



Grizzly Gazette

Meadow Point Elementary School

Feb. 19, 2010

Dear Parents,

Once again this is the time of year when our third, fourth and fifth graders are taking standardized tests to measure student progress on grade level standards and proficiencies. Although we do some testing in the fall, the bulk of our testing occurs during the second semester between February and April. I remember in elementary school that we took these types of tests once a year in our upper elementary grades, and every student in my school took the same set of tests, the ITBS. However, as years have passed, we have come to understand that different types of assessments measure student achievement in different ways, sort of like taking a photo of a child from a number of angles and with different lenses in the camera. Those photographs would show various views of the same child, and if we were to look at all of them together, we would get a more complete picture of the child.

The standardized tests we give now are like those photos. They all give us valuable information about the students' progress. For your reference as parents, the test names, the time frame for administration, and the general purpose of the test are listed below.

- CSAP, given to grades 3, 4 and 5 in February and March measures student progress on the Colorado State Standards. Grades 3, 4 and 5 are tested in reading writing and math. Fifth grade will also be taking the science portion. We receive 3rd grade reading results in late May, and the rest of the scores come to us in early August.
- MAPS tests are given three times a year to 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. This set of tests gives us very specific feedback on students' progress with the Cherry Creek grade level expectations in language arts and math at each grade level.
- The CELA test is given to all our English Language Learners in late January to assess their progress in English language proficiency. This test has reading, writing, listening, and speaking components and is administered by our ELL teachers.

Of course, in addition to these tests, teachers assess students' progress daily through observation and a variety of classroom-based assessments. However, the standardized tests listed above help us to see students' achievement on a larger scale for individuals, for a grade level class, and for the school as a whole. Keep in mind that the schedule for these tests may change from year to year in an effort not to over load one grade level or one time of year over another. The overall objective, however, remains the same, and that is to construct the most complete picture of student progress, and to diagnose areas of need, so as to help our children learn all they need to know for their education.

Sincerely,

John Cramer

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 1-26 Pennies for Patients

Feb. 22-25 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Feb. 22-26 Book Fair

Feb. 26 No School

Mar. 2 Dr. Seuss' Birthday

Mar. 4 Read Across America Night 6-7:30pm

In the event of inclement weather.

Please watch your local television channels, listen to the radio, or call the storm delay / closure hotline (720-554-4703) to learn this information. Late start time is 9:00.

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 9:00.



CSAP Testing Dates

We have CSAP testing in February and March. Please have your students here on time and well rested and with a good breakfast. Also, during this time, try not to schedule any appointments. **Testing dates are as follows:**

3rd Grade – Mar. 2-9

4th Grade – Mar. 3-11

5th Grade – Mar. 3-11

A flyer will be coming home with your student with the times for each grade level.



Scholastic Book Fair

Meadow Point Library will be selling new books at our Scholastic Book Fair Feb. 22-26. We invite you to participate by visiting the library during parent/teacher conference week. You and your child will get the chance to purchase chapter books, bestsellers, picture books, Newberry and Caldecott Medal-winning books, and many more. We look forward to seeing you during Book Fair hours. Thank you for believing in books and in the importance of reading!

Hours: Mon. Feb. 22 – 2:30-5pm
 Tues. Feb. 23 – 11am-5pm
 Wed. Feb. 24 – 11am-7:30pm
 Thurs. Feb. 25 – 11am-7:30pm
 Fri. Feb. 26 – 8am -12pm

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up on Friday the 19th and take down on Friday the 26th. If you can help, contact Mitty Spidell at 720-886-8600.



Read Across America Night

On Thursday, March 4, Meadow Point will be hosting a Read Across America Night from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We will be sending details about this event home with your student. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Preschool Early Enrollment for the 2010-11 School Year

The deadline for submitting early enrollment applications for the preschool tuition program for the 2010-11 school year is fast approaching! The applications must be received in the Early Childhood office at Eastridge Elementary (11777 E Wesley Ave, Aurora 80014-1869) by 4:00pm on March 26, 2010. Applications are available at the Early Childhood office, all CCSD preschools, elementary schools, and Admissions offices in addition to the District website.

Cherry Creek Schools will offer preschool classes that are 2-1/2 hours in length either 2 or 4 days per week at 27 different locations. Our program is for children who are 3 years old but not 5 years old as of October 1, 2010. We will also offer a Young 3's program at 5 different locations for children who turn 3 between October 2 and December 31, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 720-554-4000. Select option 2 for Early Childhood and then option 2 for tuition program. More detailed information can also be viewed on our website:

www.cherrycreekschools.org Select: 1. Our Schools, 2. Preschools, 3. Tuition-based Preschool.



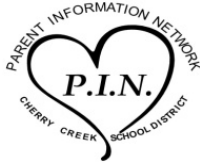
Lost and Found

We are collecting quite a few articles of clothing in our Lost and Found. During conference time the Lost and Found will be put out on tables. If you have put their name inside their coats or clothing we will return them when we sort the clothing. Please take time to come and see if any of the lost articles belong to your child. After conferences we will be donating all remaining items to a local charity.



PE Corner

Jump Rope for Heart is a program that supports the American Heart Association. Information packets were sent home with the students. The event is being held during the February P.E. class and the money you raise is due back to Mrs. Slattery by March 1st.



PIN Presentation - Tuesday, March 2, 2010 Living a Values-Based Life

Elvis Presley said it well: "Values are like fingerprints - nobody's are the same but you leave 'em all over everything you do." Values are the guiding principles that encompass every area of our life. Through experiential exercises, you will begin to identify your unique values, translate values to boundaries, and learn how to hold a "values-based" conversation. This presentation will be facilitated by Mary Bender, CPC, who blends her corporate background and M.S. degree with her training in family coaching. Mary's unique perspective comes from her family's own journey of self-discovery and growth. She is passionate about helping other families through the bumps and challenges of life.

