



The Legacy. The Passion. The Opportunity.  
EDUCATING AND MOTIVATING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS  
WHO EXPLORE, CREATE AND ACHIEVE

## December Newsletter

### December Important Dates:

<b>December 3</b>	Saturday School 8:30am – 11:30am
<b>December 5</b>	Science Fair Family Night 5:30 – 7:00pm
<b>December 6</b>	DPS Dress Code Day for students with at least 95+% attendance Science Fair Day
<b>December 12</b>	CSC – 5:00pm in Library
<b>December 12 - 16</b>	Spirit Week
<b>December 13</b>	Arts Night – Drama & Choir @ <b>Skinner 6:00pm</b>
<b>December 14 – 16</b>	Winter Interim Assessments
<b>December 15</b>	Arts Night – Instrumental Music @ <b>NORTH 6:30pm</b>
<b>December 17</b>	Saturday School 8:30am – 11:30am
<b>December 20</b>	Good Standing Celebration – Skate City
<b>December 21</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – SKINNER ONLY</b>
<b>December 22</b>	<b>Winter Break Begins</b>
<b>January 9</b>	Return back to school from winter break
<b>January 20</b>	<b>Bingo Night Fundraiser</b> 7:00 – 11:00 pm, Elks Lodge – 2475 W. 26 <sup>th</sup> Avenue

### ‘Tis the Season...

...to be grateful. I often tell individuals who ask me how I continue to do what I do, by responding how I count my blessings on a daily basis. We have amazing students, parents, staff, and overall a great north Denver community. As we close out 2016, I want to say thank you to all of our families and guardians for supporting our students during this time of their lives. I am truly grateful for our amazing community.

For some of our families and students, the holiday season can be stressful. From finances, to health, to overall stress, many of our families are experiencing feelings other than joy. On the flipside, I do hope and wish for all of our families that this month can bring joy to our world. This is a great time of year for our students inside the school building. We are about to embark on the school-wide science fair where students get to demonstrate their thinking and new learning based on their experiments. We have students about to perform and demonstrate their artistic talents through drama, choir, and instrumental music performances. Throughout the fall we had students compete in athletic events, where for some students, it was the first time s/he played a sport! We also just wrapped up our annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade mid-year conferences where each 8<sup>th</sup> grader has a 20 to 40 minute individual conference with an administrator. I especially love this time of year because I get to have a personal conference with the students – a gift of time and conversation that I value. If only there were enough hours in the day to have this same time with all of our students. Our scholars have made amazing gains socially, emotionally, and academically at this point of the school year and I look forward to these school events where they can bring some joy to families being proud of accomplishments thus far.

Although this is a busy time of year, just as we slowed down to have the conferences with each our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, I hope you are able to slow down enough during the month to relish in the family time and school events for each of your children. As we focus on the ‘whole child’ initiative, family engagement is very much a part of the equation. We look forward to seeing all of our families present on campus, especially during this month, supporting your child. We thank you in advance for your involvement. If you would like a long term view of the school year, please stop by the main office to collect the year-long calendar given at back to school night as well as parent-teacher conferences.

HAPPY Holidays! ~Michelle

# Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following students and families for having strong grades for the first trimester of school:

## Gold Honor Roll

(4.0)

**8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** M. Bonacquisti, A. Burcham, S. Charles-Luciani, I. Dardano, G. Even, R. Givens-Padilla, M. Kilen, N. Klute, L. Smith, T. Vargas

**7<sup>th</sup> Graders:** L. Ballinger, A. Berg, M. Berg, L. Caldwell, J. Crocker, C. Deming, L. Earley, J. Gregg, E. Meeks, Z. Proctor, C. Ruderman-Pratt, S. Scholl, G. Shary, B. Wilson, A. Youngstrom, R. Zizmor

**6<sup>th</sup> Graders:** V. Arnold, Z. Buck, E. Carrasco, W. Cornish, L. Dino, K. Foth, C. Goldman, C. Gomez, L. Grasso-Rudawsky, S. Groner, I. Holtzinger, S. Klein, S. Leff, E. Martinez, M. McDermott, G. Melone, E. Piburn, S. Probst, M. Ramirez, R. Seagle, B. Shively, N. Smith, A. Veloz, E. Wagner

