

THE COUGAR COURIER

March 2, 2016

Cottonwood Creek Elementary
11200 E Orchard Rd
Englewood, CO 80111

Dear Cougars,

We are in the middle of parent-teacher conferences at Cottonwood Creek. This is an incredible time for celebration, reflection, and planning for all involved. We are so proud of the hard work and gains of our students during the school year! Thank you for making the time to engage in this valuable conversation with the Cougar staff. As a friendly reminder, we do not have students at Cottonwood Creek Elementary School on Thursday and Friday due to conferences. Enjoy the gift of time with your student(s)!

As you plan for upcoming commitments, please consider the following:

- 2nd Grade will take the CoGAT screening assessment during the week of March 14, 2016
- School Accountability Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 8 at 3:45 P.M. in the library
- Cultural Connections Meeting will occur on Friday, March 11 at 8:00 A.M.
- The Parent Meeting for High Trails (5th Grade only) is Wednesday, March 16 at 6:00 P.M. in the Cottonwood Creek gym
- The next PTO meeting is Friday, March 18 at 9:00 A.M. The annual PTO Parent Night Out will occur on March 18 at Valley Country Club—watch for details as **it is a blast!**
- Spring break is March 26 through April 3
- 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade will take the CMAS/PARCC assessment during April. The schedule with specific times/dates is posted on our website

Thank you for your continued support of the numerous events in our Cougar community. It truly is the efforts of all stakeholders that make ‘the magic’ happen for our students. GO COUGARS!

Enjoy the spring weather!

Take care,

Julie

Julie Jaeger, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

March

- 3 Non Contact Day
- 4 Non Contact Day
- 8 Accountability Meeting 3:45pm
- 9 Chick-Fil-A Night
- 10 Choir sings at Denver Nuggets game 7:00pm
- 11 4th Grade Field Trip: History
Friday Frenzy 3:45pm-5:30pm
- 16 Cultural Connections 8:00am Art Room
High Trails Parent Night Gym 6:00-7:00pm
- 18 PTO Meeting 9:00am Cafeteria

Parent Night Out Fundraiser : Valley Country Club
7:00pm-11:00pm

23 & 24 Young Ameritowne for 5th grade



March 28-April 1

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.



Lost & Found



Photos of some of the lost and found items have been posted on the PTO webpage

<http://cottonwoodcreekpto.com/lost-found/>

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 Rembrants

Destination Imagination

Boys Scouts of America

Chess Club

Upcoming Event: "Girls and Science" March 5th at Denver Museum of Nature and Science



Cherry Creek High School is hosting its annual Wish Week on March 7-11. During this week, we hope to raise \$20,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and for the Gabby Krause/Bags of Fun Foundation. This year, we have a Wish Kid named Preston who has Immunodeficiency and wishes to go on a Cruise. We would love the support from your school and were wondering if you would be willing to hang up posters (provided by us), put out donation jars, and spread the word to the student body and parents. How your community gets involved is up to you...we are here to support in any way we can. Our students can come talk to your students or parents, and we can provide online donation links to your families as well.

We also would like to invite you to two events that will benefit Wish Week. The first is our Talent Show which will be held on March 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Tickets will be available in advance at CCHS for \$5 and will also be available at the door for \$7. We are also hosting a restaurant night at Burnt End Barbecue on March 1st. All you have to do is eat there for dinner and mention CCHS Wish Week! They are located at 5332 DTC Blvd #100, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

We are happy to provide any more details you might need or arrange a time to come in and talk to the students about the event. Please contact me or my Student Body Treasurer, Grace Shepard, at gshepard@cherrycreekschools.org.

Thank you so much!

Cherry Creek High School Student Senate

http://site.wish.org/site/TR/WISHDIY/Make-A-WishAmerica?px=3126473&pg=personal&fr_id=1568



Kindergarten News:

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!

First Grade News:



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 even had a visit from the Denver Zoo!

