



April 2018

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Joan Wieser, Principal Resident

### **A message from the Principal...**

Dear Edison Community,

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

Edison values input from our families and we want to hear from you! Therefore, Edison will be sending home information requesting your feedback on our annual Parent Satisfaction Survey in early April. The **survey will be online and will be open from April 9 through May 11**. Your feedback will provide critical information to help us improve as a school as we work to serve your child each day. By responding to the survey, you are also helping Edison's efforts to receive a positive rating on the School Performance Framework, which is a like a report card for schools. This information will help us make improvements to the school to create an environment in which all students can succeed. Thank you in advance for your support and feedback.

April is the time of year in Colorado for **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). 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. Additionally, 4<sup>th</sup> graders are assessed on social studies and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are 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:**

- 4/9-4/16 - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ELA and Math
- 4/9-4/19 - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade ELA, Math, and science/social studies
- 4/23-4/27 - 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.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement!

Sincerely,  
Sally Whitelock, Principal

### Mark Your Calendars:

March 26-30	No School – Spring Break
April 2	No school
April 5	CSC Meeting at 4:30 PM in the conference room
April 5	PTA meeting at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
April 9-19	CMAS testing for 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , and 5 <sup>th</sup> graders
April 9-May 11	On-line Parent Satisfaction Survey open for feedback
April 12	Strength-based Program Parent Presentation at 6:00 PM in auditorium
April 13	Coffee Talk with the Principal & AP in the library at 8:00 AM
April 14	EdFest at Denver Field House
April 20	Earth Day parade at 8:30 AM
April 20	Health Fair at 3:30 PM on playground
April 26	Author's Tea at 3:45 PM in the auditorium and gym
April 28	Totally Tennyson
May 2	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Performance "Colorado" at 6:00 PM in auditorium
May 3	CSC Meeting at 4:30 PM in the conference room
May 3	PTA Meeting at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
May 4	Parent Appreciation Breakfast at 7:45 AM in the auditorium
May 7-11	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 10	ECE & kindergarten Parent Information night at 5:30 PM
May 11	English Language Acquisition Parent Advisory Committee meeting at 8:00 in Ms. Polenz's room
May 11	Field Day on the playground and Book Fair in the auditorium
May 15	Reading Is Fundamental book give away
May 18	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Wax Museum at 1:00 & "Revolutionary War" performance at 3:00 PM
May 23	3 <sup>rd</sup> grade States of Matter exhibitions in classrooms at 2:55-3:20

May 24	Denver Ballet Guild Assembly in the afternoon in the auditorium
May 25	ECE and kindergarten Jelly Bean day
May 28	No school
May 29	Enrichment Day
May 30	Talent Show
May 30	3 <sup>rd</sup> Trimester Awards ceremony
May 30	5 <sup>th</sup> grade continuation at 6:00 PM
May 31	ECE continuation at 9:30 AM
May 31	Kindergarten continuation at 1:30
May 31	Last day of school

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## EdFest Auction

EdFest, Edison PTA's adult-only fundraiser, will be held at the Denver Field House, located at Federal Blvd. and W. 16th Avenue on **April 14 at 6:00 pm - 11:00 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.

To donate auction items, look for information in your student's Thursday Folders, or to help plan this event, email Jessica Maddy-Key at [EdisonFundraising@gmail.com](mailto:EdisonFundraising@gmail.com)

## 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 20 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 20 from 3:30 – 4:30 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 taking care of our Earth. Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE event.

## Author's Tea

On **Thursday, April 26 at 3:45 PM in Edison's auditorium & gym**, 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!

## Totally Tennyson

This popular North Denver community event has benefited North Denver schools since its inception and is a blast to attend. Join us **Saturday, April 28 from 4 p.m. to midnight**. Tickets on sale now! Edison will be looking for volunteers. If you plan to attend, be sure to select Edison as your school when you purchase tickets! (link is <http://www.totallytennyson.com/>)

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

Please join us at our annual 4<sup>th</sup> grade performance of "Colorado" on **May 2 at 6:00 PM** in Edison's auditorium. Edison's fourth graders have spent several months studying Colorado and preparing for this awesome performance and exhibition. Please come celebrate their learning and presentation with us.

