

IMPORTANT DATES:

October

- 10 & 11 2nd Grade Field Trip
Wings over Rockies
- 11 Accountability Meeting 3:45pm
- 12 Cultural Connections Meeting 8:00am
- 13 CCSF Cardboard Challenge
Smokey Hill High School 4:30-7:00pm
- 17 School Picture Retakes
- 21 3rd grade Field Trip: Downtown tour

24-29 FALL BREAK!!

- 31 Horrific Hair Day
Dress as your favorite book Character

November

- 4 Report cards go home
- 7-11 Conference week
Book fair week
Veterans week
- 12 No School for Students

Important Phone Numbers:

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

Attendance: 720-554-3295

If your child will be absent from school, please call the school absence number by 9:00 a.m. to report the absence.

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.



Attendance is VERY important!

It is difficult for a student to learn if they are not in the classroom. Please encourage your Student to be in school, but don't send them when they are sick.

TARDIES are very disruptive, not only to the late student, but to every student and teacher in the Classroom. School starts at 9:00am. Students should be in their seats ready to learn at that time.

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:

Bike Path Learning: Foreign Languages

Boys Scouts of America

Chess Club

Cottonwood Photography Club

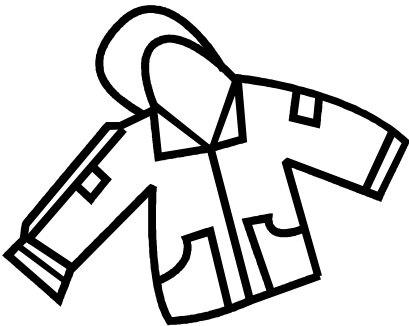
Destination Imagination

Girl Scouts

J.W. Kim Tae Kwon Do

Ritchie Center Youth Programs

Science Matters



Lost & Found

We have already gathered quite a collection of lost jackets, hats, water bottles and other items since school began. Please have your child check the lost and found area outside of the cafeteria to retrieve their lost items .

Also photos of some of the lost and found items have been posted on the PTO webpage <http://cottonwoodcreekpto.com/lost-found/>.

Kindergarten News:

September was a busy month in Kindergarten. We have been working so hard at learning to write our alphabet-both capital and lower case-the "Handwriting Without Tears" way. We have made it through the capital letters!! We would appreciate it if you would reinforce this way of writing with your child at home... especially when they write their name (there is a sample alphabet in the back of their "Kindergarten Daily Folder"). Up to this point, all we cared about was that they COULD write their name where we recognize it. Now we will begin looking for them to write their first name using correct letter formation (STARTING AT THE TOP!) and with a capital at the beginning and the rest lower case letters.

In language arts, we have been doing lots of reading and writing. We have been working hard during writing workshop time and each child has written several stories that they are excited for you to see soon. They are doing such a great job of sounding out words and using their best guesses for spelling. Please continue to practice those sight words-they should be able to instantly recognize AND spell them.

We hope you're enjoying our latest class book- the "I Can I Can Book". Thanks for your encouraging comments-the students really enjoy hearing them. Be watching for "The Leaf Book" to be coming home soon! 😊

The students are SO engaged in their math learning! Hopefully they have shared with you some of the activities we have been doing in class. You can ask them about the shape pattern on the calendar, counting the days in school, "5 frames" and "10 frames", collecting objects, making patterns with Unifix Cubes, Pattern Block designs, counting pennies, Geoboards, Polydrons, "Spill the Beans", "Beat You to Five" game, and what greater than and less than mean. At this point, your child should be able to count orally to 30, write their numbers 1-10, begin to make combinations to five (1+4, 2 +3, etc), as well as identify and draw a circle, square, rectangle and triangle and describe how they know it is that shape. We move a mile a minute, but we are learning a ton and having fun while we do it!

In Social Studies, we have had discussions about location, rules and responsibility using our Scholastic News Social Studies Weekly. We also learned about the U.S. Constitution on Constitution Day. We even made our own Kindie Constitution and Portraits to display. Check it out in the Kindie hallway if you are in the building!

Thank you for continuing to read to/with your child for 15 minutes each night and also for helping them complete and return their homework each week! Don't forget to have them read on RAZ-Kids for at least 15 minutes a week!

Thanks so much!!



First Grade News:

We have certainly come a long way since the beginning of the school year with regard to our sense of responsibility. The children are now becoming quite proficient and self-reliant when it comes to the routines and responsibilities of first grade. Good for them!

