



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

November Newsletter

November Important Dates:

November 2	7 th Grade Field Trip Off Campus
November 2	Parenting Partners Session #5 6-8pm in Library (childcare available)
November 3	NO SCHOOL
November 3	Neighborhood Center Lock-In (by invite only)
November 7	DPS Dress Code Day for students with at least 95% attendance
November 7	8 th Grade Parent & Student Meeting 6-7:30pm in Auditorium
November 7	8 th Grade Career Fair – off campus time 12 – 2pm
November 9	Parenting Partners Session #6 6-8pm in Library (childcare available)
November 9	Book Fair OPENS in Skinner’s Library
November 10	Coffee Talk with the Principal 7:30am
November 11	Saturday School 8:30am – 11:30am
November 9 - 17	8 th Grade Mid-Year Conferences
November 14	Chipotle Fundraiser – 4-8 pm, 32 nd and Lowell
November 16	Picture Re-take Day
November 16	Parenting Partners Session #7- 6-8pm in Library (childcare available)
November 21-25	Thanksgiving Break
November 27	CSC 4:30pm in Library

Principal Updates

Skinner Families,

These past two months, I have had the opportunity to interact with many Skinner families during our PTO & CSC meetings, the Chromebook distributions for 7th and 8th grade, Fall Festival, conferences, and during our major fundraiser of the year, the Jewels of Highlands Home Tour. Thank you for being such an engaged and connected community. Our scholars are better off because of you!

As we move into the month of November, we would be remiss if we did not stop to reflect on all the amazing opportunities our students have at Skinner. We have so many offerings for our students – physical education, visual art, instrumental music, choir, Spanish, newspaper, yearbook, woodshop, STEM lab, drama, and creative writing as extra-curricular offerings. Academically, we have classes for students who require English Language Development (ELD), classes on the continuum for special education services, gifted and talented programming, honors, as well as acceleration in math. We have developed access and opportunities to meet the needs of the diverse population we serve. For all these reasons, November has been deemed “Be Thankful for Your School”. Last year CSC and PTO combined efforts to start a direct giving campaign because our October Count numbers have resulted in a reduction of families who meet the Federal guideline qualifying for free or reduced lunch, which impacts Skinner qualifying as a Title I school. Without this qualification, we see an approximately \$75K shortfall in our budget this January when we start planning for next school year.

Please join us at the next CSC meeting on November 27th at 4:30pm in the Skinner Library to hear more about how you can support with time or money to continue what we offer at Skinner for our great Northwest community.

With gratitude, ~Michelle Koyama

Principal Updates (continued)

Skinner Families,

At Skinner Middle School we are dedicated to growing the best educators and students in order to help our school and community thrive. As you know, Russell Wooten has been serving as a Principal Resident this year. He has done a fantastic job of taking on leadership duties and ensuring that our students, staff and community are meeting the high goals we have in place for students. In order to support his leadership journey, he will embark on two Acting Principal Experiences this school year. The first is November 13th – 15th, and the next experience will be for two weeks, starting on January 5th and ending on January 19th.

This means that I, Michelle Koyama will be out of the building for two periods of time while, Mr. Wooten leads our school. Throughout this time, I will embark on a variety of professional development opportunities that will help me grow my practice as a leader for our school and community. The resident and I have meticulously planned for this experience and I know that he is ready to lead our community. In addition, Mr. Wooten will have support from various mentors throughout the district.

Finally, please know that Mr. Wooten will have complete control and access to my email and voicemail systems during this time. Thank you for your support during these professional development opportunities.

Sincerely,
~Michelle Koyama

Winter is Right Around the Corner

DPS is committed to informing families about school closures or delays as early as possible – with the goal to make the call by 5 a.m. The following are school closure or delay procedures due to inclement weather:

School Closings:

The decision to keep schools open or to close them during winter weather is made with one overriding factor in mind: the well-being of DPS students and employees. Schools are not only vital places of learning for students, but they also provide nutrition, health care, counseling and essential support services. Whenever possible, DPS strives to keep schools open. If schools are closed, all school-related activities that day – athletics, performances – are also canceled unless otherwise noted.

Weather Delay Schedule

The purpose of the Weather Delay Schedule is to provide school buses additional time to pick up students and to reduce student's wait time at bus stops. **Skinner will start school on time, and is not affected by this schedule.**

DPS encourages families to stay informed during inclement weather via the following channels:

DPS social media - Announcements to close or delay school will quickly be posted to [Facebook @DenverPublicSchools](#) and [Twitter @DPSNewsNow](#).

District closure/delay hotline - A message announcing the closure or delay will be left on the school district's closure hotline at 720-423-3200, as well on the DPS Transportation Services hotline at 720-423-4600.

Automated calls and emails - Families who provide phone numbers or email addresses to schools will receive a phone call and/or an email announcing any closure or delay due to inclement weather. Please ensure your information is updated by logging into your DPS Parent Portal account at myportal.dpsk12.org, or by contacting your school's main office.

Bus Bulletin - Unveiled last year, Bus Bulletin is DPS Transportation Services' real-time notification system that alerts parents of students riding the school bus of any emergency or delay of more than 15 minutes. Notifications are sent via text message, voice notification and/or email. Parents log in to Bus Bulletin via the DPS Parent Portal to verify or update their information. Parents with questions about this service should contact their school or Transportation at transportation@dpsk12.org or 720-423-4600.

