



January 8, 2024

Dear Cottonwood Families,

Welcome back! Yes, it's 2024 and we are already halfway through the school year! We know that the transition back to school after a long break can be difficult for some students. Our advice is to stick to a regular schedule and make sure students get to bed on time.

**No School:**

There will be no school for students or staff next Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**CCSD Educator of the Year:**

If you are interested in nominating an exceptional educator who represents Cherry Creek's Mission – "To inspire students to think, to learn, to achieve, to care," and the District's Core Values: Growth Mindset, Equity, Whole Wellbeing, Engagement, and Relationships please complete Cottonwood's Nomination [Form](#) by January 19, 2024. All teachers, special service providers and non-teaching licensed personnel are eligible to be nominated. Please know your nominations make such an impact and are so powerful to our staff.

**2nd & 3rd Grade Choir:**

Parents of interested 2nd and 3rd graders, keep an eye out for a flyer being sent home this Friday with students including details on registration and participation in choir. Choir will be held after school on Wednesdays with a final performance in early May. Be sure to register early because participation is limited to the first 30 students.

**Cold Weather Recess:**

With cold temperatures forecasted this week, students will require outdoor winter clothes for recess. The district's policy is that, in the absence of lightning, thunder or precipitation, students will have outside recess if the temperature "feels like" 20 degrees fahrenheit or above. Therefore, please remember to send students to school with appropriate clothing to play outside in the cold and possible snow. Unfortunately, we cannot assure that items dropped off after the start of school will be delivered to students before their recess, so please do your best to send these items to school with your child in the morning.



**Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting:**

The next SEAC meeting will be held on Thursday, January 11th from 9:30 - 11:30 AM. Please see the [flyer](#) for details.

**School of Choice:**

School of Choice (SOC) [applications](#) for the 24-25 school year are now being accepted. Through SOC, the Cherry Creek School District gives district residents and non-residents the opportunity to apply for enrollment in a Cherry Creek school of their choice. The first lottery will run in February 2024 on or before the 15th of the month. The application deadline for the first lottery Subsequent lottery is January 31st. After that, the lottery will run bi-weekly starting February 28th. The last day to submit a SOC application for SY 24-25 will be May 31, 2024.

Applications are considered based on lottery number and space availability for each school. Priority is given to students with siblings who will be attending the same school and children of district employees. There is a limit of one application per student, on which 3 different schools can be requested. Addresses must be up to date for residents of the school district in order to be considered for School of Choice. If you are moving at a later date, applications for School of Choice can be submitted once you move and update your address with the district admissions office.

Please note, School of Choice does **NOT** apply to you if:

- You live within the Cottonwood Creek boundaries and you want your child to attend our school.
- If your student was previously accepted through the SOC process to Cottonwood Creek, and continues to meet the eligibility criteria.

If you have any questions about the SOC process or your student's enrollment status, please contact Thessica Covato at (720) 554-3201.

**From the School Clinic:**

As we come back from winter break, we expect to see a high number of illnesses. If your child is sick, please follow the CDC/Cherry Creek School District policy for keeping them home during their illness. See the [link](#) for guidelines regarding fever, vomiting, diarrhea, cough etc.



**Specials:**

In an effort to provide parents information about what is happening during your student's specials time, the Specials Team will be publishing monthly updates that can be found at the following [LINK](#).

Sincerely,

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

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