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) programs. Programs are held on the first Tuesday of each month from **9:00 am to 11:00 am** at the **Student Achievement Resource Center (SARC)**. Come at 8:45 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, contact us at PIN@cherrycreekschools.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 6th
May 4th

Understanding and Overcoming the Many Faces of Grief and Loss
Annual PIN Brunch - Getting an

PowerSchool now available to elementary parents!

Use it to update student information now!



The Cherry Creek School District is excited to let you know that PowerSchool, our Web-based Student Information System, is now available to all elementary school parents! You can now use PowerSchool to check attendance, read school announcements, email your child's teacher, and update some student information.

In early February, you will receive a letter with your PowerSchool username, password, and more information about using PowerSchool. All you need is the letter and a computer with Internet access. If you don't have a computer with Internet access at home, you can use one at your local public library or here at school. If you have any questions about PowerSchool, please contact Trudy Koopman at 720-886-8600.

Changes in federal law require all school districts, including Cherry Creek, to have parents update their child's race and ethnicity information. This will allow individuals of multiracial background to select multiple categories to better represent their culture and heritage. For more information about the federal requirements, please visit the Colorado Department of Education Web site at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/rvRace-Ethnicity.htm>

Please log in to PowerSchool and update your child's information by March 1, 2010.

By the beginning of the 2010-11 school year, you will also be able to use PowerSchool to update emergency contact phone numbers, to ensure that you receive important phone calls about weather delays and closures, special events or emergency situations.

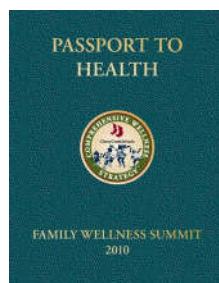
Thank you in advance for using PowerSchool to update your child's information and help us provide an outstanding education to your child!

Dedicated to Excellence

Cherry Creek Schools

GET READY FOR THE FUN TO COME!

Grab your "Passport to Health" and take a trip through a world of wellness!





Do you want to improve your family’s overall health and well-being, and have fun doing it? Then make plans to visit the first-ever **Family Wellness Summit**, a free family event, featuring games, demonstrations, interactive events, and fun activities focused on good health and living well.

The summit will be held from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 17, at Grandview High School**, 20500 E. Arapahoe Road, Aurora, CO 80016. It’s an open house, so you can stop by after soccer or before band practice, and try interesting activities in five different areas. Some examples are:

Physical Wellness	Psychological Wellness	Nutritional Wellness	Environmental Wellness	Health Care Wellness
Obstacle Course and Boot Camp Activities	Brain Aerobics - Cooperative Games	Blubber Burgers: <i>fat content of your favorite foods</i>	Green Cleaning and Recycling Programs in Cherry Creek Schools	Know your numbers: <i>vision, hearing, height, weight, BMI screening</i>
Pilates, Jump Rope, Fit Ball Activities	Cyberbullying - What You Need to Know	Healthy cooking on a budget	Car seat safety checks	Stress-Er-cize- Learn your R's: <i>Release, Relearn, Relax, Recognize</i>

Karen Fisher, a parent volunteer and member of the Community Asset Project, and Dr. Scott Siegfried, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Support Services, announced the Family Wellness Summit at the Feb. 8 Parents Council meeting.

The summit is sponsored by the Cherry Creek School District, its Prevention Office and the Community Asset Project, and builds on the 10-year success of the Youth-Adult Summit. It aligns with the district’s Comprehensive Wellness Strategy, focusing on the health and well-being of students, staff, families and community.

Preregistration is encouraged. Go to www.assetsconnect.org.

Dedicated to Excellence

Cherry Creek Schools

COMMUNITY SPEAKS, DISTRICT LISTENS – Feb. 9, 2010

The recent Cherry Creek School District Community Forums allowed parents, staff, and the community to express what was important to themselves and their students.

For instance, three themes that parents repeatedly echoed were the quality of the learning environments, community connections and the assurance that schools were trying to meet the unique needs of their children.

“Parents seemed to value those factors more than they value high test scores,” said Elliott Asp, assistant superintendent for performance improvement.

That input and more will be considered as Asp, Superintendent Mary Chesley and other administrators write goals and create the new District Performance Plan, which is required by the Colorado Department of Education.

The forums were held in December and January, one each at Overland, Smoky Hill and Cherry Creek high schools. Nearly 400 people participated in the forums, about 70 percent were parents.

Asp updated the Board of Education on the outcome of the forums at the Board's regular February meeting.

"One of our goals was to develop understanding and ownership of Cherry Creek's future direction among staff, parents and community members," Asp said. "I feel like we've done well to meet that goal. On our feedback forms, nearly 100 percent of the participants said that they felt their ideas were listened to and accepted. They said they had ample opportunity to present their points of view."

In the forums, participants met in structured small groups to discuss ideas and hear one another. In each small group there was a facilitator and a recorder.

"We gathered all the notes from the sessions, plus feedback forms, and reviewed them for major themes," Asp said. "We will continue to analyze the data in more detail with the District Accountability Committee and other stakeholder groups."

In March, work will begin on a draft of the District Improvement Plan. It will be presented to the board for adoption in May. Electronic versions of the plan will be ready for distribution to staff and the public in June.

The District Accountability Committee sponsored the forums. All are welcome to attend regular DAC meetings. Upcoming DAC meetings are scheduled from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on March 10, April 14 and May 5. They are held at the Student Achievement Resource Center (SARC), 14188 E. Briarwood Avenue, Centennial, Colorado 80112.