

# Edison Newsletter



April 2017

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Sally Whitelock, Principal    Joan Wieser, Principal Resident

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## From the Principal...

Dear Edison Community,

I hope everyone is having a memorable Spring Break and enjoying the time off with their family.

The week of April 4, **DPS School Satisfaction surveys** are going home with the oldest Edison student in each family in Thursday folders. These surveys provide the school with valuable feedback, which supports us to continually improve and ensure a high quality education within a positive school community for every child that attends our school. The surveys are also a crucial component of the School Performance Framework, which rates Edison compared to other DPS schools. It is important that we receive a full picture of our community's perspective of the school. **Please complete the survey, seal the envelope and either send it back to school with your child to be mailed via DPS mail to the central office or mail the completed survey back to DPS. If we are doing a good job, please let us, DPS and the community know!** We appreciate and value your feedback, input and involvement. Together we will continue to provide a high quality, 21<sup>st</sup> century education to every student who enters our doors.

April is the time of year that teachers begin thinking about **standardized assessments**. The Colorado Department of Education requires that all 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students take the *CMAS* (Colorado Measures of Academic Success), also called *PARCC* (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). These assessments include Mathematics and English Language Arts and give

schools, teachers, students and parents information on whether students are on track in their learning. 5<sup>th</sup> graders are also assessed on science with the CMAS. These assessments will be given online and will be administered under standardized conditions to ensure the reliability and validity of the results.

The CMAS will be given on the following dates:

- 4/10-4/14 : 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA/Math
- 4/10-4/12: 5<sup>th</sup> grade Science
- 4/17-4/21: 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA/Math
- 4/24-4/28: Make-ups

In order to provide students with the opportunity to do their very best on these assessments, we need parent support. Please support us by:

- Refraining from taking vacations or keeping students out of school during these dates;
- Talking with your students about focusing well and doing their very best on these tests;
- Ensuring that your children get a good night's sleep and have a good breakfast;
- Encouraging your children!

At Edison, our teachers understand the importance of CMAS and other assessments to monitor student progress, guide instruction and assess the effectiveness of schools; however, we believe that students demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. Ultimately, we want our students to love learning and be excited for their future college and career options. Therefore, we work hard to remain balanced. In April and May, teachers will assess students with STAR reading and STAR math. Additionally, teachers will continue to engage students in reading, research, writing, projects, collaboration with peers and presentations. We will continue to encourage students to set personal academic goals for reading and pursue learning in areas that interest them. As we approach this 'testing season' in education, please help us to continue to celebrate learning and the efforts our children make every day.

We greatly appreciate your feedback. Please share your thoughts or ideas any time by following this link. <https://goo.gl/forms/I84sdfmF8pLdw7xk1>.

Sincerely,  
Sally Whitelock, Principal

## Upcoming events:

March 27-31	No school / Spring Break
April 3	No School – Teacher planning day
April 4	Electronic Recycling begins
April 4-7	Spirit Week during school day <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tuesday – Crazy Hair Day</li><li>- Wednesday – Backwards Day</li><li>- Thursday – Hat and Crazy Sock Day</li><li>- Friday – Edison T-shirt /Blue and Gold Day</li></ul>
April 6	PTA meeting at 6:00 PM in the auditorium – Stickers, Charts and Stars: What works to motivate our kids?
April 7	First Friday Assembly during the school day

