



Grizzly Gazette

Meadow Point Elementary School

Feb. 5, 2010

Dear Meadow Point Community,

Have you recently heard of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and wondered what educators were talking about? This has been mentioned at PTO meetings, at Back to School Night and frequently referred to in the district as "PLC." A Professional Learning Community is what we are creating in schools to best meet your child's needs. It's a process, not a program. It is about the power of collective intelligence. It is about focusing on student learning, and not just "covering the curriculum." It is about organizing teaching around student achievement.

At Meadow Point Elementary, teachers are working together linking learning with improvement. There are four priorities for professional learning communities:

- Focus on student learning
- Focus on collaborative culture
- Focus on results
- Provide timely, relevant information

During the afternoon from 1:30 – 3:30 PM, grade level teachers, in collaboration with special education teachers, ELA teachers, GT, Reading Recovery, Enrichment and mental health, use collective analysis of data measuring student progress. The driving questions in our collaborative meetings are:

1. What is it we want every student to know? (Essential Knowledge)
2. How do we know if he/she has learned it? (Assessment)
3. How do we respond when a student is not learning? (Time & Support/Remediation)
4. What do we do when they already know it? (Prior Knowledge/Enrichment)

The complexity of the educational enterprise today, the growing demands on resources and the energy of educators make us think about how to work smarter, not harder, in order to best meet your child's needs.

Here is how you are seeing professional learning communities in action at Meadow Point:

1. A master schedule was developed and implemented to provide collaborative planning time for teachers.
2. Grade level collaborative teams were created and meet throughout the year.
3. Collaborative teams analyze data (standardized test scores, common assessments and classroom assessments) to answer the four questions listed above.

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. 15 No School – President's Day

Feb. 16 No School

Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday

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.

4. A school plan was developed and is being implemented to support measurable student achievement.

Professional learning communities are an important part of what teachers do every day at Meadow Point. Together we share and increase our understanding of how to continue to develop a school environment with instruction that responds to the needs of our students. It is time well spent having discussions with our colleagues. If you have questions or want to know more about professional learning communities, please feel free to contact me at (720) 886-8600 or jcramer@cherrycreekschools.org

Sincerely,
John Cramer



Spelling Bee

Fourteen students participated in the Meadow Point Spelling Bee on January 20th. The four winners who will advance on to the District Spelling Bee are Christian Gramonte, Joan Herting, Dylan Kroll, and Kane Bruce.



1st row: Kacey Ibarra, Laura Kennedy, RaeAnn Estel 2nd row: Cordeus Montoya, Kyle Umling, Kane Bruce, John Mounier, Josh Elledge 3rd row: Dylan Kroll, Emily Baker, Joan Herting, Dasia Waldron, Paul Sweeney, Christian Gramonte



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 – Feb. 18-19 & 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 – 2:30-5pm
 - Wed. Feb. 24 – 2:30-7:30pm
 - Thurs. Feb. 25 – 2:30-7:30pm
 - 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.



Kindergarten Roundup

Pre-registration for children who are eligible for kindergarten enrollment in the Cherry Cheek School District for the 2010-2011 school year started on Feb. 1, 2010. The East Admissions office is open Monday-Friday from 7:30-4pm. For registration please bring:

- Birth certificate – 5 years old as of 10/1/2010
- Immunization Card
- Proof of Residency

Flyers are available in the office for more information.



PE Corner

Jump Rope for Heart is a program that supports the American Heart Association. Information packets were sent home with the students. Please read over the information and if your family chooses to participate, you may start collecting. You can also do fundraising on-line for this at americanheart.org/jump. Check out the website for more information. The event will be held during the February P.E. class and the money you raise is due back to Mrs. Slattery by March 1st.

Bully Proofing Update

By Vicki Temple, School Psychologist and Stephen White, School Social Worker

Bully Proofing Update-How do children protect themselves from becoming good victims?

A key part of bully proofing is not having good victims. There are certain things we tell students to avoid doing because the reactions lend themselves to being a victim and can perpetuate bullying. These include crying and getting upset, fighting back and keeping quiet about bullying. It is very important students know how to respond if they find themselves in situations where they are feeling unsafe, not respected or bullied. We teach several strategies so children know what to do and do not feel passive and helpless.

The six strategies we encourage are summarized by the phrase HA HA SO. (Hopefully some of you have already heard your student refer to HA HA SO.)

Help—Students are given ideas about various ways to help. Inviting another student to play to remove them from a difficult situation can be helpful. Including others so they are not alone and vulnerable to a bully is another way to help. Also, going for adult help for more serious is strongly encouraged. Students are expected to help because speaking up and strength in numbers are keys to bully proofing.

Assert-Students have been taught assertive statements to express how they feel and ask for the bullying to stop. We encourage students to start the statement with “I Feel _____ when you _____. Please stop.”

Humor-This response involves a student making a joke about him/herself or the bullying remark. Again, this is to let the bully know you are not going to let the comment hurt you. We clarify that the joke is about what is said not about the bully.

Avoid-This response is strongly encouraged in that students are told to walk away from a situation where someone is trying to make them feel bad or is threatening them in some way. We encourage students to use this after they have made an assertive or humorous response.

Self – talk — These are things students are encouraged to say to themselves silently. The comments should be good things about themselves or the way they are handling a situation so that they feel more empowered and are less likely to believe the bully.

Own-It — This response requires the student to agree with the bully primarily to get themselves out of a situation. So if someone says they have an ugly shirt, they simply agree and walk away. We talk about agreeing as a way to stay safe and again, not believe the bully. We encourage students to use self-talk and avoid along with own-it.

We encourage parents to talk with students about these strategies and which ones they use. If your child comes home telling you about a situation, ask which part of the HAHASO they used to respond to the problem. The more practice they have, the better they will get at seeing what options are available to avoid being a good victim. In addition, we encourage students to spend time with others who are kind, caring, and fun. Thank you for all your support this year and we look forward to more bully proofing next year.

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!

