



April 2009  
ISSUE 7: 2008-2009

### What can you do to help at Little Elementary?

**April 16<sup>th</sup> - Make-up Conference Dinners-** If you are willing to provide a dessert for our teachers, please contact Jennifer Strong - [jennifer.strong@homesincolorado.com](mailto:jennifer.strong@homesincolorado.com)

**April 17th – Science Fair (Moore Middle School) -** There might be a need for volunteers to help set up and take down science tables, print name tags, provide snacks and beverages for the fair. If this sounds like something you are interested in, contact Tiffany Jones - [tiffanyjptsa@aol.com](mailto:tiffanyjptsa@aol.com) and she will let the science fair team know you are available.

**May 4th- Teacher Appreciation week begins-** We will be providing a meal for our teachers and other great goodies. We are currently trying to find more parents and companies to donate goods for our teachers. If you would be able to call some places to request support, or donate goods/services, please contact Jennifer Strong – [jennifer.strong@homesincolorado.com](mailto:jennifer.strong@homesincolorado.com)

**HELP!** We are in need of hand wipes for the cafeteria. Since students go to recess before lunch, they use the hand wipes before they eat. You can send them with your student or bring them into the office.  
**Thank you!**



## The Principal's Corner

April 2009

Dear Parents,

As we begin plans for next year, some parents may have questions about our process for class placements of students. A description of this process follows:

- All classes at Little are designed to be heterogeneous, evenly balanced in student gender, ethnicity, academic skill levels, and behavioral needs.
- In addition, special education, and English language learner services may be provided in-class rather than in a pull-out model.
- Teachers work closely in collaboration to form balanced class lists, which can best ensure positive classroom communities for the next school year.

Most parents trust their teacher's professional judgment in the placement decisions for their child. If, however, you wish to formalize in writing your feelings about your child's needs, you may fill out a parent input form available at the front desk in the school office. The purpose of the parent input form is for you to give us important information about your child's learning and behavioral needs. Please do not request a specific teacher; rather, share specific information about your child that you feel would be helpful in our placement decision. Parent Input forms are due to be returned to the office by May 4, 2009.

The faculty at Little shares with parents the goal of success for every child. You are encouraged to share any concerns you may have about your child's educational needs with his/her current teacher. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

*Esther G. Valdez, Principal*

# Letter from the PTSA President

Dear Families and Staff,

In April our Parent Information Team and PTSA meetings have been moved to **Wednesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30p.m. And 6:30p.m.**

We will be trying to put together the calendar for the upcoming year. We will need to find out which fundraisers we will host. What community events will best suit our school in the upcoming year, and who will help out with all the work?

This brings me to my point. In the 2009 -2010 school year we will need to find a president, whose duties include: communicating with all other board members to insure they are getting the support, materials, or money they need to fulfill their commitments to our school; bring teacher, student, and parent voices to the PTSA meetings; and write and stick to the monthly agenda for PTSA meetings and board meetings as needed. Unfortunately we need more than that. We must also find a new Treasurer. These duties include: writing and getting a budget approved through the members; keeping records on all PTSA business, such as writing checks, making deposits, and paying balances; predicting when the budget needs to be adjusted; getting our audit, taxes, and insurance needs met.

There are three more small positions that must be filled as well. We need someone to organize our Science Fair. This person has a step by step process already set up. They will only be needed for about two months start to finish. We also need a Secretary for the PTSA board. This person needs to attend all PTSA meeting and take notes. Finally, we could find someone to co- chair Outreach we would be set. Jennifer Strong will continue to lead this campaign, but she needs someone she can call to pick - up a donation from time to time, or make a few calls.

If you or someone you know has ever thought about getting involved, don't be intimidated! All Officers will receive training before the new school year begins. This organization helps its own. With our support, knowledge, and experience, **YOU CAN DO THIS JOB!**

Thank You for your Help,

Tiffany Jones

PTSA President

Please contact me with any questions -tiffanyjptsa@aol.com



## Jeffco Public Schools

If you see what looks like a strange e-mail in your inbox from Jeffco Schools next month, please don't hit delete. It's a new monthly parent newsletter making its debut in April. Produced by the communications staff of Jeffco Public Schools, the newsletter will contain relevant and timely information that will strengthen the communication ties between the district and parents.

