



December 2008
ISSUE 4: 2008-2009

What can you do to help at Little Elementary?

December -Community Outreach

The Student Council is sponsoring an Outreach Project to help provide for families in need this holiday season. There are three ways to support this project.

1. Money donation to the cause.
2. Help organize gifts to give to families at Little.
3. Donate specific items.

There was a letter sent home in the Friday Folders. Please fill it out and help our kids help others. Please call the school office with any questions.

December- First grade needs your help

In the near future, first grade will need parent volunteers to help our students in the afternoon around 2:00 p.m. until the end of the day. Please keep an eye out for more details as they become available or feel free to offer your help in advance to one of our great 1st grade teachers:

Lori Bell
lbell@jeffco.k12.co.us;

Carrie Halbasch
chalbasch@jeffco.k12.co.us;

Susan McIver
smciver@jeffco.k12.co.us



The Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

As we look forward to the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, our thoughts turn to the gifts we can give our children that will last a lifetime.

- A solid strong education
- Empathy: the capacity to care for others
- Joy in living and laughing
- Hope for the future
- Freedom
- Peace
- Love

These are only but a few of the lifelong gifts we strive to provide for our children. We are fortunate to have our basic needs of food, shelter, and warm clothes met; however there are those less fortunate than us and they find themselves in need and struggle to provide for their family. As a school community, we would like to reach out and provide a helping hand during the holiday season. Our community outreach efforts will include a "Giving Tree" tradition. A holiday tree will be set up in the front hallway and we are asking students to contribute **UNDERWEAR and SOCKS as decorations for our "Giving Tree"**. We have learned that new socks and underwear are the #1 requested items from families in need with children. Warm feet lead to a warm heart! Donations can be sent to school from **Dec. 1 – Dec. 17th**. Our donations will go to children and families in our area and will be distributed through the Kid's Pages organization.

Little Elementary Student Council will also sponsor a Community Outreach Project and collect donations to provide gift baskets to families in need. Student Council will collect donations from Dec. 1st-17th. ALL donations, no matter the size are wonderful and greatly appreciated.

Of course, your participation in these community outreach events is totally voluntary. The Little Elementary Student Council hopes you will choose to help kids and families in our area.

Thank you for teaching and modeling for your children the values of generosity and unselfish giving this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Esther G. Valdez
Principal

Zachary Langerak
Student Council President

Letter from the PTSA President

Dear Families and Staff,

Thank you so much to our first grade students who brought their families to the meeting in November. They gave us a very informative and entertaining look at their "Making Words" lesson. It was definitely something to see. Check out the picture at the end of the newsletter.

I would like to remind everyone that there is no PTSA or CAT meeting this month. We want to give as much time to the upcoming season as possible.

We want to thank all of the scientists who will be participating in the science fair on December 2nd as well as the families who help with all of the experiments. Thank you to all of the parents who are lending us a helping hand with the set-up, clean-up, and evaluator dinners. We could not be successful without you. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude for this year's organizers, Rob Wehner and Ana Ortega-Wehner. Thank you for allowing us to have this great tradition continue at Little Elementary.

When we come back in January, we have all kinds of planning to do for the rest of the school year. At this time we are trying to brainstorm a few ideas about the Spirit week before the Read-a-Thon, as well as the Read-a-Thon itself. If you have any ideas or comments on years past, please go to the message board on our website at www.littleptsa.com. Or email me at tiffanyjptsa@aol.com

Thank You for your Help,
Tiffany Jones, PTSA President

Just for fun

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is grandma's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jelly to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

- 1) You believe in Santa Claus.
- 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus.
- 3) You are Santa Claus.
- 4) You look like Santa Claus.



A Big Thank You to all of our families for supporting our school's food drive last month. Your donation will be given to those who need it. We couldn't have done it without you!



The turkey trot was a great day again this year. **Thank you** to all of the parents who donated pies and turkeys to our fastest runners and also supplying prizes for the food drive raffle winners. **Thank you** to our parents and staff members who were able to stand on corners, drive around for stragglers, and run with our students. Your effort kept everyone safe. We also want to thank **Lissa Heaviland** for organizing our Turkey Trot and the food drive.

Have you checked out the PTSA website lately? It's located at www.LittlePTSA.com.



Congratulations to Mrs. Bell's first grade class for bringing in the most "Box tops" and Campbell Soup labels. Currently now we have proceeds coming to our school from the Box Tops program for about \$750.00 in December. That's in addition to the \$284.06 earned last April.

We also have 2,151 points to shop with on the Campbell Soup Web site. **Thank You** to our students, teachers and Jennifer Strong for coordinating such successful campaign.



Congratulations to our Reflections winners! A celebration was held for all of the contestants on Friday November 21st. The kids were able to give an explanation of their project and enjoy some cake and ice cream. Their creativity was mind boggling.

Our category winners' projects will go on to the state finals at Red Rocks.

Thank You to the second grade teachers who participated as a group.

Our thanks and gratitude goes to Julia Jaeke and our fearless leader **Gabrielle Sherry who has organized this event for the last six years!** Our students are lucky to have both of you.

