



November 27, 2023

Dear Cottonwood Families,

We hope you had a happy Thanksgiving and a successful Black Friday! Remember, as we head into the holidays, if you have vacation plans that will result in school absences, please call the attendance line to excuse your student.

**CCSD Educator of the Year:**

Cherry Creek School District is happy to announce the kick-off of our process for nominating the 2023-2024 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.

**Golden Heart Awards:**

It is time to nominate for the 2023-2024 Golden Heart Awards! This prestigious award is for any individual who has "opened their heart" to touch the life of a Cherry Creek School District student with special needs. This includes, but is not limited to, bus drivers, teachers, cafeteria workers, paraprofessionals, specials teachers (media, art, P.E., music), those in support positions, students, and community employers. ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th. If you would like to submit a nomination, please complete the Golden Heart Awards Nomination [Form](#).

**Cottonwood Options for Giving:**

Food Drive

Thank you to all of you who have made a donation to our November Food Drive already! We will continue to accept donations through this Thursday, November 30th. Donation boxes are located in the grade-level hallways.

AN EASY WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR FOOD DRIVE - You can support families with food insecurities by using [RevTrak for monetary donations](#) or our [BRAND NEW Amazon wishlist!](#)



### Helping Hands

This week provides second opportunity for giving, the Cottonwood Creek Helping Hands gift drive. Thanks to all of you who have signed up already to sponsor a child or family this holiday season. There are still a few children on our list who are in need of a sponsor. For those of you who would like to participate but have not signed up, please see the Helping Hands [FLYER](#) for details. To sign up to sponsor a child or an entire family, please use our [SIGN-UP GENIUS](#) .

### **Students on campus during non-school hours:**

We are happy to have students use our playgrounds during non-school hours. If your student is planning to play on our grounds, please adhere to the following rules:

- Parents and students should communicate directly about their plans to play here and pick-up procedures.
- If the playtime is after dismissal, students must first leave the school property before returning to play.
- Parents need to understand that, except for after-school activities, there is no school supervision after dismissal.
- Students must use the equipment responsibly and not damage or deface school property.

### **Cold Weather Recess:**

Dropping temperatures mean students will require outdoor clothing 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 be sure to send students to school with appropriate clothing to play outside in the cold and possible snow. We cannot assure that clothing dropped off after the start of school will be delivered to students before recess, so please do your best to send these items to school with your child in the morning.

### **Daily Cottonwood Schedule:**

Just a reminder that the Cottonwood master schedule is posted on our website. Please refer to this document to find grade-level schedules, such as when they go to lunch/recess, brain break or specials. To find the Master Schedule, as well as Wednesday's modified schedule, you can use this [LINK](#).



**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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