"Parents are vital partners in helping to educate our students and this newsletter will enable us to directly communicate important information about our budget, our curriculum, our challenges and our celebrations," said Jeffco Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Cindy Stevenson.

The newsletter will have a temporary title of "All things Jeffco". The name is temporary because there will be a naming contest in which anyone can participate. A donated grocery store gift card will be the prize for the winning entry.

Topics in the newsletter will include information from the district as well as parenting tips and important dates-to-remember. It's hoped the newsletter will be a must-read for every Jeffco parent.



## New schedule

Little Elementary parents will notice a slight change coming in the 2009-2010 school year. Our school times next year will be **8:35A.M. -3:25 P.M.** because of changes in district-wide bus schedules. As you may know, Jeffco Public Schools needs to reduce its budget by at least \$12 million for next year. Realigning bus schedules to make them more cost efficient was a suggestion made repeatedly by community members and Jeffco staff at budget forums held earlier this year.

More than \$500 thousand can be saved by streamlining bus routes throughout the district. Nearly a third of Jeffco Schools will be affected by this change including Little Elementary. The time your child is picked up and dropped off at the bus stop will be changing as well. That information will be available by early August.



As you all know we had weather surprise for Read –A- Thon this year. We have set our make- up days for **May14th (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>) and 15<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)** There are quite a few people who put in a lot of work. Let's start with our staff members. To all the teachers and other educators who encouraged their students to read and get their families involved in all our events. Thank you so much. Student council helped keep these events exciting for our classes, thank you.

To Brenda Luksch, from UsBorne books, thank you for supporting our kids, library, and PTSA. Thank you to John at John DiTirro's Photography, for offering your services to us. We are lucky to have you and Michelle as parents at our school. Thanks to Mile High Karate for supplying extra incentives for our school and Hotel Gold Crown for a fabulous teacher prize. To Chipotle and Texas Roadhouse for feeding our teachers during conference dinners, and any parent who donated food or time. Burger King for supporting our event with teaser prizes for the kids, thank you, to you all. Texas Roadhouse also gave every student a free meal, thank you again! Thank you Little Caesars Pizza for supplying our movie night dinners, with a great amount of customer service.

We have to thank volunteer readers, who were unable to come in. Thank you Mark Randall, Karen Leigh, John Jenson, Frank Brown, Jaclyn Allen, and the Arvada Fire Fighters. We thank you for the offers!

A very special thanks to a parent who always helps this school any way she can, she gave time and donations to every event we had. Allison Lough, your help is irreplaceable, and truly defines the spirit of generosity, Thank you so much!

Finally, let me thank all the people who organized or helped with "Reach for the Stars", Movie Night, Spirit week, Read a Thon day, and teacher dinners. These folks are Kim Judson, Cyndy McKee, Esther Valdez, Jennifer Strong, Gabrielle Sherry, Julie Jaeke, Susan Stearns, Deanna Duray, Lisa Polacsek, Marnie Roush, Janet Williams, Dawn Selby, Patty Babcock, Shea Sanchez, Robin Kriss, and Karen Norris. You all have our full appreciation. Your efforts were astounding!

## **Thank you so much!**



## Coming Attractions!

**Little Elementary's 2nd Annual All School Art Night is in the Works!**

**Last year, we celebrated our students' creativity in a frenzy of medieval frivolity.**

**This year our Little Artists are busy creating "monstrous" (but very cute!) creations.**

**All students, grades 1-6 will have art work displayed! We are all looking forward to seeing their creations at our**

**MONSTER ART NIGHT**

**Friday, May 8th from 5:00 - 7:00**

**Right here at Little Elementary!**

## PARENTS of fifth grade students

need to be aware that new state requirements mandate that incoming sixth graders need to have a Tdap immunization.

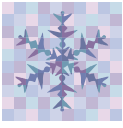
This is a booster for tetanus and whooping cough. As your children have doctor appointments this summer please request that they have this required immunization.

It will make registration for school in the fall much easier. Thank you.