April 13	CSC meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the conference room
April 10-28 <sup>th</sup>	PARCC end of year assessments for grades 3-5
April 18, 20, 25, 27	2017-18 Discovery Link Registration for RETURNING families from 3:00-5:00 PM
April 19	Community Night: Pizzeria Locale from 4-8 PM
April 21	Earth Day Parade at 8:15 AM
April 21	Health Fair "G.O.E.S." (Get Outdoors and Eat Smart) at 3:45-5:00 on the playground
April 25-27	Chopper Topper for Grades 1 and 2
April 27	Author's Tea at 3:45 PM in the auditorium
April 29	Totally Tennyson
May 1-5	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 2	Reading is Fundamental (RIF) book distribution
May 3	4 <sup>th</sup> grade performance "Colorado" at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
May 4	PTA meeting at 3:45 PM in the auditorium
May 4	CSC Meeting at 5:00 PM in the Conference Room
May 5	Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast at 7:45-9:30 AM in the Auditorium
May 5	First Friday assembly in the auditorium during the school day - Happy Cinco de Mayo!
May 9, 11	2017-18 Discovery Link registration for New/Waitlisted families from 3:30-5:00 PM
May 12	Field Day and Book Fair During school day (May 19rain day)
May 14	Happy Mother's Day
May 18	ECE/Kindergarten Information night at 5:30 PM
May 19	Coffee with the Principal & AP at 8:00 AM in the library
May 19	5 <sup>th</sup> grade wax museum in the afternoon and performance at 3:00 -- "The Birth of our Nation"
May 19	ECE Jellybean Day
May 20	EdFest at Local 46
May 29	No School - Memorial Day
May 30	Enrichment Day - During school day
May 31	End of 3rd Trimester Award celebration.
May 31	ECE Continuation at 9:30-10:30 AM in Edison's amphitheater
June 1	Talent Show - During school day
June 1	5th Grade Continuation at 6:00-7:00 PM at Edison's amphitheater
June 2	Kindergarten Continuation at 9:30-10:30 AM in Edison's amphitheater
June 2	Last day of school - Half day – School ends at 12:30

## Spirit Week

**April 4- 7** is our annual Spirit Week. During this week, Edison students show their school spirit through fun dress up days. We hope all our student will enjoy this fun week.

- Tuesday – Crazy Hair Day
- Wednesday – Backwards Day
- Thursday – Hat and Crazy Sock Day
- Friday – Edison T-shirt /Blue and Gold Day

## Parent Education Seminar

Our next parent education seminar is scheduled for April 6 at 6:00 PM in Edison's auditorium. Please join us to learn about "Stickers, Charts and Stars: What works to motivate our kids?"

As parents, we've all been there — nagging our kids to finish their homework, help out around the house, or do the simplest of tasks, only to be met with resistance. It can drive us parents crazy, and it's hard on the kids, too. So the question remains: Is there anything we can do?

On Thursday, April 6 at 6pm, the Edison PTA presents speaker Dr. Monique Germone, who will speak to us on this very topic in a talk titled "Stickers, Charts, and Stars: Can These Really Work to Help My Child?" This is a free public event, so come hear Dr. Germone offers tips to help your child succeed!

Dr. Germone, PhD, BCBA, is a licensed clinical psychologist and board-certified behavior analyst at the Pediatric Mental Health Institute and the Colorado Center for Celiac Disease at Children's Hospital Colorado, and an assistant professor with the University of Colorado School of Medicine. She has over 10 years of experience working with children and families dealing with a wide variety of behavioral and emotional concerns. Her specialties also include using behavioral strategies to help children living with autism spectrum disorder, and children who have celiac disease.

The event runs from 6 to 7pm in the Edison auditorium, and the talk is free and open to members of our community as well as Edison parents, staff, and supporters. Please come, and tell your family and friends, too!

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance - "Colorado Pioneers"

We would like to invite parents and family members of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to our annual 4<sup>th</sup> grade performance, "Colorado Pioneers," on **May 3 at 6:00 in Edison's auditorium**. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about Colorado History this year and are excited to share their knowledge. Please join us!

## Earth Day Parade

Annually, Edison's Student Green Team leads our school in a neighborhood clean-up parade on Earth Day. This year, we will hold our Earth Day Parade on **Friday, April 21 at 8:15 AM**. Students are encouraged to create a hat from recycled materials to wear during the parade. The best hat will receive a prize. Students and parents should meet on Edison's front lawn at 8:15 AM to begin the parade, which will walk the block and end on Edison's playground before school begins.

## Eco-Health Fair "G.O.E.S."

Please join us for our annual Eco-Health Fair "G.O.E.S." (Get Outdoors and Eat Smart) on **Friday, April 21 from 3:45-5:00 PM on Edison's playground**. At this annual wellness event, students and their families will learn about how to take care of our environment and our bodies. Come learn how to make healthy food, how physical activity improves our health and ideas for recycling and composting.

## Chopper Topper

Chopper Topper is a free dental screening and sealant program for students in grades 1 and 2 that will be at Edison on April 25-27. Parents will receive consent forms on April 6. Please complete these whether you would like the services or not and return the consent form to Edison as soon as possible and no later than April 25. This is a wonderful, free service for ALL Edison 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Please take advantage of it!

