parents,

We have been working hard in fifth grade and we are pleased by the student's dedication and hard work. In language arts we are working on opinion writing piece. In math we are completing unit 4 (Multiplication). In this unit we learned various strategies of multiplication numbers. Such as; Ratio Tables, The Area Model, Using Quarters, Over and Under, Doubling & Halving, and Algorithm. When working with your child on these skills at home, please encourage them to practice the new strategies they have learned in class rather than relying on the ways that you learned as a student. In Social Studies we are learning about Bill of Rights, Our Constitution, Westward Expansion, and Civil War. In Science we are finishing Mixtures and Solution and we will be working on new unit on Weather and Climate. Some of the important dates in fifth grade; Report cards going home 2/24/16, High Trail Meeting for parents on 3/16/16. Please look for report cards coming home on 2/24/16. It is hard to believe it is that time of the year for our Parent Teacher conferences which is the week of 2/27/16---3/2/16. We are looking forward to meeting with you and talking about your child's progress. Please check our lost and found whenever you get a chance. Thanks to all the parents for great help during our Valentin's Day Party. It was a great success.

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

Fifth grade Team.



Cottonwood Creek  
Centennial, CO

Newsletter  
Volume 6

## Cottonwood Creek Café Newsletter

### Fruit of the month

Strawberries are our fruit of the month. Strawberries are a member of the rose family. They are the only fruit with its seeds on the outside. On average, there are 200 seeds per berry.

Eight strawberries will provide 140% of the recommended daily intake of Vitamin C for kids.

### Green Eggs and Ham

Join us for breakfast on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We are celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday and Crazy Hat Day! Get some yummy Green Eggs and Ham for breakfast and check out Ms. Sonia, Ms. Gretchen and Ms. Andrea's crazy hats.

Valentines Day was super fun! Thanks to everyone who ate with us that day.



### Menus

Need more info on our menus, allergens or nutritional values?

Check out [www.CCSDCAFE.org](http://www.CCSDCAFE.org)

Contacts: (720)-554-3271  
Sonia Sands, Kitchen Manager  
[ssands@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:ssands@cherrycreekschools.org)  
Gretchen Wilkinson, Assistant Manager  
[gwilkinson@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:gwilkinson@cherrycreekschools.org)  
Andrea Kadavy, Kitchen Specialist

### National School Breakfast Week March 6<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>

Get your Breakfast Punch Card when you eat breakfast with us and get entered in a drawing for a prize. Each day you eat breakfast, you increase your chance of winning a prize!

\*We encourage you to try our yummy breakfast items.

\*We would love to see parents come eat with their students!



INVEST **IN** SUCCESS

# GALA

**FOOD** **BEER TASTING** **DRINK**  
**AUCTIONS** **TICKET**  
**FOOD** **STUDENT** **PRICE \$150**  
**PERFORMANCES**

MARCH 9, 2017



Cherry Creek Schools  
Foundation

[www.ccsdfoundation.org/gala2017](http://www.ccsdfoundation.org/gala2017)



February 21, 2017

Good Morning,

Good news, we have officially started Preschool Roundup for the 2017-2018 school year. Please share this information with your staff and with your community. The link for information on how to register for Preschool is below.

**Preschool Facts:**

- 4 days a week, M-Th
- AM sessions and PM sessions
- 1:8 adult to child ratio
- Special Educators support every classroom
- 23 sites with 81 total classrooms
- 1800+ Preschool students
- Many sites fill to capacity quickly so register soon
- Tuition is \$340 per month. In district or out of district kids are both welcome
- 500 Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) slots for students/families who have certain risk factors
  - CPP -No tuition fee for qualifying students.
  - CPP -Must live in CCSD
- Special Education services for children who qualify (SPED)
  - SPED - no tuition fee
  - SPED - <http://earlychildhood.cherrycreekschools.org/Pages/Child-Find-Special-Education.aspx>

**To enroll in Preschool start here:**

1. Will your child be 3 years old by August 15, 2017?
  - i. YES - please continue to the next question
  - ii. NO - then visit our web page 2 weeks prior to your child's 3rd birthday to register for preschool. Children under 3 cannot be in our classrooms due to licensing requirements. You can stop here, we cannot register your child at this point in time.
2. Will your child be 5 on October 1, 2017?
  - i. NO - please continue to the next question
  - ii. YES - then your child is kindergarten age and qualifies to register for kindergarten. Children who are kindergarten age should not be in our preschool due to licensing requirements. Please visit the Cherry Creek School District web page for more information about kindergarten registration. You can stop here, we cannot register your child at this point in time.
3. Is your child receiving services from Developmental Pathways, or are they identified with special education needs?
  - i. NO - please continue to the next section.
  - ii. YES - please follow through with the Child Find Evaluation. That is the process that will register your child for preschool. You can stop here, we cannot register your child at this point in time.



## The Making of Boys to Men

*What does it take to raise a great boy these days?*

Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:15 - 11:15 a.m.

Come hear Nick Jackson, founder of The Boys School of Denver, speak about what boys need emotionally, socially and physically as they journey from kids to young men. Jackson will discuss:

- Fitting in vs. belonging — why it matters
- Helping boys figure out who they are and their place in the world
- The importance of movement to learning
- Overcoming gender stereotypes that inhibit growth
- Building enthusiasm in boys for school and learning



Jackson brings an M.A. in Educational Leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University and 9 years of teaching experience to The Boys School of Denver, Denver Public Schools' first all-boys school, which will open this fall. Parents, school administrators and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend PIN's presentations. No need to RSVP—just come! Presentations are FREE and are held the first Tuesday of each month at:

### Student Achievement Resource Center (SARC)

14188 E. Briarwood Avenue, Centennial

(South of Arapahoe Rd., between Potomac and Jordan Roads)

Visit [www.PINccsd.org](http://www.PINccsd.org) for Podcasts and Meeting Highlights

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

April 4<sup>th</sup> Visual Processing Beyond 20/20: Improving Academics, Sports & Confidence

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Brunch, held offsite: Dr. Leonard Sax, "Instagram is Eating My Daughter...and My Son Won't Stop Playing Grand Theft Auto"