As we conclude our unit on animals, the Iditarod fever is quickly approaching. In the weeks to come the greatest sled race will be moving across Alaska, and so will the First Graders. Each child will be following a musher and will have a team of dogs. We know it will be cold and icy on the trail, but in the end the musher and hardest working dogs will prevail. Stay tuned for the results!

Second Grade News:



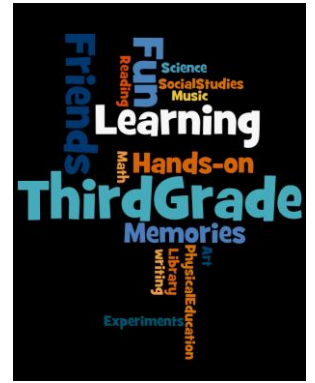
Hello, 2nd-Grade Families! Can you believe that we have come to the end of our 2nd trimester? We sure can't believe how fast it always seems to go. Today, 2nd-grade trimester progress reports are coming home with your students. Please take the time to review the report card and let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to meeting with you at parent/teacher conferences. The spring conferences have always been an optional conference. We certainly welcome meeting with everyone, but if you feel comfortable with where your child is both academically and socially, you may opt out of the conference. Just let your child's teacher know. It was a busy trimester in reading learning about inferring, determining main idea, questioning and non-fiction text features. In writing, we completed opinion letters, scientific lab reports and informational paragraph writing. In math, we worked on measurement, base 10 and place value to 1000, and problem-solving with addition/subtraction and multiplication/division concepts. In social studies, we learned about rural, suburban and urban communities and studied cultures around the world. We also had wonderful parent volunteers come in to teach our Junior Achievement program which touches on part of our personal financial literacy unit.

We will start 3rd-trimester curriculum in early March. In writing, the students will be completing a rainforest animal research project. We will be researching materials in the library and online. Students will apply their learning of informational paragraph writing to their research projects. We will finish the school year with a unit on poetry. In math, we have started Unit 6 on geometry. In reading, we will continue determining importance and main idea, learning about how wise readers visualize as we read and write poetry, and continue our work responding to reading in our writing. We will have one more science unit that starts after spring break on plants and animals. We will have a field trip in May that supports our science unit (more information to come). The kids are really enjoying learning cursive which will continue for the duration of the school year.

Spring in Colorado is always eventful. As you know, we have really warm days and spring snow storms. Please help make sure your child has all the layers they may need in preparation for recess in the spring.

Thank you to everyone for all the wonderful Valentines your child brought in for our Valentine's Day parties. The kids sure love handing out their treats. Thank you for your continued support and all the laughs we share. -The 2nd Grade Teachers

Third Grade News:



We are enthusiastic about starting our study of biographies. Each third grader is in the process of choosing a book about a famous person to read and research. 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 this project. Information regarding the note taking will be sent home in the near future. It promises to be an educational and fun event. A **Wax Museum** will be held on **April 15** at 2:00 as students portray their famous person. 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, April 21, 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.

Third graders have certainly been busy all year preparing for the upcoming *CMAS/PARCC* 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 are enjoying meeting with you as we share the many successes of your student during the parent / teacher conference. Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to meet and talk with us.

Fourth Grade News:



February in fourth grade has been totally terrific as many of our students participated in our fourth grade 100 Random Acts of Kindness, explored amazing tools of early Colorado via our Colorado History SEM programs, and are deeply immersed in some exciting historical fiction books, along with a host of other learning.

In regards to history, students have thoroughly enjoyed recent units on the Colorado silver mining boom, moving from a territory to statehood, and the industrial changes that occurred in Colorado, and how these affected life. Kids loved learning about sugar beet farming and other agricultural industries, as well as range wars between sheep and cattle ranchers. Students learned all about how the railroad brought tourists and ill individuals (tuberculosis) seeking better health out west. Currently, students are studying economics, discovering industries, wants and needs, opportunity cost, human resources, capital resources, and natural resources, along with risk, supply and demand, and consumerism.

