



# Grizzly Gazette

Meadow Point Elementary School

Dec. 2, 2010

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 20-31 Winter Break

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Dec. 23 CiCi's Pizza Night

### 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.

Dear Meadow Point Families,

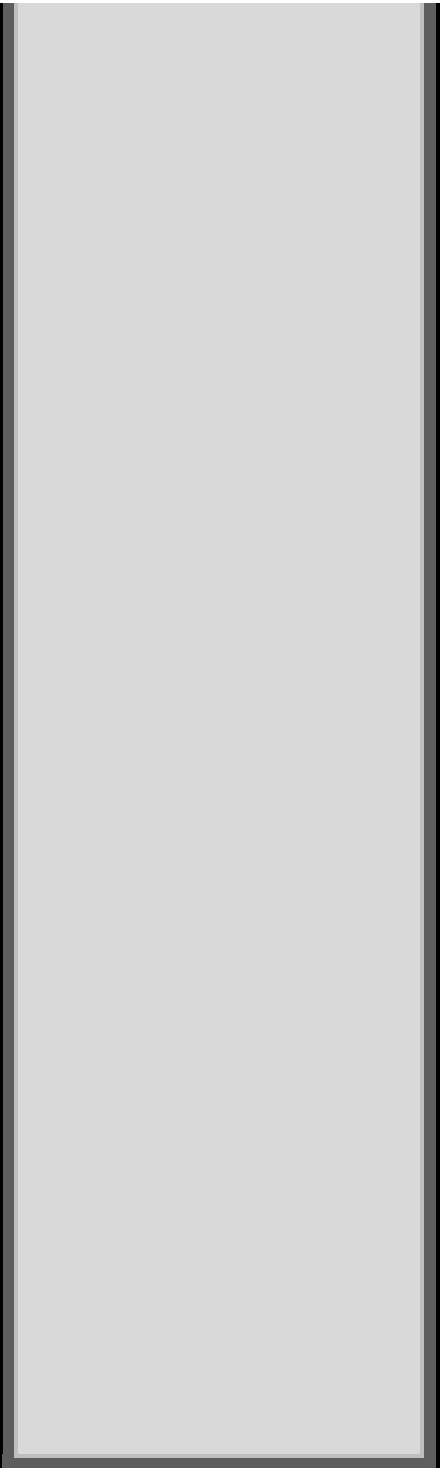
I want to thank all of you for such an incredible first half of the school year. The teachers and students at Meadow Point are amazing. So far it's been a success because of a strong partnership between home and school. It's that time of year that we need to talk about the importance of attendance. Research consistently shows that students who have good attendance generally achieve higher grades, enjoy school more and are more employable after leaving school. Our goal is to foster self-discipline in students as well as foster a desire to contribute to a positive school climate and community.

In addition, Colorado law requires children to be in school. Under the School Attendance Law, children of legal age must attend school a certain number of hours each year. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to make sure children attend school and arrive on time. When children are missing school frequently or are tardy often, parents risk sanction and may be referred to the Cherry Creek School District Attendance Review Board and ultimately the Arapahoe County District Court.

Tardies, in particular, are not only a detriment to the student who is late to school, but their late arrival disrupts the learning of all the students in the class. The best perspective on this impact is from the teacher. Here is a teacher perspective on students arriving late...

*If a child is tardy, their anxiety level rises because they know they are going to be walking into class late. They get to the classroom door and walk in. All the other kids are already working on their first assignment for the day. The others have already turned in their homework, sharpened their pencils, made their lunch choices, turned in their lunch money, and listened to the morning announcements. As they walk in, the others are now distracted by the interruption, and they feel all eyes on them as they pass by. They don't have a sharp pencil. They don't know what lunch is. They have lunch money but it's already been sent down to the cafeteria. They don't know what to do on the assignment. Those 5 minutes have set the tone for the rest of the day.*

*Students begin coming into class at 8:40 and prepare for the day. This maximizes the precious instruction time for each day by allowing kids time to settle in and prepare for the day ahead. Even being late five minutes has an impact on the kind of day your child will have.*



*Therefore, we ask that you make every effort to make getting your child to school on time a priority. Its importance cannot be understated.*

Ultimately, if a child is absent or tardy, he or she is missing the opportunity to be with an extraordinary educator. As the old proverb goes, "One thousand days of diligent study cannot equal one day with a great teacher."

Thanks to all of you for your consistent and diligent efforts in getting your children to school on time. It is one of the most important things you do every day. The habits and attitudes about school attendance that you share with your child today will set the tone for their success later in life.

Sincerely,

John



**We would like to thank Terri Brass and Eastern Hills Community Church for providing Thanksgiving baskets to some of our families at Meadow Point.**



### **Food Bank at Meadow Point**

As we enter the holiday season, just a reminder that Meadow Point does have a Food Bank available for its families. Non-perishable items are available when needed. Donations are always accepted for the Food Bank and it is especially important at this time of year to have a well stocked cupboard. Ideas for donations include soups, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, crackers, stuffing, instant potatoes, spaghetti sauce, and pasta. To access the Food Bank, just give the office a call 720-886-8600.



### **Does Your Child Have Health Insurance?**

As the Cherry Creek School District Insurance Outreach Specialist, I am available to help you learn about CHP+/Medicaid, answer any questions you may have and to provide information and applications.

If you are interested in obtaining or learning more about low cost health insurance for your student, please contact Clinton Whatley (Insurance Outreach Specialist) at (720) 554-5063 or visit the district website for more information.



### **Parent Reminder**

Winter time is upon us and we need to dress our children accordingly. They need to have a coat, gloves, hat, and maybe a sweater for the classroom. Since this is such a large building it is not as warm as home. Be sure your child knows about any after school arrangements, in case of bad weather.

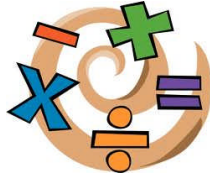
### **School of Choice**

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.



### **District Math Challenge**

Nine outstanding Meadow Point math students will participate in the District's Annual Math Challenge on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Schwartz is the math coach and will accompany these fine students to the tournament at the Challenge School. Congratulations to team members Lauren Solano, Kyle Towstik, Ye Chan Kim, Ania DeGrassa, Alex Splatt, Destin Wilcox, Tiana Vitry, Ava Bonavia, and Edwin Liu. They will do a great job representing our school.

