

Little Elementary
PTSA newsletter
8448 Otis Dr.
Arvada, CO 80003
www.LittlePTSA.com

The Lynx Letter

The Lynx Letter



March 2009
ISSUE 5: 2008-2009

What can you do to help at
Little Elementary?

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

The nonprofit Center for Cultural Interchange is looking for families to host high school exchange students for the 2009-2010 school years. Students come from Europe, Latin America, or Asia and stay for 5 or 10 months. They have insurance and spending money and will participate in school, church and youth groups, community service, and home activities. **Contact Noelle at ccicoordinator@hotmail.com for more information.**

Read a Thon March 27th

Volunteers are needed to read at the read-a-thon, please ask your teacher first if they need help in their room. If your teacher has the class's day scheduled just how it's wanted, they will send you to PTSA. We would LOVE to find you someone to read to.

The Principal's Corner

March 2009

Dear Parents,

Spring is definitely on its way, and we are looking forward to its arrival! This is a busy time of year for all of us at Little as we come to the end of the second trimester of the school year. Student learning is the focus of everything we do at Little. Learning is measured by various evaluations of our students' performance. These results help us evaluate our curriculum, our teaching methods, and our educational materials—and we can adjust and improve in an effort to help our students achieve higher levels.

Ongoing informal assessments by teachers and the students themselves, occur every day in our classrooms. In contrast, formal standardized assessments are administered at specific times to specific groups of students. By the end of the year, every kindergarten, first, second, and third grade student will have been individually administered by his/her teacher a comprehensive literacy test, Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), and Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). Students who need additional support are placed on Individual Literacy Plans (ILP) or Literacy Support Plans (LSP). Third graders have already completed the Colorado State Assessment Program (CSAP) in reading. Students in 3rd-6th will be taking the CSAP in reading, writing, math and science within the coming weeks. All student assessment results will be communicated to parents and students when received by the school.

We are very proud of the performance of Little students and the highly skilled Little Elementary staff. However, how our children perform on tests is far less important than whether or not they spontaneously pick up books and read for pleasure, for knowledge, and for exposure to the vast world of learning represented in print. How students perform on standardized tests rarely measures their capabilities in writing personal narrative, expository reports, poetry, or fiction. Such tests cannot assess complex thinking and problem solving. Pressure to perform on these assessments may tempt some schools to reduce the time spent on good teaching strategies that develop fluent readers and writers in favor of time spent on "test-taking skills". The Little Elementary faculty is strongly committed to continuing our tradition of using research-proven, best practices in the instruction of our students. We will continue to keep "test-taking" instruction to a minimum. Likewise, we will not abandon other essential curriculum content, e.g., art, music, physical education, technology, science, geography, civics, nor economics, in order to pressure our students to score higher on standardized reading, writing science and math tests. After all, we know that excellent teaching produces excellent student results, on tests and in life. We appreciate the Little Elementary parent community's support and encouragement of our goals.

Proudly Serving Every Child...Every Day
Esther G. Valdez, Principal



"Reach for the Stars" Read-A-Thon

Our celebration of reading starts on March 16th. We will have all students visit the library to preview USborne books. Students will pick their favorites to add to their personal wish list. Our students will be sent home with a donation form, collection envelope, and rules for our event.

Students will ask family and friends, (with parental supervision) to donate to Little elementary Read-a-Thon. Our school goal is \$5.00 from every student. Participating students will have from March 16 through March 25th to complete 300 minutes of reading (about 30mins. a day).

50% of every donation will be returned to the student who collected it, in the form of their USBorne book titles, from their wish list. 20% of every donation will also be given to the Little Library in USBorne titles! This leaves the remaining 30% of the donations in cash for our PTSA paid programs. Some of the programs that PTSA pays for are Running Club, Field Trip scholarships, Movie night, and the monthly news letter. Hope you enjoy the festivities!



Let's Talk Prizes

Any student who is able to collect \$5.00 will receive a gift certificate for 2 free weeks at Mile High Karate.

Top Reader in Kindergarten - 3rd grade, and the Top reader from 4th - 6th grades, will receive a gift certificate to a local book store. The student with the most donations collected will receive a gift card from a local book store as well.

All students who collect \$100.00 will choose to be in a drawing for either free one year tuition to Mile High Karate or a Free Summer Dance camp tuition from Cherilyn's Dance and Arts.

All students who collect \$75.00 will be in a raffle for one of our Three months free tuition package from Mile High Karate.

All students who collect \$50.00 will be in the raffle for one month free at Mile High Karate.

The grade with the highest collection will receive an age appropriate Encyclopedias from UsBorne books to share.

The highest collecting class will get Doughnuts!

