



Skinner Middle School Newsletter

April 2014

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

A Note from the Principal...

There are only 39.5 days of school that remain for the 2013-14 school year! Where does time go!? There is still so much to accomplish! As many students are celebrating and anxious for the closing of a school year, staff are maintaining high expectations of all students and simultaneously planning for the 2014-15 school year. 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 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.

When we return from break on April 8th, we will be talking and working with students about course selections 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.

Upcoming Important Dates for April

March 31 st – April 4 th	SPRING BREAK
Monday, April 7 th	NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, April 9 th	March to College Day - 8th Grade Only
Wednesday, April 9 th	World Language Night
Friday, April 11 th	Neighborhood Center After Dark Event (5pm to 11pm) Students must be eligible for invite
Monday, April 14 th	CSC in LMC 5pm
Monday, April 14 th	CMAS Social Studies Window Opens - 7th Grade Only
Wednesday, April 16 th	Talent Show 6-8pm
Monday, April 21 st	CMAS Science Window Opens - 8th Grade Only
Wednesday, April 23 rd	Weather and Science Day – 6th grade only
Wednesday, April 23 rd	ELA-PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) Meeting 6pm in PDC
Friday, April 25 th	Career Fair – Uplift Classes Only
Saturday, April 26 th	Totally Tennyson
Friday, May 2 nd	Good Standing Celebration for April

THANK YOU

We appreciate the tremendous support we had during TCAP. Your assistance made tackling this massive endeavor more manageable.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered time to help with snacks, organizing bins, and sharpening pencils!

We also appreciate the donations for snacks! We successfully secured snacks for TCAP, and upcoming CMAS and PARCC testing, as well!

Local businesses also donated treats for the teachers for each day of TCAP. Thank you to Happy Cakes, Chipotle, Starbucks, La Casita, and SHIFT Bodyworks for helping us celebrate our hard working staff.

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 will not be 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 property after 3pm will be placed into ASI, where a parent or guardian must sign him/her out



80s themed adult street crawl event
Saturday, April 26th

Purchase tickets at www.totallytennyson.com
Now! **Be sure to select Skinner at check-out** as we will receive 100% of the ticket purchase price!
This event sold out last year so don't delay!



Interested in becoming a North High School Vikings Cheerleader? North High School invites your current 8th grade students to Cheerleading Tryouts for the 2014-2015 school year. Parents/Guardians-Please plan to attend a mandatory Parent/Guardian Tryout Meeting on Monday, April 7th from 6:00pm-7:30pm in the North HS Cafeteria. Interested scholar-athletes will then participate in a Cheer Clinic on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 6:00p-7:30p in the North HS Gym. The Tryout will take place on Friday, April 11th from 6:00p-8:00p.

Please email Lauren Hammond for more information
Lauren.Hammond77@gmail.com



April Events

4/11: AFTER DARK (5-11 pm)

Eligible Skinner students (behavior, completed academics, attendance) participate in a variety of activities including swimming, dancing, athletics, movies, art, and game room.

4/16: Talent Show (6-7:30 pm)

Join us for a night of dance, music, comedy, and unique performances from our very talented group of Skinner Scholars

4/26: College 4YOU Academy-Regis University

Students will learn about the fields of Peace & Justice and Environmental Science. The day commences with a BBQ and a Regis Baseball game with a special recognition ceremony for our students. College 4YOU parents are welcome to come.

4/30: Olympiad (4:30-7:30 pm)

Six DPS schools compete against one another in boys' basketball, girls' basketball, co-ed soccer, knowledge Bowl, a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activity, and an arts activity.

April After-School Programs

Monday: Tutoring, Swimming, Drama, Lacrosse, Model Cars

Tuesday: Tutoring, Cooking, Ultimate Frisbee

Wednesday: Tutoring, Talent Show, Tennis, Wrestling, Silk Screening, Olympiad Practice

Thursday: Tutoring, Track & Field, Spelling Bee, Music Video Production

Friday: College 4YOU

Get Involved...

Skinner's final PTO meeting of the school year is **Tuesday, May 6th at 7 pm** in the LMC.

Among other important topics, the group will be discussing and voting on whether or not to continue the organization as a PTO or to re-establish as part of Colorado PTA. There are pros and cons to both options and we hope that you are able to attend the meeting and let your voice be heard on this important subject.