

Edison A 21st Century Neighborhood School



December 2018

Sally Whitelock Principal

Benita Cervantes, Assistant Principal

A message from the Principal...

I hope everyone had a restful and entertaining Thanksgiving break. At this time of year, I would like to express how thankful I am to lead our exceptional school. Edison's teachers and staff are true professionals with students at the center of everything they do. The community I serve is caring, giving and committed to a strong school. So, thank you for everything you do to encourage your children and support our school! I am blessed to have the opportunity to lead your school, educate your students and be a part of your children growing up.

With only three weeks of school before the winter break, I know that many parents and families are thinking about things to do during the vacation. I would like to challenge you to create wonderful family memories while also providing your children with encouragement to continue their learning. Over the break, please consider participating in our... **Read-A-Thon!**

Students have already received a booklet to take home and fill out with sponsors. The students will get a reading log before winter break in order to track the number of minutes they read over break. The logs are due back to school after the New Year. Students have the opportunity to win prizes for themselves or their classroom. 100% of the money raised will be used to purchase new books for classrooms and our school library.

Have a Happy Holidays and READ a lot!

Sincerely,

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Mark Your Calendars:

December 3-14 Student Ambassadors' Food Drive

Dec. 6 PTA Membership Meeting 6PM

December 7 School Tour at 9:30 AM
December 7 Kindergarten Performance “Winter Traditions” at 2:05 PM in the auditorium
December 13 Book Character day – Students dress up as their favorite book character to celebrate literacy night and the upcoming Read-a-thon
December 13 Literacy Night and Book Bar book fair at 5:30 PM
December 14 School Tour at 9:30 AM
December 21 Read-a-thon kick-off and PJ Day
December 24-January 4 Winter Break
January 10 CSC meeting in the conference room at 4:30 PM
January 10 PTA sponsored Parent Information Seminar in the auditorium at 6:00 PM
January 11 Volunteer Training in the auditorium at 8:00 AM
January 11 School Tour at 9:30 AM
January 15 School choice window opens up
January 17 Glee Club Performance “The Music Man”: rehearsal at 8:00 am, performances at 9:00, 2:45 pm, & 5:30 pm in the auditorium
January 18 English Language Acquisition Parent Advisory Committee Meeting at 8:00 AM in Mr. McConnell’s room
January 21 No School
January 25 Pastries with Parents at 8:00 AM in the library
January 25 School Tour at 9:30 AM
February 1 No School, teacher planning day

School lunch menus can be found at:

<http://foodservices.dpsk12.org/whatson-menu.php>

Kindergarten Performance

Please join us to celebrate the learning of our kindergarten students at their performance of Winter Traditions in the auditorium on December 7 at 2:05 PM. Kindergarten students will sing and dance in this wonderful presentation of winter songs and traditions.

Literacy Night and Book Bar Book Fair

We would like to invite the Edison community to our annual **Book Fair on December 12th & 13th and Literacy Night on December 13 at 5:30 PM** for an evening filled with literacy and fun!

Book Bar is holding an adult and student Book Fair at Edison: **December 12th** (8-9am and 3:30-6pm) and **December 13th** (8-9am and 3:30-7pm). 20% of all sales come back to Edison and we hope to have teacher wish lists too!

December 13 is our LITERACY DAY! We encourage students to **dress like their favorite storybook character** during the school day and then wear this outfit to literacy night. Literacy Night is December 13th @ 5:30pm. Teachers will read 'The Biggest Snowman Ever' and hold an Open House in their classrooms with literacy-based activities.

Literacy Night Schedule

5:30-6:00	ECE-2nd grade in the gym for a story and sing-along
5:30-6:00	3rd—5th grade in classrooms for literacy activities
6:00-6:15	Shop for books in the auditorium or grab a cookie in the hallway
6:15-6:45	ECE-2nd grade in classrooms for activities
6:15-6:45	3rd—5 th grade in the gym for a story and sing-along

Read-A-Thon

Eagle readers read over 173,000 minutes during last year's Winter Break! We are hoping to break that record this year in our 4th annual Eagle Read-a-thon! We have 3 goals this year:

1. Participation: 100% of our students will read over our 18-day Winter Break. To encourage reading, kids who read minimum specified amounts (determined by grade level) will be entered into a raffle for tons of book-related prizes like fancy book marks, book lights, Kindle readers, book accessories, journals, and of course books!
2. Fundraising: Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 for more literacy supplies (amount includes book credits from our two Book Fairs). The most beloved books get loved to death and need replacing. Some books are lost or destroyed. New great books are published every year. If every one of our 560 students raised \$20 each, we can fulfill our goal of robust books at Edison.
3. Culturally-competent books: Edison is a 21st Century School and the books our students are surrounded by need to reflect our diverse student body and our diverse world. We'll be making strives to purchase more diverse books. If you have book recommendations, please email us at edisonreadathon@gmail.com!

