

## CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

February 12, 2021

### Message From the Principal



It seems like we just returned from winter break, yet we've already arrived at President's Day weekend, and another break for our students. Our full weekend for students extends from Friday, February 12 through Tuesday, February 16 to accommodate a teacher work day, federal holiday, and district furlough day for all certified staff. Students return to school on Wednesday, February 17. We hope you enjoy a relaxing time with family! We look forward to students returning next week!

This week brought great excitement for many of us at school as vaccinations for school-based personnel became widely available. Many staff members are getting their vaccinations in the next few days, and we're setting priorities to accommodate teachers as they finish their second dose closer to spring break! It feels like we're beginning to inch forward toward a more typical school experience. We're still holding on to a glimmer of hope to return fully in person before the end of the year. We're guarded, though, in our optimism, as a lot of things need to fall into place before this could happen.

Our PTCO will launch our annual WOLF DRIVE beginning March 1. This is one of our largest fundraising activities of the year. Please consider participating however you can! This issue of Wolf Tracks also includes information on the rapidly approaching Spelling Bee. We're also excited to announce Cherry Creek Reads Week early in March, along with our PTCO's Wellness Committee's focus on healthy sleep habits for all students. We also encourage you to attend the CCSD Foundation's VIRTUAL GALA on March 11 and participate as you can. The student performances are always highlights for this event.

Even though we're celebrating the coming of vaccines for school personnel, we still maintain a focus on the basics of safety. Please enjoy a healthy and safe extended weekend! As always, be safe - be well!

Principal Strohfus

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## Wolf Drive 2021



The PTCO Executive Board is happy to announce that our annual spring fundraiser, the Wolf Drive, will be launching on Monday March 1. This is a fantastic way to help us raise money to support our [Teaching Assistants](#). There will be several raffles where you can purchase chances to win fun prizes including gift cards to several stores and restaurants. There will also be the opportunity to purchase reserved parking spaces and carpool lot passes. Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved! If you have any immediate questions, please send them to [ptcochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:ptcochallenge@gmail.com).

## CCSD District Accountability Executive Committee



Parents and Guardians - Would you like the opportunity to have a greater voice within the Cherry Creek School District? If so, please consider an application for the 2021-2022 District Accountability Executive Committee. The application for this dynamic committee can be found [here](#).

## Celebrating Black History Month



We continue to celebrate Black History Month. Established in 1976, Black History Month highlights the societal contributions of African-American individuals and communities, alike. The month also reminds us of our ongoing mission to lift up and bring forward voices and stories of people of color as vital members of our larger community.

As we honor Black History Month, many of our teachers have plans to spotlight the important work of Black Americans in molding and shaping the world we live in today. In CCSD we work to promote inclusive excellence for every student and strive to support one another as we grow our capacity to provide equitable opportunities for all students. As we support each other in our work, we acknowledge that our work is far from finished. We will continue to work to honor the accomplishments of leaders of color, not only during spotlight months, but throughout the year. While most of these stories are not our own, we take great pride in promoting the ideals of equity, acceptance, and collaboration in our work with students.

Wolf Watch

Leaders of the PACK

**Upcoming School  
Events  
NO SCHOOL  
February 15 and 16**

**Panda Express  
Restaurant Night  
February 18**

**Upcoming District  
Events**

**Important Links:**

[Challenge Middle  
School REVISED  
HYBRID Calendar](#)

[Challenge School  
Tech Support](#)

[Planning Forward  
2020-2021](#)

[Challenge School  
Website](#)

[Volunteer  
Opportunities](#)

[CCSD Parent  
Resources](#)

## News from the Clinic



To help decrease the spread of COVID-19, we continue to ask that you and your student/s practice good hand washing habits, appropriate distancing, wearing a mask that covers both the nose and mouth and not sending students to school if they are sick.

You can also help us continue to decrease the spread by signing up your grade K-5 student for the *voluntary* randomized saliva testing here at our school.

The link to sign your student up is here:  
<https://www.primarybio.com//cherry>

## Eighth Grade Student Information



**8th-grade students and parents/guardians:** Please join this Schoology group for updates, resources, and information regarding the high school transition process.

### Access Code

X5X9-4VFR-DMX5X

A link to important dates, including Incoming Freshman Nights, can be found [here](#). These are updated regularly so please check back often.

Interested in attending an Historically Black College or University, Hispanic Serving Institution, or Native American Serving Institution? Please click [here](#) for details on a college fair.

Please contact our school counselor with any questions at [ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org).

## NJHS Office Hours



The National Junior Honor Society is offering “office hours” to help Team D students with any assignments or concepts they would like help on. The opportunities below are available each week as long as it is not a holiday or non-contact day for students. Students may click on the [link](#) for the office hours they want to attend, and an NJHS member will be there to help them virtually.

## Cherry Creek Reads



Get Ready for Cherry Creek Reads! For more information, please click [here](#). Save the date to drop everything and read for March 8-12.

## Schoology Troubleshooting Guide for Students

## 2020-2021 Challenge School Calendar

## Challenge Spelling Bee



Though many Challenge traditions are on a hiatus during the pandemic, a different form of our annual spelling bee will occur. Spelling enthusiasts need to know:

\*6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders may register to participate.

\*\* The written test will be given to both Cohorts A & B on different days

\*\*\*Plan to take the written test between February 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Interested? Email to register with Ms. Beattie and access study resources:

[cbeattie2@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:cbeattie2@cherrycreekschools.org)

## Kid's Heart Challenge



It's not too late! Challenge School's Kids Heart Challenge is coming to an end, but there is still time! Can you collect ALL 10 HEART HEROES by earning some last minute donations?? You could help our school reach its goal and also help save lives along the way. Don't forget to take a challenge this week. Will you choose to Be A Leader or to Avoid Tobacco & Vaping? If you haven't already: download our FREE Kids Heart Challenge App or visit

[www.heart.org/KHC!](http://www.heart.org/KHC!)