## Green Honor Roll

(3.0+)

**8<sup>th</sup> Graders:** G. Adams, M. Allen, A. Arteaga-Amezcuca, P. Balderas, B. Bungum, N. Carrasco, N. Castaneda, T. Cluff, L. Dehmler-Buckley, R. Denton, A. Diaz, Y. Dominguez-Delgado, J. Drummond, S. Eberlein, A. Farley, A. Garcia, J. Garcia, Q. Gauerke, M. Gonzalez-Aguilar, M. Guerrero, A. Gurrola, A. Gutierrez, J. Harris, J. Jimenez-Garcia, J. Jones, N. Kazenske, G. Kuykendall, M. Lopez, J. Lujan, M. Luna-Martinez, M. Martinez, I. Martinez, M. McAllister, M. McCabe, A. Melgoza-Quintana, J. Miller, A. Mohamed, B. Navejas, E. Nottoli, I. Ortiz, J. Palacios-Barraza, E. Probst, A. Quezada, A. Reidy, A. Reynolds, E. Rodriguez, B. Ronlund, W. Salomone, G. Sanchez-Guerrero, S. Saw, I. Senft, S. Stines, D. Sullivan, J. Taylor, C. Villano, S. Walsh, S. Wendelin, S. Wilkins, S. Wolf, Z. Zertuche

**7<sup>th</sup> Graders:** K. Adams, Y. Aden, N. Aden, P. Ahern, D. Alvarez, B. Araujo, A. Avila, M. Banuelos, W. Bauman, E. Baxter, J. Baylon, E. Beaton, N. Besoushko, M. Bonilla, A. Bothwell, J. Brambila, R. Brask-Thrasher, A. Burlson, C. Cabazos, O. Ciel-Tilton, E. Clark, E. Curtis-Revelle, Z. Daur, P. Davis, J. DeCamillis, C. Fagan, Q. Fentress, E. Fisher, L. Fleener, E. Gage, A. Gardner, P. Gerbig, S. Girten, E. Gonzalez, N. Graves, C. Guigon, E. Guyer, S. Hanks, C. Harding, S. Hernandez-Garcia, L. Holtzinger, W. Holtzinger, A. Jari-Bertram, J. Karsian, M. Kirk, B. Lane, T. Lane, L. Lemme, I. Lemond, R. Luna-Meraz, S. Mast, S. Maziarz, D. McDaniel, D. McLeain, T. McManus, J. Medina, A. Mejia, M. Menke, S. Messer, A. Miller, E. Miller, C. Munoz, C. North, D. Perez-Torres, E. Phillips, J. Proctor, L. Reyland-Slawson, D. Rivera, A. Robinson, A. Rodriguez, J. Romero, K. Sanchez, A. Schrant, M. Sifuentes, R. Stehle, S. Stocker, A. Stone, G. Sturgis, O. Talle, C. Torrez, V. Untiedt, M. Valenzuela, L. Vargas, C. Vigil, I. Vigil-Alvarez

**6<sup>th</sup> Graders:** K. Apodaca, S. Archuleta, I. Arebalo, S. Arguelles-Orr, E. Arroyo, L. Avila-Romero, C. Barajas, A. Barragan, J. Barron, O. Bergstrom, F. Blakeman, A. Bloise, V. Bonacquisti, C. Breitzman, M. Bungum, A. Burcham, M. Castro-Guillen, E. Contreras, C. Darlington, A. Delgado, G. DeSantiago, S. Diaz, S. Dimaria, G. Earley, Y. Espino-Torres, S. Fuentes, A. Garcia, E. Garcia, J. Gonzalez-Diaz, C. Greening-Monihan, S. Groethe, C. Gyles, A. Heine, M. Hensel, N. Howard, N. Huapaya, A. Huber-Ballou, E. Huerta-Amparan, R. Irizarry, G. Isom, I. Johnson, Z. Johnson, B. Kammerer, Z. Kasnoff, W. Kazenske, Q. Kennedy, K. Konold, B. Kozlowski, E. LaBelle, A. Leader, G. Leafgreen, S. Lilienthal, A. Lopez-Saavedra, G. Lubbert, R. Lucero, A. Luna, C. MacKenzie, A. Madrid, C. Mayhew, J. McCabe, F. McCrary, M. Miller, G. Mitchell, A. Montoya, T. Nguyen, A. Nguyen, J. Payne, E. Phelps, J. Ramirez-Alvarado, A. Richardson, F. Ripley, F. Rocabado, I. Rodriguez, A. Rodriguez, E. Rodriguez, M. Romero, I. Sanchez, A. Sandoval-Encinas, L. Scholl, R. Segovia, S. Seymour, L. Standlee, C. Stocker, J. Stone, J. Torres, S. Vazquez, E. Wartell, A. Waterman, V. Wolf



