



Grizzly Gazette

Meadow Point Elementary School

Meadow Point 720-886-8600
Attendance Line 720-886-8695
Weather Line 720-554-4701

Nov. 18, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 18 Skate City
- Nov. 19 Bingo
- Nov. 24 No School
- Nov. 25 Thanksgiving – No School
- Nov. 26 No School
- Nov. 30 PASS Meeting 6-7pm
- Dec. 2 First Day of Hanukkah
- Dec. 2 Hearing & Vision
3-5 Grades

In the event of inclement weather.

Please watch your local television channels, listen to the radio, or call the storm delay / closure hotline (720-554-4701) to learn this information. Late start time is 9:45.

En caso de condiciones de tiempo severas.

Por Favor prenda su televisor o radio en su estación local o llame a la línea de horario modificado (720-554-4703) para enterarse de ésta información. El horario modificado empieza a las 9:45.

Preventing Bullying in Your Child's Life

Bullying typically occurs when few adults are on hand to deal with the problem, and when victims are reluctant to report what has occurred, both out of fear of possible repercussions and because they're simply not convinced that adults will be able to make the bullying stop. Even when adults are aware that bullying is occurring, the net result is that adults end up intervening in only four percent of bullying incidents. Wondering what you can do to help stamp out bullying? Here's what the experts suggest:

- 1. Make it difficult for bullying behaviors to take root by fostering a climate of empathy in your home.** Don't tolerate cruelty in any form, whether in real life or in the form of nasty jokes on sitcoms or other forms of entertainment. Let your child know that he has a right to insist that others treat him with respect and dignity.
- 2. Make sure that the no-bullying policy in your family applies to grown-ups as well as kids.** You can't criticize your child for bullying her friends or her little brother, and then turn around and use bullying tactics on her.
- 3. Keep an eye on your child's choice of entertainment.** Limit your child's exposure to violent video games, lyrics and TV programs, as well as violent toys such as guns—basically anything that glorifies violence or suggests that violence is an acceptable means of solving problems.
- 4. Keep an ongoing dialogue with your child about bullying.** Discuss any bullying stories that happen to be in the news. That way, if your child encounters any bullying problems in his own life, he'll be more likely to open up and talk to you about those problems.
- 5. Encourage your child to make friends.** Bullies are more likely to target children who are loners, so having friends can provide a measure of protection against bullying.
- 6. Teach your child the importance of body language.** A child who exudes confidence and who appears to be in control is less likely to get picked on than a child who sends off less confident body signals.
- 7. Be alert to the warning signs that your child is being bullied.** Children are often reluctant to tell teachers and parents that they are being bullied, either due to embarrassment or a fear of reprisal, so it's important to be on the lookout for the warning signs of bullying.

8. Explain the difference between tattling and telling to your child. Make sure that your child understands that there's a world of difference between tattling (telling on someone simply because you want to get that person in trouble) and telling (reporting a serious problem to an adult). Kids need to know that it's okay to report instances of bullying to parents and teachers.

9. Encourage bystanders to blow the whistle on bullies. Bystanders have an important role to play in discouraging bullying. Bullying behavior typically stops within 10 seconds if another child intervenes. Given that there are bystanders on hand in fully 85 percent of bullying instances, peer intervention is perhaps the most powerful weapon available to help combat bullying.

10. Find ways to hold bullies accountable. When parents get involved and insist on restitution—that the bully find a way to make things right for the victim—bullying becomes a much less attractive proposition for the bully. Bullies need to know that the adults in their life will not tolerate such behavior and that they will be held accountable for their actions.

I hope all of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

John

First Book and Target Read With Me Donation

This fall, our school received approximately 1300 new books from First Book, a national nonprofit organization, in partnership with national retailer, Target. Each student was able to choose 3 books to take home. The books were donated in celebration of the launch of the new Target Read With Me initiative, which aims to help more U.S children read proficiently by the end of third grade. To celebrate the initiative, First Book and Target donated 1 million new books to elementary schools across the country.

While providing students across the country with access to books is critical in promoting literacy, engaging parents and caring adults in education is equally important to ensuring our children are academically successful. The Target Read With Me initiative calls upon parents and caring adults to do their part by pledging to commit to a regular reading schedule with a child. The reading pledge can be accessed by visiting Target.com/reading, via mobile Web browsing or by texting "READ" to Target (827438).

The books our students received are part of a larger donation in which First Book and Target will distribute up to 2 million books to kids in need. The first 1 million books are being distributed to celebrate the launch of Target Read With Me, and the second million will be donated once 1 million pledges have been received.

Thanks to First Book and Target, our students now have greater access to books that enrich their minds and lay the foundation for a successful academic career.



The Children's Hospital
Affiliated with
University of Colorado Denver

FIGHT MY FIRE!

Fundraiser for The Children's Hospital Burn Unit Saturday December 4th – 10AM – 3PM

(Backup inclement weather date Dec. 11th)

In front of Cunningham Fire Department

(Smoky Hill/Buckley)

Purchase a *fire extinguisher, smoke alarm or carbon monoxide detector* and 100% of the profits as well as all donations will go to The Children's Hospital Burn Unit!

