



Skinner Middle School Newsletter

January / February 2014

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

A Note from the Principal... Our Enrollment Continues to grow!

Over the past six years, Skinner Middle School has made tremendous improvement. The programming now offered to students and the quality teaching staff has re-attracted families to the neighborhood school. We now confidently say Skinner Middle School offers a quality education to students in the Northwest area of Denver. We want to continue to thank the parents and community who trust Skinner staff on a daily basis with educating your child/ren.

Because of staff and community efforts, enrollment continues to steadily increase. Last year our enrollment was 375, serving students sixth to eighth grade. This year, our sixth grade serves 200 students with a total enrollment of 460. Through the choice process, positive marketing efforts, and the programming offered by Skinner staff, we are projected to reach 500 for the 2014-15 school-year!

Over the next couple of weeks the School Leadership Team will be creating a schedule to meet the needs of our increased enrollment and sustain the programming we offer that meets the needs of the whole child. Additionally, the Collaborative School Committee, represented by parents, students, and staff, will meet to apply the school budget appropriately to our program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 720-424-1420.

Sincerely,
Michelle Koyama

Upcoming Important Dates

January:

- 1/31 United in Orange- Bronco Dress Day
- 1/31 Good Standing Celebration
- 1/31 READ ACT Conferences (by appointment only)

February:

- 2/4 Free Dress Day for students with 95% attendance
- 2/5 Fire on the Mountain Restaurant Fundraiser
- 2/6 PJ Day Fundraiser to End Homelessness
- 2/18 No School
- 2/19 No School
- 2/13 Conferences by invitation only
- 2/20 Conferences by invitation only
- 2/28 Good Standing Celebration

School of Choice Process

First Round applications must be submitted to any Denver Public School no later than January 31st. Stop by the main office for paperwork and procedures or visit the School of Choice link on the DPS website.

All 8th grade students must complete this Choice process to transition to High School.

PTO

Skinner Welcomes Volunteer Parents and Guardians !!!

To sign up and receive information about the process to register as a Skinner volunteer, please contact Rebecca Caldwell, [Rebecca Caldwell@dpsk12.org](mailto:Rebecca.Caldwell@dpsk12.org), 720-424-1495.

Mark Your Calendar for PTO Dates:

March 4th
May 6th

Congratulations to Peter Liral! He is the new Treasurer for PTO!

Student/ Family/ Teacher Conferences

2/13 or 2/20

4-8pm

The second round of Conferences will take place this February. This round of conferences will be scheduled by grade levels and target students who are not yet in good standing for the next grade. It is an expectation that all students invited to this round of conferences attend with a family member to discuss their own academic progress and set goals for the remainder of the school year. Teachers will be scheduling appointments with families in the upcoming weeks. *Student led conferences will take place for students who are proficient.*

Skinner Safety Updates

Doors

Skinner Middle School is continually looking at our systems to ensure students are safe during school hours. Students and staff practice fire and lockdown drills to be as prepared as possible in case of an emergency.

Beyond safety drills, we also have taught the students to stay away from the doors. Skinner is equipped with three external buzzers including a doorbell at the Neighborhood Center entrance. Any visitor or staff member needing entrance to the school must ring the buzzer and the main office will grant access to the building once you have been identified.

We want our Skinner community be aware that if they are knocking on the door during school hours, our students will not open the doors.

After School Pick-Up

ALL Skinner students should be in an activity (PIE, Neighborhood Center, and/or Athletics) by 2:50pm. All remaining students should be picked up, or off campus by 3:00pm. Any student remaining on campus after 3:00pm will be placed into ASI. Students are placed in this room because that is the after school location that has supervision.

Students who stay after school for Neighborhood Center programs must be picked up from the Neighborhood Center on the North side of the school.

It will then be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to sign student out of ASI. Skinner staff is not available to supervise students not participating in after-school activities after this 3:00pm time. For the safety of your student, please know your child's after-school plan(s).

PTO Fundraisers

Visit the Skinner Website for updates to our fundraising calendar:

<http://skinner.dpsk12.org>

Needed: Snack Donations for TCAP

The March State Assessment window is quickly approaching. Each day for two weeks students take a couple of assessments and between those tests, we like to provide a snack to the students to keep energy and stamina high.

We are in need of: **Granola Bars, String Cheese, & Fruit Snacks.**

If you are able to contribute any quantity up to 475 of these items, please bring them to Skinner by March 1st to the main office.

THANK YOU for considering

Neighborhood Center

The Neighborhood Center @ Skinner is proud to offer extended hours, effective January 7th. They now offer a Drop-In program from 4:30-5:30 PM, Monday -Thursday. Students can utilize the Game Room, study, or use the gym (when available) **after they have participated in another After-School Program.** This program provides students a safe place to stay while waiting for transportation. To register for any Neighborhood Center program, including these extended hours, please contact [Brittnee Kidder-Davis@dpsk12.org](mailto:Brittnee.kidder-Davis@dpsk12.org) (720) 424-1469.

After-School Programs:

Monday:

BUG (Bringing Up Grades), Dance Club, Community Ambassadors, Swimming

Tuesday:

BUG, Creative Cooking

Wednesday:

BUG, Wrestling, Indoor Soccer, Basketball, Silk Screening

Thursday:

BUG, Spelling Bee, Track & Field

Friday:

College 4 Y.O.U.

A reminder to all 8th grade families: ALL Neighborhood Center programs count towards mandatory tutoring hours. Make sure to check your student's agenda to see that s/he is attending. ****Tutoring hours were updated.** If your scholar is unclear about his/her tutoring expectations, please contact the main office for clarification at 724.1420.

Attendance and Cold Weather Days

Thank you to each family who have stressed strong attendance habits with your Skinner Scholar. We appreciate support of our attendance policies which includes TAP.

During these wintery days it is especially important that families plan ahead and wake up early to get to school on time. Excused absences are granted for serious medical reasons or legal obligations only (see policy signed during registration).

Please see the below chart for Skinner's attendance for first semester. **The overall goal is at least 95%.**

	13-14	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
ALL	94.3%	97.99%	94.56%	95.04%	94.03%	91.9%
6 th		98.20%	95.46%	95.11%	94.1%	91.8%
7 th		97.40%	93.59%	95.40%	94.7%	92.7%
8 th		98.36%	94.26%	94.54%	93.3%	91.0%

As weather is getting colder, we have an increased number of students wearing shorts under their pants. This is causing their pants to sag. Students who choose to wear shorts to school under their pants will be asked to remove their shorts, and will be assigned ASI. Thank you for helping us with this issue and making sure your student is coming to school in proper dress code and representing as a true Skinner Scholar!