## 2021 Yearbooks For Sale



The 2021 Challenge School yearbooks are for sale! The price for the hardcover 68-page full-color yearbook is \$29, and includes a current events spread. The yearbooks will be distributed during the last week of school in May. Don't miss out on the memories of this unique school year -- order online today with no additional service charge by following this link:

<https://cherrycreek.revtrak.net/middle-schools/chl/chl-yearbooks/>.

## Challenge Panda Express Night



Please support Challenge School by ordering online from Panda Express on Thursday, February 18. [Please click here for all details](#) including [how to place an online order](#). Use code 902445 and 28% of your order price will come back to Challenge! This code can be used at any location and you don't have to be a Challenge family to use it, so feel free to spread the word to your friends and family. Note, this code is only valid for orders placed on line and only on February 18. For questions please contact [PTCOChallenge@gmail.com](mailto:PTCOChallenge@gmail.com). Take a night off from cooking and support Challenge School!

## PTCO Board Nominations



The PTCO is accepting nominations for Board positions for the 2021-22 school year. Self-nominations are encouraged. The Board meets monthly to plan and organize community building events and fundraisers to support our staff, students and families. Open positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications and Volunteer Coordinator. All positions can be filled by two people, so find a friend to do it with you or make a new friend! Contact [ptcochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:ptcochallenge@gmail.com) for more information or to make a nomination. The nominations are due by April 10th 11.59pm MT.

## Wolf Drive Shadow Needed



The Wolf Drive is our annual spring fundraiser. We are looking for someone with spreadsheet skills and a creative flair to shadow the current Wolf Drive chair in order to assume the role of Chair for the 2022 Drive. This is an urgent need, so if you're inclined, please take a minute to communicate your interest to us at your earliest convenience. Contact [ptcochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:ptcochallenge@gmail.com) if interested.

## No Place For Hate Art Showcase



Challenge School No Place for Hate will be hosting an art showcase. For more information, please click [here](#). Deadline for entry is February 19.

## Volunteer Update



Given the extraordinary circumstances we are in right now, the 25 hour volunteer requirement is being changed from a requirement to a target for this school year. We need parents help and involvement (see Volunteer Opportunities under Important Links in the sidebar), and are grateful for any time that you are able to donate.

Thank you to the following families who have recorded 14 or more volunteer hours in HelpCounter as of the end of January. Your dedication to the school is greatly appreciated. *Ellman, Henry, Hultquist, Kim, Van de Sande, Gupta, Jackson, Torres-Mary, Preston, Dykstra, Amador, Spaulding, Tuley, Kurup, Witten, Taylor, Meech, Li, Safiulla, Martinez, Gordon, Kerns, Kessler, Appiah, Philo, Kaplan, Parsons*

## Food and Nutrition Services News



Breakfast and lunch for ALL Cherry Creek School District students will continue to be free until the end of the school year. Meal pick up information for middle school for President's Day is now available. Please click here for the flyer in [English](#) and here for [Spanish](#).

Even though breakfast and lunch are free for all students this year, did you know that there are additional benefits if you qualify for free and reduced lunch? Please click [here](#) for more information.

## Tabs for Tots



Challenge Technology Student Association is collecting pop tabs to help support The Ronald McDonald House. Please save your pop tabs and bring them to school. There will be blue collection buckets in the Innovation Spaces in each hall and the cafeteria from January 11-February 26.

## PTCO Reserved Parking Spots



As part of our fundraising efforts to support our Teaching Assistants, whose actions benefit ALL students, the PTCO sells reserved parking spots in the main and circle parking lot. We have had numerous reports of people using these spots when they have not paid for them. The PTCO Board would like to request that we all be respectful and not park in one of these reserved spots. These spots are clearly labelled with the name of the family that purchased them. If you would like to have your own reserved spot, there is one currently unsold in the main lot - contact the Board at [PTCOChallenge@gmail.com](mailto:PTCOChallenge@gmail.com) for details. In addition, the launch of the Wolf Drive on March 1 will provide opportunities for families to purchase these spots for the 21-22 school year. If you have any questions about these parking spots, please contact the PTCO Board at [PTCOChallenge@gmail.com](mailto:PTCOChallenge@gmail.com)

## No Cost Fundraising



Please remember to help us raise money through the no-cost fundraisers, especially AmazonSmile and King Soopers. Visit the PTCO's website for more information regarding the programs.

## Wolf Watch



Challenge School Wolf Watch offers a quality before and after school program. Please click [here](#) for details! For additional information, please contact Sarah Chew at [schew@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:schew@cherrycreekschools.org).

## Leaders of the PACK



Week of February 8

Harper Angle	Naomi Appiah	Aria Cannavo
Henry Elder	Conor Healy	Michael Hinnenkamp
Isaac Ji	Sasa Kwong	Polina Merkulov
Roshan Rai	Billen Ayele	Enguun Byambaragchaa
John Finnessy	Audrey Georges	Manar Ibrahim
HD Jackson	Evangeline Jacobs	Tharun Kumar
Rushil Mandavilli	Leia Spence	Sailor Roth
Anna Austin	Melania Byer	Molly Goodwin
	Hudson Roth	

## Feedback

We hope that you are getting all of the information that you need from this update. If you have ideas on how we could better keep you informed, please email [dbustamante@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:dbustamante@cherrycreekschools.org).