



April 1, 2024

Dear Cottonwood Families,

I hope all of you are now back into a routine with school and home! I was not going to say much but, given my time away from school, I felt I should explain. I have been out the past week because I donated a kidney to my nephew. We are both doing well, but the recovery is slow, which is frustrating for me. I apologize for my tardy responses on email and my lack of visibility at school. I am so grateful for the Cottonwood staff, and especially our Assistant Principal Mrs. Lisa Most who have all taken on so much in my absence. I hope to return on April 3rd for half days with a plan to return full-time on April 8th. I certainly miss all the connections with students, staff, and families at Cottonwood! I look forward to seeing you soon!

CMAS:

Parents of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students, CMAS testing will take place **between April 9th and April 26th**. As you may know, it is important that students taking CMAS are present and arrive at school on time for testing. For more specific information please refer to the [parent letter](#) sent out on March 13th.

Parent Information Network (PIN) Meeting:

The next PIN meeting will be held tomorrow, April 2nd from 9:15 AM - 11:00 AM. For more information please go to the PIN [website](#).

Solar Eclipse:

Next Monday April 8th, we will hold a school-wide viewing of the solar eclipse from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM. During this time (weather dependent) all students and staff will be outside. Visitors will not be permitted on the school grounds. Please note that there will be no student check-in or check-out during this time. If you need to check your student in or out, plan to arrive at school by 11:30 AM. Otherwise, the front desk will reopen at 1:00 PM.

Additionally, 3rd - 5th grade students will eat lunch outside during the eclipse viewing. There will be a sack-lunch available through the cafeteria including a sandwich, vegetable, fruit and milk. The sandwich options will be; turkey, turkey and cheese or a Grape EZ Jammer (peanut free). Students are free to bring lunch from home as well.



Class/Individual Pictures:

Save the date! Class and individual student photos will be taken on **Tuesday, April 9th**. Please note, there are no picture make-ups for this picture day. A [flyer](#) was sent home before spring break in student backpacks with ordering information.

Spring Running Club Information:

[Link](#)

Inside Out Enrichment Program:

The Inside Out summer enrichment program, sponsored by the Office of Gifted and Talented Services, offers students a learning environment that fosters critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and effective communication skills. Inside Out offers classes with options for half-day or full-day for one or two weeks during June 2024. Registration opened March 25th and closes April 22nd. For more information – please click the link below:

<https://cherrycreek.revtrak.net/other-programs/rw-ccsd-inside-out-summer/>

From the School Clinic:

You may already be aware of the rise in Measles cases in the US. The MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) vaccination rate at Cottonwood Creek was 97.6% for the 22-23 SY. You can find more information from the Arapahoe County Public Health [HERE](#).

Additionally, the CDC guidelines for COVID isolation have changed. Now, if you test positive, the CDC recommends that you stay home until you are feeling better. You can return when you are fever free without fever reducing medications for 24 hours and do not have any GI symptoms (vomiting or diarrhea). The CDC recommends good health hygiene and wearing a mask upon returning.

Photos of Your Furry Friends:

The school clinic is updating our bulletin board for the Spring and we want pictures of YOUR pets (all PETS)! Please send in a hard copy of your pet's picture to the nurses clinic so we can put it on display for the Spring!



PTO Sponsored Cottonwood Auction April 19th:

Our biggest annual fundraiser is coming up next month, and we need your support! This year's auction has an '80s theme. You can help support our school by purchasing tickets to this fun night out and placing bids on some great auction items. Proceeds from the auction help close the gap between current state funding & school needs. Additionally, the proceeds fund Teacher Assistant salaries, school wide enrichment programs, educational subscriptions for students, and more. We appreciate any support you are able to provide.

Purchase your Cottonwood Auction tickets now for Early Bird pricing! (*Ticket prices increase on March 16th*): <https://us.givergy.com/2024cottonwoodauction/?controller=tickets>

Student items delivered to school:

This is just a reminder that all items delivered to the school, including lunches and birthday treats, need to be labeled with the student's name and teacher's name and left on the table in the front entrance. Parents, please do not deliver items to your student's cubby or classroom. This could unintentionally distract our students and teachers in the classrooms. Thank you for your cooperation.

Retiring and Hiring:

After 22 years of service to Cottonwood Creek, our Office Manager Joan Salinger, is retiring at the end of this school year. We are definitely going to miss her helpfulness and her humor. In retirement, she will be kept very busy with her granddaughter and the arrival of her new grandson. Congratulations on your retirement Joan, we will miss you!

We want to take this opportunity to [introduce](#) our new Office Manager beginning July 2024, Ms. Melissa Adler.

Finally, Cottonwood is currently looking to hire new team members for the following positions, [Instructional Paraprofessional](#), [Severe Needs Paraprofessional](#), and [Behavior Regulation Technician](#). If you or anyone you know would enjoy working with the awesome students and staff at Cottonwood Creek, please pass along the job postings.

Leaving Cottonwood?:

To assist us in estimating enrollment for next year, please let us know if you have plans to move out of our neighborhood or otherwise enroll your student in a different school. Additionally,



please let us know if you have a 5th grader who will not attend Campus Middle School for 6th grade. To notify us, please complete the attached [Form](#).

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

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