



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

## December Newsletter

### December Important Dates:

<b>December 2</b>	Saturday School 8:30am – 11:30am
<b>December 4</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Chromebook Distribution 3:30 – 6:15
	Science Fair Family Night 5:30 – 7:00pm
<b>December 5</b>	DPS Dress Code Day for students with at least 95+% attendance
	Science Fair Day
<b>December 11 – 15</b>	SPIRIT WEEK
<b>December 12 &amp; 13</b>	Arts Night – Visual Art, Drama & Choir @ Skinner 6:00pm
<b>December 12 – 13</b>	Winter Interim Assessments
<b>December 14</b>	Arts Night – Instrumental Music @NORTH 6:30pm
<b>December 16</b>	Saturday School 8:30am – 11:30am
<b>December 18</b>	CSC – 4:30pm in Library
<b>December 20</b>	Good Standing Celebration – Jump Street
<b>December 21</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – SKINNER ONLY</b>
<b>December 22</b>	<b>Winter Break Begins</b>
<b>January 8</b>	Return back to school from winter break
<b>January 19</b>	<b>Bingo Night Fundraiser</b> 7:00 – 11:00 pm, Elks Lodge – 2475 W. 26 <sup>th</sup> Avenue

### ‘Tis the Season...

...to be grateful. I often tell individuals who ask me how I continue to do what I do, by responding how I count my blessings on a daily basis. We have amazing students, parents, staff, and overall a great north Denver community. As we close out 2017, I want to say thank you to all of our families and guardians for supporting our students during this time of their lives. I am truly grateful for our amazing community.

I am grateful that we continue to have amazing teachers and staff who work relentlessly for our students on a daily basis. I am grateful that we are able to offer so many options for our students to develop and even learn new interests. Cooking, woodshop, STEM lab, Choir, Spanish, Physical Education, Journalism, Yearbook/Photography, Visual Art, Instrumental Music, Leadership and Sports, are all things that enhance the academic day. I feel so proud and honored to be able to extend so many opportunities to our students. Another gift from our community was the funding to have the MyTech grant which allows for our students to have 1:1 devices to enhance their learning. Field trips and community extensions round out the package and due to the way funding was structured this year, we don't have to ask families to send their child with money to attend these extra events.

We are about to embark on the school-wide science fair where students get to demonstrate their thinking and new learning based on their experiments. We have students about to perform and demonstrate their artistic talents through visual art, drama, choir, and instrumental music performances. Our scholars have made amazing gains socially, emotionally, and academically at this point of the school year and I look forward to these school events where they can bring some joy to families being proud of accomplishments thus far.

Although this is a busy time of year, I hope you are able to slow down enough during the month to relish in the family time and school events for each of your children. As we focus on the 'whole child' initiative, family engagement is very much a part of the equation. We look forward to seeing all of our families present on campus, especially during this month, supporting your child. We thank you in advance for your involvement.  
HAPPY Holidays! ~Michelle

## **End of Semester Celebration**

We want to celebrate all our students who contribute positively to our school by staying focused on their learning. All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have a 2.0 GPA, no F's, and no referrals will be invited to this end of semester celebration. These requirements need to be met by students by Tuesday, December 12th after office hours with teachers, and will be printed on progress reports for you to reference on Thursday, December 14th.

Students who meet eligibility by 12/12 will be off campus for part of their school day on Wednesday, December 20th. We will be taking students to Jump Street for this celebration.

We will hold a hard deadline of 12/12 for eligibility. Students who do not meet the requirements will have extended time with the teachers on campus on 12/20 to get grades up before they are final for semester grades for 12/21. Thanks for supporting your child to be eligible by the 12/14 deadline!

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families**

At Skinner we are dedicated to working with families to ensure students are ready for high school and beyond, therefore, we hold our students to Continuation (promotion) expectations in the areas of attendance, behavior, and academics. During the last two weeks in November, 8<sup>th</sup> graders met with a principal to discuss mid-year progress, and a letter was sent home to inform you of the results of this meeting.

Students who were in good standing for his/her mid-year conference will receive free dress for the month of December. Students will be recognized on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> for their efforts and receive their "free dress" bracelet. Please have your student read the dress code section of the student agenda to make sure s/he is still in DPS dress code. Students who are not yet in good standing should work diligently according to the plan laid out during the conference to get back into good standing before the end of the semester when grades post to their transcript.

