

January / February Newsletter

January Important Dates:

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|------------|---|
| January 9 | Return Back To School |
| January 9 | CSC – 5:00pm |
| January 10 | DPS Dress Code Day for students with at least 95% attendance |
| January 10 | PTO 6pm in Skinner’s Library |
| January 16 | No School – MLK Holiday |
| January 20 | Bingo Night Fundraiser 7:00 – 11:00 pm, Elks Lodge – 2475 W. 26 th Avenue |
| January 28 | Saturday School 8:30 – 11:30am |
| January 31 | Last Day for School of Choice Process |

February Important Dates:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| February 3 | NO SCHOOL |
| February 6 | CSC 5:00pm in Library |
| February 9 | Skinner Cares Day |
| February 20 | NO SCHOOL – President’s Day |
| February 27 | Trimester III starts (report cards live on parent & student portal) |

January Restorative Practices Highlight

Here at Skinner we take pride in our restorative school culture that provides students the opportunity to learn and practice conflict resolution skills they can use throughout their lives. In a typical Skinner day your student might have a restorative conversation with their teacher or a peer. Classroom circles have also been used to address issues that pop up in the classroom or even as a way to have all students engaged in the discussion.

Recently we had 15 visitors from the Pueblo Public Schools district and the Colorado Education Association come visit Skinner to see how we implement restorative practices (RP) at our school. We had four students speak to the group about their experiences with RP throughout their time here at Skinner and how that may have differed from their experience in elementary school. During our feedback session the visitors raved about how well our students could articulate how restorative practices has improved their experience here at Skinner and what tools they now have thanks to their restorative interactions and mediations.

Last but not least!

Every month during Family Meeting students are presented with a **Restorative Practices challenge**. For the month of December, students Picked a number which told them what their challenge for the month would be and also what day they would complete it. Challenges ranged from being positive to yourself and others for a day to giving someone your full attention (even if that means putting down your phone ☺). Ask your scholar which challenge they picked!

| RP Challenge #4! | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

Congratulations Science Fair Winners!

Our school science fair was a success! Students learned about the scientific inquiry process, learned about themselves as scholars and what to do under pressure of presenting to a stranger. The following students were the top projects in each grade level. Thank you for your involvement and participation in Science Fair Family Night to help prepare the students for science fair day.

These top projects will now prepare for the District Science Fair taking place on **January 21st at The University of Denver.**

6th Grade Winners

1st: Coco Goldman
2nd: Gabbi Isom
3rd: Lia Dino

7th Grade Winners

1st: Juno Gregg
2nd: Oliva Talle
3rd: Lucy Caldwell & Charlie
Ruderman-Pratt

8th Grade Winners

1st: Josh Miller
2nd: Grace Even
3rd: Laila Smith

HUGE Thank You to the following families for assisting Skinner with providing lunch for the 70 judges we had on campus this day. We appreciate how you provided a side or dessert!

With appreciation...

Keely Scott, Lindsay Croker, Cindy Hammel, Faustina Carrasco, Celeste Richardson, Heidi Cluff, Crissy Roe, Monica Wendelin, Heather Smith, Mary Harmon, Darcy Cherry, Tina Zertuche, Julie Madden, Andrea Grasso, Lisa Fentress, Bill Untiedt, & Kristen Messer.

Congratulations Mathletics Participants!

Mathletics is a DPS sponsored math competition for middle school students designed to expand knowledge in mathematical reasoning skills while engaging in friendly competition. Scholars compete in both individual and team rounds. Skinner sent 10 scholars to the December 7th DPS regional round held at Morey Middle School. Individual winners in 7/8th grade were Jake Jones, 2nd place and Victor Untiedt in 3rd place. The 7/8th grade team placed 2nd overall. Individual winners in 6th grade were Vincent Bonacquisti in 2nd place and Campbell Darlington in 3rd place. The 6th grade team placed 2nd overall in their division.

Mathletics city finals will take place January 18th at Temple Emanuel. Skinner will be sending two teams to this competition. Thank you to Mrs. Laura Curtis, who is the teacher sponsor for Mathletics. She is also sponsoring a Math Counts team that will compete at DU on February 4. If a student would like to participate in this event, please listen to announcements for after school practices.

Congratulations to Spelling Bee Participants!

Skinner hosted the DPS regional Bee on December 8. Three other schools attended this bee. The competing scholars were Nora Klute (top Skinner speller), Ciriah Torrez, Zachery Proctor, and Laila Smith, who served as the welcoming MC for the event.

Upcoming bees will be January 26th at Morey Middle School and the city written bee on February 16th at Temple Emanuel.

Congratulations City Wide Orchestra Participants!

Congratulations to the following students who auditioned and were selected to participate in the DPS Intermediate Citywide Honor Band & Orchestra. **The Citywide Orchestra Performance** will be held at John F. Kennedy High School on January 21st at 3:00 pm and the **Citywide Band Performance** will be held at Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy on February 25th at 3:00 pm.

