

# Edison

A 21st Century Neighborhood School



December 2017

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Joan Wieser, Principal Resident

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

Dear Edison Community,

**College and career readiness** begins in Elementary School! At Edison, our goal is to prepare students for being college and career ready, even in kindergarten and ECE. So, what does college and career ready mean in elementary school? In elementary school, college and career readiness means that we are ensuring that all students leave Edison with the competencies, habits and skills necessary for college or careers by the time they graduate from high school. A 'college ready' student is a student who is academically prepared for middle school (and later high school and college) without remedial coursework. A 'career ready' student is a student who possesses the knowledge and technical skills needed for employment in their desired field as they graduate from high school. At Edison, teachers begin to prepare students by:

- Planning rigorous academic units and lessons that challenge students to think critically and take academic risks;
- Encouraging students to take ownership in their learning and set personal goals through personalized learning;
- Nurturing confidence in students to aspire to college through high expectations;
- Providing students with opportunities for leadership and collaboration with peers through Project Based Learning;
- Supporting students in developing strong work habits and organizational skills;
- Helping students become self-aware and have a growth mindset;
- Providing students with opportunities to apply their learning to real life situations.

We are most successful, however, when teachers and parents act as partners in preparing students for the future. Parents can support their children in becoming college and career ready by:

- Limiting TV and screen time;
- Helping children identify their personal interests;
- Being careful not to assign chores or provide extracurricular activities based on gender stereotypes;

- Encouraging your children to think about their future and asking them 'What do you want to be when you grow up?'
- Touring a college or university.

Our children that sit in our classrooms today are the future leaders of our world. We are doing everything we can to prepare them for this future!

Sincerely,  
Sally Whitelock, Principal

### Mark Your Calendars:

December 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester Award Ceremonies for students during the school day
December 5	Reading Is Fundamental – Book give away to students
December 7	PTA meeting at 6:00-7:00 PM in the auditorium
December 8	English Language Acquisition Parent Advisory Committee Meeting at 8:00 AM in Mrs. Polenz's room
December 8	Kindergarten Performance "Winter Traditions" at 2:05 PM
December 8	School Tour at 9:30-10:30 AM
December 12- 14	Scholastic Book Fair in the auditorium
December 14	Literacy Night at 5:30 PM
December 15	School Tour at 9:30-10:30 AM
December 21	Read-a-thon Kick off, reading logs sent home and Book Character Day
December 22-January 7	Winter Break
January 8	First day back for students
January 11	CSC meeting in the conference room at 4:30
January 11	PTA meeting at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
January 12	Volunteer Training at 8:00 AM in the auditorium
January 12	School Tour at 9:30 AM
January 12	ECE Performance "Clothes!" at 10:20 in the auditorium
January 15	No School, Martin Luther King day
January 26	School Tour at 9:30 AM
February 2	No School, Teacher Planning Day
February 8	CSC Meeting at 4:30 PM in the conference room
February 8	PTA Parent Education Seminar at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
February 9	School Tour at 9:30
February 9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Performance "The Solar System" at 11:00 in the auditorium
February 9	Rock the Night Away Family Dance at 6:30 PM in the gym
February 15	Parent Teacher Conferences and Math Night from 4:00-8:00 PM
February 16	Coffee Talk with the Principal and AP at 8:00 AM in the Library
February 19 & 20	No School
February 23	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Performance "Our Living Earth" at 2:45 in the auditorium
February 23	Box Top collection date

## **Literacy Night and Scholastic Book Fair**

The entire Edison community is invited to our annual **Literacy Night on December 14 at 5:30 PM** for an evening filled with literacy and fun! Wear your PJs, bring a blanket and snuggle up for a reading of *The Polar Express* and a sing-along in the gym. Enjoy fun classroom activities and delicious cookies. Also, please plan to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair which opens on December 12 and will be available through December 14.

Scholastic Book Fair hours in Edison's auditorium:

December 12 and 13 – 8:00-9:00 AM, 11:30-1:00, 3:30-5:00 PM

December 14 – 5:00-7:00 PM (during Literacy Night)

Please sign up to help set up or sell books at the Scholastic Book Fair at

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4BAAAC22A3FC1-december1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4BAAAC22A3FC1-december1)

### Literacy Night Schedule

5:30-6:00 ECE-2nd Gym: Polar Express and Sing Along

5:30-6:00 3rd—5th Classroom activities

6:00-6:15 Passing time, Cookies in Cafeteria

6:15-6:45 ECE-2nd Classroom activities

6:15-6:45 3rd—5th Gym: Polar Express and Sing Along

## **Kindergarten Performance**

Please join us to celebrate the learning of our kindergarten students at their performance of Winter Traditions in the auditorium on December 8 at 2:05 PM. Kindergarten students will sing and dance in this wonderful presentation of winter songs and traditions.

