

CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

February 26, 2021

Message From the Principal



Yesterday we awoke to substantial snowfall that resulted in yet another snow day. It's always fun to hear students talk about how they spent their surprise vacation day at home!

We've experienced great success in getting staff members vaccinated so far. By the end of last week 100% of all CCSD employees had been invited to participate in the vaccination program, and all employees who wished to participate were able to schedule appointments by the beginning of this week. This means that most of us will receive our second round by the return from spring break, resulting in an even safer school environment for students and staff alike. Our hope is that this will position us well for a possible return to full time learning in-person prior to the end of the year. Let's all keep our fingers crossed!

State assessments continue to be a big part of internal planning conversations. We are scheduling middle school to complete CMAS tests during the last week of March while still in our hybrid model. Elementary students will test during the month of April. Just like so many things this year, we may need to adjust closer to the testing dates. Many families continue to ask about the process to opt out of CMAS this year. If you want to proactively excuse your student from state testing this year, please fill out the opt-out form located on the State Assessment Exemption tile at my.cherrycreek.org. You can view [instructions for filling out the exemption here](#).

Our PTCO continues to be hard at work preparing to launch the Wolf Drive next week. They are also supporting overall wellness efforts here at school with the Sleep Challenge. Both events are featured later on in the newsletter.

With that, I wish you all a fantastic weekend. Be safe - be well!

Principal Strohfus

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Invest In Success CCSF Gala



For 27 years, the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation has been dedicated to impacting ALL of our students by Investing in innovation in the classrooms and providing opportunities for EVERY student to achieve their best. Since our inception, CCSF has raised more than \$9 million for groundbreaking educational programs that have touched all of our schools and students.

[Register now](#) to attend the “Invest In Success” Virtual Gala scheduled for March 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Wolf Drive 2021



The PTCO Executive Board is happy to announce that our annual spring fundraiser, the Wolf Drive, goes live at 8am MST Monday March 1. This is a fantastic way to help us raise money to support our Teaching Assistants. The Wolf Drive includes the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for chances to win fun prizes including gift cards to several stores, restaurants, and recreational venues around the Denver area. You can also purchase reserved parking spaces and carpool lot passes. Please go to [wolf drive](#) to check out all the opportunities! Thank you for your support! If you have questions, please contact us at 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

Upcoming School Events

Wolf Drive Begins
March 1

Healthy Sleep Habits
Challenge
March 1-12

PTCO General Meeting
March 9
6:30pm

Upcoming District Events

PIN Meeting
March 2

Cherry Creek Reads
March 8-12

CCSF “Invest In
Success” Virtual Gala
March 11

Important Links:

[Challenge Middle
School REVISED
HYBRID Calendar](#)

[Challenge School
Tech Support](#)

[Planning Forward
2020-2021](#)

[Challenge School
Website](#)

[Volunteer
Opportunities](#)

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.

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.

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.

NJHS Office Hours



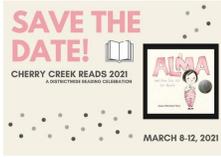
The National Junior Honor Society is offering “office hours” to help Team D students with any assignments or concepts they would like help on. The opportunities below are available each week as long as it is not a holiday or non-contact day for students. Students may click on the [link](#) for the office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

CCSD Parent Resources

Schoology Troubleshooting Guide for Students

2020-2021 Challenge School Calendar

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.

Kid's Heart Challenge



WOW – our school made such an incredible impact through **Kids Heart Challenge** this year!! **Don't forget donations are due on 2/26/2021.**

We are so proud to celebrate all we've done so far:

- **42 students** took the heart-healthy challenge and joined our team this year!

- Our donation count is up to \$**1,410.63** for the American Heart Association, THANK YOU!!

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We set out to complete the mission and we could not have achieved it without you. THANK YOU for taking action to help us save lives!

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When you support the American Heart Association, it's evident in communities like yours. Explore the **AHA's Impact Map** here to see how your support makes a difference across the country and in the places your loved ones call home.

Here are a few highlights:

- 13.6% reduction in deaths from stroke
- \$4.6 Billion invested in research funding
- 15.1% reduction in deaths from heart disease
- Over 19 Million people benefiting from a quality care initiative for high blood pressure
- 22 million people trained in CPR each year

Parent Information Network (PIN)



Attend the next CCSD Parent Information Network meeting entitled, "You've made it through a year of COVID, now what?" Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 9:15 a.m. For complete details, click [here](#).

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 for more information or to make a nomination. The nominations are due by April 10th 11:59pm MT.

Little Libraries



Did you know we have two Free Little Libraries near the garden/pavilion? These are boxes that house books for Challenge students to borrow. The boxes have recently been repaired (thank you to Matt Gordon) and are in need of books. Earn a volunteer hour by making a donation; just drop your books in the boxes. And remind your kids that there are books available for them in the libraries.

Sleep Challenge



Did you know that the National Sleep Foundation recommends 9-11 hours of sleep each night for kids between 6 and 13 years old? Help your child learn about the importance of healthy sleep habits by encouraging their participation in the Sleep Challenge! Students will have the opportunity to "play" Tic-Tac-Toe and earn prizes for completing activities that promote good sleep habits. Tic-Tac-Toe boards will be sent home with your student, and Middle Schoolers can also access theirs digitally [here](#). The Sleep Challenge will run from March 1-12. Boards must be submitted before spring break and prizes will be awarded after break. For more information on how your child can get better and longer sleep, click [here](#).

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.Á

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 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.

Challenge Family Facebook Page



Did you know our PTCO has a Facebook group for the parents and caregivers of our students? It's a great place to ask questions and learn from other parents. Please go to www.facebook.com/groups/challengeparents/ to join.

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.

Parent's Council Board



Parents Council is the umbrella organization that keeps our non-profit status so schools can fundraise, host fun school events and give back to the community and school. We have many board positions opened and would love to chat with anyone who is looking to volunteer in this capacity! You can visit our website at <https://www.ccparentscouncil.org> to learn more about the board and open positions.

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.

Leaders of the PACK



Week of February 22, 2021

Emma Hafler	Louis Zhang	Kennedy Blue
Wilby Caceres	Blythe Elam	Erik Eskestrand
Jonah Harley	Kaarneeswar Kumaragurubaran Sridevi	Sasa Kwong
Cylus Murphy	Gynelia Nyakundi	Aria Peter
Vivaan Shrivastava	Noah Towers	August Tuley
Phillip Zeisig	Nubia Abateman	Carson Cook
Ivan Han	Elizabeth Jacobs	Finnian Kelley
Ansley Martin	Kate Meier	Jackson Von Lembke
Fadila Ayeh	Agop Dervahyan	Wyatt Dunkly
Isabella Feldstein	Embry Kirsten	Solvie Youde
Naaz Ahuja	Audrey Austin	Seamus Clark
Aaisha Eisa	Benjapon Frankel	Ellie Johnson
Connor Kelly	Hajira Khizer	Gizelle Lopez
Mahi Mehta	James Morgan	Julian Parker
Alaynah Sheppard	Kabir Srivistava	Shriya Sriram
Jason Weber	Kinley Wolfe	

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.