

Edison A 21st Century Neighborhood School



June 2018

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Joan Wieser, Principal Resident

A message from the Principal...

Dear Edison Community,

The school year is almost over and we are saying "so long" to our students, staff, and parents for the summer. It has been a fantastic year filled with events that have brought us closer together. We would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year. We could not offer such a rich education to our students without the continuing effort and support that you all give.

We appreciate and thank all our volunteers for the countless hours involved in so many of the behind the scenes activities such as fundraising, green team efforts, stuffing Thursday folders and attending field trips.

With the end of the year also come staff changes and family moves. We would like to take this opportunity to wish those students and families leaving us this year all the best in their new schools and homes.

As we near the summer holidays, I want to wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer vacation.

Sincerely,
Sally Whitelock, Principal

Mark Your Calendars:

May 28	No school
May 29	Enrichment Day
May 30	Talent Show
May 30	3 rd Trimester Awards ceremony
May 30	5 th grade continuation at 6:00 PM
May 31	ECE continuation at 9:30 AM
May 31	Kindergarten continuation at 10:30
May 31	Last day of school – it's a full day!

Mark your calendars for the Fall:

July 16-August 6	On-line registration opens through Parent Portal (see below for details)
August 9	In-person registration ONLY for families without computer access or who have moved, at Edison from 9:00-3:00 (see below for details)
August 15	Back-to-School Night and Lawn Party on the south lawn of Edison at 5:00-7:00. Please bring school supplies to drop off. Please bring a picnic dinner to share as a family. The principal will welcome the community at 5:40. Teachers will present in classrooms at 6:00 and 6:30.
August 16	Meet the teacher and assessment day for kindergarten students (watch for email for sign up in August)
August 20	First day of school for all ECE and 1 st – 5 th grade students
August 21	First day of school for kindergarten
August 30	Volunteer Training at 9:00 AM in Edison's auditorium
August 30	Volunteer Training at 4:00 PM in Edison's auditorium
September 7	Volunteer Training at 8:00 AM in Edison's auditorium
September 3	No School – Labor Day
September 21	Annual Eagle Run (Run-a-thon community builder and fundraiser)

Enrichment Day

On **May 29**, Edison students will participate in Edison's Enrichment Day. Teachers have planned fun, engaging full-day learning opportunities like *FBI*, hot air balloons, rock climbing, cartooning, Spanish, painting, skating and more. Students get to choose their learning experience for the day. Edison's PTA fully funds Enrichment Day for all Edison students!

Talent Show

Edison's annual talent show is a great, artistic event where students perform their talents in front of their peers. Each year, our talented students sing, dance, hoola-hoop and more! The Talent Show is

scheduled for **May 30** in Edison's auditorium. All acts will perform in both the morning and afternoon. Students will perform for ECE-2nd graders at 9:10 and 3rd-5th graders at 1:10. Student costumes must be appropriate (no spaghetti straps, clothes that show your belly, short shorts/skirts).

ECE, Kindergarten and 5th Grade Continuations

Edison will celebrate the continuation of our ECE students, kindergarten students and 5th grade students in late May. These are fun and important milestones for our children. Please join us in celebrating our students' successes as they continue forward in their educational careers.

- **ECE continuation is scheduled for May 31 at 9:30 AM** outside in Edison's amphitheater;
- **Kindergarten continuation is scheduled for May 31 at 10:30 AM** outside in Edison's amphitheater;
- **5th grade continuation** will be in Edison's amphitheater **on May 30 at 6:00 PM.**

Registration for 2018-2019 School Year

Annual Family Update (previously called Online Verification) for the 2018-2019 school year will take place from July 16 until August 6. You must have a Parent Portal account to participate online. If you need to open a Parent Portal account so you can do the update and have access to other important information about your student, go to myportal.dpsk12.org and click on *Getting Started*. You will need your student's DPS ID# to start your account, so please call the office by May 31 if you don't know it. If you forgot your password or you can't log in, you can get help by emailing portalteam@dpsk12.org or calling the portal hotline at 720.423.3163.

This year you will be able to add new emergency contacts and upload a change of address (current Xcel or water bill or lease or mortgage statement) online.

To access the Annual Family Update, go to the DPS website at <https://www.dpsk12.org/> and click on the Departments & Services tab and scroll down to SchoolChoice and Enrollment. There will be a link for Annual Family Update once it is active (on July 16). You will use your Parent Portal username and password to get in.

If you do not have computer access you will need to come to Edison to complete your student's annual update on **August 9** from 9:00-3:00. If your child has had additional immunizations please bring an updated record.