Pledge booklet forms went home before Thanksgiving break to be returned the week of November 26, but we'll continue to take them throughout the Read-A-Thon. Pledges can be paid online at: <https://edisonpt.ejoinme.org/readathon>.

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. Everyone reaps in the benefit of reading!

For questions, prize donations, or to assist, please email edisonreadathon@gmail.com.

Student Ambassador's Food Drive

Edison's Student Ambassadors, 4th and 5th grade student leaders, are organizing a food drive to support Bienvenidos Food Bank. They will be encouraging students to bring in canned and boxed food items and bathroom supplies to support people in need from **December 3-14**. Most needed items include: canned fruit, cooking oil, hearty soups, stews, canned chicken or tuna, jams, peanut butter, rice, pasta & sauce, boxed dry meals, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant.

Parent Education Seminar

Please join us on **Thursday, January 10 at 6:00 PM** to participate in an engaging conversation about privilege, diversity and equity. Bill De La Cruz, a DPS expert on equity and inclusive cultures, will present. The work of eliminating opportunity gaps belongs to everyone in DPS. It is important for all of us to focus on how our actions further our shared value of equity. Bill De La Cruz supports educators and the community at large with resources and supports to ensure inclusive environments, which help to narrow achievement gaps.

Mental Health Minute

by Dr. Coffee, Edison School Psychologist, gina_coffee@dpsk12.org

Welcome to December! This month, please note that December 3rd is International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and December 10th is Human Rights Day. You can learn more about both days at these United Nations websites: <http://www.un.org/en/events/disabilitiesday/> and <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>. You can also learn more about how Edison Elementary supports students with disabilities by speaking with our educational specialists: <http://edison.dpsk12.org/teachers/>.

Edison Elementary is also partnering with Toys for Tots this month! Please consider donating new, unwrapped toys between now and December 13th. You may place toys in the Toys for Tots boxes located on your left as you enter Edison's main office. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

State of the School Address Follow up

Thank you to everyone who attended the State of the School Address in November. For those who were unable to attend, the power point has been posted at Edison's website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/2017-18-State-of-the-School-Address-SPF-Presentation-Oct-2018.pdf>

During the State of the School Address meeting, parents provided the school with a lot of wonderful feedback. The community shared the following:

Edison's Strengths: Edison's values; strong teachers with pride in the Edison community; timely communication; Project-Based Learning provides opportunities for differentiation and students to pursue interests; differentiate seating has been positive.

Edison's Opportunities for Growth: Continue to work on decreasing the gap for students who receive free/reduced lunch and students of color; focus on 4th and 5th grade growth; focus on GT students; increase the number of students meeting expectations on CMAS; more effort into professional development for teachers.

Suggestions: Simplify communication to parents; appoint classroom parents for volunteering; decrease student-teacher ratio; make homework more differentiated.

We would like to encourage any parents that continue to have questions about the school data to call or email Sally Whitelock at 720-424-7780 or sally_whitelock@dpsk12.org or to attend a CSC meeting.

Due to time limitations, some questions were unable to be answered at the State of the School Address meeting. **Below are the answers to some of your questions:**

Q- What is Edison doing to close gaps (increase achievement) for students of color, students with disabilities, and students who receive Free/Reduced Lunch?

A – Edison's primary Unified Improvement Plan goal is to increase achievement and achievement growth for students of color, students with disabilities, and students who receive Free/Reduced Lunch. We are engaging in a variety of strategies to achieve this goal:

- **Platooning in grades 4 & 5:** Platooning is a structure often used in elementary schools in which teachers specialize or become experts in either math/science or language arts. Edison's 4th & 5th grade teachers started platooning this year.
- **Project-based Learning:** In science, social studies and literacy, teachers are utilizing PBL so that they can effectively differentiate instruction, provide students opportunities to pursue interests and passions, and actively engage students in real-life experiences about the content.
- **Equity professional development:** Edison's teachers are receiving professional development to deepen their skills in teaching students of varied backgrounds and abilities.
- **Intervention model:** During math and reading, students receive interventions/support based on their skills and needs in this content area. Some students are challenged above grade level while other students receive support to accelerate their learning.
- **Tutoring:** The PTA supports after school tutoring for students who are below grade level in reading.