Moving on to language arts, students are writing voraciously as they work towards a personal persuasive essay, learning how to add micro stories, organize an essay using boxes and bullets, and, in the end, create an essay with a thesis statement, introductory statement and conclusion! Coming up, we will be taking the PARRC tests in April along with beginning a poetry unit in March/April. Additionally, we are thrilled at the number of students working towards the 20 Book Reading Challenge. The challenge will officially come to a close on Thursday, May 5th. All students invited to the party must have completed 20 chapter books by this date. If your child is working toward the challenge, please mark **Sunday, May 15th** (4:00pm-7:00pm) on your calendar. All students earning the party will attend a barbecue at Mrs. Loehr's home. The teachers are really looking forward to spending time wading the creek, playing yard games, and enjoying an early dinner with the kids.

Soon our students will be studying Sun, Moon, and Planets in science. Students will learn all about revolutions and rotations, the reasons for the seasons, the phases of the moon, and more! It is a fun unit, peaking the interest of many students. This may be a good time to take a family tour with the Denver Astronomical Society held every Tuesday and Thursday night at the University of Denver's Historic Chamberlin Observatory. For more information on the public evenings, which include a presentation and views of the sky via the 28 foot long telescope, go to <http://www.denverastro.org/das/public-nights/> for more information.

4th Continued... Speaking of science, fourth grade will soon host our annual Rock and Mineral Fair. The fair is designed to peak interest in rocks, minerals, and fossils and raise funds for fourth grade special projects like our class pets and more! Along with these goals it also provides a host of students a hands on learning opportunity in consumerism and business (fourth grade financial literacy standards) and serves as a community service project as we will donate approximately one third of our profits to a non-profit charity chosen by students who will be an integral part of the promotion and selling of the items at the rock shop.

The dates for the Rock Shop are April 18-22. Applications have gone out to students who have expressed interest in being a Rock Shop employee. These are due back by Monday, March 7. We look forward to great community support and the learning that goes along with this educational fundraiser for fourth grade.

Fifth Grade News:

5th 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; Class pictures 2/26/16, Report cards going home 2/26/16, High Trail Meeting for parents on 3/16/16. Please look for report cards coming home on 2/26/16. It is hard to believe it is that time of the year for our Parent Teacher conferences which is the week of 2/29/16---3/3/16. 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 Valentine'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

CHERRY CREEK COMMUNITY LEGISLATIVE NETWORK



DAY AT THE CAPITOL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

Members of the Cherry Creek Community Legislative Network
Invite parents, teachers, administrators, and community members
to participate in our annual Day At The Capitol.



- 8:30 a.m. Bus leaves ESC parking lot (SE corner of Yosemite St. & Union Ave.) for the capitol building. Riding the bus is optional, but strongly encouraged as parking is limited.
- 9:00 a.m. Meet in old Supreme Court Chamber, 2nd floor of the Capitol, for a guest speaker.
- 11:30a.m. Legislators will join us for lunch to answer questions. Lunch will be served at the First Baptist Church of Denver, 1373 Grant Street (*across the street from Capitol*).
- 1:00 p.m. Bus departs First Baptist Chapel for the return trip to ESC parking lot.

DAY AT THE CAPITOL RSVP FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR \$12 PAYMENT BY FRIDAY MARCH 11th

CCSD / CHERRY CREEK LEGISLATIVE NETWORK
ATTN: SUSAN MARKER
4700 S. YOSEMITE STREET
GREENWOOD VILLAGE, CO 80111

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NO. OF REGISTRATIONS _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED @ \$12/PERSON _____

DO YOU PLAN TO RIDE THE BUS? (circle one) YES NO

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CCCLN (CHERRY CREEK COMMUNITY LEGISLATIVE NETWORK)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jo Metoyer Moore (Josephine.metoyer@gmail.com) or
Ilana Spiegel (ilanadspiegel@gmail.com)