



February 12, 2024

Dear Cottonwood Families,

I wanted to thank you for a very special birthday last week. Without me having any idea, apparently it was “Dress like Mr. Francis Day.” There were ties, vests, Packer jerseys, plaid shirts, etc. Not only do I love coming to Cottonwood everyday, but to be celebrated with birthday wishes from over 600 people you care about is pretty amazing. Thank you for helping make it such a memorable 50th Birthday!

#### **Cottonwood Creek Educator of the Year:**



The Cherry Creek School District’s Educator of the Year Honor recognizes outstanding educators who strive every day to meet and exceed our District’s mission - *“To help students be inspired to think, to learn, to achieve, and to care,”* and embody our District’s core values of *Growth Mindset, Equity, Whole Wellbeing, Engagement, and Relationships.*

**Please join us to congratulate Mrs. Stephanie Kelly, who earned Cottonwood Creek’s 23-24 nomination for Educator of the Year!**

#### **Power Week:**

This week is Power Week! Power Week is an opportunity for giving coordinated by Cherry Creek High School, this is not a PTO event. All proceeds from Cottonwood will be included with CCHS’s Power Week donation to Bags of Fun and the Gabby Krause Foundation. Please see the attached [flyer](#) for a calendar of daily events and activities.

#### **PASS Meeting:**

We are so excited to be offering our second P.A.S.S. meeting of the school year at Cottonwood Creek. P.A.S.S. (Partnership for Academically Successful Students) is a group of parents, teachers, and administrators who partner to ensure that Cottonwood Creek is an inclusive



learning environment for all students. We will center our conversations around important topics about race in order to examine achievement, learning, and instruction. This meeting will be at Cottonwood Creek on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 3:30-4:15 PM. We hope you will be able to join us!

**School Accountability Committee Meeting:**

Mark your calendar, the next Cottonwood SAC meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22nd at 8:10 AM.

**CCSD Dyslexia Community Group:**

The Dyslexia Community Group will be holding a spring speaker series. Please see their [flyer](#) for the schedule of speakers.

**Spring Conferences:**

Just a heads-up, spring parent-teacher conferences will be held the **week of March 4th**. A conference Sign-up Genius will be emailed out the evening February 21st. If you have limited flexibility in your daily schedule, we suggest you sign-up as early as possible.

**From the School Clinic:**

Getting vaccinated is an important part of keeping kids in school, as it prevents them from catching and spreading diseases that can make them sick. The State of Colorado and Cherry Creek School District require certain immunizations to attend public school. A required, annual newsletter was recently sent to all families regarding MMR immunization rates at Cottonwood Creek for the 2022-2023 school year. Please take the time to read this letter from our district. It has important information about all immunizations and exemptions.

As we are in the cold/flu season, If your child becomes sick, please follow the CDC/Cherry Creek School District policy for keeping them home during their illness. See the [LINK](#) for guidelines regarding fever, vomiting, diarrhea, cough etc.

**Kindergarten Round-Up and UPK Registration:**

Just a reminder that registration for 24-25 Kindergarten and Universal Pre-Kindergarten is open. Please see the attached [Kindergarten Round-Up](#) flyer. Feel free to pass it along to any friends or neighbors who will be registering for UPK or kindergarten for next school year.



Registration for Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) requires registration with the State of Colorado and with Cherry Creek District Admissions. The website for the Cherry Creek registration will open February 1st but we now understand that the State registration will not open until a later date. Parents are encouraged to continue with their registration with CCSD. Just be sure to also submit the State portion when their website opens.

If you have any problems or questions regarding enrollment for next school year, please contact Thessica Covato at (720) 554-3201.

**School of Choice:**

The first school of choice lottery will run this Thursday, February 15th. It will include in-district applicants and children of CCSD qualified staff who submitted an application prior to February 1, 2024. Subsequent lotteries will run bi-weekly for applications received through May 31, 2024. Please note that the school of choice does not apply to incoming UPK students. To submit an application for school of choice, please visit the CCSD Admissions [website](#).

**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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