## Author's Tea

On **Thursday, April 27 at 3:45 PM in Edison's auditorium**, students will share their favorite stories, poems and research projects with their parents, siblings and peers. Come join our student authors in celebrating their hard work with some tea and cookies!

## Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Edison would not be the fantastic neighborhood school that it is without the support of our parent volunteers. If you volunteered this year – on the PTA or CSC, on a field trip, stuffing Thursday folders, at a community event, or in the classroom – you are invited to our annual **Parent Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, May 5 at 7:45 AM in Edison's auditorium**. Thank you for your support this year!

## EdFest Auction

**Mark your calendars...**Please join us for our annual **EdFest Auction** and fundraising event on **Saturday, May 20 at Local 46 from 6:00-10:00 PM**. Come celebrate Edison's fantastic community while raising money to support our school with great food, a silent auction, a live auction and more.

## Discovery Link 2017-18 Registration

Registration for the 2017-18 Discovery Link DPS Afterschool Program opens in April.

For RETURNING (currently registered in Discovery Link) Families: Prepopulated forms will be distributed to families between April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>. Forms may be returned to Jennifer Gonzales between 3:30 and 5:00 PM on the following dates:

Tuesday April 18th  
Thursday April 20th  
Tuesday April 25th  
Thursday April 27th

For NEW/WAITLISTED (not currently registered in Discovery Link) Families: Registration forms will be available to download from the website on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Families may return completed forms to Jennifer or Jasmine between 3:30 and 5:00 PM on the following dates:

May 9th 3:30—5:00 pm  
May 11th 3:30 to 5:00 pm

For your convenience, parents may also submit forms on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm (April 17-28 for RETURNING families and May 8-12 for NEW/WAITLISTED families) at 1617 S. Acoma Street, Denver, CO 80223 or via email at [discovery\\_link@dpsk12.org](mailto:discovery_link@dpsk12.org).

## CSC

The CSC is a collaborative committee of school leadership, teachers, parents and classified staff who meet monthly to strategically design the school's Unified Improvement Plan, analyze school data, provide guidance on and approve the school budget and staffing allocations, and advise the school leadership on school design decisions. Everyone is welcome to attend CSC meetings, however, decisions are made by committee members. Meetings are typically held the first Thursday of the month at 4:30. There is an opportunity for parents to share concerns and celebrate during the open forum.

There are four parent representatives who are nominated/elected to the CSC. Each CSC parent representative serves for two years. **We are currently in need of three new CSC members for the 2017-18 school year.** If you are interested or would like to nominate someone to represent parents on the CSC, please complete the nomination form and return it to Sally Whitelock in the office by April 28.

## CMAS Testing

Spring CMAS testing will begin April 10 and continue through late April. We appreciate each family's commitment to getting students to school on time during this period and each student's commitment to doing their very best.

The benefits of spring testing include the following:

- Students and teachers work hard all year, and these tests allow students to demonstrate their incredible growth.
- This data testing provides on student's mastery of course content is used to inform instruction.
- Taking standardized tests in any grade is great practice for SAT, ACT, and AP exams, whose scores largely dictate where a student will be able to attend college.

While you may opt your students out of these exams, we ask that you take these points into consideration before making your decision. In order to properly prepare students for these exams, we ask all parents who are opting out their students to inform the school in writing by **April 4, 2017 and by completing the parent opt-out form on Parent Portal.** We may not be able to accommodate opt-outs after this date.

The full testing schedule for each grade level is on the following page. Questions and concerns can be shared with your with Joan Wieser at [Joan\\_Wieser@dpsk12.org](mailto:Joan_Wieser@dpsk12.org).

## Parent Portal

DPS has an online Parent/Student Portal to make it easier to track a student's progress and plan for their future. Students can log into the Parent/Student Portal to see if they have all their assignments handed in. Parents can log into the Parent/Student Portal to check on their child's grades, attendance and test results. Parents may also opt students out of certain assessments. If you do not have a Parent Portal account, go to [myportal.dpsk12.org](http://myportal.dpsk12.org) and click on *Getting Started*.

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## PTA Corner...

