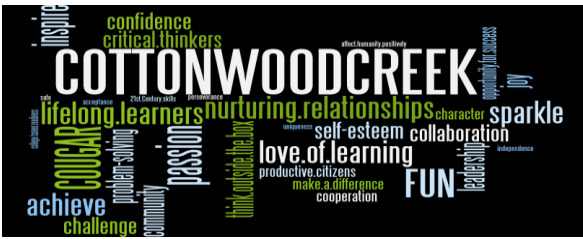


## THE COUGAR COURIER

September 1, 2017

Cottonwood Creek  
11200 E Orchard Rd  
Englewood, CO 80111



Dear Cougars,

Members of our school community often ask how we plan for the varied academic needs of our 628 Cougar students at Cottonwood Creek (COT). In Cherry Creek School District, we utilize professional learning communities (**PLC's**) to plan learning. As a school district, we are committed to this research-based practice. PLC's provide time for teachers to meet together regularly (every Monday at 2:55 P.M. at COT), align learning outcomes, review student evidence, collaboratively problem-solve, and improve instructional practices. PLC's are grounded in Rick DuFour's work and that of other renowned educators. In a professional learning community (PLC), the educators' dialogue is centered around four key questions:

- What do we expect all Cougar students to learn?
- How will we know that they learned it?
- How will we respond if they don't learn it?
- How will we respond if they already know it?

Having consistent, frequent time for PLC's is more essential than ever as the educational demands of our students increase and our school community becomes more varied. *Thank you for supporting our PLC work as we facilitate your learners' growth!*

**DOGS at SCHOOL** ~ As a friendly reminder, *dogs should not be on school property*. While we realize that our dogs are members of our families (mine are named Gizmo and Chewy), we have students who are fearful of dogs and students who have animal allergies. Additionally, our furry family members may leave "packages" which are messy and can inhibit outdoor play. Thanks for your help with this!

**CMAS/PARCC DATA** ~ Individual student reports for CMAS/PARCC of spring 2017 will be sent home next Friday in student folders. A letter will accompany your student's report. If you are interested in discussing the school's CMAS/PARCC data, please join us at *Cottonwood Creek's School Accountability Committee (SAC) meeting at 2:55 P.M. on September 19 in the COT Library*. We will review our preliminary school performance framework (SPF) from the Colorado Department of Education. Additionally, if you have questions about your student's CMAS/PARCC information, please let us know.

Enjoy a long, rejuvenating weekend with your family and friends, and we will see you back at school on Tuesday (*No School on Monday...Labor Day!*)

Take care,

*Julie*

Julie Jaeger, Principal

# IMPORTANT DATES:

## September:

- 1 PTO Meeting 8:00 A.M.
- 4 Labor Day-No School
- 6 Picture Day
- 8 Run4Funds Prize Day
- 15 Dudes and Daughters Dance

## 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/>



# Clubs and Activities

**We have many exciting after-school clubs and activities available for students. Below are some of the options that we will be offering this year, along community partners. Detailed club information is attached to the email.**

Battle of the Books

Choir

Bike Path Learning: Foreign Languages

Young Rembrandts

Destination Imagination

Student Leadership

Boys Scouts of America

Girl Scouts

Band

Chess Club

Tae Kwon Do

Cougar Intramurals

Girls on the Run

Junior Great Books

Math Olympiad

Photography

Rhythmic Gymnastics

Science Matters

Science Action Club

## STEM and Innovation

Hi Cottonwood family! My name is Sarah Hammershaimb and I'm a new STEM teacher and Innovation Coach in our school. Along with Darren Dennstedt, I am also coordinating our Innovation Media center, formerly known as the library. I recently moved to Colorado from the Chicago area where I have worked as an elementary teacher, teacher librarian, and public librarian. I am thrilled to be here, and to be joining such an amazing community at Cottonwood.

In STEM, our Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are exploring the Engineering Design Process through building boats that float and sail. We are practicing collaborating with our partners.

In our Innovation Media Center (library), students have begun checking out books. Please note that we are phasing out the Caldecott reading program after this year, in anticipation of new things. This means that only 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be participating in the award program this year (and must finish by this year :). For those students who would like to complete the challenge, they can pick up Caldecott forms at the checkout desk. We will be collecting the forms throughout the year and making certificates for the benchmarks.

Also, I'd like to call parents and grandparents... the Cottonwood Creek Innovation Media Center needs you! Are you looking for a fun place to volunteer? A place where you can share a story with your child's class? Search no further. The Innovation Media center is looking for volunteers to fill a variety of shifts during the week. As a volunteer, you would help our students find and check out materials, put materials back on shelves, and assist with other interesting projects. For more information, please contact Sarah Hammershaimb, STEM and Innovation coach ([shammershaimb@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:shammershaimb@cherrycreekschools.org)), or Holly Flaxbeard, PTO Library volunteer coordinator.

Thank you and I'm looking forward to a tremendous year with you all!