## 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 4 at 7:45 AM in Edison's auditorium**. Thank you for your support this year!

## 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 one new CSC members for the 2018-19 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 27.

## CMAS Testing

Spring CMAS testing will begin April 9 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, 2018 and by completing the parent opt-out form on Parent Portal**. We may not be able to accommodate opt-outs after this date. Questions and concerns can be shared with Joan Wieser at [Joan\\_Wieser@dpsk12.org](mailto:Joan_Wieser@dpsk12.org).

## Strength based programming update

We appreciate everyone who attended the Parent Information and Input sessions regarding Edison's teachers' strength-based programming proposal. If you were unable to attend the presentation, the presentation can be viewed at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Edisons-Strength-based-Programming-Community-Meeting-March-8-2018.pdf>. Additionally, we greatly appreciate the feedback we have received from over 75 families. Please continue to share your feedback with us by either emailing Sally Whitelock at [Sally\\_Whitelock@dpsk12.org](mailto:Sally_Whitelock@dpsk12.org) or sharing your feedback at <https://goo.gl/forms/PhxMXJaiDAOoDtMh1>

We are currently reviewing all of the feedback and suggestions from our parent community. On April 3, Edison's School Leadership Team will revise our proposal. Next, the proposal will be presented to the Collaborative School Committee on April 5 for additional recommendations. Lastly, the final plan will be presented to the community on **April 12 at 6:00 PM**. Please join us on April 12 to learn our plan.

## Culture and Passions Day 2018

A big thank you to the Mizel Museum and the many Edison parents who made our first annual Culture and Passions Day a huge success. On Friday, March 23, Edison students gained understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and people; experienced a variety of career opportunities and learned about our world through personal passions of our parents. Please ask your students what they learned on this exciting day about...bees or nature or cheese or trees or being a pilot or sewing or health or....

## Please be on time for school and pick up

As the school year goes on, it seems as if more and more students are late to school and parents are late picking students up after school. We know that emergencies happen and that we are all very busy; however, students develop strong work habits when they are young. Additionally, when students are late to school, it is hard for them to start the day in a positive, non-stressful way. When parents are late picking students up, children get worried. Please help us by getting students to school before the first bell rings at 8:40 AM and being at school to pick up your children by 3:30 PM.

Beginning January 8, there will be a **\$1 per minute fee charged to parents who pick up their children after 3:45 PM in the office**. Please know that the teacher workday ends at 3:45 PM, so there is no one to watch your children after this time. Thank you for your understanding.

## Food Pantry and Coats for Needy Families

Thanks to a collaboration between Cub Scouts Troop 11, Bienvenidos Food Bank and Edison staff, Edison now has a small food pantry and supply of coats for students/families in need. If you or an Edison family you know is having financial difficulties and are in need of support, food or a coat for your child, please reach out to our psychologist, Dr. Gina Coffee, at [Gina\\_Coffee@dpsk12.org](mailto:Gina_Coffee@dpsk12.org). Donations of new coats and food will be accepted at any time.

## Inside Days

Please be aware of the inside day policies at Edison. We really believe that students need to get outside and run around at the lunch hour. Unless it is below 20 degrees, very windy or very wet, students will go outside for recess. Please make sure your children dress accordingly every day. If students are inside for recess, they will have an opportunity to watch a movie, play board games or play calm games in the gym.

## Weather Delays and Closures

Since winter is here, we want to make sure that parents understand the DPS/Edison Weather Delay and Closure policies.

