

STEM Focus School

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics



September 22, 2011

Issue 3

POLTON'S PRINCIPAL PERSPECTIVE

STUDENT SAFETY OUTWEIGHS PARENT CONVENIENCE

Most of us use parking lots daily and we often take safety in these areas for granted. We believe that because we are traveling at such low speeds, accidents are unlikely to occur. The parking lot, as well as the traffic around Polton, is actually very dangerous and vulnerable places for both children and drivers alike. Parking and driving are extremely dangerous when children are around and this is the most likely time for student accidents to occur because individuals are sometimes less concentrated on focusing on children and are more focused on finding a parking space. Safety measures are regularly overlooked, leaving other drivers and our students at a high-risk for being injured by a moving vehicle.

No stopping signs

No Stopping signs are located around our school to help your children stay safe. They mean that cars cannot park or drop off/pick up children at all or in some instances during the hours specified on the sign. It may seem convenient to park or stop in these areas but it may also endanger the lives of your children, especially small children, who cross the road or walk through this area to school.

Pick up areas

When picking up children in the afternoon, here are a few suggestions to help ease traffic congestion around Polton:

- Pre-arrange a pick up place with your children.
- If possible, arrange to meet your children a little further away from the school.
- Arrange to meet your children 5 to 10 minutes later than school finish time to avoid congestion.
- If possible, circle the block a few times...if your child is not there, keep moving and go around the block one more time.
- Or park your car further away and walk onto the school grounds to meet your child.

Crosswalks and Crossing Guards

When driving around the school, be aware of crosswalks and crossing guards. Crossing guards are not there just to make your life miserable, but to keep your children safe. Please be courteous to them and obey their stop signs. In my short time at Polton, I have witnessed cars driving through the crossing guards' signs, I have seen people "yell" at the guards, and I have heard people say that "they can't tell me what to do." When the stop signs are displayed, the crossing is in operation, and all drivers should be prepared to stop. Here are a few rules to adhere to:

Look out for the advanced warning "School Crossing" signs

Remain stationary until all pedestrians and the crossing guard is safely on the curb.
Do not overtake any other vehicle stopped at a crosswalk, or obeying the crossing guard.

(Continued on page 2)

Paw prints
POLTON



(Continued from page 1)

School Road Safety Reminder

It is extremely important to remember the basic safety rules around the school. Please drive carefully! Be mindful of children and their parents walking and cycling to school, as well as those students catching buses or waiting to be picked up by parents in vehicles. **STUDENT SAFETY OUTWEIGHS PARENT CONVENIENCE** at all times, I'm sure you all agree. Polton is a very busy place at drop off and pick up time, and your courtesy and patience are sincerely appreciated.


Richie Strickland
Principal



 **Fall Break** 
Oct. 24-28, 2011



Fall Retake Picture Day

Wednesday, November 2, 2011



POLTON CALENDAR

October	24-28	No School-Fall Break
November	11	No School-Non-Contact Day
	23	No School-Non-Contact Day
	24 & 25	No School-Thanksgiving Break
December	8	Winter Concert- 6-8 p.m. / Gym
	19-Jan. 2	No School-Winter Break
January	16	No School-MLK Jr. Day
February	20	No School-President's Day
	21	No School-Non-Contact Day
March	1 & 2	No School-Non-Contact Day
	26-30	No School-Spring Break
May	4	No School-Non-Contact Day
	28	No School-Memorial Day
June	6	Last Day of School



Polton Panthers

2011-2012

SCHOOL HOURS

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Morning kindergarten 9:00-11:50 a.m.

Afternoon kindergarten 12:40-3:30 p.m.

POLTON COMMUNITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

2985 South Oakland Street
Aurora, Colorado 80014
720-747-2600
FAX 720-747-2688

Polton Place Daycare
720-747-2678

Attendance Line
720-747-2695

Nurse
720-747-2603

www.cherrycreekschools.org

Please Call Storm Delay/
Closure Hotline
(720-554-4701)
In the event of
Inclement weather.

Delayed Start:
Bus pick-up and school start times
are delayed 1 hour.

Please watch your local
television channels, listen to the
radio, or call the storm/delay
closure hotline to learn this
information.



Polton's Caring Community

Attendance Line

Please call the attendance line if your child is going to be absent or late. [720-747-2695](tel:720-747-2695). This line is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Attendance is VERY important!

It is difficult for students to learn if they are not in the classroom. Please encourage your children to be in school, but don't send them when they are sick.



Important Transportation Contact Information Cherry Creek School District

Route Planning: 720-886-7477
For information on Routes, Stop times and locations, and for space available

General Information and Questions: 720-886-7425

Emergency Contact (before 6:00 p.m.):
 East Transportation Terminal 720-886-4111
 Central Transportation Terminal 720-886-7413
 West Transportation Terminal 720-554-4650

Emergency Contact (after 6:00 p.m.):
 Integrated Security Services 303-698-2698



Polton's new PTCO Executive Board and PAAC Chairs for the 2011-2012 school year:

Parent Advisory and Accountability Committee (PAAC)

Co-Chairs:

Mark McMillan (mcmillanmark@hotmail.com)

David Aarestad (davidaarestad@yahoo.com)

Meeting Dates for 2011-2012:

Tues., November 15, 2011	6-7:30 p.m.
Tues., February 21, 2012	6-7:30 p.m.
Tues., April 24, 2012	6-7:30 p.m.

Parent, Teacher, Community Organization (PTCO)

PTCO President: Matt Batcho (Matt.Batcho@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Sara Kraeski (Sara.Kraeski@dgslaw.com)

Secretary: Sandy Foster (ske2000142@cs.com)

Meeting Dates for 2011-2012:

Thurs., October 20, 2011	8-8:45 a.m.
Tues., November 15, 2011	6-7:30 p.m.
Thurs., January 19, 2012	8-8:45 a.m.
Tues., February 21, 2012	6-7:30 p.m.
Thurs., March 22, 2012	8-8:45 a.m.
Tues., April 24, 2012	6-7:30 p.m.
Thurs., May 24, 2012	8-8:45 a.m.

