



Skinner Middle School Newsletter

April 2015

*The legacy, the passion, the opportunity
Educating and motivating life-long learners who explore,
create and achieve.*

A Note from the Principal...

Each year we strive to make improvements in our systems and practices, and for the upcoming year, we also want to make sure we are making improvements in *communication*. We strive to regularly get letters and auto-dialers out to families, make announcements to students on a daily basis at the beginning and end of day, and hold grade level assemblies the first Monday of each month so students can also record important dates in their agendas. Despite our efforts, sometimes messages still do not make it home.

During the month of April, I once again invite all families to **send in constructive feedback and ideas** of how we can improve communication at Skinner. All ideas that come to me will be compiled, read, and debriefed with staff. Please send all suggestions to Michelle_Koyama@dpsk12.org OR send in a written note to the main office if you do not have access to email. We appreciate you taking a few minutes to help make Skinner a better school for all.

I also invite you to provide feedback to Skinner on the **School Satisfaction Survey**. Each household will be provided a feedback form this month. Your input and completion of the form impacts our School Performance Framework (SPF) rating.

Also taking place this month is the students' opportunity to **select courses for next school year**. Students will be able to self-nominate for Honors, give us information about elective choices, and give input about their period 2 class which ranges from math intervention, jazz band, service learning, to leadership offerings. Please start to talk with your child about what s/he might be interested in for next school year to prepare in completing this process. 8th grade students will also be completing this process for North High School for next year.

Upcoming Important Dates for April

Tuesday, April 7 th	Free Dress for 95% Attendance
Wednesday, April 8 th	Visit to North High School - 8th Grade Only
Friday, April 10 th	March to College Day (Trip to Regis) - 8th Only
	Neighborhood Center Lock-In Students must be eligible for invite
Monday, April 13 th	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, April 14 th	CSC in LMC 5pm
Wednesday, April 15 th	Talent Show 6-8 pm
Tuesday, April 21 st	CMAS Social Studies - 7th Grade Only
Thursday, April 23 rd	CMAS Science - 8th Grade Only
Friday, April 24 th	Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
Saturday, April 25 th	Totally Tennyson Fundraiser
Tuesday, April 28 th	Language & Culture Night 6-8pm
Thursday, April 30 th	ELA-PAC Meeting (CSR Focus) 6-8pm Food & Child care provided
Friday, May 1 st	Good Standing Celebration for April

Administration Change...

Announced the last week of March, Lindsay Meier will be the new planning principal of Henry World School.

Lindsay will start in her new position on April 7th.

Lindsay has been a valuable member of the Skinner Family for the past 4 years and we wish her the very best in her next endeavor. The Henry community is lucky to have Lindsay as their new leader.

See the next page for more information.

A Note from the Assistant Principal

Skinner Families and Community,

For the past three and a half years, I have had the honor and privilege of working for you and for your kids as the proud Assistant Principal at Skinner Middle School.

It is bittersweet that I inform you all that my career has taken a next step. I have been offered and accepted a position with the school district, writing a proposal to open a quality school in Southwest Denver. Pending Board approval, this school will open in the fall of 2016. The transition to this position begins immediately.

I want to thank you all for the past three and a half years, for all you have taught me and for sharing your children with me. I will carry you all with me in my heart as I take on this new endeavor. I will always consider the Skinner Community, students and staff my extended family. It has been an honor to serve you.

With much love and respect,
Lindsay Meier

Skinner Yearbook Deadline - April 16

April 16 is the last day to guarantee your child's copy of this year's yearbook! This year's book includes countless photos of Skinner sports, community events, and other great memories as well as a fantastic cover design from some of our own Skinner students. In addition, we have a new opportunity for you and your child to create two personalized pages with all of your own pictures that will only be in your book. If you have any questions, please contact the main office.

Buy online today!

Website: www.treering.com/validate

School Code: [1014103592642212](http://www.treering.com/validate)

Cost: \$35

THANK YOU

We appreciate the tremendous support we had during CMAS. As a school and as a District we continually assess the value of the data from the state assessments. We look forward to our results next year for both the school and students individually.

We also appreciate the donations for snacks! We successfully secured snacks for the March and April assessments.