Products provided by:

Lowe's 4455 South Buckley Road.

Save your own life or the life of a family member by having these essential items in your home as well as helping out young burn victims!

Contact Diane Lewis 303.680.7255 or dianenebr@gmail.com with questions.



No Child Left Behind Announcement

The "No Child Left Behind" federal law created higher standards for teacher qualifications in public schools across the United States. Under the new federal law, all parents of children attending a school which receives Title I funds have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and paraprofessionals who instruct their children. We are proud to report that 99.92% of all Cherry Creek School District regular education classroom teachers met the "highly qualified" standard during the 2009-2010 school year. Should you wish to request information regarding the license and degrees held by your child's classroom teacher or the qualifications of a paraprofessional, you must complete a Teacher/Paraprofessional Qualification Request Form. This form may be obtained in the Office of Human Resources by calling 720-554-4327.

School of Choice

School of Choice applications for the 2011-12 school year are available in all schools and the District Admissions offices. Forms must be fully completed before being submitted, and will then be date & time stamped by district staff as received. All transportation arrangements become the responsibility of the family choosing this option.

Requests are approved based on available space with priority given to siblings of current students already attending that school and the children of district staff according to negotiated employee policies. Notification of acceptance or denial of the request will be sent from the schools to parents by March 15, 2011.

If your student is currently attending a School of Choice or IntraDistrict Transfer to the highest grade level, it is NOT necessary to complete a School of Choice application each year. Non-Resident application will be available starting April 1, 2011.



Tuesday, December 7th
Creating Family Connections through Traditions, Rituals & Celebrations

Look at a strong family and you will likely find one with strong family traditions, rituals and celebrations. Families that have these tend to be more committed to each other and have a sense of connectedness and love that strengthens family closeness. Start creating opportunities for your family to have good times while establishing great memories and connections.

Our guest speaker is Linda Leigh. Linda is one of our retired PIN board members and comes highly qualified to speak on this topic. Linda began fostering and nurturing her own family traditions along with her husband, Dave, and their three children thirty years ago and the process still continues today! For the past 20 years Linda has helped engaged couples identify and combine their own family traditions through her work with The Engagement Counseling Ministries. She is currently a Marriage Coordinator for Our Lady of Loreto Parish. Plan ahead to take a little time out of your day or take a few hours off of work and come to **connect** with other parents, **be informed** by local and national speakers, and **get empowered** to take a proactive approach to parenting. All parents, school administrators and community members are welcome and encouraged to attend Parent Information Network (PIN) presentations.

Presentations are held the first Tuesday of each month from **9:15 am to 11:15 am** at the **Student Achievement Resource Center (SARC)**. Come at 9:00 for coffee. SARC is located on Briarwood Avenue, south of Arapahoe between Potomac and Jordan Roads (address: 14188 Briarwood Avenue, Centennial, 80112). For further information see www.PINccsd.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 4th	CCSD Graduates Student Panel: Handling Multiple Activities
February 1st	Loving Your Kids Enough to Let Them Make Mistakes

CCSD ADOPTS NEW ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

One hundred percent of the schools in the Cherry Creek School District are in the top two plan categories of the new school performance framework recently developed by the Colorado Department of Education. None of the district's schools are in the bottom two categories.

Cherry Creek's new system uses the state's School Performance Framework (SPF) as the basis for assigning schools to accreditation categories. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) developed the School Performance Framework, also in response to Senate Bill 163. The law identifies four indicators which must be included in the SPF:

- Achievement (percent of students scoring proficient or advanced on CSAP tests)
- Growth (how much growth students displayed on CSAP from last year)
- Growth Gaps (achievement differentiated by race free and reduced lunch, special education and English language proficiency).
- College and Workforce Readiness (ACT scores, graduation rate and dropout rate)

The State Board of Education, in conjunction with CDE, established state-wide performance targets for each indicator.

Under the SPF accreditation system there are four accreditation categories for schools. They are:

- Accredited with Performance Plan – meeting or exceeding state performance targets
- Accredited with Improvement Plan – approaching or meeting state performance targets
- Accredited with Priority Improvement Plan – not meeting state targets, requires state supervision and rapid improvement
- Accredited with Turnaround Plan – school performance is well below state targets and state intervention is required

Ninety-four percent of Cherry Creek schools fell in the highest plan category (Performance Plan) compared to 62% of schools statewide. Six percent of Cherry Creek schools were in the second highest group (Improvement Plan) compared to 21% of schools statewide.

School districts may adopt the School Performance Framework for accrediting the district overall, and may choose their own labels for accrediting schools. The Cherry Creek School District has decided to use the state's categories for accrediting each of its schools to create a consistent system.

“This is strong evidence that the Cherry Creek School District is a high-performing district that prepares students for success in higher education and the workforce,” said Board of Education President Aagje Barber. “We are proud of our academic excellence and our commitment to closing the achievement gap.”

If you have questions about Meadow Point's accreditation status, please call Mr. Cramer at 720-886-8600. For more information about the School Performance Framework system, visit SchoolView.org or call the Office of Performance Improvement at 720-554-4241.