## **Read-a-thon**

Eagle readers read over 171,000 minutes during last year's winter break! We are hoping to break that record this year in our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Eagle Read-a-thon! Using the same team names as the Eagle Run, classes will challenge themselves to reach a class goal, and the classes with the highest participation will receive a class party. Plus, the reader who reads the most minutes per grade will receive a prize. All Eagle readers who turn in a Reading Log having read at least the minimum amount suggested per grade will receive raffle tickets for chances to win more fantastic prizes. Another huge success last year was that our read-a-thon raised over \$12,000 for literacy supplies thanks to our generous donors. This year, our goal is to raise at least \$10,000 for more books for our library, book room, and classroom libraries which constantly need to be refreshed. We had an amazing start with over \$1,000 in books earned during the Usborne Book Fair during conferences!

Pledge booklet forms went home before Thanksgiving break to be returned the week of November 27, but we'll continue to take them throughout December. Students are encouraged to set a personal reading goal regardless of if they are getting sponsors or not. Next, read-a-thon committee members will reach out to sponsors by mail or email and

share information about the read-a-thon. **On December 21, Edison will kick-off the Eagle Read-a-thon with a day of celebrating reading – students should dress as their favorite book character and bring their favorite book to read!** Eagle readers will read over the 18 days of Winter Break and return reading logs when we come back to school in January. Prize winners will be announced at the Family Dance in February.

Reading is a reward unto itself, and we hope every student chooses to read over Winter Break. We also hope that you join them, either by reading to your children, having them read to you, or reading quietly together. You'll benefit too!

- Reading builds vocabulary.
- Reading increases focus and concentration.
- Readers appreciate the arts more, and are more likely to be engaged in changing the world around them.
- Reading improves your imagination.
- Reading reduces stress.
- Reading improves your memory.
- Reading is inexpensive entertainment.

For questions, prize donations, or to assist, please email Anne and Margaret at [edisonreadathon@gmail.com](mailto:edisonreadathon@gmail.com)  
See our FAQ about the Read-A-Thon and the AMAZING video starring our teachers at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/read-a-thon/>

Flat rate donations can be made at anytime at <https://tinyurl.com/yc7zfr8g>

## **Holiday Support, Food Pantry and Coats for Needy Families**

Thanks to a collaboration between the cub scouts troupe 11, Bienvenidos Food Bank and Edison staff, Edison now has a small food pantry and supply of coats for students/families in need. Additionally, thanks to the Sam Santos Christmas Basket Program, we will be providing holiday food baskets to several Edison families. If you or an Edison family you know is having financial difficulties and are in need of support for the holidays, 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. If you would like to volunteer to support the Sam Santos Christmas Basket Program, please contact Dr. Gina Coffee for information.

## **Weather Delays and Closures**

Since winter is right around the corner, 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 implemented beginning this school year. 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.

## **Volunteering at Edison**

The goal of the Edison Elementary volunteer program is to assist the school in providing the best possible education for each student within a positive and caring community. If you were unable to attend one of our Parent Volunteer Trainings, please join us on January 12 at 8:00 AM in the auditorium for our last Volunteer Training session. If you cannot attend this training opportunity, please go to the website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/volunteering/> to read our Volunteer handbook, find information on the volunteer application, and get information on signing up to volunteer. Each year, we have many volunteers who give their time, energy and experience to help enrich the educational programs for our students. Volunteers make a difference and are an important part of our school team. Please volunteer at Edison when you can!

\*\* WANTED: Volunteers to help copy, laminate and cut out Eagle Eyes. Please contact Mrs. Wieser at [joan\\_wieser@dpsk12.org](mailto:joan_wieser@dpsk12.org) if you are interested in helping out.

## **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 on to 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 by 3:40, 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...

Edison PTA purchased and will distribute books to every student at Edison as part of the **Reading is Fundamental** initiative on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th. Edison PTA believes that reading and having books at home is important for every child. Therefore, some of Edison PTA's fundraising money goes to purchasing books for students and providing students an opportunity to pick a book of their choice to take home with them. There is still time to show your support by volunteering to help this initiative- <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4baaac22a3fc1-rifdistribution4>

The **Edison Eagle Read-a-thon** kicked off in November with an amazing, must watch video featuring Edison teachers -- <https://vimeo.com/190651729/418d0d366f>. The Eagle Read-a-thon takes place during winter break (Dec. 21-Jan 7). Complete rules are listed on the Edison website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/read-a-thon/>. The primary goal of our read-a-thon is to get all of our kids reading this winter. We also hope to raise money for books for Edison. Our fundraising goal is \$10,000 for books. If every student receives at least one \$20 pledge, we will meet that goal. It is important to note, however, that students do not need pledges to participate and win prizes, they just need to set a personal reading goal and read. Thank you Anne Spires-Delong and Margaret Anderson for your leadership and coordination of our Eagle Read-a-thon!

Please join us at our next PTA meeting on December 8th at 6:00 in Edison's auditorium to get involved, share feedback, and become actively engaged in what is going on at Edison. Free childcare is provided!

### PTA Leadership:

President - Quintin Galt  
Secretary – Katie Malarkey  
VP - Kurt Wolff  
Treasurer - Chris Campbell