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Our first month in the S.T.E.M. and Innovation lab is shaping up to be both productive and exciting. Children will have opportunities to display their knowledge regarding S.T.E.M. components in many ways. As always, students can access all of the links we use in the class at home and describe what they have accomplished by going to:

<https://sites.google.com/a/cherrycreekschools.org/cottonwood-elementary-technology-department/>

Grades 3-5 began an S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) project that revolves around reviewing the Engineering Design Process (EDP). Students will work their way through the Engineering Design Process as they develop a prototype that could solve a problem or need with a focus on simple machines and the transfer of energy. Students will construct and improve a chain reaction machine based on the work of the cartoonist Rube Goldberg.

Additionally, the S.T.E.M program is in need of the following items:

- Used LEGO's
- Plastic wrap and paper cups
- Used mechanical toys for a reverse engineering project

[ddenstedt@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:ddenstedt@cherrycreekschools.org)

Darren Dennstedt

S.T.E.M. and Innovation Teacher

Cottonwood Creek Elementary

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Welcome back to another musical school year! I am excited to have all of our old Cougars back, and have truly enjoyed getting to know some of our new friends as well. Welcome to the wonderful family that is Cottonwood!

**Cougar Choir Registration:** Please watch for choir information/registration coming home this week. Thank you for your patience with this!

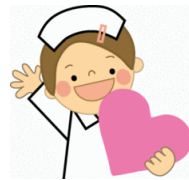
**Grade Level Programs:** We will be finalizing dates for grade level programs within the next 2 weeks. Stay tuned and thanks again for your patience!

I feel very fortunate to have the privilege of working with each and every one of your Cottonwood Cougars. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

Have a great year!

Natalie Lavrisha  
Music Education  
Nlavrisha@cherrycreekschools.org

### *From the Clinic...*



**Medications** - Thank you to all those who have brought in your medications and physician's orders. It truly made the beginning of the year run more smoothly having the orders accompany the medications. If you still need to send in medications for your child, please continue to do so.

**Immunizations** - Please continue to bring in updated immunization records (if your child received any new immunizations in the last year). If you are exempting your child from immunizations for personal or religious reasons, a new exemption form needs to be filled out every year. Go to the link below, complete the exemption, and then send a copy of the completed form to the clinic.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/vaccine-exemptions>

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to give me a call or send me an email!

*Nurse Barb*

(702)554-3208 bdecardona@cherrycreekschools.org

# Cottonwood Creek 2017-2018 Physical Activity Clubs

It is time to start Physical Activity clubs once again with Mr. Mundy. They will start on **September 19** and end **April 24**. Intramurals and clubs will meet every Tuesday from **2:45-3:30** in the Gym. They are a time for students to spend extra time exercising, playing games, sports, and creating healthy habits. Parents be sure to pick up students by 3:40. Two late pick-ups will make your child ineligible for PA Clubs. Each club will meet for 9 weeks, sign up for one or all three, some are grade specific. They are FREE! Questions contact Mr. Mundy, [mmundy@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:mmundy@cherrycreekschools.org).

**TUESDAY'S 2:45-3:30 in the Gym!**

**MUST REGISTER ONLINE**

<https://goo.gl/asUZFJ>

**Sept. 19-Nov. 21**

**Fit & Fun Club (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades)**

Be ready to get in a work-out and play some games.

**Nov 28 –Feb. 6**

**Jump Rope and Circus Club (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades)**

Improve your jump rope skills, learn how to juggle, yo-yo, cup-stack and hacky sack.

Students must be signed up on-line before coming to Intramurals and Clubs.

**Students MUST wear proper shoes!!! Clubs END AT 3:30, BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR CHILD by 3:40.**

**Keep this schedule on your refrigerator**



**Cottonwood Creek**  
Englewood, CO

**Newsletter**  
**Volume 11**

# Cottonwood Creek Café Newsletter

**Join us as we  
Celebrate Colorado  
Proud Day 9-13-17!**

We will be offering fresh Colorado peaches and green beans! We are also serving Blackjack pizza that day as well. Come join us for lunch!



## Congratulations Ms. Sonia!

Join us in congratulating our awesome Kitchen Manager Ms. Sonia. She was promoted to Kitchen Manager at Eastridge Elementary School.



## Breakfast

We offer breakfast daily for our students and staff. Breakfast hours are from 7:15 A.M. until 8:00 A.M. A student breakfast is only \$1.85!



## New This Year

Consider a cool yogurt parfait on a hot day as your entree item for lunch. It is creamy vanilla yogurt layered on top of your choice of frozen blueberries, strawberries or both! Served with a side of granola that you can sprinkle on top to give this dish a yummy crunch. Our yogurt parfaits are offered every Tuesday and Thursday.



Contacts: (720)-554-3271  
**Gretchen Wilkinson**, Kitchen Manager  
[gwilkinson@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:gwilkinson@cherrycreekschools.org)  
**Andrea Kadavy**, Kitchen Specialist  
[AKadavy2@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:AKadavy2@cherrycreekschools.org)