

Edison A 21st Century Neighborhood School



March 2018

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Joan Wieser, Principal Resident

A message from the Principal...

Dear Edison Community,

At Edison, we work hard to provide rigorous academics and character education to ensure the development of the whole child. To that end, in the last few years, the teachers at Edison have increased academic expectations by adopting a new math curriculum (Eureka or EngageNY math) and a new reading curriculum (Benchmark for K-2 and Expeditionary Learning for 3-5). Additionally, Edison teachers have focused on providing Personalized Learning for students at Edison in order to ensure that our diverse student body is highly engaged and academically challenged throughout the day. At Edison, we have implemented:

- Project Based Learning - a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge.
- Learning Profiles & Personal Learning Plans - a student's Learning Profile is the complete picture of his/her learning preferences, strengths, and challenges and is shaped by the categories of learning style, intelligence preference, culture, and gender. Learning Profiles are used to support students in developing a Personal Learning Plan in which students set and monitor learning goals.
- Cooperative Learning - a successful teaching strategy in which small teams, each with students of different levels of ability, use a variety of learning activities to improve their understanding of a topic/subject.
- Differentiated Instruction - a framework or philosophy for effective teaching that involves providing different students with different avenues to learning (often in the same classroom) in terms of acquiring content and making sense of ideas.
- Opportunities for Choice and Voice - classroom environments and instruction that offer pedagogy, curriculum, and learning environments to meet the individual

student's needs. The experience is tailored to learning preferences and the specific interests of different learners.

As we have observed students learn, grow and thrive in these settings, as well as analyzed the successes and challenges within our data, we have identified programmatic changes that we are considering implementing; however, we would like feedback from our community prior to moving forward. **Therefore, we would like to invite our parent community to a Parent Information and Input meeting. Please join us in Edison's auditorium on March 8 at 6:00 PM or March 9 at 8:00 AM to learn more about our suggested changes in our school design and provide input.**

As always, we appreciate feedback. Please provide anonymous feedback and/or suggestions by following this link. <https://goo.gl/forms/GPqnkYfxv7ytVNa83>

Thank you for your continued support and engagement!

Sincerely,
Sally Whitelock, Principal

Mark Your Calendars:

March 1	CSC Meeting at 4:30 PM in the conference room
March 1	PTA meeting & School Safety Discussion at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
March 1	ECE, kindergarten and 5 th grade 'continuation' picture day
March 2	Trimester 2 Awards ceremonies for students during the school day
March 8	Parent Information and Input Meeting at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
March 9	Parent Information and Input Meeting at 8:00 AM in the auditorium
March 9	English Language Acquisition Parent Advisory Committee Meeting at 8:00 AM in the auditorium
March 15-16	4 th Grade overnight 'Colorado' field trip
March 16	1 st Grade Performance "Our Community Then and Now" at 1:25 - auditorium
March 19-23	Spirit Week at Edison
March 22	Picture Day
March 22	'Musical Globetrotters' culture assembly during the school day
March 23	Cultural Celebration and Community Passions Day
March 26-30	No School – Spring Break
April 5	CSC Meeting at 4:30 PM in the conference room
April 5	PTA meeting at 6:00 PM in the auditorium
April 13	Coffee Talk with the Principal & AP in the Library at 8:00 AM
April 14	EdFest
April 20	Earth Day parade at 8:30 AM

April 20	Health Fair at 3:45 PM on playground
April 26	Author's Tea at 3:45 PM in the auditorium and gym
April 28	Totally Tennyson

PTA meeting & School Safety Discussion

Please join us on **Thursday, March 1 at 6:00 PM** in Edison's auditorium for our monthly PTA meeting to have input into 2018-19 PTA board nominations and upcoming community events. Also, we will be sharing school safety prevention practices and discuss safety concerns/suggestions.

Parent Information and Input Meeting

Please join us for a parent information and input meeting to learn about and share feedback regarding suggested changes to Edison's school design. Edison's teachers and school leaders would like to share current school instructional initiatives and suggested changes in the school design and gather feedback from the community. Please join us on either **Thursday, March 8 at 6:00 PM or Friday, March 9 at 8:00 AM** in Edison's auditorium.

4th Grade Overnight Field Trip

The 4th grade will be heading out on their annual Colorado History trip to Downtown Denver on March 15-16th. Students will be visiting the Molly Brown House, Four Mile Historic Park, and other historic sites around the city, as well as spending the night at the Grant-Humphreys Mansion. The tour will focus on hitting all of the 4th grade Social Studies topics: history, geography, government and economics. The students are really looking forward to a fun and educational two days.

1st Grade Performance "Our Community Then and Now"

Please join us for our annual 1st grade performance "Our Community Then and Now" in the auditorium on March 16th at 1:25 PM to celebrate the curiosity and excitement students have experienced while studying how communities change over time. Can't wait to see you there!

Spirit Week

Children love to dress up and feel pride in their school. Please support your kids in dressing up during Edison Spirit week. Each day during the week of March 19, we will have a different 'dress up' activity to celebrate the fun of learning and our pride in Edison.

- Monday, March 19 is hat day
- Tuesday, March 20 is crazy hair day
- Wednesday, March 21 is backward day (wear your clothing backward!)
- Thursday, March 22 is favorite sports day (wear your favorite team sport apparel)
- Friday, March is school colors day (wear Edison colors and Edison t-shirt)

Cultural Celebrations and Community Passions Day 2018

In order to promote understanding, acceptance and appreciation of diverse cultures and people, we have scheduled several programs in the upcoming weeks for our students to watch or participate in.

Community Passions Day 2018 will be on Friday, March 23 and will have a theme of pursuing passions in a way that connects people in respectful and compassionate ways. During this half-day event, students will visit several classrooms to learn about various cultures, experience different careers and hear about personal passions.

Bridges of Cultural Understanding is a traveling exhibit in which the Mizel Museum teaches cross-cultural understanding through an interactive presentation of themes and rituals from around the world. Mobile cases, which will be in Edison's auditorium from March 12-15, hold a wide array of cultural objects that invite students to explore commonalities and differences among various traditions. Each exhibit includes presentations by museum educators. Understanding more about the different stories and practices of people will help students understand that we are all part of the human family with the responsibility to practice the Golden Rule and repair the world, a concept in Jewish culture known as tikkun olam.

The Musical Globetrotters assembly will take place on March 22 for all Edison students. During concert, professional musicians and educators, Sheldon & Kathleen Sands, will perform live music from around the world to teach students about geography, cultural and music's innate ability to build bridges of understanding between diverse audiences.

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

Inside Days

With the weather getting cold and snow on its way, 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, 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;
- 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 every time they enter the building.

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 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 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 March and April. We welcome and appreciate everyone that is able to get involved.

March 1 - PTA OFFICER NOMINATIONS at PTA meeting

During the PTA meeting, we will be taking nominations for Officers for 2017-18 PTA Board. Email ptaedisondenver@gmail.com if you would like to take on a new role at the school.

Also, at the PTA meeting, Mrs. Whitelock will share school safety measures and facilitate a discussion about how we can all work to keep our children safe at school and in the community.

EdFest - Saturday, April 14

EdFest 2018 is coming up Saturday, April 14th at 6pm! 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>

PTA Leadership:

President - Kurt Wolff

VP - Jessica Key

Secretary – Katie Malarkey

Treasurer - Chris Campbell