Additional information:

- If your student needs to keep medication at school you will need to pick up a new form to be filled out by a parent and physician. These will be available in the Edison office throughout the school year.
- If you need a transportation exception form, you can sign up on-line through the Parent Portal transportation tab or come in to the office at Edison to complete a form.
- All **kindergarten students** will need to sign up for an individual assessment, which will take place on **August 16**. After receiving your student's teacher's name on the Parent Portal in July or

August, please sign up for an assessment appointment on the link provided at <https://edisonkindercorner.weebly.com/> .

- We encourage parents to sign up for <https://www.myschoolbucks.com> through the Parent Portal. This will give parents the ability to pay for school lunches, field trips and school fees online with a credit card.
- If you need a Free/Reduced Lunch form, you can do this through <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application> or come in to the office at Edison to get a form.
- School supply lists and DPS school calendars will go home with your student's report card at the end of May and will also be available online on Edison's website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/> .

Back-to-School Night

Back-to-school night will be Wednesday, August 15 at 5:00 PM. Please bring a picnic dinner for your family to eat on the playground/field starting at 5:00 and visit with other Edison families. Mrs. Whitelock will give a brief welcome to all families around 5:30 and then families can visit their student's classroom from 5:45-6:20 and again from 6:25-7:00 if they have more than one child.

Enrichment Program Feedback

The mission of the Edison Enrichment Before and After School Classes and Clubs are to help each child develop his or her full potential through extensions of our school day, through connections to their passions and through unique enrichment experiences. We are committed to excellence in each program we provide. We respectfully request your time and ask that you complete this survey to assist us in knowing how you feel your children were served this school year and what areas you feel that we could improve upon. If you would like to offer any additional feedback, please do not hesitate to contact me at amanda_swift@dpsk12.org. Thank you in advance. Link to our google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/sQf9Bc6Hvw7YPGW33>

Sincerely, Amanda Swift, After-School Coordinator

2018-19 CSC Membership

The Collaborative School Committee (CSC) is a great opportunity for parents to further participate in the education of our children by supporting decision making at the school. 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. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month from 4:30-5:30 at Edison and are open to all community members. Our parent CSC representatives for the 2018-19 school year are Allison Graham, Megan Hiltner, Kristi Guinn and Matt Rivera.

The New and Improved DPS Parent Portal is Almost Here!

DPS has heard your feedback loud and clear about the existing Parent and Student Portal, and we're redesigning it to provide a better user experience for DPS parents and families! The good news – the new portal will be available as early as May 15 for a sneak peek before summer break. This is only a sneak peek, and you will be able to experience what the new portal will be like by reviewing your student's end of year report cards and grades. Please stay tuned for more updates from the Parent Portal team throughout the summer. We're excited to bring you this new and improved experience on the Parent Portal, and we want to keep you informed about the new features we will be adding to the platform. To create a Parent Portal account, please visit myportal.dpsk12.org and click Getting Started. If you do not remember your username or password, contact our hotline at 720-423-3163 or email dps_portalteam@dpsk12.org.

My School Bucks

COMING SOON... DPS is excited to share that you now have the option to make student payments online. With MySchoolBucks and a Parent Portal account, it's easier than ever to pay for meals, ECE or full-day kindergarten tuition and field trips, lab or athletic costs. We want the tool to be easy for you to use. That is why there is payonline.dpsk12.org, a site that provides detailed instructions on how to sign in to MySchoolBucks through your Parent Portal account, and link your MySchoolBucks and Parent Portal accounts. The steps are on the homepage of payonline.dpsk12.org.

DPS partnered with MySchoolBucks to make it easier for you to make student payments -- so, if you have a question about a student fee or a refund, contact us directly. If you have technical support questions, contact MySchoolBucks at 1-800-803-6755. If you have feedback, email online_bill_pay@dpsk12.org. We'd love to hear how MySchoolBucks and the Parent Portal are working for you.

Changes in teaching staff for 2018-19

We are always sad when some of our teachers leave us for new adventures. Please help me thank the following teachers/staff for their investment in Edison students and our community:

- Trish Hardy is one of our 3rd grade teachers who has committed her career to DPS and elementary age students and she is retiring.
- Jennifer Miller is our library/technology teacher and she has resigned to pursue a new adventure.
- Sydney Lambert, one of our 2nd grade teachers, will be leaving us.
- Giselle Polenz is our ESL teacher and she will be taking a 1 year leave to be with her family but she will return in the 2019-20 school year.
- Tosha Medina, a kindergarten paraprofessional at Edison, has resigned to begin her student teaching.

