



Home of the Panthers! April Newsletter



From Mr. Gerity and Mrs. Contreras

Dear Ponderosa Community,

For the past three years I have had the utmost privilege to be a part of this incredible community at Ponderosa. The relationships I have with your students, my colleagues, and the members of this community have impacted me in so many positive ways and transformed me personally and professionally.

It is with a heavy and grateful heart that I say thank you and goodbye to the Ponderosa community. I have an amazing opportunity to join the school team at Eastridge Community Elementary as their Principal for the upcoming school year. I am thrilled to be beginning this next chapter of my leadership journey in the Overland Feeder area.

To my students, you will be dearly missed - each and every one of you has left an imprint on my heart and I cannot wait to see the incredible young people you'll grow to become; I feel such optimism and hope knowing that our future is in your hands.

To my colleagues, thank you for your friendship and your brilliance. This school team at Ponderosa will always and forever hold a very special place in my heart. You have changed me as a leader, and I would not be where I am today without all of you.

To our community of families and caregivers, the care and kindness you have shown me in my three years at Ponderosa is humbling and overwhelming. Thank you for your trust, your partnership and for sharing your children with me every single day.

Thank you, Ponderosa, you are a very special place and will never be forgotten.

With much gratitude,

Bridget Contreras

Dates to Remember...

May 3- District Accountability Committee
6:00pm-8:00pm

May 4- Indigenous Parent Action Committee Meeting
6:00pm-7:30pm

May 5- K-8 NO SCHOOL

May 8- Board of Education Meeting
7:00pm-9:00pm

May 11- Special Education Advisory Committee 9:30am-11:30am

May 25- Overland High School Graduation 4:00pm-6:00pm

May 25- 5th Grade Continuation @Ponderosa 9:00am-10:00am

May 25- Kinder Continuation @Ponderosa 1:00pm-2:00pm

May 26- LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Ponderosa's Newest Assistant Principal

Hello Ponderosa Community,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you as Ponderosa's newest Assistant Principal beginning July 1, 2023. I am very honored to join the Ponderosa community. Before sharing a little about myself, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Contreras on her newest adventure as she wraps up her time at Ponderosa. I'm sure the students, families, and staff are going to miss her presence at school. I wish her the best of luck!

In 2006, I began my teaching career in Cherry Creek. I was fortunate to spend over six years teaching in the Overland feeder at Polton Elementary. After my time at Polton, I taught at Pine Ridge Elementary for three years. Then, I was able to use my leadership skills in a new capacity working at the district level. I spent four years supporting teachers across the district through science instruction as the Elementary Science Coordinator and Coach. During this time, I also worked very closely with schools in establishing and enhancing Professional Learning Communities. I also taught 6th grade science online at Elevation during the pandemic. These experiences allowed me to foster many relationships.

Most recently, I have been the MTSS Coordinator at High Plains Elementary. This gave me the opportunity to work closely with teachers, students, and families to ensure student needs are met and student strengths are seen, honored, and valued. This experience has confirmed my passion to build relationships within a school's community while leaning into my leadership skills during difficult times and celebration.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I have a supportive husband and three adorable children. We spend many weekends watching my oldest at sporting events. I love to enjoy good food, music and the outdoors.

I believe in showcasing the strengths in everyone, cultivating meaningful connections with others, celebrating diversity and ensuring all families are heard, seen, and honored. I am so excited to meet each and every one of you as the new school year begins.

Sincerely,

Sarah Polzin



Newsletter Items for Schools

#1: Map Launch –

Check out our new updated map which highlights recent bond improvements made at your school and across the district! Many of the bond improvement projects outlined in our 2020 bond measure have been or are close to be successfully completed. Click to learn more and see what's new at your school: www.cherrycreekschools.org/MappingOurFuture

#2: Back to School info –

Are you new to Cherry Creek Schools? Have you moved in the last 6 months? Take action now to make sure you're ready for the 2023-24 school year!

1. New families! NOW is the time to enroll your child for the 2023-24 school year! We recommend new parents enroll as soon as possible to make sure you're all set for next school year. [Click here](#) to enroll your student(s) today!
2. Have you moved? If so, [click here](#) to ensure an updated address is on file for your student(s).
3. If you've been contacted by your school's registrar, please follow up with them as it could be about important enrollment information for next year.

If you have not recently moved and are currently enrolled and returning to CCSD in the fall, no action is required at this time.

#3: Preschool Enrichment (Flyer attached separately)

Parents can now register for an optional, fee-based childcare program providing a quality experience for the other half of the Pre-Kindergarten day! These programs operate Monday-Thursday, 8:00-2:45. Lunch is included! Learn more (<https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/Page/14038>)

PRESCHOOL ENRICHMENT

Preschool Enrichment is an optional childcare program providing a quality experience for the other half of the Pre-Kindergarten day!

- * Space is limited!
- * Convenient and safe
- * On-site with Pre-Kindergarten
- * Free hot lunch every day
 - * High quality staff
 - * Affordable rates
- * CCCAP financial assistance accepted

Curiosity
begins
here!

2023-2024
Registration
NOW OPEN!

MONDAY-THURSDAY
8:00am - 2:45pm

Click [HERE](#)
for more
information!

schoolcareworks@cherrycreekschools.org

This notice must be distributed to all parents and staff within two business days of receiving this notice. Please note that this includes parents and staff of all programs located within this facility building.

**A Spanish version of this notice is found below
A continuación encontrará una versión de este aviso en español.**

Notice: Ponderosa Elementary School has received results for lead drinking water testing

In June, Governor Polis signed into law Colorado House Bill 22-1358: Clean Water in Schools and Child Care Centers. This bill requires all licensed child care programs and public schools to test their drinking water for lead and take action when results show levels of lead at or above 5 parts per billion (ppb). The goal of this law is to lower children's exposure to lead. To meet these requirements, Ponderosa Elementary School has tested for lead at all water fixtures used for drinking and cooking.