Book Fair



During parent teacher conferences on Wednesday March 25th and Thursday March 26th, we will be having a small USBorne book fair in the library. If you would like a special gift from your family to your teacher please come by. We will have teachers fill out wish lists for their classrooms. Of course all titles will be great additions for your own collection at home.

Conference dinners



As always we will be providing hot meals for our teachers during conferences. Thank you to Jennifer Strong and Chipotle Mexican Grill for donating dinner for Wednesday March 25th. We are still looking for families to offer food for Thursday March 26th. If you are able to give an entrée, side dish, drinks, plates, napkins, utensils, or desserts please contact Robin Kriss at - jrkriss@msn.com

CHECK OUT THE INFORMATION TABLE IN THE LOBBY!

- I9 Sports-Flag Football & Cheerleading
- Tech Camps-Summer 2009
- Stephen Oliver’s Mile High Karate
- YMCA Youth Sports
- Girl Scouts
- Piano Lessons
- The Children’s Connection-Core Knowledge Preschool & Childcare



Our Annual Little Movie Night is Friday March 20th!

We will start serving dinner in the school cafeteria at 5:15 p.m.

Each Dinner and a Movie order include two pieces of Papa John’s pizza and a soda for \$5.00 per person. If you will only be attending the movie it will be \$2.00 per person. We are asking our family’s to be settled in the gym by 6:45p.m. so we can start the show on time. Please, turn in your order forms by March 13th, so we get enough food for all.

Movie night order form

Your name: _____

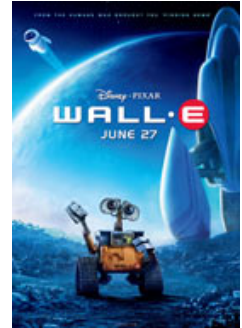
of people attending: _____

- We will attend dinner & movie for \$5.00/person.
- We will attend movie only for \$2.00/person.

- I have enclosed a check for _____
- I have enclosed cash in the amount of _____

Please, join us at the school for Dinner and a Movie. We are currently voting on the movie to be shown at our web site www.littletsa.com.

The choices are:
Wall-E



Horton Hears a Who!



Journey to the Center of the Earth!



Right now Journey to the center of the earth is ahead. You have till March 5th to make your vote count. We will announce the winner Friday march 6th.

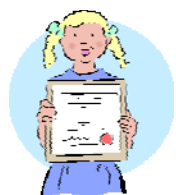
Notes From the Office

CSAP TESTING DATES

February 18, 19 March 3, 4 March 11, 12	3 rd Graders
March 3, 4, 5, 6 March 9,10,11,12,13	4 th and 6 th Graders
March 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 March 9,10,11,12,13	5 th Graders

- Assessments are generally given in the morning hours of school, but in some cases may also be in the afternoon.
- Please avoid scheduling appointments or activities that would take kids out of school on these dates.
- All students are expected to be present and participate fully in the CSAP assessments.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support!



Congratulations Little Hall of Fame Winners!

Pride Celebrations were held on Friday, January 30th and we want to congratulate all of the Wall of Fame and Principal Recognition winners.



Haley Archuleta
Quinn Kwiatkowski
Haylie Vendegna
Abigail Salazar
William Jaeke
Braeden Matsunaga-Craft
Andrew Lynch
Raelynn Rodriguez

Haylee Smith
Elizabeth Seeker
Emma Sargent-Conklin
Sara Duke
Tashaiya Henderson
Brianna Makumbi
Reese Jensen
Taylor Petrey

Principal Recognition

William Hovrud
Raiana Chaloux
Madison Lavelly
Rachel Davis
Morrigan Clymer
Zach Nielson

Alexandria Castillo
Emily Dorman
Jacob Allgood
Hannah Petrey
Donovan Weybright

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all of the 5th and 6th grade parents that drove to US on Wheels for their Valentine Party! Everyone had a great time. And **THANK YOU** to ALL the parents that brought yummy treats for the classroom parties in all of the classes.



YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

Ever wonder what your student is learning in class? Do you want to be more involved in your child's learning? Do you want to help your student prepare for the next grade level? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please keep reading!

Jeffco has developed a guaranteed and viable curriculum to ensure that all students have access to standards-based, grade level curriculum. What does this mean?

For parents it means that your child will have the necessary foundation to be successful when he or she moves to the next grade level. It also means that parents now have a way to see just what their student is studying by visiting the district's website to check out the Curriculum by Grade section.

To access this section visit <http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/academics/index.html>.

The curriculum guide will provide a Year-at-a-Glance document by grade level. Parents can see a broad overview of what their student is learning in various subjects and when they're learning it.

