



April 8, 2024

Dear Cottonwood Families,

There are only seven more weeks of school until Summer Break and we have so much to do before then! We made it through the eclipse viewing today and we are gearing up for CMAS, which starts tomorrow for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Please see the details below along with additional school information and reminders.

CMAS:

Parents of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students, **CMAS testing starts tomorrow and continues through 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.

Class/Individual Pictures:

Save the date! Class and individual student photos will be taken **tomorrow, 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.

John Irwin School of Excellence Award:

We are excited to share that Cottonwood Creek Elementary is once again being presented with the John Irwin award by the Colorado Department of Education. This honor is given to schools across the state that demonstrate exceptional academic achievement over time. There is no doubt that this is a result of the; tireless dedication of our teachers and staff, daily hard work of our students and unwavering support of our parents and community. Thank you and congratulations to the Cottonwood Creek community!

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 week, 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. There are just 22 tickets left before this event is SOLD OUT.

If you can't attend the event in person, you can still participate in the silent auction which opens next Monday, April 15 at 4:00pm, by sponsoring a staff ticket, or by making a donation on the auction website.

<https://us.givergy.com/2024cottonwoodauction/>

Proceeds from the auction help close the gap between current state funding and 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.



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.

Hiring:

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

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