**Thank you for supporting your child during this transition year to high school.**

## **Reminder from the November Newsletter**

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 a two week Acting Principal Experience, starting on January 5<sup>th</sup> and ending on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

This means that I, Michelle Koyama will be out of the building for this period 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



**Register your student with the Neighborhood Center today!  
This schedule ends December 15<sup>th</sup>**

**MONDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
(3:00-5:00)  
STEM Scouts  
YouTube with a Purpose  
(3:30-5:00)  
After Hours  
(5:00-6:00)

**TUESDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
(3:00-5:00)  
NC Ambassadors  
Craft Corner  
Fitness Building  
(3:30-5:00)  
After Hours  
(5:00-6:00)

**WEDNESDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
(3:00-5:00)  
All about Sports  
Dungeons & Dragons  
Improv  
Skate Club  
Wrestling  
(3:30-5:00)  
After Hours  
(5:00-6:00)

**THURSDAY**

Aced It! Tutoring  
(3:00-5:00)  
Silk Screening  
Spelling Bee  
Sports Mania  
(3:30-5:00)  
After Hours  
(5:00-6:00)

**FRIDAY**

Access  
Community Drop-in  
(3:30-5:00)

Skinner families, as you may know, the Neighborhood Center is funded through different grants. Over the past few years, these funds have been harder to come by and we have worked hard to find new ways to support our programs. Our programs are an important resource for students who need (or want) extra academic, recreational, or vocational experiences. The Neighborhood Center has become an integral part of the school day for many students. Our attendees have demonstrated better school attendance, as well as higher testing scores in math and reading (13%) and writing (8%).



One of our major fundraising events for the year will be on Colorado Gives Day, December 5th. With a \$20 donation, you can provide a scholarship for a student that may not be able to attend one of our specialty programs, such as STEM scouts, cooking, woodshop, computer coding or comic strip drawing. Please consider a gift to our 501c3 'Northwest Neighborhood Center Friends' so we can continue to provide high-quality programming for our students.  
**THANK YOU**

**Skinner Science Fair Family Night 12/4 5:30 - 7pm**

All Skinner Scholars engage in learning the scientific process through science fair projects.

All Scholars will present their project to a family member on 12/4 which serves as a time for the students to demonstrate what has been learned in science this first semester as well as practice for Science Fair Day on 12/5. Students will present their learning to judges from both the scientific and business world on 12/5 to compete for the District Science Fair as well as moving on to the Metro Science Fair in February. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade families, please enter through the back doors as your projects will be in the gyms. The Library will host the **6<sup>th</sup> grade** projects as well as the Chromebook distribution and 6<sup>th</sup> grade families should enter through the main doors. Thank you for signing in at your designated location. After your child presents his/her project to you, we encourage you to look at the projects from the other grade levels.

# December Athletics Information

As we enter December, we are our in our winter season, hosting Girls and Boys Basketball.

## Skinner Boys and Girls Basketball Season:

Tryouts for **BOYS** Basketball will take place Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> AND Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 - 4:45 pm in the EAST gym.

Tryouts for **GIRLS** Basketball will take place Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, November 30, AND Friday, December 1 from 3:00 - 4:30 pm in the WEST gym.

## Expectations to tryout for the teams include:

- Students must wear athletic gear (tennis shoes, shorts or sweats and a t-shirt)
- Students must have an approved health physical that is good for one year
- Parent permission forms must be signed and handed into coaches
- Parent contact emergency information must be turned into coaches (coaches will keep these on hand at all practices and games).

## The coaches for this year will be:

Girls Basketball Team: James Duran, Head Coach / Jessica Frahm, Assistant Coach

Boys Basketball Team: Matthew Graeve, Head Coach / Dan Coplin, Assistant Coach

## Sports coming up:

- Co-ed Floor Hockey (early spring)
- Girls Soccer (spring)



**Art & Choir Night**  
12/12 6:00 - 8:00pm  
@ Skinner

\*Student artwork will be on sale each of these nights.  
Money goes back to the artist and the art department.  
Artwork price range is from \$2 - \$10 per item.



**Instrumental Music Night**  
12/14 6:30 - 8:30pm  
@ North

Student musicians need to arrive at 6pm  
for tuning.



**Drama Nights**  
12/12 & 12/13 6:00 - 8:00pm @ Skinner



Featuring the World Premiere of  
*Nobody Wants to Be Eaten*  
by Bill Untiedt

In a land of beasts and battles, a school of warrior combat teaches students how to fight for their lives. When a mysterious and wise teacher appears, telling them a man-eating monster is coming, two students are forced to make the decision to fight or be eaten, and nobody wants to be eaten. Don't miss this show!

## Teacher Gifts!

If you enjoyed giving holiday gifts to your child's teachers in the past, but are at a loss on what to do now that your child has EIGHT different teachers here at Skinner, we can help! Consider donating one or two gifts for the December Gift drawing and they'll be distributed at random via a daily drawing. The whole Skinner staff will be eligible and we hope to collect enough gifts so that every staff member has at least one opportunity to receive for a gift. Due to the generosity of Skinner families, every staff member has received a gift each year for the past four years!

We ask that gifts be a minimum \$20 value. Anything you are willing to contribute would be greatly appreciated! Gift ideas: restaurant gift cards, office supplies, store gift cards, bottles of wine, etc.

Items can be dropped off in the front office anytime between 7 am – 3:30 pm. Please make sure to include your name and your child's name on the donation. We would like to start daily drawings December 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Travel Opportunity!

Are you a 6th or 7th grader and interested in traveling to Spain to continue learning about language and culture? If so, please join Mrs. Overton in the auditorium on December 18 at 6PM for an informational meeting! She will be traveling to Spain with a group of 15-20 scholars in June 2019. All students are welcome to attend the meeting, but priority for signing up for the trip will go to scholars who are in currently in Spanish classes at Skinner. Mrs. Overton is planning this trip so far in advance so that scholars can begin fundraising now!!

## Watching for Risky Behavior

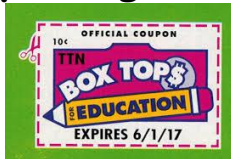
As your child grows up, it is natural for them to change their attitudes and behaviors; but how do you know what behaviors are normal, and what behaviors may be an indicator that they are engaging in unhealthy activities? If your child is exhibiting any of the following warning signs, it is a good idea talk with your child about what is going on.

- Lack of energy
- Grades dropping
- Change in speech
- Bloodshot eyes or dilated pupils
- Alcohol or prescription medicine missing from the house
- Hanging out with new friends and not letting you meet them
- Discussing alcohol or drug use on social media
- Breaking curfew

One of the best ways to help kids avoid issues with alcohol and drugs is to talk with them. For more information, visit: <http://www.speaknowcolorado.org/>

Merry Christmas  
Happy Hanukkah  
Happy Kwanzaa  
to you all!

## Thank you for Supporting Skinner



Don't Forget to  
submit your  
BoxTops to the  
main office

## Fundraiser Thank You!

Big thank you to everyone who attended the Chipotle fundraiser on November 14. We raised \$1,049 from the evening! BIG, BIG thank you to **Chipotle on 32<sup>nd</sup> and Lowell** for their amazing support of our neighborhood schools! Please thank them personally next time you stop in for a delicious meal!

## 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Bingo Night

Imagine it is a cold, winter night in January 2017. What are you going to do tonight? Oh, how you wish you had something fun to do on a Friday Night?

WE HAVE YOU COVERED!!!!

Mark your calendars for Friday, January 19, 2018! Your Skinner PTO will be hosting a BINGO NIGHT at the Elks Lodge, right here in the neighborhood. This will be an adults only event, where ALL the money raised goes back to SKINNER!

Stay tuned for more information...

## News from Skinner's Library

THANK YOU to our students and families who supported our Skinner Library by visiting and participating in our annual Fall Book Fair! Due to your continued generosity, we were able to earn \$997.58 in Scholastic Dollars to add to our library collection, and thus continue our efforts to connect Skinner Scholars with the joy of reading!



The Library Squad has finalized this year's **Skinner BEYOND Days!** Held once a month, these events are open to ALL Skinner Scholars! All one needs to do to participate is stop by the library and sign-up! Here are our upcoming events for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year:

- **January 30<sup>th</sup> - Harry Potter Day**
- **March 20<sup>th</sup> - Good Mythical Morning Day**
- **April 17<sup>th</sup> - Steampunk Day**
- **May 15<sup>th</sup> - Medieval Times Day**



**Skinner VOICE** will be back again this year!!! Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** to come and support our Skinner Scholars as they showcase their voices in the annual Skinner VOICE! More information will be presented to students throughout December and January.