



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

## September Newsletter

### September Important Dates:

- September 1** Back to School Night 5:30 – 7:30pm  
**September 2** Good Standing Celebration for summer homework completion  
**September 5** Labor Day – NO SCHOOL  
**September 6** PTO / ELA-PAC Launch Meeting 6 – 7:15pm in Skinner’s Library  
**September 14** Neighborhood Center Open House 5:30 – 8:00pm  
**September 17** Annual Hula Hoop Competition (2-4pm) at Little Man Ice Cream  
**September 22** Parenting Partners launches – 7 sessions 6-8pm in Library  
**September 23** NO SCHOOL (Skinner Only) – Teacher in-service day

### Welcome Back!

The Skinner Faculty would like to officially welcome you to the 2016-17 school year! We prepared all summer for another incredible school year, despite the school being under construction. Thanks to our families as tax payers, we have a new heating system, new cooling in the auditorium and cafeteria, and new plumbing. The new pipes also brought us three new water bottle filling stations, which the students love having.

Here is some additional information to get you started on the right foot:

#### Morning Drop Off & Afternoon Pick-up

- **6<sup>th</sup> grade:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade students enter and exit the West door.  
*\*Students dropped off after 7:30am should use the main entrance door.*
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade: NEW LOCATION** – in an effort to decrease the amount of traffic in the front of the building, we are asking 7<sup>th</sup> grade families to drop off 7<sup>th</sup> graders on 40<sup>th</sup> and Julian, also known as the Science Wing Entrance. Please drive west on 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Irving, drop off your child curbside and then turn left on Julian Street. Thank you for your cooperation.  
*\*Students dropped off after 7:30am should use the main entrance door.*
- **8<sup>th</sup> grade:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade students enter and exit the main doors. Please do not park on 40<sup>th</sup> in the morning as this is the cause of much of the traffic congestion. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parents should pull up curbside to let students out of the car. Please **DO NOT STOP** in the middle of the street to load/unload as it causes traffic jams and unsafe conditions for students. Thank you for your cooperation!

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## Family Back to School Night & BBQ 9/1

Come meet the amazing Skinner faculty from **5:30 to 7:30pm** on **Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**. Skinner will provide the paper products, hot dogs, veggie burgers, and water bottles starting at 6:10pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. *Before we kick off the evening with short Grade Level meetings, please bring your dish to the back field.* Meetings will start promptly at 5:30 in the following locations:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade = Auditorium, then individual Learning Family Classrooms**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade = Cafeteria**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade = Library**

Just around 6pm, families will transition to the field to enjoy dinner and socializing. Teachers will be available at designated tents, administration will be available for questions, and PTO will be available to sign up volunteers for the school year. Mark your calendar for this important time to get information about Skinner and your child's school year. We will see you there!

### Athletics Information

During registration families received information about athletics and the multiple opportunities students have to explore this extra-curricular activity.

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

1. You must be a 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student.
2. You must be academically eligible for the whole season.
3. You must pay a participation fee when your equipment is issued (\$25/sport).
4. You must have all of the following forms completed and signed by parents:
  - a. Physical
  - b. Parent Permission/Emergency
  - c. Code of conduct
  - d. Financial Responsibility

Questions: Please contact Jessica Nenni, Athletic Director @ [Jessica.Nenni@dpsk12.org](mailto:Jessica.Nenni@dpsk12.org)

**The season starts soon! Get your physical up to date in order to participate!**

### Volunteer Training 9/6 5pm

Are you interested in volunteering this school year at Skinner? Come to the Library for a short training and complete any necessary forms.

### CSC Nominations

If you are interested on serving on the Collaborative School Committee for the 2016-17 school year, please submit a written self-nomination to the Principal, Michelle Koyama. You can submit through email [Michelle.Koyama@dpsk12.org](mailto:Michelle.Koyama@dpsk12.org) or call the school at 720.424.1420.

This committee of students, parents, and staff meets monthly to provide strategic direction in support of our mission and vision as stated in our Unified Improvement Plan.

### Lunch Forms

In order to maximize the funding Skinner receives that benefits ALL students, we ask that each family complete and submit a lunch form each school year. Thank you for taking a few extra minutes to complete this form so accurate data is processed for our school. We will send home an extra form if we see we missed this document during registration.

### PTO / ELA-PAC 9/6 6pm

Join us **September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm** in the Skinner Library for to learn about how PTO has supported Skinner over the last year and then enjoy our speaker series on 'just in time' topics. Our first guest speaker will be our very own Joe Waldon, Skinner's social worker sharing the coveted session on the adolescent brain and surviving the middle school years.