Lead is a toxic metal that is [especially harmful to young children](#). The degree of risk depends on the child's total exposure to lead from all environmental sources – air, soil, dust, food, paint, consumer products, and water. Typically, old or corroded lead plumbing or old brass fixtures can contribute to increased lead levels in drinking water. If you are concerned about your child's exposure you can have their blood tested. Please contact your health provider to learn more about testing your child's blood for lead. For more information please visit: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/lead-testing>.

Schools/child care facilities that have lead results in drinking water above 5 parts per billion (ppb) must take action to reduce exposure to lead. When lead is found at or above 5 ppb, the fixture is shut off while a more long-term solution is underway. These solutions may include permanently removing the fixture from service, designating a fixture as “not for drinking”, replacing drinking water faucets or fountains, or installing filters. For the fixtures where lead is found below 5 ppb, we will follow routine practices to further lower potential exposure.

Results Summary:

- 26 Fixtures were tested
- 26 Fixtures had lead results that tested below 5 ppb - no further action is required
- 0 Fixtures had lead results that tested at or above 5 ppb

You can view the detailed sample results and remediation plans at the following link: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/environment/lead-safety/test-and-fix-water-for-kids>. Results may take up to 30 days to be posted on this webpage. Protecting the health and wellbeing of Colorado's children is our top priority, and we will keep you updated during the process at Ponderosa Elementary School. If you have questions or concerns about our facility and the actions we are taking, please contact Adam Hahn at ahahn5@cherrycreekschools.org.

For more information on lead: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/lead>

For Colorado lead testing requirements in drinking water: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/environment/lead-safety/test-and-fix-water-for-kids>

For U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) general information on lead: www.epa.gov/lead

Este aviso debe distribuirse a todos los padres y al personal dentro de los dos días hábiles posteriores a su recepción. Por favor, tenga en cuenta que se incluyen a los padres y al personal de todos los programas dentro de las instalaciones de este edificio.

Aviso: Ponderosa Elementary School ha recibido los resultados de las pruebas de detección de plomo en el agua potable

En junio, el gobernador Polis promulgó la Ley 22-1358 de la Cámara de Representantes de Colorado: Agua Limpia en Escuelas y Centros de Cuidado Infantil. Esta ley exige que todos los programas de cuidado infantil con licencia y las escuelas elegibles analicen su agua potable para detectar el plomo, y tomen medidas cuando los resultados indican niveles de 5 partes por mil millones (ppb) en adelante. El objetivo de esta ley es reducir la exposición de los niños al plomo. Para cumplir estos requisitos, Ponderosa Elementary School hizo pruebas de plomo en todas las fuentes de salida de agua que se utilizan para beber y cocinar.

El plomo es un metal tóxico que es [especialmente perjudicial para los niños pequeños](#). El nivel de riesgo depende de la exposición total del niño al plomo procedente de todas las fuentes del entorno: aire, suelo, polvo, alimentos, pintura, productos de consumo personal y agua. Por lo general, las tuberías de plomo viejas o corroídas o los accesorios de latón viejos pueden aumentar los niveles de plomo en el agua potable. Si le preocupa la exposición de su hijo(a), puede hacerle un análisis de sangre. Por favor, comuníquese con su médico para obtener más

información sobre los análisis de sangre para determinar el nivel de plomo. Para obtener más información, visite <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/lead-testing>.

Las escuelas y los centros de cuidado infantil que obtengan resultados de niveles de plomo en el agua potable por encima de 5 partes por mil millones (ppb) deben tomar medidas para reducir la exposición al plomo. Cuando se detecta que el nivel de plomo es igual o superior a 5 ppb, se desconecta la fuente de salida del agua mientras se lleva a cabo una acción correctiva a largo

plazo. Estas soluciones pueden incluir el retiro permanente de la fuente de salida del agua, designar una fuente de agua como “no apta para beber”, sustituir los grifos o fuentes de agua potable, o instalar filtros. En el caso de las fuentes de salida de agua en las que se encuentra plomo por debajo de 5 ppb, seguimos las prácticas rutinarias para reducir aún más la posibilidad de exposición.

Resumen de los resultados:

- 26 fuentes de salida de agua fueron sometidas a pruebas.
- 26 fuentes de salida de agua arrojaron resultados de plomo inferiores a 5 ppb. En este caso, no se requiere ninguna otra medida.
- 0 fuentes de salida de agua arrojaron resultados de plomo de 5 ppb o superiores.

Puede consultar los resultados detallados de las muestras y los planes de remediación en este enlace: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/environment/lead-safety/test-and-fix-water-for-kids>. Los resultados pueden tardar hasta 30 días en publicarse en esta página web. Nuestra máxima prioridad es proteger la salud y el bienestar de los niños de Colorado, y le mantendremos informado durante el proceso en Ponderosa Elementary School. Si tiene preguntas o inquietudes sobre nuestro centro y las acciones que estamos tomando, póngase en contacto con Adam Hahn en ahahn5@cherrycreekschools.org.

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/lead> para obtener más información sobre el plomo

Para conocer los requisitos aplicables en Colorado en materia de pruebas de detección del plomo en el agua potable, visite: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/environment/lead-safety/test-and-fix-waterfor-kids>.

Visite <https://espanol.epa.gov/espanol/informacion-basica-sobre-el-plomo-en-el-agua-potable>, la página de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA) de los EE. UU., para obtener información general sobre el plomo.