Greetings Ponderosa Parents,

Well, here we are – Winter Break. Can you believe how quickly the school year is passing? We have officially completed one half of the 2019/2020 school year. Thus far, I hope you would agree that much has been accomplished and learned during this time we have spent together.

Many exciting things have transpired during the first few months of the school year, almost too many to count. Among them, and certainly one of the most exciting, has been our Veterans’ Day Parade. What an incredible blessing it was to have every child out cheering on our veteran visitors on November 13. On the heels of that momentous celebration, Ponderosa sent fifth grader Devonte Rodriguez with a select few students from other schools in the district to the Center for American Values in Pueblo, Colorado. During the trip, Devonte was able to meet and spend time with several Medal of Honor recipients. Please enjoy the photos below. According to Devonte, this trip was “an amazing experience.”
Upon our return from break, Ponderosa will be hosting two unique events that will provide learning opportunities for our community. Beginning January 15, Ponderosa will welcome Cooking Matters. This is a group that brings parents and kids together, teaching them to cook. We are looking for ten families interested in learning to cook together at Ponderosa in our Library and Media Center – the INN Zone. Classes begin on January 15 and run every Wednesday through February 26 from 5:30 – 7:30. Please stop by the front office to let us know if you are interested in participating.

The second learning opportunity for parents is scheduled to occur Wednesday, February 19 and Wednesday, February 26. Darkness to Light: Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development is a course designed to provide parents with information and approaches to having healthy appropriate conversations with kids about sexual development. More information will come following the break. I am excited about this training and hope to see a good number of our families attend.

I’d like to take a few lines to send my sincere thanks to the Ponderosa community. These past two years we have changed our approach to fund raising for the school. Partnering with Boosterthon, we have shifted from selling catalogue items for profit to raising money through pledging for our Fun Run. Our goal this year was to raise $8,000. I would like to report that we effectively eclipsed that amount, raising over $9,000. Just before our fund raising event, I promised the students I would be slimmed if we were able to raise $8,000. Well, our kids did a magnificent job of promoting the Fun Run, which means the kids will watch as teachers dump a bucket of slime on my head. As you are reading this, the slimming will have already occurred. Be sure to ask your kids about watching the green sludge cover me from head to toe. Thank you parents for your support and generosity. I look forward to discussing the allocation of these funds with our PTCO. If you are interested in having a voice in these discussions, please plan to attend our next PTCO meeting which will be held Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

And that’s a wrap (literally and figuratively)!!! As we bid goodbye to the 2010s and usher in a new decade, we do it with great hope and anticipation. Our hope is to return in two weeks to finish the outstanding work that began in August. We anticipate making great things happen each and everyday during the second half of this school year. Thank you for partnering with us as we work to have excellence occur every day here at Ponderosa. I wish you all a wonderful break. Please take these next two weeks to rest, relax and recharge. We have lots of work ahead of us upon our return January 7, 2020. 😊

Sincerely,

Chad M. Gerity
Principal Ponderosa Elementary School
Notes From the School Nurse
As the weather changes, remember we are heading into cold and flu season. To increase your immune system, follow the techniques listed below:
- Wash hands with soap and water or use sanitizer frequently.
- Disinfect table tops, desks, and door knobs.
- Cough into elbow or shoulder instead of hands.
- If running a fever, stay home from school for at least 24 hours after it occurs.
- Contact a doctor if severe symptoms persist.
- Stay well hydrated and eat a well-balanced diet.

Enjoy the winter break (12/21/19-1/7/20) and remember to vaccinate your family this flu season. It’s the best way to fight flu. A yearly flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.

Thank you,

Jennifer Aloni MSN, RNC
School Nurse
Ponderosa Elementary School
Office: 720-747-2809
Fax: 720-747-2888
jaloni@CherryCreekschools.org
CHERRY CREEK DISTRICT CHESS TOURNAMENT
Saturday, February 29, 2020

Enroll early...tournament will be limited to the first 200 students who sign up

DIVISIONS: Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Middle School (6-8), and High School (9-12). Similar age groups may be combined. Students must attend a school in the Cherry Creek School District to play. This is a non-rated tournament. USCF rules will apply.

ENTRY FEE: $20.00 per child. Money and registration MUST be received by Saturday, February 22, 2020. There will be no on-site registration. No confirmation letters will be sent.

TIMES: Check in is 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. The Players Meeting is at 8:30 a.m. (All competitors must attend). Round 1 begins at 9:00 am. Each round will take approximately one hour. There will be no scheduled lunch break and no food will be provided. Players should bring their own sack lunch and snacks to eat in between rounds. This is a 5-round, non-elimination tournament - players should plan to participate in all five rounds. The tournament should end around 3:00-3:30.

TIME CONTROL: Time control is G/30 (30 minutes, per player, per game). A clock may be placed on games still in progress 40 minutes after the round start time, with each player getting 10 minutes. Most of the children are not experienced with chess clocks. We will explain how to use the clock to the children, as needed.

PRIZES: In each division, the top finishers will be awarded trophies. Participation awards will be given to non-trophy winners. Awards ceremony will follow the final round and will occur mid-late afternoon, after Round 5 is completed. Ties for trophies will be broken with the following tie-break systems: 1. Modified Median 2. Soloff 3. Cumulative.

LOCATION: Overland High School, 12400 E. Jewel Ave; Aurora (Enter west side of Overland High School off Jewel Ave. (just east of Peoria St.), go south to the rear of Overland HS and park. Enter Overland HS from the south entrance.

SUPERVISION: Good behavior of all participants is expected. All players 12 years old and younger must have a parent/guardian present for the entire tournament. While parents are not allowed in the competition area once a round begins, parents are required to supervise their children between each round. If it becomes clear a child does not have supervision between rounds, he/she will forfeit the opportunity to compete further and will be asked to leave.

QUESTIONS: Todd Bardwick, 303-770-6696, tbardwick@yahoo.com

Mail checks and the attached entry form to: Cherry Creek Chess
1 Red Fox Lane
Englewood, CO 80111

Lunch will not be provided. Bring snacks, beverages, and lunch for your child. Every child needs adult supervision for the entire tournament. Parents are not to drop off their children for the day and leave them unattended.

No confirmation letters will be sent. If your registration arrives after 200 players are registered, you will be notified at the phone number listed on your entry form. Checks will be deposited after the tournament.

For any last minute tournament updates, please refer to the Cherry Creek District Website > Programs and Services > Gifted and Talented Services > Chess Tournament

If the district cancels activities/events on February 29 due to inclement weather, the Tournament will take place on Sunday, March 1st (same times).

PLEASE SAVE THIS PAGE FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION
2020 CHERRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT CHESS TOURNAMENT
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME__________________________________________________________

ADDRESS_____________________________________________________

CITY ___________________________ ZIP CODE_____________________

HOME PHONE__________________ ALTERNATE PHONE________________

SCHOOL________________________ GRADE____ MALE___FEMALE___

PARENT’S NAME________________________________________________

EMAIL ADDRESS (PRINT CLEARLY) __________________________________

USCF RATING ________________
(For pairing purposes only. If you do not have a rating or don’t know what a rating is, leave blank.)

Parent/Guardian Signature________________________________________

Please attach a check for $20.00 made out to Cherry Creek School District and mail with this entry form to: Cherry Creek Chess
1 Red Fox Lane
Englewood, CO 80111

Entries must be received by February 22, 2020

SIGN UP EARLY!
TOURNAMENT IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 200 STUDENTS

Photos will be taken at this event for potential coverage on the Cherry Creek School District website.
If you do not want your child’s photo published, please contact Todd Bardwick on tournament day.