Our focus in October will be building sight vocabulary, along with continuing the practice of "tricky word" strategies. We have worked hard on short vowel sounds and consonant blends such as ch, sh, ng, qu, and th. Focusing on the idea that "reading is thinking" is very important to first graders. We are working so hard on figuring out all those sounds and words and sometimes forget the most important part of reading is putting thoughts in our heads. Rereading for fluency certainly helps. Doing short summaries or retells after reading at home is a great way to improve comprehension skills.

Our program is just around the corner! Please mark your calendar for November 17th @ 6:30 pm. Looking forward to seeing you there!

As the fall weather turns to winter, please remind your first grader to wear clothing suitable for the varied weather patterns. Please label your child's belongings. We don't like to have to send down piles of unclaimed and unlabeled items to lost and found.

The First Grade Team



Second Grade News:

Hello Second Grade Families,

We have been having an awesome time in 2nd grade! It was so much fun to see so many of you at the Cottonwood Carnival last week. Thank you to everyone who brought in non-perishable items for our food drive. Thank you to everyone who has sent in money and permission slips for our field trip to The Wings Over the Rockies Museum. Ms. Morris' and Ms. Feeley's classes will be going on the field trip on Monday, October 10th. Since we only have 2 classes traveling on the bus on the 10th, we have room for parent chaperones to ride the bus with the students.

Mrs. Buell's, Mrs. Howard's and Mrs. Wehrle's classes will be traveling to the museum on Tuesday, October 11th. Since 3 classes will be on the bus, we do not have room for parent chaperones to join the students. Teachers will ride the bus with our classes and parent chaperones will need to meet us at the museum. The bus will depart Cottonwood at 9:15 on both days and will return to Cottonwood around 1:00. We will be back at school in time to have lunch in our cafeteria. Your child's teacher will be in touch with the parent chaperones who will be joining us. Each teacher is allowed to bring 6 chaperones. We are so lucky to always have an abundance of parents who are able to volunteer. With this comes the fact that we have to turn some parents down. We pick using the good old "pull from a hat" method. If you are not chosen this time, we will find a way to have you involved and participating with your child's class in the future. Thank you for being so awesome and supportive!

We have finished up Unit 1 in Bridges Math and have started on Unit 2. The focus of Unit 2 is on Place Value and Measurement. Students will identify the place and value of a 3-digit number.

They will read, write, model, and compare 2- and 3-digit numbers. Students will measure and compare lengths of objects. They will model problem-solving strategies on a number line and practice math strategies to add and subtract fluently.

We will finish up our Air and Weather science unit by fall break and start a social studies unit on local and national communities. We are well into our reading and writing workshop hours. In writing we are focusing on how to choose topics to plan for personal narrative stories. Students are learning to organize their thoughts in a plan, write a first draft, and revise and edit their stories. We have finished our first unit in our Spelling By Pattern books and are moving onto Unit 2. Ms. Feeley's class continues to learn spelling using Words Their Way.

The fall weather is looming. Please send your child with appropriate clothing and layers. Our morning outdoor snack break is always a bit chillier than our afternoon lunch recess.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions regarding your child or general 2nd grade information. Thank you for sharing your wonderful kids with us!



Third Grade News:

Third graders have enjoyed learning about our wonderful city! We have been studying historic and contemporary Denver, its' famous people, landmarks, and buildings. We will be able to transfer this learning to the commonalities of cities in our country and around the world. The study of Denver will lead us into the study of the five regions of the United States this school year. The first region we will study covers the Northeast part of our United States. Practice in map reading skills is currently a social studies focus as well.

We are in the process of working in Unit Two of the Bridges in Mathematics program. This unit introduces multiplication by immersing students in a wide variety of multiplicative situations. Students are invited to think of the operation in different ways using a variety of models for multiplication - equal groups, arrays, the number line, and ratio tables. Reliable and efficient strategies are emphasized. The continued use of solving story problems with multiple steps and operations will remain as in the previous addition and subtraction unit.

In the very near future, we will begin a study of matter using the FOSS Science kits. Our objective is to explore soil and weathering, landforms, rocks and minerals, and natural resources.

During the Writer's Workshop, we have been using a notebook as a special place to record our many thoughts, ideas, observations, etc. As we write informational text, we are emphasizing careful proofreading and spelling as well as focusing on supporting ideas with details and examples.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation as we work with your very fine third grade students.