For any questions, you may call Sabrina in the clinic.

303-982-0310





## Snow Day Replacement Dates:

2<sup>nd</sup> evening teacher conferences – Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

Twin Day/Dr. Dodgeball (during specials time)/Ms. Heaviland wears a prom dress – Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

Pride assemblies: March/April will be combined – Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

Read-a-thon (1st - 3rd grades) Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

Read-a-thon (4th - 6th grades) Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>



## Moore Middle School Open House

8455 W. 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Arvada  
303-982-0400

**Thursday, April 30**  
**3:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

Meet the staff, administrators, and counselors.  
Practice opening lockers. Tour the school.  
Find out about life at Moore.

### Janet says, “Check out the Information Table in the Lobby!”

- **19 Sports-Flag Football & Cheerleading**
- **The Children’s Connection-Core Knowledge Preschool & Childcare**
- **Tech Camps-Summer 2009**
- **Stephen Oliver’s Mile High Karate**
- **YMCA Youth Sports**
- **Girl Scouts**
- **Piano Lessons**
- **Arvada Kite Festival-April 4th**
- **North Jefferson Junior Baseball Association-8 and under**
- **Summer Reading Skills Program-Regis University Classes offered in Arvada—K-11th grade**

## Meadow Glen Swim Team

Attention all students, we are looking for boys and girls of all ages to join our swim team. The season begins May 18<sup>th</sup> and ends July 26<sup>th</sup>. The Meadowglen Dolphins have competed in the Boulder Valley Summer Swim League for the past 23 years. Our head coaches have been with the team for all 23, one as both a competing swimmer and coach. The BVSSL is comprised of 13 teams with approximately 1800 swimmers competing.

Our program is designed for swimmers to have a fun, fulfilling summer. The meets are exiting, the friendships lasting and the experience rewarding.

We do ask that every new swimmer is water safe and can make at least one length of the pool without adult assistance in the water. Our facility is located in the Meadowglen subdivision at 81<sup>st</sup> and Everett.

If you are interested in having a great summer please call Carla at (303) 422-0366, for more details.

Hope to see you this summer!





***Let's Hear Some Good News in a Bad News Time!***

We all know the economy is scary and we need to pull through as a community so that we can make it through to the light at the end of the tunnel. Fundraising is a tough thing for parents to try and fit into their already stretched budgets, but everyone has really come through and the PTSA has met their goals this year. Some of our goals were to focus on replenishing the library and bookroom, continue the Wall of Fame program, support our teachers financially, continue funding the student's favorite programs (like the running club) and provide better communication through newsletters and the new website. We cut the budget and penny pinched (just like you do at home) and were able to purchase 14 document cameras for the teachers and a few other small technology purchases! This support of our school and teachers isn't coming from a few select parents but from the efforts of the whole school! We should all be proud of our school, our kids and ourselves!

***Great Job, Parents!***

# Notes from the Office



**Congratulations Little Hall of Fame Winners!**



**Pride Celebrations were held on Friday, February 27th and we want to congratulate the entire Wall of Fame and Principal Recognition winners.**

## Wall of Fame

Ian Rodriguez  
Jack Stearns  
Jake Ellsmore  
Conner Huddleson  
Berenice Picazo  
Flamur Sopaj  
Gabe Oxford  
Sydney Manivong

Tabitha Kwiatkowski  
Joshua Bryant  
Taryn Schreffler  
Ben Saprano  
Cassidy Di'Tirro  
Kayleigh Sekera  
Erik Ellsmore  
Kaileia Moland

## Principal Recognition

Tristen Avila  
Casey Roybal  
Nik Morua  
Tyler Rossi

Ashley Sanchez  
Madison Younger  
Kyle Cunningham



**Congratulations to the following students whose artwork was selected to be displayed in the Jefferson County Art Show at Red Rock Community College throughout the month of March:**

Payton Halbasch  
Tanner Kimminau  
Ronnie Garcia  
D'Angelo Sandate  
Lily Sale  
Owen Sekera

Kelly Serrano  
Robby Wehner-Ortega  
Braeden Craft  
Curtis Bruse  
Raelynn Rodriguez  
ReEnna Duray