



August 28, 2023

Dear Cottonwood Families,

The 23-24 school year is in full-swing! Please see the information below for school reminders and upcoming events.

CCSD Veterans Celebration:

The Cherry Creek School District cordially invites you and your family to join us on Saturday, Sept. 9, for our 13th annual Veterans and Military Appreciation Event and Community Celebration. This free event offers fun for the whole family while honoring our nation's heroes.

The day begins with a special luncheon honoring veterans, military members, and their families. It will take place from noon to 2 p.m. in the Cherokee Trail High School cafeteria.

You won't want to miss the Community Celebration from 2 to 5 p.m. in the east parking lot. You'll experience military aircraft, Air Force STEM activities, see the [Honor Bell](#), learn about the [Quilts of Valor](#), visit the Army National Guard gaming trailer, and much more, all while listening to music performed by the Fountain Fort Carson 4th ID Rock Band.

Stick around for the Smoky Hill Buffaloes vs. the Overland Trailblazers football game at 6 p.m. All veterans, military members, and their families get free admission to the game.

[See highlights from last year's event here.](#)

Thank you and we hope to see you there!

Parent Information Network (PIN):

The next PIN presentation will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. It will be in person starting at 9:15 AM at our facility located at 14603 E. Fremont Ave in Centennial. The guest speaker will be Jim Fay, the co-founder of the Love & Logic Institute. You can find a copy of the September 5th presentation [flyer](#) and the PIN [calendar](#) attached.

From the Cottonwood Creek Nurse:

At Cottonwood Creek, we are an **allergy-aware school and NOT an allergy-free school**. Our lunchroom may serve foods that are processed in facilities where other common allergens



(nuts, soy, dairy, sesame, etc.) are present and/or may be cross contaminated with allergens. As an allergy aware school, our students ARE allowed to bring items containing nuts and other common allergens, but they are asked to NOT share any of their food/snacks while at school and we encourage the student's to be mindful and respectful of everyone sharing the lunch table. All tables are washed after classes leave the lunchroom and we strongly discourage sharing any foods and talk with the students often about this. Please let Nurse Mandy know if your child has any allergies that need to be added to their health record.

In addition, if your student has any emergency medications (i.e., epi pen, inhalers, etc.) that have not been given to the school health clinic/nurse, please bring them in as soon as possible with the signed order from the physician.

Battle of the Books:

Calling all parents of 4th and 5th grade students! Registration for Battle of the books is open. We will be meeting from 2:45-3:35 on Mondays, starting Oct. 23, 2022. To register please complete [this](#) Google Form. By completing the form, you give your child permission to participate in Battle of the Books. We will take the FIRST - 40 students that sign up. Please sign up by Friday, Sept. 22.

- Thank you, Mrs. Burris & Mrs. Bainbridge

Choir Reminder:

Just a reminder that 4th and 5th grade choir begins this Wednesday after school. Students should report to the music room immediately after dismissal. Choir will end at 2:45 PM, at which time students will exit the building through the front main entrance.

Running Club:

The Running Club at Cottonwood Creek is BACK! A huge thank you to Jason Mondragon, who has volunteered to sponsor the club again this Fall, and to Principal Francis and the front office staff for all they do to support the club. Here's what you need to know:

- What, Where, Why:
 - Adult-supervised running on the 1/2-mile track around Cottonwood
 - Kids receive charms for their Running Club necklaces each week (1 mile = 1 charm, rounding up from 1/2 miles)
 - Kids are released to Running Club by their teachers at 2:45, then dismissed to



Kids' Club or parents / guardians promptly at 3:40pm

- Who: Any child K-5 interested in running! Participation will be limited to the first 100 children registered.
- When:
 - Grades K-5: 2:45-3:40pm on Tuesdays starting Sept 12th for five weeks, ending Tues Oct 10th
- How: Powered by parent volunteers! Each child's parent(s) or caregiver must volunteer at least twice each season
 - Each family is required to fill two volunteer slots. If you have children in both grade groupings (e.g., you have 1st and 4th graders), please sign up for three volunteer slots.
- Cost: \$5 per child
- Note: If you have kids in multiple grade groupings and you are attending Running Club to volunteer, you can bring your older / younger kids to the other grade grouping that day(s)

What you need to do:

1. Register using [this link](#)

Registration will close on September 4th at 5pm or once 100 students sign up.

2. Sign up for two mandatory volunteer shifts using [this link](#)

○ Each family is required to fill two volunteer slots. If you have children in multiple grades (e.g., you have 1st and 4th graders), please sign up for three volunteer slots.

3. Pay \$5 per child via RevTrak:

- Use [this link](#) and select "Clubs"

- Follow the options to pay for "COT RUNNING CLUB DUES"

- Make the payment using Discover, MasterCard, or Visa

- A payment receipt will be emailed to the address used when setting up your web store account.

- Repeat steps for additional children

4. Put the dates on your calendar; please explain to your children that if they are selected to participate and choose not to come, they are taking the place of a child on the waitlist

5. PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR VOLUNTEERING AND PICKUP :)

6. Contact Beth Whitbeck with any questions: bcarn11@gmail.com

**Picture Day:**

Last Tuesday was student picture day at Cottonwood Creek. Students were photographed individually. In approximately one week a proof will be sent home with your student with instructions on how to order online. If your student missed picture day, make up pictures will be taken on October 5th

Wasps on Campus:

As you know we found a number of wasp nests on campus. The nests were removed but obviously we cannot completely eliminate the insects on campus. If your child is allergic to bees/wasps, please be sure to proactively notify our nurse and provide us with the necessary medicines. On the bright side of this issue, the removal of the nests presented us with the opportunity to redo some landscaping. Keep an eye out for our improvements!

Family Connection Meetings:

If you have not been able to connect with your child's teacher yet, I strongly encourage you to set up this important meeting that is a starting point to a relationship with your family and our teachers.

Lunch Accounts:

We have been getting calls from parents wanting to add money to their student's lunch account for snacks. Parents are welcome to add money, cash or check, directly through Cottonwood's kitchen staff. Additionally, you can also add money through our online system. Food and Nutrition Services implemented a new online system, [Linq Connect](#), this year that replaces the old Titan system. If you had an account through Titan, you can log into the Linq Connect with your old credentials. However, if you never had a Titan account you will need to register with the new system.

Every Friday is Spirit Day:

Show your school spirit! On Fridays wear your Cottonwood Creek spirit wear, favorite college gear, OR our school colors (blue and green) to show your Cougar pride! August 31st is the last day to [order](#) spirit wear.



Communication:

In the future, once we know all parents are signed up in the correct areas, we will NOT repeat information from the COT office, classroom, and PTO communication. Therefore, I highly recommend that each parent completes the following:

1. Ensure that all your information is accurate in Powerschool Parent. You can do this by logging into your MyCherryCreek account and clicking on the Guardian Update tile. Double check the names, emails, and phone numbers for the contacts listed on your student's account.
2. Sign up for all communication found here on the [PTO website](#). If you have not already done so, create an account and enter all the information for yourself and your student(s). The system will prompt you to select which communications you want to receive. If you signed up in previous years, be sure to update your information as described above.
3. Make sure your child's teacher has your correct contact information.

These three steps will assure you are connected to our office, PTO, and your classroom teacher. If you have questions, please contact the COT Office.

Sincerely,

Drew Francis - Principal [Cottonwood Creek](#) Elementary School

Office Manager - Joan Salinger - JSalinger@cherrycreekschools.org - 720-554-3203