Please help me support our current teachers who are changing positions and welcome our new teachers into our building:

- Krysten Kamps is currently a kindergarten teacher at Edison and will be moving to 2nd grade next year.
- Emily Pitman will be joining our kindergarten team. Emily is an experienced teacher who worked at Edison for several years as a first grade teacher, left for one year and is returning.
- Gina Telitz is one of our 1st grade teachers who has worked for DPS for over 30 years. She is retiring, but is returning in a job share with Elise McConnell who is currently a 5th grade teacher. They will be job sharing in 1st grade.
- Jan Slama is currently a 2nd grade teacher who will be moving to 4th/5th grade literacy position next year.
- Mariah Bargmann will be joining the 3rd grade team. She is an experienced teacher new to DPS.
- Andrew McConnell will be teaching ESL and intervention next year. He comes to us from Valverde Elementary in DPS.
- Aaryn Manning will be joining the 2nd grade team next year. She is currently a student teacher at Edison.
- Bridget Krueger, a kindergarten paraprofessional, will be returning next year as an intervention paraprofessional.
- We have hired two new kindergarten paraprofessionals, Sydney Seaman and Ruth Uresti, to join our kindergarten team.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee Update

This spring, Edison's PTA nominated a Diversity and Inclusion Chairperson, Joanna Rosa-Saenz, to support Edison's PTA and Edison in evaluating how effectively we engage the entire Edison community and to identify action steps to help us improve. A committee of parents, teachers, DPS staff, Edison staff and community members met several times. We distributed and analyzed a parent survey. We held two focus groups. We would like to thank everyone for your feedback and input!

Through the surveys and focus groups, we identified the following themes:

- We need to improve inclusion and cultural equity within our school and PTA;
- We need to improve the representation and engagement of parents from all cultural backgrounds in our PTA, CSC and at school events;
- Our community needs to improve our understanding of differences related to culture, religion, disabilities, gentrification, and socio-economic status.

Though this work will continue into next year because we need to continue to hear the voices of all parents, students and teachers, in order to begin to achieve these goals, the Edison leadership, PTA and teachers will do the following:

- The Edison PTA board, new Diversity Chair (Christina House) and CSC will use the National PTA School of Excellence standards to evaluate our current status and set more specific goals and action steps.
- Edison will have a School Culture and Passions Day annually (2018 was our first year). We will invite the Mizel Museum in to educate student on cultures with real life, hands on activities. We will invite the community in to share their cultures and passions with the students.
- We will plan a Community Culture Pot Luck and Art Show to correspond with Culture and Passions Day. During this event, families can build relationships, learn about each other's cultures and learn about students' cultures/interests through their artwork. We will consider submitting some of the students' artwork to the national PTA Reflections committee.

- We will continue to plan community events, with a focus on inclusiveness and embedding culture and equity. We will work to provide parents with opportunities to build relationships with school leadership and staff, as well as with each other.
- We will invite experts in culture and inclusion (for example, Bill de la Cruz or Eddie Fergus) to facilitate a parent education workshop.
- We will hang a world map and pictures of students and staff in the school lobby to celebrate our diversity and create a culture of understanding and learning from each other.
- We will begin using DoJo as a school-wide communication tool, since this is greatly appreciated by parents.
- We will expand 'Coffee with the Principal & AP' into 'Pastries with Parents'. Twice each year, we will ask students to invite their parents to join them for breakfast and visit with the school leaders and staff.
- We will use Learning Profiles, Personal Learning Plans and Student Portfolios to actively engage all students in personalized learning and goal setting. Teachers and parents will work together to support students in goal setting and student achievement growth.

We are excited about the feedback we received from parents and the opportunities to continue to grow as a school community. We look forward to continued feedback and suggestions.

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. Donations of new coats and food will be accepted at any time.

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. 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. There will not be another collection date this year but please save them for next year!
- **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 when you shop. 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!

A Message from our PTA...

A huge thanks to retiring PTA officer Kurt Wolff. We wish you the best.

The PTA is still in need of leadership positions for the 2018-2019 year, including treasurer and fundraising chair. If you are interested please reach out to our new PTA president Jessica Key at ptaedisondenver@gmail.com.

EdFest 2018:

Thank you to our wonderful Edison community for making EdFest 2018 another great celebration! This annual adults-only event is always so much fun and a great fundraiser. But most importantly it's a great night out! Thank you to all who attended and made this year's event so fantastic! And thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who made the event possible - it could not have occurred without your help. Finally, thank you to our community sponsors and donors whose support allows us to put on this event. We look forward to seeing you attend next year! We would love your feedback on this year's event (even if you didn't attend!). Please take 5 minutes to take a quick feedback survey so we can make next year's event bigger, better and brighter! <http://bit.ly/2HqeG5V>

Have a wonderful summer and we will see you at back to school night in August!

--Edison PTA Board

PTA Leadership:

President - Kurt Wolff
VP - Jessica Key
Secretary – Katie Malarkey
Treasurer - Chris Campbell