Fourth Grade News:

It is hard to believe it is almost October! We have been already been reading so much this year! During our reading workshop, we have been learning about metacognition, schema, and making connections. We are then taking those skills and using them in our choice reading. We have been busy conferring and recommending books to others and being life-long readers!

In writing, we have been busy drafting our personal essays by adding examples, lists, and mini-stories. The kids have been learning all about how to enhance their reasons by giving good examples and proof. We are excited to be able to share them when they are finished!

Our science time has been revolving around space. We have learned about shadows, the direction the Earth rotates, the moon phases, and how big the sun, moon, and Earth actually are. The kids have enjoyed learning about the solar system and how our seasons and night and day all work! Next, we will be going back to social studies and begin our study of Colorado history.

In math, we have been learning and sharing our multiplication 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



Fifth Grade News:

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are in school for almost six weeks now. We are off to a great start. Students are enjoying the rotations for different classes. Mrs. Litschewski is working on European Explorers, and Mr. Waller is working on Geography and Native Americans in social studies. Mrs. Derbish and Mrs. Singh are working on Systems in Living unit. Students are excited to learn about circulatory system, respiratory system, and digestive system. We also enjoyed the life cycle of butterflies and red worms habitat.

In language arts we are reading various novels and practicing writing pieces on explain and inform this fall. Please keep working with them practicing Wordly Wise. Look for reading logs as they are supposed to read for thirty minutes every night. Along with other homework they are also working on Moby Max at home.

In math, we have been learning and sharing our multiplication and division strategies. The kids have been doing a great job with trying new strategies. Our classes are also learning about factors and prime and composite numbers.

Please check their planners every night for homework and other important assignments. Homework is very important in fifth grade. Thanks for all your help and support. Please feel free to contact us any time you have question or concern. We feel so fortunate to have so much support from our wonderful parents!

What a wonderful beginning to the school year! We are so excited to work with your kids this year, and we look forward to all that we will learn!

Fifth grade team



Picture Retakes

Monday, October 17

Go to Retake Day at no extra charge. Bring your picture package with you to return if you are doing retakes, or if you missed pictures the first time, now is your chance!!



Monday, October 31 is Storybook Character Day

As part of our drive to maintain, promote and engage student interest in reading and celebrate literacy and literature, our school is having a **Storybook Character Day on Monday, October 31st.** On that day, each student is welcome to come to school dressed up as a character from a favorite book. The character must be from a book they have read recently (not just from a movie or cartoon they have watched), and your child should be prepared to describe both the character and the book. Your student must **bring the book on the day of the celebration.** While we understand that some characters in books are traditionally seen with certain props, costumes cannot include masks, weapons, or inappropriate language or content. As on any other day at Cottonwood Creek, Storybook Character attire must meet dress code expectations.

It would be good to discuss with your child different characters from their favorite books. The dressing up possibilities are endless:

Oliver Twist, Fantastic Mr. Fox, Charlie and the Chocolate, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle, Factory, James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, Goldilocks, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Twits, Cinderella, Elmer the Elephant, Three Little Pigs, Harry Potter etc...

Reading different books every evening, in preparation is a wonderful way to extend this literacy-based event! So get thinking and reading! We look forward to seeing your child dressed up for our **Storybook Character Day on Monday, October 31st.**

Renee' Sianko
Teacher/Librarian
Cottonwood Creek





Cottonwood Creek
Centennial, CO

Newsletter
Volume 1

Cottonwood Café Newsletter

Fruit of the Month

Apples are the fruit of the month for October. There are 2,500 varieties of apples grown in the United States. Apples supply lots of fiber. Come and check out some of the ways we will be serving apples this month!

Ms. Sonia, Ms. Loraine, and Ms. Gretchen celebrating the football duck giveaway!



Beach Day

Everyone who buys a lunch on October 6th will receive a prize. Also, there will be plenty of tropical fruit for our Cottonwood Beach Day!

Autumn Breakfast

Visit the kitchen on October 31st for a special autumn breakfast and prize!

Reminders to Students

Please bring lunch money to the cafeteria before 11:00am

New Breakfast Hours

7:30am-9:00am - Come visit us before your morning clubs!