Polton Place Hours on Regular Days:

6:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
&
3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.



2011-2012

Skate City Dates:

Tuesday, November 22, 2011
Wednesday, February 29, 2012
Thursday, May 10, 2012

Times:
6:00-8:00 p.m.





Polton Community Elementary School

PASS Committee Meeting Dates and Times

PASS-6:30 PM

(AFRICAN AMERICAN)

September 27, 2011

November 29, 2011

January 31, 2012

March 20, 2012

May 22, 2012

PASS-6:30 PM

(HISPANIC/LATINO)

November 3, 2011

January 19, 2012

March 8, 2012

May 10, 2012

All meetings will be held in the Polton Library.

The PASS Committee (Partnership for Academically Successful Students) is dedicated to promoting social equity and excellence in academics, athletics and the arts for Polton Elementary School's students of color.



Snow Delay & Closure line: 720-554-4701

The website
(<http://www.ccsd.k12.co.us/SchoolStatus/>)
and hotline number
(720-554-4701)
is updated within minutes after decisions are made at the
district level.

**This website is updated during a weather event by
6:00 a.m.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Please make arrangements now for emergency childcare in the event of an early or late opening/closing schedule. Be sure to discuss them with your child(ren) so that they know what to do. **Please do not call the school** - announcements will be made on the local radio and television stations.

**If there is a snow delay, school begins at
10:00 a.m.**

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – POLTON PRINTS - IS NOW ON-LINE

Our Polton Prints is now paperless. All of our newsletters can be accessed on our school's webpage: <http://www.pol.ccsd.k12.co.us/HTMLPages/news.html> or you may pick up a hard copy in the school lobby.



PARENTS - WE NEED YOUR HELP !!

PTCO's Hospitality Committee is getting ready to serve up the first teacher's lunch. The happier our teachers are, the happier our children are! Here is your chance to get involved in a great way. We put lunch together four times a year to show our teachers our appreciation for all they do for our children. We do this with the help of volunteers and we rely heavily on donations. We need a couple parents to help us serve lunch one day in October (the date is forthcoming). Or if you would like to bring in any food to us it would be greatly appreciated! Anything helps!

Please call:

Jenni Darnell
720-280-5152

Bobi Sharp
303-745-8778 / 720-260-9392

Winter Break Dates

Dec. 19, 2011-January 2, 2012

***Don't Forget to Send
Lunch Money.....***





CHERRY CREEK SCHOOLS
**PARENT
ACADEMY**

Help Guide Your Child through their Tweens!

A Program for Parents of 4th-8th Graders!

**Pick a location that works best
for you!**

*Each class meets from 6:00 to 8:30 pm
for four consecutive weeks starting on
the date listed below:*

October 3rd Mondays
Eastridge Elementary School

November 2nd Wednesdays
(skipping Thanksgiving week)
Meadow Point Elementary School

January 4th Wednesdays
Horizon Middle School

February 2nd Thursdays
Liberty Middle School

February 28th Tuesdays
Campus Middle School

***April 3rd Tuesdays**
Prairie Middle School

April 5th Thursdays
West Middle School

Childcare available on a limited basis

Light snacks provided

**Please note, this class will be presented
in Spanish*

Cherry Creek School District psychologists, social workers, and counseling staff present the Guiding Good Choices program throughout the district year-round. Guiding Good Choices is nationally recognized as a Model Program by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

As children evolve from parent-pleasing little ones, to adolescents yearning for independence, testing boundaries and seeking peer acceptance, this **proven effective** four-week class offers tips for parents on navigating those challenging years.

LEARN TO:

- » Teach your child to stop, think and control impulses
- » Communicate peer pressure refusal skills
- » Understand adolescent brain development and how it affects behaviors
- » Develop healthy beliefs and clear standards within your family
- » Strengthen family bonds
- » Manage family conflict

INVEST THE TIME!

- » Four classes can make a lifetime of difference!
- » Research shows that Guiding Good Choices has been demonstrated to:
 - » Reduce alcohol use by 40 percent
 - » Increase the probability of remaining drug free
 - » Significantly reduce the the rate at which adolescents develop depression

Cost: \$30.00 per family - includes a \$10 workbook fee (Scholarships available for families who receive Free & Reduced Lunch - Call 720-554-4247 for more information.)

Additional costs of the program are sponsored by the CCSD Wellness Office and the Colorado Department of Education's Division of Safe and Drug Free Schools.

Space is Limited – Register Now!

EMAIL: smilian@cherrycreekschools.org

PHONE: 720-554-4247



Dedicated to Excellence
Cherry Creek Schools

To view a map of the seven convenient locations please see other side.

Please join us for an informative evening of
"Courageous Conversations"
Hispanic/Latino History, Culture, and
Educational Successes & Challenges
Presented by the Office of Excellence & Equity



Speaker: Dr. Ramon Del Castillo, Chair
Department of Chicana/o Studies
Metropolitan State College of Denver

Topic: Presentation and discussion regarding Hispanic/Latino history and culture, challenges parents & students face related to school, and effective engagement of Hispanic/Latino students in the classroom.

When: October 11, 2011
5:00-7:30 p.m.

Where: Instructional Support Facility
5416 S. Riviera Way, Centennial, CO 80015

*Please email Karen Rowell (krowell2@cherrycreekschools.org) to reserve your seat.
(Maximum 55 participants)

Questions? Please call Kathy Vining, Multicultural Specialist, 720-554-5033