Call for Uniforms

To all families of current 8th grade SKINNER Scorpions continuing to 9th grade!

At this exciting time of year, we would like to make a request for any gently used Skinner t-shirts, polos, or sweatshirts. As you and your student move towards the big day, we would love to recycle your gear for future Skinner Scholars. Please bring all donations to Mr. Waldon. We really appreciate the opportunity to pass your gently used items along to other scholars. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Waldon at 720.424.1420



Vikings Golf Information Meeting

Thursday 4/30, 4:30-5:30 pm

For all Interested Middle/High School Students and Parents

Learn About the Vikings Golf Program and Resources Including:

- How to register for North Vikings Athletics.
- Boys Golf season starts August 10, 2015 - Let's get ready now!
- Overview of summer golf lessons and tournaments to register for.
- University of Denver Sport & Performance Psychology graduate students will provide an overview of mental strengthening exercises to play at a higher level, and develop strong strategic thinking to tackle every golf course we play.

Contact Coach Tony Frank if you have any questions:
303-961-8340 OR tonyfrank244@gmail.com

After School Options

All Skinner Scholars MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT! The school day ends at 2:45 and after school programming begins at 2:50 pm. Students should have a clear understanding with families about after school activities and rides. Students are not allowed to linger in the halls or on the front lawn as there is no after school supervision unless a student is involved in an organized school activity. Options for after school are:

- Register with the Neighborhood Center and take advantage of tutoring and extra-curricular activities.
*Game room open from 4:30-5:30pm Monday – Thursday for students who stay for a program.
- Attend PIE with grade level teachers
- Get involved with Skinner Athletics
- Walk home OR get picked up by 3pm

**Any student who remains on school ground after 3pm will be placed into ASI, where a parent or guardian must sign him/her out to ensure safety.



Neighborhood Center

AT SKINNER MIDDLE SCHOOL

The following programs are available through the month of April:

Y: Youth
F/A: Family/Adult

Monday

Y: BUG (Bringing Up Grades), Silk Screening, After Hours (4:30-5:30)

F/A: Zumba (5:30-6:30pm)

Tuesday

Y: BUG, Cooking, Gardening, Destination Imagination (4:30-5:30), After Hours

F/A: Adult Mens Basketball (7-9:30pm)

Wednesday

Y: BUG, Wrestling, Soccer, Basketball, Recycled Art, Girls on the Run, After Hours

F/A: Family & Friends Cooking (5:30-6:30pm)

Futsal: Indoor Soccer (7-8:30 pm)

Thursday

Y: BUG, Spelling Bee, Lacrosse, Talent Show Rehearsal, Lithium Ion Car Competition, After Hours

Basic Computers (5-6:30 pm)

Friday

Y: Community Connects

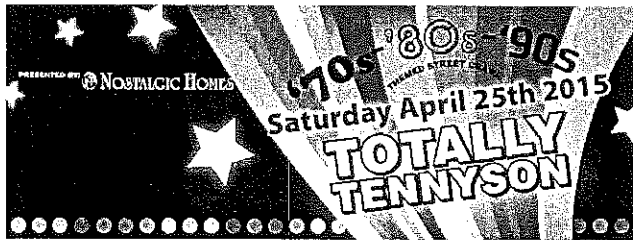
Lock-In (April 10-11): Eligible students spend the night from 7 pm to 7 am. They can participate in dancing with the DJ, swimming, watch movies, playing games, arts & crafts, sports tournaments, red carpet photo shoot, tons of food and much more! Cost for the event is \$25 or a completed scholarship form.

Talent Show (April 15): Watch our Skinner students put on a show of music, tricks, comedy, and games. 6-8 pm in Skinner auditorium. \$2 suggested donation.

Sports & Mindfulness Summer Camp (June 15-July 3 & July 13-31 @ Academia Ana Marie Sandoval Elementary)

Open to Skinner & Centennial families
Registration begins April 13th @ the Neighborhood Center

Contact (720) 424-1435



Totally Tennyson Tickets NOW ON SALE!