Our New Salads

A mix of fresh romaine and spinach topped to perfection with our variety of vegetables:

1. Turkey bacon
2. Southwest Chicken
3. Chicken Caesar
4. Chef

Makes for healthy lunch choice!



Thank You Cougars!

Contacts: (720)-554-3271

Sonia Sands kitchen manager

ssands@cherrycreekschools.org

Gretchen Wilkinson assistant manager

gwilkinson@cherrycreekschools.org

Ms. Lorraine, Ms. Veronica, and Ms. Linda are our awesome relief workers!

Follow us at Ccsdfns on Instagram

#cottonwood creek elementary



BREAKFAST NOW OFFERED AT 7:30 FOR STUDENT CLUB MEMBERS

ART CLUB

CHOIR

COTTONWOOD CRUIZERS

CUP STACKING

DRILLS FOR SKILLS BASKETBALL



GIRLS ON THE RUN

INTRAMURALS

JUMP ROPE

SPANISH

TEAM SPORTS

WRITING CLUB

SHAPING A CHILD'S IDENTITY

PARENTS CAN INFLUENCE HOW KIDS SEE THEMSELVES



"Can you imagine your child wishing they were someone else?" asked Diana Thompson at PIN's kick-off meeting in September. For any parent who loves their child, that's a painful thought to consider, but one that gets at the heart of a child's struggles with identity and how they see themselves.

Thompson's presentation focused on actions parents can take to move a child with a negative self image to one who is confident and increasingly empowered over time.

Her approach builds on every child's capacity to be a hero (a problem solver), leader (a guide or inspiration to others), and champion (an overcomer of obstacles). In her talk, Thompson explained:



1. Parents can help reframe personality liabilities as assets and tap into the hidden strengths of their child.

2. The importance of replacing negative self-talk ("griptonite") with positive messages that encourage and empower ("scriptonite").

3. The ability of emotions to move a child toward or away from their potential. Emotions are not facts, but need to be diffused and understood before the underlying problem can be solved.

Learn more about how you can help your child shape an identity that sets them on a positive path to the future. Download a free podcast of Thompson's presentation at www.PINccsd.org. Learn more by visiting www.HeroesLeadersChampions.org to read Thompson's blog.



Marijuana, Colorado Law, and Your Kids. Mark your calendar for PIN's next presentation on **Tuesday Oct. 4th at 9:15 a.m.**, or attend a **special evening presentation on Wed. Oct. 5th at 7:00 p.m.** to hear Asst. Attorney General Michael Song and Smart Colorado co-founder Diane Carlson-Robinson explain the state and federal laws surrounding marijuana in the schools and the effect of legalization on Colorado kids. More details at www.PINccsd.org.



CHERRY CREEK SCHOOLS
**PARENT
ACADEMY**

LOCATION:
**Trails West
Elementary School**

DATES:
Nov/Dec on Tuesdays
11/1, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13.
please note there is no class on 11/8.

LOCATION:
The Outback Preschool

DATES:
Jan/Feb on Tuesdays
1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14

TIME:
6:00 – 8:00 pm

[CLICK HERE FOR MAP](#)

COST:
\$30.00 per family –
includes a \$10 workbook fee
(Scholarships available for
families who receive Free &
Reduced Lunch – Call
720-554-4247 for more
information.) Additional costs
of the program are subsidized by
the CCSD Wellness Office.

*Free child care provided on a
limited basis*

Light snacks will be provided

Parenting the Strong-Willed Child

*A clinically proven six-week program for parents of
2-8 year olds. Designed to help you find positive and
manageable solutions to your child's difficult behaviors.*

This program is a modified version of the Parenting the Noncompliant Child program and has earned the highest marks as a *research-based program with proven effectiveness*. Parents who have participated in this class report *improved child behavior at home and school*. Parent-child relationships become more positive.

What you will gain through this approach:

- » Understanding strong-willed behavior problems
- » How to use reinforcement to create a more positive home
- » Specific skills such as ignoring, improving communication, and helping your child solve problems with peers
- » Support with giving directions and developing more patience
- » Effective use of time-outs and how to help build positive self-esteem in your child

About this opportunity:

- » Based on more than **40 years** of collective research
- » Offers a step-wise approach to improving your relationship with your child
- » Allows parents to **focus on specific skills** and practice them with support

Space is Limited!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

QUESTIONS?

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PHONE: 720-554-4247



Dedicated to Excellence
Cherry Creek Schools