**Weather Delay Schedule for Identified Schools:** In the event of adverse weather conditions that would impede the Transportation Department's ability to safely access students, a ***"Weather Delay Schedule for Identified Schools"*** will be used this school year by DPS. The goal for this delay schedule is to provide buses/students an additional 60 minutes to access schools that start at 8:30 a.m. or later. If DPS has a **Weather Delay, school will begin at Edison for ALL students at 9:40 AM.** Morning buses will begin pickups at bus stops 1 hour later than the normal pick up time. Discovery Link will provide care for their registered students from 6:30 AM until 9:40 AM when school starts. Breakfast will still be available to students as they arrive to school one hour later than usual.

**School Closing:** If schools are to be closed due to weather conditions, the district is committed to making a decision as early as possible. The decision to close is made by the Superintendent based on information provided by representatives from transportation agencies, the weather bureau, city and county law enforcement and DPS Transportation. If school is cancelled, this information will be communicated in the following ways: local television and radio stations, [dpsk12.org](http://dpsk12.org), and the district's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

**Severe Weather During School Day:** DPS will closely monitor severe weather conditions and forecasts throughout the day to ensure student safety. Should severe weather begin during the school day, bus routes will run in the same order as normally followed in the afternoon. Depending on conditions, arrival times at home may be delayed. You can reach the district transportation department at 720.423.4624 for your student's bus arrival time any time it's late. After-school activities (athletic events, enrichment programs, Discovery Link, etc.) may be modified or cancelled as a result of the weather conditions. Edison will send IC messages to communicate school closures during the school day.

## Opportunities to GIVE to Edison

There are a variety of VERY easy ways that you can donate to the Edison PTA and school, without spending a penny! Please support us any way you can!

- **Box Tops:** Please check your pantries and cut off all “Box Tops” that you find. Send them to school with your children before **February 23**. Box Tops are sent in to “Box Tops for Education” two times per year. All the money donated from participating companies goes directly to teachers for use in classrooms.
- **King Soopers or Safeway cards:** Please purchase a King Soopers or Safeway card from Edison’s PTA. Cards can be purchased at PTA meetings or from the secretaries in Edison’s office. Each card is \$10 and comes with \$10 on it. Then, each time you shop, load additional money onto the card prior to the clerk ringing up your groceries. Then, pay with the King Soopers/Safeway card. Edison PTA will receive \$5 from King Soopers/Safeway for each \$100 you spend.
- **Amazon Smile:** Sign up for “Amazon Smile” on Amazon (there is a link from Edison’s home page) and choose Edison Elementary PTA as your choice for donations. Each time you purchase from Amazon, make sure you sign in with Amazon Smile. Amazon will then donate a percentage of your purchase to Edison.

If you would like to donate directly to Edison’s PTA or the school, some other ways include:

- **Make a direct donation:** Go to Edison’s website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/> and click on the “Donate” button. You can donate any amount you choose directly to our PTA.
- **Donors Choose:** Check out the many Donors Choose projects that teachers have posted on Donorschoose.org and donate to any cause that you think will benefit your child and our community. You can find all current projects through the link on Edison’s home page at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/>.
- Edison has partnered with Recycling Advantage to collect printer cartridges, cell phones, laptops and tablets for recycling. This will be a year-round fundraiser, so you can drop stuff off any time. All funds raised go toward supporting Green Team events and programs.

We appreciate your continued support!

## Traffic and Parking

Safety is our first priority at Edison and this starts with the drop off and pick up of students. In order to make sure that all students are safe and accounted for at all times, please keep the following in mind:

- ECE students are to be dropped off and signed-in in the classroom each morning and then picked up and signed-out at the kindergarten playground each afternoon;
- Kindergarten students are to be dropped off/picked up on the southeast side of Quitman Street and enter/exit the building with their teachers by the kindergarten playground on the south side of the school;
- 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students are dropped off/picked up on the playground on the east side of the school or on the northwest side of Perry Street in the Kiss and Go/Greet and Get lane (polka-dotted);
- School buses park on the east side of the school on the southwest side of Perry Street. Please do not park or even pull over in this area;

- The parking lot is for DPS staff ONLY, please do NOT park, drop off or pick up students in the parking lot.
- All parents/community members must enter the building through the front doors, check in at the office and get a visitor/volunteer badge every time they enter the building.