**LOTS going on with PTA after Spring Break. What, you ask? Just take a look:**

**Electronics Recycling Fundraiser:** Starting Tuesday, April 4 Edison will be collecting printer cartridges, cell phones, laptops and tablets for recycling. This is a NEW, year-round fundraiser, in partnership with **Recycling Advantage**. And to kick it off, this month there's a contest: The grade that collects the most recyclables from **April 4 till Earth Day** (April 21) will win a prize. Stay tuned for details!

**Parent Education Event: "Stickers, Charts and Stars: What Works to Motivate Our Kids?"**

Please join us on **Thursday, April 6 at 6pm**, and hear tips and tricks for motivating kids on tasks such as homework and chores. Guest speaker is **Dr. Monique Gerome** from Children's Hospital Colorado! Everyone welcome!

**Community Night: Pizzeria Locale:** Need an excuse to have pizza for dinner? On **Wednesday, April 19** from **4pm to 8pm**, stop by Pizzeria Locale (3484 W. 32nd Ave.) for dinner, mention Edison, and 50% of proceeds come back to the school!

**Edison Eco-Health Fair "G.O.E.S." (Get Outdoors and Eat Smart):** This FREE after-school event at Edison, taking place **April 21 at 3:45pm** (rain date April 28), will feature delicious smoothies, stilt races, a creation station for recycled costumes, a gardening demonstration by **Denver Urban Gardens** and a group dancing event. Special guests include **police officers, fire fighters, Councilman Espinoza**, and the **North High School Drum Line!** Don't miss it!

**Totally Tennyson:** It's back on **Saturday, April 29**, and tickets are now on sale [www.totallytennyson.com](http://www.totallytennyson.com) This popular North Denver community event is an adult-only social fundraiser that time travels you back to the '70s, '80s, and '90s (costumes are encouraged, and yes there's a contest!). It starts at 4pm with drinks and tastes from local businesses along Tennyson Street, then caps off that night with a concert by '80s cover band, **6 Million Dollar Band**, at the Oriental Theater. TT has benefited Edison since its inception, and it's a blast!

**New for 2017:** tickets may only be purchased online, but we're still hoping you'll help us send our teachers for low-/no-cost as we've done in previous years (they LOVE going). Add a **teacher ticket sponsorship** (in any amount) to your order by April 15, and we'll get them in. Finally, **don't forget to select Edison during check out**, because 100% of sales comes back to the school!

**RIF Volunteers:** The spring RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) distribution takes place on **Tuesday, May 2**, and **every Edison student gets a free book**. It is a fun event for kids and adults — please sign up for set-up on Monday afternoon May 1, distribution throughout the day on Tuesday, May 2.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4baaac22a3fc1-rifdistribution2>

**Tombola donations!** What? Any bottle of wine or spirits valued at over \$15. When? NOW! We are collecting bottles **throughout April and early May**. How? Bring them into the Edison front office, or [email Alex Cisney \(ptaedisondenver@gmail.com\)](mailto:ptaedisondenver@gmail.com). **Wait, what is a tombola?** Good question. It's a raffle in which prizes are pre-assigned to winning tickets. In this case, the prizes are bottles of booze. **What's it for?** Tombola is just one of the fun games at **EDFEST**, the annual Edison Elementary fundraiser-slash-party (for grown-ups only, so get your babysitter lined up). Which, by the way, is happening on Saturday, May 20 at Local 46. Details (and ticket info) to come!

**Save Our Silverware!** During lunchtime at Edison, please remind and encourage your students to place their used silverware in the proper cleaning bin in the Edison cafeteria (it's located near the recycling station). **PTA's Green Team** continue to see school silverware tossed out simply because kids don't know or forget. Thank you!

--Edison PTA Board

**Contact the PTA Officers**

Alex Cisney – President – [ptaedisondenver@gmail.com](mailto:ptaedisondenver@gmail.com)

Brian Ripley and Kurt Wolff – Vice-Presidents – [edisonvpdenver@gmail.com](mailto:edisonvpdenver@gmail.com)

Kristi Guinn – Secretary – [edisonptasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:edisonptasecretary@gmail.com)

Chris Campbell – Treasurer – [edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com)

Jessica Key – Fundraising Chair – [edisonfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:edisonfundraising@gmail.com)