Orchestra

Aidan Reidy
Samantha Wilkins
Ella Rodriguez
Tatiana Martinez
Olivia Talle

Grace Even
Aris Burcham
Tallulah Cluff
Ian Senft
Band
Zech Zertuche

TorseyLeeanne Kozalka
Samantha Wilkins
Ada Youngstrom
Cyrus Jenkins-Nieto
Nora Klute
Quinn Gauerke
Stella Eberlein
Max Heller
Luke Fleener
Shane Wolf
Coen North
Maile Kilen

January & February Athletic Information

Boys/Girls Basketball Schedule

(Girls play at 4:00 pm and boys play at 5:00 pm)

1/10 – vs. Henry @ Skinner

1/20 – vs. Morey @ Skinner

1/23 – vs. B. Webster @ Skinner

1/27 – vs. Lake @ Lake

2/2 – vs. Moore @ Skinner

Playoffs week of 2/13

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 from the team.

Questions: Please contact Jessica Piwko, Athletic Director, @ Jessica_piwko@dpsk12.org

News from Skinner's Library



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:

- **January 31st – STEAMPUNKALOOZA Days**
- **February 28th – Harry Potter Days**
- **April 18th – Forensics / CSI**
- **May 11th – Architect Days**

6th 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.



Register your student with the Neighborhood Center today!

Neighborhood Center families and friends, we are excited to announce a whole new line up of programs coming out this month and months to come. January is beginning with a whole lot of technology! We have partnered with Code Spire to offer their amazing class, Coding Collection, where students will be working on coding with Apps, Games, and Robots. For all of you TechKnow Zone fans, we are welcoming their team back for 2 days a week to work on everything from video production to DJ-ing. STEM Scouts will be diving right into programming and 3D printing. Speaking of diving, the pool is now open one day a week! We would like to encourage everyone with all skill sets to join us for some splashing fun.

For families, we will be offering a cooking class Wednesday's 5:30pm to 7:00pm where you will be working beside your kiddo to learn how to make healthy affordable meals. If you have questions please feel free to call Brittnee at 720-424-1435 (Spanish 720-424-1472)

Check us out on Facebook. Search: Neighborhood Center at Skinner. Our weekly program schedule is always posted on the page.

Bingo Night

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 20, 2017!

Denver Elks Lodge #17, 2475 W. 26th Ave Denver 80211!

7pm-11pm (Adults only)

Come to the Elks Lodge for some old-school bingo, cocktails and fun! Win big at \$1/sheet 50/50 bingo. All proceeds benefit SKINNER

We need YOU there! Tell your friends. Buy tickets through SkinnerBingo.com

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

Attendance and Cold Weather Days

Thank you to each family who have stressed strong attendance habits with your Skinner Scholar. We appreciate your support of our attendance policies which includes TAP.

During these wintery days, it is especially important that families plan ahead and wake up early to get to school on time. Excused absences are granted for serious medical reasons or legal obligations only (see policy signed during registration).

IF a LATE START Day is called by DPS, the late start applies to elementary schools only. We have a late start only to ensure the elementary students are not in the freezing cold waiting for delayed busses. The busses will arrive on time for our middle school students.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE INFO

Here is our attendance data for the year. Thank you for supporting our 95% attendance rate. Students track their monthly attendance in their student agenda. If your child's attendance is below 95% attendance, it is difficult for them to get their appropriate instruction. Attending PIE / office hours is not the same as attending the lesson from the actual class. It is imperative that students come to school each day to ensure they are receiving the instruction teachers have planned to prepare all students for the next grade level.

| Grade Level | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 06 | 96.7 % | 94.9 % | 94.3 % | 94.8 % | 93.2 % |
| 07 | 97.9 % | 93.1 % | 92.9 % | 93.4 % | 91.1 % |
| 08 | 98.3 % | 94.5 % | 93.4 % | 93.4 % | 93.0 % |

Students who have 95% attendance or better and no more than two tardies to any class, earn a free dress day on a monthly basis.

It Pays to Come to School! 100% Attendance

Students who have 100% attendance (including being on time to class) will once again receive \$100 for being at school each day. Stay tuned to the next newsletter for students who are still in the running for this reward.

Legislative Day

Legislative Day is offered to 8th grade identified gifted and talented students who have strong interest in government and current legislative events in Colorado. Students who wish to be considered for this program will be given an application form during social studies class in January. The form must be returned to Mrs. Davis for review and submittal to the Colorado Association of Gifted and Talented. Students who are chosen will be shadowing a state Legislator at the State Capital on February 23rd.



The leadership class would also like to thank all families for your incredible participation in the annual canned food drive.

In total, we collected almost 1800 cans that have already been delivered to the Bienvenidos Food Bank, along with over \$300 that will be donated to Food Bank of the Rockies. Mr. Andersen's learning family secured 1st place by a mile (313 cans!!), followed by Ms. McKeown in 2nd place and Ms. Torres in 3rd. Well done!