Q- Why do you believe that the % of GT/magnet students at Edison has decreased over the past few years?

A- The number of students in Edison's HGT magnet program has decreased only slightly over the past few years, however, the 'labels' changed. We now have three 'labels' (Magnet Eligible, Highly Gifted/Talented, and Gifted/Talented). Two years ago, the Colorado Department of Education, changed the 'rules' for GT identification. In addition, two years ago, DPS began using a new assessment tool to assess students for GT identification. With these changes, the number of GT/HGT identified students decreased, however, we added a new qualification 'Magnet Eligible'. It is now harder for students to actually qualify for GT/HGT, since students need a standardized achievement score, in addition to the cognitive assessment. At Edison, we will continue to screen all kindergarten and 2nd grade students for GT, as well as, continue to differentiate instruction to ensure that all students are challenged.

A Message from our PTA...

Hello Edison Families-

Books! Books! Books! During the second trimester, we Eagles are wild about Literacy!

- Ask your kids about which FREE new book they chose at RIF (Reading Is Fundamental)
- Dec. 12-13: BookBar is holding an adult and student Book Fair at Edison: **Dec. 12** (8-9am and 3:30-6pm) and **Dec. 13** (8-9am and 3:30-7pm). 20% of all sales come back to Edison!
- Dec. 13: Literacy Night @ 5:30pm in the Auditorium. Teachers will read 'The Biggest Snowman Ever' and hold an Open House in their classrooms.
- Dec. 21-Jan. 7: Our 4th Annual Read-A-Thon runs during Winter Break
- Feb. 21: Usborne Book Fair will be held again in the spring at Student-Led Conferences/Family Math Night

Volunteers Needed:

Rock the Night Away Coordinator

Job Description: The Coordinator sets the dance theme, finds sponsors to pay for DJ & books DJ Ryan (Jan), works with Ms. Loehr for kid decorations, makes flyers and organizes Dance Volunteers on ticket sales, concessions and activities. Rock The Night Away is on Feb 8 2019 in the Gym and Auditorium. Email Jessica Maddy-Key ptaedisondenver@gmail.com if you would like to take the lead on this FUN All School Party!

EdFest Team and Sponsors

EdFest is our Edison Adult Only Party. The party is in April, planning starts in January. Please join the team or sponsor the event by emailing Lynda Lastowka or Chris Campbell edisonvpdenver@gmail.com

Next PTA Meeting is Thu. Dec 6, 2018 6PM and everyone is welcome!

Happy Holidays & Happy Reading Eagles!

Connect with us online or through social media at:

Facebook – Edison Elementary Denver
Instagram - @edison elementarydenver
Online - <http://edison.dpsk12.org>

PTA Board:

President - Jessica Maddy-Key ptaedisondenver@gmail.com 303-725-4679
Secretary – Katie Malarkey edisonptasecretary@gmail.com
VP - Chris Campbell and Lynda Lastowka edisonvpdenver@gmail.com
Treasurer – Ben Latham edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com

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. 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, 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, Kaleidoscope, 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:** Collect those box tops year round and submit twice annually to help provide funds to classroom accounts for ALL teachers. The next collection date is Friday, February 22.
- **King Soopers or Safeway cards:** Purchase a pre-loaded gift card for \$10. **Before** the cashier rings you up, ask them to add money to your card, then pay with it. *5% of reloads come back to the PTA General Fund.*
- **Amazon Smile:** What's that? You can get the benefits of Amazon Prime AND be a fund raiser at the same time! Amazon Smile provides a .05% benefit on qualifying purchases made via our link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7150820>

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

- **Make a Direct Donation:** You may always make a donation, either one-time or recurring, through PayPal, Venmo, Square, or a check. Check to see if your employer provides matching for qualified contributions made; we are a qualified 501c3 organization!
- **Donors Choose:** Check out the many Donors Choose projects that teachers have posted on Donorschoose.org and donate. You can find all current projects through the link on Edison's home page at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/>.

We appreciate your continued support!

Traffic and Parking

Safety is our first priority at Edison and this starts with 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;
- 1st-5th 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.

Kiss and Go Lane: Parents who do not want to park and stay with their 1st-5th grade students on the playground in the morning may drop off their students in the student drop off lane between 8:30 AM 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 1st-5th grade students can sign up to have their child/ren ready and waiting at the pickup area at 3:30 PM on the northwest side of Perry Street, by the playground/community garden. Registration forms are available throughout the year 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. These forms are available in the office.