

May 9, 2017

Dear Skinner Families,

It is our priority to keep you informed about events that impact our school and students. It is with a heavy heart that we write to let our community know that a member of our Skinner family, seventh-grader Cooper Deming, passed away this morning. Cooper Deming had been fighting an aggressive tumor that had targeted his brainstem. Our school community and the broader Northwest community have been supporting the student and his family throughout this school year. Unfortunately, the tumor was in an inoperable location.

As you know, our students are our top priority, and we will do everything possible to ensure that they are supported as best as possible. The DPS crisis team arrived at school this morning to support our students and staff. We encouraged any student impacted by this news to talk with a member of the crisis team. Skinner's school psychologist, Jordan Zogler-Brown, and school social worker, Joe Waldon, will continue to be available to meet with students. We are working as a team to ensure that we provide on-going support for students and educators.

The news about Cooper may be upsetting for your child. You may wish to discuss this with them. The following signs may indicate that your son or daughter is having difficulty, but with time they should decrease. We also have resources in the office for supporting your child through the grieving process. Signs of stress include:

- Marked changes in usual ways of behaving, including decline in school productivity or mood changes
- Changes in sleeping or eating problems
- Disorganization
- Withdrawing behaviors
- Easily distracted
- Physical symptoms such as loss of appetite, stomach pain, headaches
- Acting out behavior, including aggression
- Passivity or listlessness
- Tearfulness

Our thoughts, best wishes and prayers are with Cooper and his family. We will keep our school community informed of any additional information the family wishes to share celebrating Cooper's life.

This weekend we encourage families to attend the Pint for Pint blood drive at Little Man Ice Cream honoring Cooper. The event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and information can be located at www.nothdenvertribune.com/2017/05/03/little-man-plaza-blood-drive/.

As always, thank you for your on-going support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 720-424-1420.

In Peace,

Michelle Koyama
Principal