**Kiss and Go Lane:** Parents who do not want to park and stay with their 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students on the playground in the morning may drop off their students in the student drop off lane between 8:30 and 8:40 AM. We ask parents to NOT park in the Kiss and Go /Greet and Get lane on the northwest side of Perry Street, outside the fence by the playground/community garden.

**Greet and Get Lane:** In order to help with afternoon traffic, parents who have 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students can sign up to have their child/ren ready and waiting at the pickup area between 3:30 and 3:40 PM on the northwest side of Perry Street, by the playground/community garden. Registration forms are available in the office. The following guidelines apply:

- This is only for cars. Walkers and students of parents who park will be picked up on the playground.
- Parents should pull over on Perry Street, stay in their car, and move forward as space allows.
- Cars may only stop long enough for their child/ren to get into the car.
- Cars must continue to move and leave the parking lane immediately after picking up their children.
- Parents must pick up children at 3:30 PM. If children are not picked up on time, the teacher will bring them to the office and parents will need to find parking and come in to the office to pick the students up and sign them out.
- Only adults listed on the permission slip will be able to pick students up.
- Cell phones must not be used in the Greet and Get lane and all Colorado Motor Vehicle laws (seat belts, car seats) must be observed.
- Parents wishing to use the Greet and Get lane will need to fill out a permission form and return it to their student's teacher so that the teacher will know to send the child to the Greet and Get pick up area at 3:30 PM. Forms are available in the office.

## **A Message from our PTA...**

The Edison PTA greatly appreciates all the support and involvement from our parent community. We have many more fantastic events coming up in April and May. We welcome and appreciate everyone that is able to get involved.

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

### **Interested in being more involved in the PTA?**

Join us on Wednesday, April 4th for a PTA social at Hogshead brewery at 6:00 PM

Join us on Thursday, April 6th for PTA Board Elections at 6:00 PM

### **Community Night at Next Door American Eatery**

On Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Need an excuse to have dinner out? 50% of proceeds come back to the school!

### **Edison Green Team Eco-Health Fair "G.O.E.S." (Get Outdoors and Eat Smart)**



Edison's annual GOES Eco-Health Fair event will be Friday, April 20 from 3:30-4:30 PM on Edison's playground. Everyone is welcome to attend this FREE event, which will feature delicious smoothies, stilt races, a gardening demonstration and a rowdy, large group activity and more. See you there!

### **EdFest 2018**

is coming up Saturday, April 14th at 6:00 PM! This is our annual adults only community night to support Edison PTA. Tickets are available to purchase now! We have several package options for new attendees, returning attendees and alumni attendees! We also have special ticket deals for volunteers and an option to pay it forward and sponsor an Edison teacher! We can't wait to celebrate with you at EdFest 2018! <https://edisonpt.ejoinme.org/2018EdFest>

### **Totally Tennyson:**

It's back on Saturday, April 28 and tickets are now on sale [www.totallytennyson.com](http://www.totallytennyson.com). This popular North Denver community event has benefited North Denver since its inception and it is a blast to attend! Join us on Saturday, April 28 from 4:00 PM to midnight for this adult-only social fundraiser that time travels you back to the '70s, '80s, and '90s (costumes are encouraged, and yes there's a contest!). Edison will be looking for volunteers; look for link to be sent later. If you plan to attend, be sure to select Edison as your school when you purchase tickets!

### **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 is located near the recycling station).

--Edison PTA Board

### **PTA Leadership:**

President - Kurt Wolff

VP - Jessica Key

Secretary – Katie Malarkey

Treasurer - Chris Campbell