5th Annual Totally Tennyson, sponsored by Nostalgic Homes, is stoked to return on Saturday, April 25, 2015. This street crawl is expanding to 70s-80s-90s theme and features totally tubular destinations from bars, pubs, restaurants, shops, a party bus and more! Your ticket includes complimentary 'tastes' (snacks, adult beverages, etc.) of what Tennyson Street has to offer between 35th – 46th Avenues. Includes admission to the hottest concert by 6 Million Dollar Band at the Oriental Theater. Guaranteed the MOST FUN you'll have all year! Costumes HIGHLY encouraged.

Tickets are \$25 and **100% of the ticket price comes back to Skinner** when "Skinner" is chosen during online ticket purchase <http://totallytennyson.com/>

Tickets are also available in the Skinner main office with no online service fees. Cash or check payable to "Skinner Middle School". Can't attend? Purchase a \$25 ticket to donate to a teacher! 100% of the price comes right back to Skinner! Buy your tickets today, the event will sell out!

Destination Imagination

Saturday, March 21st, Skinner participated in the annual DI competition. Our 8th grade DI team built a robot that was powered using a homemade remote control. The team chose to make the robot communicate, move, and fart bubbles (middle school humor!) This team came in **1st place** in Instant Challenge and ended up in **4th place overall**.

The 7th grade team built a structure out of balsa wood, glue, and playing cards. The structure was required to have removable pieces similar to a Jenga game. They created a removal device that looked like a scorpion. The skit was required to have an element of change, so the team wrote a play about princesses (all boys) changing into Ninjas. A princess wand also transformed into a ninja knife. This team placed **3rd in the competition** and will be **advancing to the State of Colorado tournament on April 25**.

DI requires that all props, scenery, skits, and required products be 100% student created.

Metro Science Fair

During the first week in March, Skinner Participated in the Metro Science Fair. Again, we are thrilled with the students who were recognized for their work and thinking:

6th Grade - Josh Miller took 3rd place in Earth and Environmental Sciences

7th Graders - Lilli Gregg and Aspen Coates earned honorable mention in the category of Behavioral Sciences

Lindsay Pratt earned honorable mention in Junior Plant Sciences
Isla Anderson took **first place** in Biomedical and Health Sciences!

Congratulations to all the students, especially Josh and Isla! Thank you teachers and parents!!

Josh & Isla will be competing now at the State level in April! Way to go everyone!

Science Olympiad

For the third year in a row, our Skinner Scholars involved in our period 2 science class participated in Science Olympiad. On March 7th our students had the opportunity to compete against other schools in the state. Skinner took three teams who competed against a total of 39 teams. They are challenged in different events. Here are our results for this year. The students had a great time!

Bio process 19th
Elastic launch glider 5th & 9th
Entomology 15th & 13th
Experimental Design 10th
Green generation 14th
Picture this 13th & 15th
Road Scholar 15th

Urban Advantage Program

This year our 7th graders have the incredible opportunity to participate in the Urban Advantage Metro Denver program. This program is designed to improve science literacy among urban middle-school science students. The program provides teachers and students with resources to help students think and explore like scientists. Students are encouraged to become critical thinkers by actively engaging in authentic and meaningful science investigations that develop science literacy skills. Earlier this year, students had hands-on learning experiences when we took Urban Advantage field trips to the Denver Botanic Gardens, The Denver Zoo, and the Museum of Nature and Science. At the Botanic Gardens students experienced a variety of inquiry-based experiments around plant life, while at the zoo they observed the behavioral patterns of animals such as elephants and developed theories around evolutionary adaptations of animals based on their habitats. At the Museum of Nature and Science, students viewed prehistoric dinosaur skeletons and sketched natural habitats of Colorado. Additionally, students visited the special whale exhibit in which they learned about the biology and behavior of these majestic creatures. In the interactive human health exhibit, students learned about the human body, including testing their own heart rates, controlling brain waves, and even generating predictions of what they will look decades from now.

This month, students will be required to create a research project based on their experiences at one of these institutions in an area of study of their choosing. While on our field trips students gathered ideas and data for these projects that will be presented to their peers. In addition, students interested in showcasing their scientific work have the opportunity to write and submit a proposal to the Urban Advantage program and may end up presenting their work to professionals in the field along with a group of peers. We are excited to see the work our students will produce based on these exciting, hands-on experiences. Presentations will take place all day in the LMC on April 30th.