Register your student with the Neighborhood Center today!

**MONDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
(3:00-5:00)  
NC Productions  
All About Sports  
(3:30-5:00)  
After Hours  
(5:00-6:00)

**TUESDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
(3:00-5:00)  
STEM Scouts  
Skinner Citizen+  
(3:30-5:00)  
After Hours  
(5:00-6:00)

**WEDNESDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
(3:00-5:00)  
Silk Screening  
All About Sports  
(3:30-5:00)  
After Hours  
(5:00-6:00)

**THURSDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
(3:00-5:00)  
STEM Scouts  
Spelling Bee  
Comic Book Club  
(3:30-5:00)  
After Hours  
(5:00-6:00)

**FRIDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
Rec Zone  
Art Madness  
(3:30-5:00)

Skinner families, as you may know, the Neighborhood Center is funded through different grants. Over the past few years, these funds have been harder to come by and we have worked hard to find new ways to support our programs. Our programs are an important resource for students who need (or want) extra academic, recreational, or vocational experiences. The Neighborhood Center has become an integral part of the school day for many students. Our attendees have demonstrated better school attendance, as well as higher testing scores in math and reading (13%) and writing (8%).



One of our major fundraising events for the year will be on Colorado Gives Day, December 6th. With a \$20 donation, you can provide a scholarship for a student that may not be able to attend one of our specialty programs, such as STEM scouts, cooking, woodshop, computer coding or comic strip drawing. Please consider a gift to our 501c3 'Northwest Neighborhood Center Friends' so we can continue to provide high-quality programming for our students. THANK YOU

**December Athletics Information**

As we enter December, we are in our winter season, hosting Girls and Boys Basketball.

Sports coming up:

- Co-ed Floor Hockey (early spring)
- Girls Soccer (spring)
- Boys Baseball (spring)

**As a reminder, here is what students need to participate in athletics:**

1. An up-to-date sports physical (are valid for one calendar year)
2. Completed Parent Permission/Emergency Contact Information form (can be picked up and handed in to the main office at Skinner)
3. \$25 pay-to-play participation fee (per sport)

**Athletics Eligibility:**

Eligibility is based on classwork and homework completion and is determined week to week. If students are missing classwork and/or homework, they are required to complete it in order to participate in athletic games (eligibility does not affect ability to practice with the team). In addition, if a student receives a behavior referral, they will be deemed ineligible for the following week's game, and may face termination for a spot on the team.

**Questions: Please contact Jessica Piwko, Athletic Director, @ [Jessica\\_piwko@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jessica_piwko@dpsk12.org)**

## Skinner Science Fair Family Night 12/5 5:30 - 7pm

All Skinner Scholars engage in learning the scientific process through science fair projects.

All Scholars will present their project to a family member on 12/5 which serves as a time for the students to demonstrate what has been learned in science this first semester as well as practice for Science Fair Day on 12/6. Students will present their learning to judges from both the scientific and business world on 12/6 to compete for the District Science Fair as well as moving on to the Metro Science Fair in February. Locations where different grade levels present will be posted at the main entrance. Thank you for signing in at your designated location. After your child presents his/her project to you, we encourage you to look at the projects from the other grade levels.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Drama & Choir Night**  
12/13 6:00 - 8:00pm  
@ Skinner MS



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Instrumental Music Night**  
12/15 6:30 - 8:30pm  
@ North High

## Teacher Gifts!

If you enjoyed giving holiday gifts to your child's teachers in the past, but are at a loss on what to do now that your child has EIGHT different teachers here at Skinner, we can help! Consider donating one or two gifts for the December Gift drawing and they'll be distributed at random via a daily drawing. The whole Skinner staff will be eligible and we hope to collect enough gifts so that every staff member has at least one opportunity to receive for a gift. Due to the generosity of Skinner families, every staff member has received a gift each year for the past three years!

