



## From Principal Francis

Dear Cottonwood Families,

Thank you to all of you that have been opening and reading the newsletter! Our office staff have adjusted the format and it has been well received.

**Last week we highlighted** a sensory space called the Den and our two Behavior Techs that support students with emotions and regulation.



**What if my child does not use the Den and has not needed the Behavior Tech during the day. Do these added resources still benefit my child?**

Please click on the link for a short video from Mr. Francis

### Principal Message COT Dec 16.mp4

[drive.google.com](https://drive.google.com)

#### Common Language around What is Emotional Regulation:

The ability to identify, manage and control our emotions.

Emotional regulations help us to respond to challenges and stressors.

It enables us to express our feelings appropriately.

Teaching children there are no bad feelings, just inappropriate reactions towards the feelings.

Here are some additional resources to help with common language around self-regulation that can be used at home:

- [Make a Zones Check-in At Home Video](#)
- [Zones Check-In for Home](#)
- [Recommended Books for Caregivers/Parents](#)

### Hazel Health Partnered with CCSD

Your child or teen has access to free therapy this winter break and beyond.

Click [HERE](#):

Sincerely, Mr. Drew A Francis

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## *December at a Glance...*



12/16-12/19 Spirit Week

12/20 Winter Parties

12/23-1/06 Winter Break

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## *District Information*

### *School Attendance*

#### **Holiday Season and School Attendance: A Reminder**

As the holidays approach, we know many families have exciting plans, but we want to remind you of the importance of maintaining regular school attendance during this time. The weeks before the break are often filled with critical lessons, assessments, and preparations for the new term.

Missing school can create gaps in learning that are difficult to catch up on. Make-up work does not fully help students recover missed instruction, and one student's absence impacts classmates' progress due to the collaborative nature of learning.

Every school day counts in helping your child grow academically, socially, and emotionally. **We encourage you to plan travel and events around the school calendar whenever possible.** If you know your child will be absent, please let us know in advance so we can support their continued learning.

[Winter break: Dec. 23- Jan. 6](#)

Thank you for helping us meet our attendance goals. Wishing you a joyful and safe holiday season!

### *Celebrating COT Girls On The Run!*

If you have an Instagram account, you can see videos posted by the district on Instagram. Click the link below that highlights Girls on the Run!

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDfLjPyxGi3/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDfLjPyxGi3/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

[instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com)

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### **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

Date: Thursday, December 12th 2024

Time: 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Where: SARC (14188 E Briarwood Ave, Centennial, CO 80112)

Topic: *Transition Program Presentation*

[Upcoming SEAC meetings](#)

### **December 2024 Flyer (1).PNG**

[drive.google.com](#)

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## *Educator of the year nominations*

Cherry Creek School District has many wonderful teachers. We also like to recognize our outstanding educators who strive every day to help students be inspired to think, to learn, to achieve and to care. Deadline is 1/17 for nominations.

[Nomination Form](#)

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## *School Information*

### *Spirit Week Dec 16th- Dec 19th*

**Check out the fun for next week!**



## WINTER SPIRIT WEEK

Monday, December 16	BEANIES & WINTER HATS
Tuesday, December 17	PAJAMA DAY
Wednesday, December 18	Ugly Sweater Day
Thursday, December 19	Winter Plaid or Flannel
Friday, December 20	HOLIDAY PARTIES

### *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. Subsequent lotteries will run bi-weekly starting February 28th.

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 Alison Button at (720) 554-3201. More information available at <https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/domain/1145>

## *From the Clinic*

Stay Healthy This Holiday Season!

The holidays are a wonderful time for celebration, but they also bring an increased risk of illness. To help keep your family healthy during this busy season, here are a few hygiene tips:

Wash hands often and stay home when sick. If your child is feeling unwell, keep them home to rest and recover fully before returning to school.



We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season! If you have any questions or need additional resources, don't hesitate to contact our clinic.

Health & Wellness Reminders: [A note from the Health Clinic](#)

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### **Library Volunteers Needed**

The Cottonwood Creek library needs volunteers to help with: checking out books for students during their weekly class visits, checking books back into the computer system, and re-shelving. You are welcome to sign up for as many shifts as you'd like each day/week/month through the end of the school year.



**You can Sign Up [here](#).** If you'd like to volunteer during your child's allotted time, please read the sign up description for a schedule of each class' weekly visit.

Please contact Rachael Holsted, PTO Library Coordinator, with any questions at: [rachael.holsted@gmail.com](mailto:rachael.holsted@gmail.com)

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*Don't forget!* 🙌

## Birthday Treats:

We love to celebrate birthdays at COT, but please remember that if you plan to bring birthday treats for the class:

1. Let your child's teacher know ahead of time!
2. Treats need to be STORE bought - no exceptions!
3. Ingredients must be listed on the packaging!
4. Drop off in lobby *before* 9.30am! Leave a sticky note with their name and teacher on it!



Thank you for your understanding as we monitor food allergies for our students.



**Smore Templates**

Smore is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters