



Skinner Middle School Newsletter

December 2014

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

Happy Holidays!

The holiday season kicked off on November 21st during our annual Thanksgiving lunch. We appreciate everyone who was able to come to school to eat lunch with their student.

As we close out 2014, we want to say thank you to all of our families for supporting your student during this tumultuous time of their middle years. We want to take some time to reflect on the amazing gains our students have made socially, emotionally, and academically at this point of the school year and look forward to everything 2015 has to bring!

We have many events throughout the month of December where we look forward to seeing all of our families present on campus supporting your child. This newsletter provides more information in detail. If you would like a long term view of the school year, please stop by the main office to collect the pink year-long calendar given at back to school night as well as parent teacher conferences.

Upcoming Important Dates

December

Monday, December 1st
Tuesday, December 2nd

Thursday, December 4th
Saturday, December 6th
Monday, December 8th

Tuesday, December 9th
Wednesday, December 10th
Thursday, December 11th

Tuesday, December 16th
Wednesday, December 17th
Thursday, December 18th
Friday, December 19th
December 20th – January 5th

January

January 6th

CSC 5pm in LMC
Free Dress Day for 95% or better attendance rate
Parenting Partners 6-8pm in PDC
Saturday School
Skinner Science Fair Night 5-7pm
Panera Night 5 – 8:30pm
Skinner Science Fair Day
Interim Assessments
Interim Assessments
Parenting Partners 6-8pm in PDC
Arts Night - Music 6pm
Arts Night - Drama 6pm
Good Standing Celebration
NO SCHOOL – Skinner ONLY
Winter Break

First Day back to school

Panera Night

12/8

5:00 – 8:30pm

Before or after you come to Skinner for Science Night, make sure you stop at Panera Bread on 38th and Lowell to grab dinner. When you present the *attached* flyer at checkout, 15% of your bill will be donated to Skinner! Dine-in, Carry-out and Gift Cards all apply. Flyer also available in main office or on our website Consider purchasing a gift card or two to donate to Skinner for our Staff Holiday Gift Drawing. Proceeds from this fundraising evening will help to supplement costs associated with the science fair. Thank you for supporting the Skinner Science Department!

Skinner Science Fair

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

12/8
5:30pm – 7pm

All Scholars will present their project to a family member on 12/8 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 12/9. Students will present their learning to judges from both the scientific and business world on 12/9 to compete for the District Science Fair as well as moving on to the Metro Science Fair in February.

Attendance Data 1st Semester

Here is our attendance data for the year. Thank you for supporting our 95% attendance rate.

	2014-15	Aug-14	Sep-14	Oct-14	Nov-14
All Grades	94.30%				
6	94.60%	97.60%	95.40%	95.40%	92.30%
7	93.60%	97.10%	94.40%	94.10%	91.80%
8	94.60%	97.50%	95.40%	95.30%	92.90%

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

Parenting Partners

Elvia Lubin and Joe Waldon will continue working with parents of Skinner students surrounding parenting strategies for Middle School students. All meetings are held in the 2nd Floor PDC at Skinner Middle School. Childcare is available.

Session #6: Thursday, December 4th 6:00pm-8:00pm

Make-up Session: Thursday, December 11th 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Specific Topics include:

Positive Parenting-Success

Creating Confident Kids & Communication that Works

Creating Structure for Achieving

...and much more

Contact **Elvia Lubin** for more information and topic listings
(720.423.2285) or elvia_lubin@dpsk12.org.



Gift Drive

The Neighborhood Center's Girls on the Run group has set up a Giving Tree for the abused and neglected students at Mount Saint Vincent Home (<http://www.msvhome.org/>).

The Giving Tree – located in the main office of the Neighborhood Center Room 24 – has one ornament per Mount Vincent child with a small wish list. Please stop by the office to look over the ornaments and see what you can do to help these children. All ornaments must be picked up and signed out in person.

Questions can be directed to Brittnee Kidder-Davis at 720-424-1435 or [Brittnee Kidder-Davis@dpsk12.org](mailto:Brittnee.Kidder-Davis@dpsk12.org).

Science Fair: Judges Needed

The Skinner Science Fair takes place on December 9th from 8 am-2 pm. Judges need a moderate understanding of scientific concepts and will go through a short refresher (indirect variable, controlled experiments, etc.) prior to the presentations. Breakfast and lunch served. Questions and a request for information packets can be directed to Dirk Boden at 720-424-2469 or dirk_boden@dpsk12.org.

Adult / Family Programs

It's not too late to sign up for our Adult/Family Evening programs including Zumba, Family Cooking, Men's Basketball, Youth with Values. Please contact the Neighborhood Center to Register.

Help Skinner When You Shop at TARGET

Did you know there's an easy way to help us raise money for our school—for books, athletic uniforms, reading programs and anything else that can use extra funding? It's called Take Charge of Education®, and it's helping Skinner right now.

Here's how it works: Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate Skinner Middle School, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcard® (Target Credit Card®, Target Debit Card® or Target® Visa® Credit Card), Target® will donate up to 1% of your purchases to Skinner.

Learn more at Target.com/redcard or stop in a Target store to apply. Grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors are all welcome to participate in the program. The more people we involve, the harder the program works for our school. If you're already participating, thank you! Check out our school's progress anytime at Target.com/tcoe.

Choice Process Information:

DPS SchoolChoice Process (for 8th Grade Families)

- **December 15, 2014:** 1st Round SchoolChoice opens
- Paper forms and Enrollment Guides will be mailed home
- Paper forms also available for download online and at any DPS school
- Online SchoolChoice available via your DPS Parent Portal account
- **DEADLINE: January 30, 2015, 4:00 pm:** SchoolChoice Round One closes
- **Mid-March 2015:** Parents/guardians will be notified of their child's school of enrollment by mail (if submitted in person) or e-mail (if submitted online)
- For more information, visit SOCO.DPSK12.org

15% off Yearbook Limited Time Only!

You are now able to pre-order this year's yearbook with a 15% discount, but only through December 19th! Any purchases after December 19th will be full price, at \$35. Buy now so your child can have a time capsule with all their middle school memories inside of it! All profits made, go towards our Skinner yearbook class.

Online: treering.com/validate (code: 1014103592642212)

Main Office: Checks written to Skinner Middle School

8th Grade Congressional Hearings

Part of the 8th grade middle school curriculum is the Congressional Hearings Project.

8th grade students in Mr. Dehning's Social Studies classes competed in *We the People* Congressional Hearings. The students worked in teams and answered questions to present their Constitutional knowledge.

Congratulations to the following 8th graders for winning the final round on November 13th:

Jose Aguilar, Nina Antonelli, Aaron Avila, Jack Bozik, Keon Brickens, Andrew Comminello, Tomas Fresquez-Castro, Melina Kilen, and Maika Ray

High 5 For Skinner!

Thank you to the many families who have supported Skinner by volunteering time. Below are the categories of numbers of hours families have contributed to the school.

*Did you know there is a sign-in process in the main office? If your name is not listed below, please contact Dirk Boden at Skinner to let us know what event you supported and we will get your time captured and your name added to this list.

Mile High 50+ Hours

Rose Ann Chavez
Chris Sandoval
Kristin Sommerfeldt
Virginia Sarapura
Jennifer Gauerke

Mile High 20+ Hours

Marilyn Leff
Liz Bauman
Ryan Barton
Celia Schefe

Mile High 5+ Hours

Nicole Barnhart
Carla Sanchez
Lisa Fentress
Matt Barton
Jane Gonzales
Nicole Kazenske
Sarah Kreider
Irene Glazer
Steve Darlington
Wendy Weigler
Jeffrey Gonsalves-McCabe
Amy Spetnagel
Jermain Gomez
Clarissa Fierro-Rayas
Adolfo Fierro-Rayas

Volunteers

Mary Harmon
Mahalah Shafer
Nathan Le
David Yamanaka
Adrienne Lapp
Chivonne Torres
Jennifer Wolf
Rudolph Salazar
Kristi Gonsalves-McCabe
Barbara Farley
Loretta Martinez
Bryan Dehmler-Buckley
Donna Eddy
Alysia Cannon
Peter Waalkes
Leona Cohen
Clare Vardaman
Melanie Beaton
Kerri Stroupe
Basha Cohen
Jeff Radetsky
Nicole Bauman
Andra Cirbo
Hilary Thornham
Ted Wendelin