We ask that gifts be a minimum \$20 value. Anything you are willing to contribute would be greatly appreciated! Gift ideas: restaurant gift cards, office supplies, store gift cards, bottles of wine, etc.

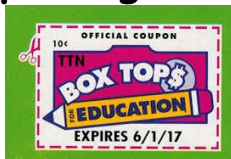
Items can be dropped off in the front office anytime between 7 am - 3:30 pm. Please make sure to include your name and your child's name on the donation. We would like to start daily drawings December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Thank You Crossing Guards

Thank you to Chris Sandoval, Darcy Cherry, Whitney Kennedy, and David Ahern for volunteering time to help the Skinner Staff keep students safe before and after school.

If you can support our safety efforts by volunteering from 7:10 - 7:40am or 2:40 - 3:10pm as a crossing guard, please contact Esmeralda Chavira at 720-424-140. *Thank you for considering!*

## Thank you for Supporting Skinner



Don't Forget to submit your BoxTops to the main office

## Fundraiser Thank You!

Big thank you to everyone who attended the Pizzeria Locale fundraiser on November 16. We don't have final totals from the restaurant quite yet, but they report that it was one of their most successful fundraisers ever. BIG, BIG thank you to Pizzeria Locale on 32<sup>nd</sup> and Lowell for their amazing support of our neighborhood schools! Please thank them personally next time you stop in for a delicious pizza!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Families - Don't Forget

If your student has not already had the Tdap immunization, please make sure to schedule an appointment. Should you need financial assistance in getting this done, you can contact the School Based Health Center at Lake. The address is 1820 Lowell and their phone number is 720-424-0281. This clinic is available to ALL DPS students free of charge, so don't be afraid to utilize this great resource! Please leave updated immunizations in the Skinner main office.

## Bingo Night

Imagine it is a cold, winter night in January 2017. What are you going to do tonight? Oh, how you wish you had something fun to do on a Friday Night? WE HAVE YOU COVERED!!!! **Mark your calendars for Friday, January 20, 2017!** Your Skinner PTO is hosting a **BINGO NIGHT at the Elks Lodge**, right here in the neighborhood.

This will be an adults-only event, where ALL the money raised goes back to SKINNER!

We are in the planning phase and here is what we need from you:

1. **Consider joining the planning committee - MEETING 11/30/16 6pm at Skinner** (thank you to all who have volunteered so far- Anna, June, Andrea, Brigid, Christine, Lauren, Hilary & Jen)
2. **MARK your calendar NOW and plan on joining us on 1/20/17! Bring your friends and family!**

Interested in helping your PTO? Call or email Nicole (720-273-4479 or nicole@cmbarch.com)

## News from Skinner's Library

A special THANK YOU to our students and families who supported our Skinner Library by visiting and participating in our Fall Book Fair! Due to everyone's generosity, we were not only able to match students with a variety of books and other fun and entertaining items, we were able to raise \$1,592 in Scholastic Funds! These funds will be used to further our library collection, continuing the effort to connect Skinner Scholars with the joy of reading!



Skinner's Library is thrilled to announce the beginning of **Skinner BEYOND Days!** Held once a month, these events are open to ALL Skinner Scholars! Each event has been chosen based on student input and all one needs to do to participate is stop by the library and sign-up! A list and description of Skinner BEYOND Days are available on the library's website and will be shared via morning announcements. Here's a brief list of upcoming events:

- **November 29<sup>th</sup> - Heroes vs. Villains**
- **December 15<sup>th</sup> - Duct Tape Crafts**
- **January 31<sup>st</sup> - STEAMPUNKALOOZA Days**
- **February 28<sup>th</sup> - Harry Potter Days**
- **April 18<sup>th</sup> - Forensics / CSI**
- **May 11<sup>th</sup> - Architect Days**