



October 9, 2023

Dear Cottonwood Families,

Only one week until Fall Break! We hope you have a safe and relaxing break no matter what your plans. Please review the following for some important information and reminders.

**Upcoming Lockdown Drill:**

This Wednesday, October 11th at approximately 9:00 AM Cottonwood will hold our first lockdown drill. Please note that during the drill no one will be able to enter or exit the building. We will be supported by district security as well as local law enforcement. Although the drill will only last about 15 minutes, the security team will be present before and after the drill to debrief. Please do not be alarmed if you see police and security vehicles in our lot and on the street in front of the building.

As explained in the letter sent on September 27th, while we know this drill may cause anxiety for some, it is important that we train ourselves on how to properly respond rather than react. Our goal is to gain confidence and understanding of potential situations so that we become *emergency prepared* rather than being *emergency scared*. This drill will follow the same process we have used at Cottonwood for the past several years.

**Fall Conferences:**

This year Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held for kindie - 5 from Monday, October 30th through Friday, November 3rd and for UPK on Friday, November 3rd only. This will be a busy week with Halloween on Tuesday and Friday being a non-contact day. Conference sign-up links will be sent out via email next Friday, October 13th at 4:00 PM. K - 5 teachers will make available times throughout the school day as well as evening times on one or two days. If you have a tight schedule, we suggest signing up early.

**Snacks in the Lunchroom:**

As communicated previously, breakfast and lunch are free to students this year. However, snacks are not included, these must be purchased. Understand that our lunchroom staff are not able to individually monitor who can have, not have, and only have snacks if they finish their lunch. We generally limit snacks by not allowing students to purchase them at the same time as they purchase their lunch or during the last 5 minutes of the lunch period. You can further



place restrictions on the amount of money that can be spent by your student through your login with [Linq Connect](#). If you have not used your account, you can [create one here](#). Another option for parents wanting to regulate snacks is to send them from home with your child. Please note, if your student has a medical issue that requires nutritional monitoring or restrictions please make sure Nurse Mandy is aware so that she can coordinate with appropriate staff.

### **Parking around Cottonwood:**

We have a lot of parents parking on neighborhood streets for pick up and drop off. Please be sure to pay attention to street signage because there is restricted parking on some of them, especially in the neighborhood south of our building. Remember, we do have the drop off lane in the front if your students are able to walk to their playground door alone. Or, if you are within walking distance to the school, you might want to consider a morning or afternoon stroll. A bit of activity can be good for children in the morning before they sit in the classroom.

### **Scholastic Book Fair:**

The annual Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Cottonwood! The fair will be held in our library the week of October 30th, which is also conference week. This is a great opportunity to start your holiday gift shopping and support Cottonwood at the same time. The book fair shopping hours are as follows:

October 30th:	8:00 AM - 3:15 PM
October 31st:	8:00 AM - 3:15 PM
November 1st:	8:00 AM - 3:15 PM
November 2nd:	8:00 AM - 6:30 PM
November 3rd:	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

### **Cougar Dash T-Shirts:**

Parents, please hold onto your student's green Cougar Dash t-shirt. Given that they were not event specific some grade levels may decide to use them for upcoming field trips and/or spirit days.

### **CCHS Haunted House:**

Are you looking for a fun Fall family activity? The Cherry Creek High School Senate and Thespian students have come together to offer a low sensory haunted house! Please see the attached [flyer](#) for details.



**Veteran's Day Preparation:**

In preparation for our Veteran's Day celebration, we are requesting to borrow child-appropriate military memorabilia for a display at the school. The memorabilia will be displayed behind glass and will not be accessible for students to touch. If you have an item(s) we can borrow, please contact Juli Passo at [jpasso@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:jpasso@cherrycreekschools.org).

**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](#).

**After School Clubs/Activities:**

If your student is interested in after school activities, you can start by reviewing our [LIST](#) of both school sponsored and private clubs at Cottonwood. Please note that activities are added throughout the year, so we will do our best to keep the list up-to-date. Please note that all after-school clubs/activities, with the exception of kids club, exit through the front main entrance of the school at their specified dismissal time. When picking up, please wait by the front doors for your students.

**Little Bruins Wrestling:**

If your student is interested in youth wrestling, the Cherry Creek Youth Wrestling Club is offering two upcoming sessions. Please see their [flyer](#) for details.

**Future Bruins Night:**

5th grade parents, mark your calendar for this year's Future Bruins Night at Cherry Creek High School, Thursday November 16, 2023. The details of the event can be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

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

Office Manager - Joan Salinger - [JSalinger@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:JSalinger@cherrycreekschools.org) - 720-554-3203