For more detailed information on the units of study, please contact your student's teacher. Parents with Internet access, who want a copy of the document, should contact their school. Working together we can build bright futures for every child!

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT BUTTER BRAIDS!



We were able to meet our goal to replenish the book room (\$2,000) and the remaining money will be used to add books to our library (\$600.)



LITTLE ELEMENTARY

MARCH REFRIGERATOR REMINDER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 CSAP - 5th Grade	3 CSAP - 3rd-6th grades	4 CSAP - 3rd-6th grades 5th grade field trip - Planetarium	5 CSAP - 4th-6th grades	6 CSAP - 4th-6th grades Read-a-thon collection begins	7
8	9 CSAP - 4th-6th grades	10 CSAP - 4th-6th grades	11 CSAP - 3rd-6th grades	12 CSAP - 3rd-6th grades	13 CSAP - 4th-6th grades	14
15	16 CSAP Make-up week	17 CSAP Make-up week Student Council Meeting	18 CSAP Make-up week CAT Meeting PTSA Meeting	19 CSAP Make-up week	20 CSAP Make-up week 3rd grade field trip - Museum	21
22	23 Spirit Week - Dress up day	24 Spirit Week - Dress up day	25 Spirit Week - Dress up day Teacher conferences Final day - turn in Read-a-thon pledges	26 Spirit Week - Dress up day Teacher conferences	27 Spirit Week - Dress up day READ-A-THON Pride Celebration	28
29 	30 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK	31 NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK				

Employment Opportunity
 Looking for the perfect
 PT/job?
 2 -6 hours/day
 \$9.05/hour
 Advancement Opportunity
 Call 303.982.6747

Jeffco Schools
Food & Nutrition Services
Elementary Lunch Menu Condensed Menu Version
March 2009



Prices:
Lunch: Full Price \$1.85
Reduced Price K - 2 at
No Charge
Reduced Price 3 - 6 at
\$0.40
Adult Meals: \$2.75

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Breakfast Sandwich or BBQ Chicken Sandwich or Taco Salad	3 Burrito or Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/Tomato Soup or "Snack Lunch" Egg Salad Sandwich	4 Baked Penne w/Meat Sauce or Corn Dog or Mandarin Chicken Salad	5 Chicken Sandwich or Pork & Vegetable Egg Roll w/ Fried Rice or Chef Salad	6 Galaxy Pizza or Deli Ham Wrap or Chicken Caesar Salad
PBJ Uncrstable	Breakfast Burrito	Breakfast Sandwich	Wh.Grain Pop Tart w/ Sausage	Waffles
9 Chicken Nuggets or Beef Soft Taco or Taco Salad	10 Macaroni & Cheese or BBQ Pork Sandwich or "Snack Lunch" (Yogurt, Cheese, & Muffin)	11 Seasoned Bread Sticks or Oven Fried Chicken or Mandarin Chicken Salad	12 Hamburger or Cheeseburger or Cuban Pork Potatoes or Chef Salad	13 Deli Roll Up or Fish Sandwich or Chicken Caesar Salad
Yogurt & Muffin	Scrambled Egg & Toast	Bagel Stick	Egg Omelet	French Toast
16 Teriyaki Chicken w/Brown Rice or Chicken Alfredo or Taco Salad	17 Chili w/Corn Bread or Deli Turkey Wrap or "Snack Lunch" (Seeds, Cheese, & Muffin)	18 Country Style Steak Strips or Cheese Enchiladas or Mandarin Chicken Salad	19 Italian Dunkers w/Stromboli Sauce or Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich or Chef Salad	20 Galaxy Pizza or Tuna Sandwich or Chicken Caesar Salad
PBJ Uncrustable	Breakfast Burrito	Breakfast Sandwich	Wh.Grain Pop Tart w/ Sausage	Waffles
23 Hot Dog on a Bun or Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Brown Rice or Taco Salad	24 Ravioli or Pork Rib Dippers or "Snack Lunch" (Yogurt, Cheese & Muffin)	25 Chicken Quesadilla or Sloppy Joe on a Bun or Mandarin Chicken Salad	26 Turkey & Gravy or Fish Nuggets or Chef Salad	27 Baked Potato or PBJ w/Seeds or Cheese or Chicken Caesar Salad
Yogurt & Muffin	Scrambled Egg & Toast	Bagel Stick	Egg Omelet	French Toast

Lunch includes an entrée and a choice of sides. Milk is offered daily at lunch. Menus are nutritionally balanced with a wide variety of healthy selections including fruits and vegetables. Menu is subject to change without notice due to price and product availability.

Breakfast Entrée, check with your school for availability

Full menu selection is available at the school site or on line @jeffcopublicschools.org

Look for the menus on the left side and click on Lunch Menus & Food Service .