One of the best ways to ensure academic success for your child is to ensure they get extra academic support when needed and get involved in after-school activities. To register your student for tutoring or other extra-curricular activities, please call the Neighborhood Center at Skinner Middle School at 720-424-1435, or stop by between the hours of 10am to 6pm. Don't miss out! Tuition based after school care is available starting the first day of school. Interested in learning more about the Neighborhood Center programs? Come to the Open House on 9/14 from 5:30 – 8:00pm.

**Register your student asap OR during the Family BBQ on 9/1.**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
Aced It! Tutoring (3:00-5:00)	Aced It! Tutoring (3:00-5:00)	Aced It! Tutoring (3:00-5:00)	Aced It! Tutoring (3:00-5:00)	Aced It! Tutoring
Art Madness	TechKnow Zone	All About Sports	TechKnow Zone	(3:00-4:30)
Destination Science (3:30-5:00)	All About Sports (3:30-5:00)	(3:30-5:00)	Destination Science (3:30-5:00)	Rec Zone (3:00-5:00)

The Neighborhood Center@ Skinner is launching its second year of participation in the Rocky Mountain Best Robotics competition. Our Skinner team will have 6 weeks to build a working robot from scratch (yes that's right from scratch, no lego kits here, this is the real deal). Then they will compete against other middle and high school students in a live robot skill challenge on Game Day (Saturday, October 15, 7:30am-5:00pm, Auraria Campus Event Center).

We need adult helpers! Please text Cher Heller at 303-513-0581 and or see us at the back to school picnic to get more information.

### **Friday Enrichment Support**

Are you interested in volunteering to assist with teaching a Friday Enrichment class? Skinner Middle School offers Friday Enrichment to our students in three cycles over the course of the year. The intent of our enrichment opportunities is to provide experiences that go beyond the regular curriculum and allow students to end the week with something they really enjoy. Cooking, crafting, yoga, and geocaching, are just a couple of examples of what enrichment can offer. A DPS background check is necessary to lead a group of students.

If you are interested in leading a group for this first cycle, please contact Mona Eddings at [skinnervolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:skinnervolunteers@gmail.com) by 9/10. If you are interested, you would have to commit to the following dates from 1:45 – 2:45pm:

**10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 11/11, 11/18, 12/2, 12/9 & 12/16**

**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING!**

### **Little Man Ice Cream**

**SEPTEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**

The annual **Hula Hoop Competition** & School-wide Community Potluck will take place on September 17 from 12-4. (Competition is 2-4).

We really need for Skinner to have a **BIG TEAM** this year with at least 20+ kids. Having the largest team will win 10% of the day's earnings!

Start to practice and stay tuned for more information!

# High 5 For Skinner

Your involvement in school is crucial. If you are not already involved, it is very important to get involved in the school as a volunteer for a classroom, committee, and/ or school event. We know that students perform better and are more engaged with school when there is active parent involvement. We also know that with the demands of work and running a household, there are different ways that families manage staying involved and engaged with their child's academics and emotional well-being.

Skinner has spent the last two school years developing our system for parent and community involvement and our efforts are paying off! In our first year of promoting volunteering we had documented 5,500 hours of volunteer engagement and we know there were many more hours contributed by our community for the benefit of students.

## What is High 5 for Skinner?

Once again, we are asking that every family contribute at least 5 hours of volunteer / community engagement with Skinner Middle School. This involvement can happen in a variety of ways:

- Attend school events to support your child
- Volunteer in classrooms regularly
- Volunteer for school events occasionally
- Volunteer in the main school building or the Neighborhood Center

## Tracking Hours

Each time you come into Skinner to volunteer, you should sign-in at a designated computer. This helps track your hours that you are contributing to Skinner and your student.

As the year progresses and families hit the 5<sup>th</sup> volunteer hour, names will be displayed. Come see our display grow with all the hands that have given 5 for Skinner! A High 5! As you work your way up in volunteer hours, there are also additional perks! Attend the volunteer training on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the Skinner Library to learn more.

## Info for Background Check process

To ensure safety for all of our students, Denver Public Schools has a process for volunteers. In many cases, a background check is required. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is posted to the Skinner Website. If you are considering attending a field trip this school year, or getting involved in a way that you would work with students, submitting this paperwork sooner than later is best. Forms can be obtained from the Skinner Website and must be submitted at the main office or the Neighborhood Center to verify your identity.

## Crossing Guards Needed

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!