READ



News from Skinner's Library

Skinner BEYOND Days – On Tuesday, November 28th, Skinner Library will host its 2nd Skinner BEYOND Day – Duct Tape Crafts! Scholars are encouraged to join us in the library from 3-4:30 PM on the 28th where we'll create duct tape charms, wallets, ties, and more! What does a scholar need to do to join the fun? Simply stop by the library to sign up!

Reading Challenge – Scholars have until November 30th to participate in the **Fall Reading Challenge!** Forms and instructions can be found in the library OR on the library's webpage at <http://skinnermslibrary.weebly.com>.

Fall Book Fair – Skinner's library hosts its annual fall book fair this November! **Starting November 7th and running through the 16th**, students and family are invited to stop by and browse through the HUGE selection of novels! Can't stop by in person? No worries! Check out our library webpage for a link to the online book fair. Books ordered online will be delivered to Skinner MS and, once they are received, we will place the books directly in your scholar's hands!

Scorpion Guild – Skinner's Parent/Student After School Book Club is scheduled to meet in the library from 4:30 – 5:15 on November 10th. We will choose our 1st book on this day. We hope you'll join us!

Marijuana and your Child

Marijuana in Denver is only legal for individuals 21 years or older; but with dispensaries and advertisements for marijuana everywhere you turn, do you have the facts that you need to explain to your child why it is important that they refrain from use?

Marijuana can have a dramatic effect on the developing teen brain. The tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in marijuana, which is the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects, affects specific areas of the brain—pleasure, memory, thinking, concentration, sensory and time perception, and coordinated movement—which continue developing until 25. Research suggests that frequent use of marijuana while your brain is developing can result in impaired learning and memory as well as a decreased IQ.

Teens who try marijuana are also nine times more likely than adults to develop a dependence on marijuana. The reason for this is that the brain's limbic system, which is the reward system, develops first, while the prefrontal system, which controls judgment, develops at a slower speed- this means that there is a period during your teen years when the brain's drive for pleasure is high, but its ability to make deliberate decisions is low.

Talking to your child about the effects of marijuana, and why it is important to you that they abstain from using, is the most beneficial thing that you can do to keep your kid from using marijuana. It is never too early to have an age-appropriate, non-judgmental discussion with your child. For tips on how to talk to your child about marijuana, check out the DenverRAP parent toolkit located at <http://denverrap.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Parent-Tool-Kit.pdf>.

If your child is using marijuana, there are many resources available in Denver for your child to receive the help that they need to stop. One example is the Substance Abuse Treatment and Education (STEP) Program at Denver Health, which offers supportive programs to help young people address and manage substance abuse addictions, including cannabis use disorder. For more information visit:

<http://www.denverhealth.org/medical-services/mental-health-and-addiction-services/our-services/adolescent-substance-abuse-treatment>.



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.

Register your student with the Neighborhood Center today!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Aced It! Tutoring	Aced It! Tutoring	Aced It! Tutoring	Aced It! Tutoring	Community Drop-in
STEM Scouts	NC Ambassadors	GOTR	GOTR	ACCESS
YouTube with a Purpose	Craft Corner	Sports Mania	Digital Storytelling	
Sports Mania	Fitness Building	Improve	Silk Screening	
		Dungeons&Dragons	Spelling Bee	
		Skate Club	Sports Mania	

If you have any more questions please contact us at 720-424-1435 or 720-424-1472.

Parenting Partners

Elvia Lubin, Parent Liaison & Joe Waldon, School Social Worker are pleased to present this 7-week education program to help our parents navigate the journey of raising their children and increase their child's social emotional well-being. It is ideal to attend every session as the information and discussions build on one another. If you haven't been able to attend yet, you are still welcome. All meetings are held in the library at Skinner Middle School.

Childcare and light snacks are provided. Please Join us!

Sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. and go to 8:00 p.m.

Future Sessions:

Session #5: Thursday, November 2nd 6:00pm-8:00pm

Session #6: Thursday, November 9th 6:00pm-8:00pm

Session # 7: Thursday, November 16th 6:00-8:00 pm

Contact Elvia Lubin for more information and topic listings (720.424.1473) or elvia_lubin@dpsk12.org.

Athletics Information

Currently, we are in our Late Fall season, hosting co-ed Flag Football and Girls Volleyball.

Sports coming up:

- Boys Basketball (winter) / Girls Basketball (winter)
- 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 Robert Kelly, Athletic Director, @ [Robert Kelly @dpsk12.org](mailto:Robert.Kelly@dpsk12.org)

8th Grade Families

SAVE THE DATE- November 7 meeting

8th Grade Scholars will be engaging in a one-on-one conference with administration in the upcoming weeks to conference about being on track for Continuation to High School. Come learn more about these conferences, what we are doing to prepare our scholars to be college ready, and come hear from high schools. The Skinner portion of the meeting will take place from 6:00 – 6:45 and then high schools will present for 5 minutes each until 7:10. At 7:10 representatives from the high schools will be available at designated tables to answer questions for families until 7:30pm.

DPS Northwest SchoolChoice Expo is January 22. Taking place from 6pm-8pm at North High, the NW Expo is a great opportunity to learn more about NW high school options.

6th Grade Families

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 & at North. These clinics are available to ALL DPS students free of charge, so don't be afraid to utilize this great resource! Please leave updated immunizations in the office.

Chipotle Night



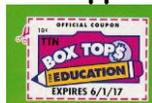
Skinner Fundraiser

Join us, Tuesday, Nov. 14th from 4pm - 8pm at Chipotle on 32nd & Lowell.

Mention "Skinner" at check-out and 50% of your bill will be donated to our school!

Thank you!!!

Thank you for Supporting Skinner!



Don't forget to submit your BoxTops