-----Clip here-----

Electronic Information Form

I am interested in signing up for electronic information:

I would like to receive:

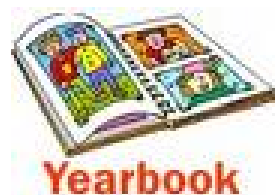
- Electronic newsletters
- Classroom, school, PTSA notices

Your name: _____

Your email address (please print VERY clearly) _____

Your children's names _____

Your children's teacher _____



Yearbook Presales - Between now and January 1st we will be pre-selling the 2008-2009 Little Yearbook. The price will be \$15 now or \$17 after the first of the year. The

yearbook is in FULL color and features your child's class as well as the many activities that take place throughout the year. Last year we sold out and couldn't fill orders that came in late. Preorder now to make sure you get a copy. Fill out the form below and return it to Mrs. Polacsek in the library.

Student's name _____

Teacher's name _____

Signature of Parent _____

Please submit this form as well as a \$15.00 check made out to **Little PTSA by Dec. 15th**.



jad0016 www.fotosearch.com

Election Results in Loss of Funding for Schools

Jeffco Public Schools would like to thank the thousands of parents and community members who voted for ballot measures 3A and 3B. Unfortunately, a majority of Jeffco residents voted against the initiatives. The district would also like to acknowledge and thank the hundreds of volunteers who passionately supported and worked tirelessly for the election. Their belief in Jeffco Public Schools is inspiring and will sustain the district through the

difficult months to come. And while the disappointment is great, the staff of Jeffco Schools will continue to focus on giving our students a great education.

In the days ahead, district staff will weigh the impact of the election and what it will mean for schools and students. There are some harsh realities that will be faced in the near future. Beginning in 2009 and through 2012, there will be budget reductions in every school and in every department across the district; budget workgroups, which will include community members, will reconvene to begin that work. It is likely that class sizes will increase and some staff will be reduced. It's hoped that much of the staff reduction can be accomplished through attrition and no new hiring.

Because the bond measure didn't pass, the 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program, which would have made improvements in nearly every school, will be put on hold. That means any planned improvements or additions to your school included in that program will not happen in the foreseeable future.

"While we are deeply disappointed that our measures were voted down, we will stay positive and focus on providing programs that will make a difference to our students," said Jeffco Public Schools Superintendent Cindy Stevenson.

"We believe we have the best staff, parents and students in the state and we intend to continue Jeffco's tradition of excellence in spite of the coming reductions."

Making Words Presentation in November



Papa John's has always been a great supporter of Little Elementary. They have donated many pizzas over the years to various events at our school.

We have decided to start a Papa John's Pizza night every week for Little in order to help with our fundraising efforts and to support a local business that supports our school.

Make Wednesdays a Little Papa John's Pizza night!

Call (303) 429-5252 to Papa John's Pizza at 8025 Sheridan Blvd on Wednesdays and let them know you are a Little supporter.

While you enjoy a stress free dinner in the middle of the week, a percentage of the profits will help benefit our kids.

**Have a great
Holiday
Vacation!**

**Please be safe
during this
busy time and
try and stay
sane!**

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*
December 2008



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
December 1 Chicken Nuggets or Beef Soft Taco or Taco Salad	2 Macaroni & Cheese or BBQ Pork Sandwich or "Snack Lunch" (Yogurt, Cheese & Muffin)	3 Seasoned Bread Sticks or Oven Fried Chicken or Mandarin Chicken Salad	4 Hamburger or Cheeseburger or Cuban Pork Potatoes or Chef Salad	5 Deli Roll Up or Fish Sandwich or Chicken Caesar Salad
PBJ Uncrustable	Breakfast Burrito	Breakfast Sandwich	Wh.Grain Pop Tart w/ Sausage	Waffles
December 8 Teriyaki Chicken w/Brown Rice or Chicken Alfredo or Taco Salad	9 Chili w/Corn Bread or Deli Turkey Wrap or "Snack Lunch" (Seeds, Cheese, & Muffin)	10 Country Style Steak Strips or Cheese Enchiladas or Mandarin Chicken Salad	11 Italian Dunkers w/Stromboli Sauce or Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich or Chef Salad	12 Galaxy Pizza or Tuna Salad Sandwich or Chicken Caesar Salad
Yogurt & Muffin	Scrambled Egg & Toast	Bagel Stick	Egg Omelet	French Toast
December 15 Hot Dog on a Bun or Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Brown Rice or Taco Salad	16 Ravioli or Pork Rib Dippers or "Snack Lunch" (Yogurt, Cheese & Muffin)	17 Chicken Quesadilla or Sloppy Joe on a Bun or Mandarin Chicken Salad	18 Baked Potato or Manager's Choice or Chef Salad	19 NO SCHOOL! 
PBJ Uncrustable	Breakfast Burrito	Breakfast Sandwich	Wh.Grain Pop Tart w/ Sausage	Waffles

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 .



Little Elementary Refrigerator Reminder



December - 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 School Event Early Release Day 1:15 p.m.	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 PTSA Event Canceled! - PTSA Meeting 6:30 p.m. CAT Event Cancelled! - CAT meeting 5:30 p.m.	18	19	20
21	22 School Event (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break	23 (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break	24 (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break	25 (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break	26 (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break	27 (Dec 22- Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break
28 (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break	29 (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break	30 (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break	31 (Dec 22-Jan 5) NO SCHOOL - Winter break			
December - 2008						