

# Edison A 21st Century Neighborhood School



October 2016

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Joan Wieser, Principal Resident

## A message from the Principal...

At Edison, our school vision is "Edison Elementary is committed to being a collaborative learning community where rigorous academics and character education ensure the development of the whole child. We design learning experiences to meet the unique learning needs of each student so that all of our children develop 21st Century skills: critical thinking and reasoning, information literacy, self-direction, collaboration and invention/innovation. We celebrate curiosity and creativity in the development of life-long learners."

Therefore, in addition to a strong emphasis on rigorous instruction at Edison, we also intentionally teach our students character education, a growth mindset and bully proofing.

At Edison, during the first two weeks of school, all teachers facilitated lessons on friendship skills, problem solving skills and bully proofing lessons. Please ask your young children what they learned about making friends? Or, ask your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> graders, what is the difference between a conflict and a bully situation?

Additionally, at our monthly First Friday assemblies we have been teaching our students about Growth Mindset. In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work - brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities. We encourage you to google "Growth Mindset" and consider how you can encourage this type of thinking at home with homework or sports or even friendships.

Lastly, we are very excited to begin using the *Second Step* program this year at Edison to help teach students critical problem solving skills and to foster healthy peer relationships. Monthly, for all students in grades 1-5, our school psychologist will be teaching lessons in the following areas:

1. **Skills for Learning:** Scholars gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, and be assertive when asking for help with schoolwork.
2. **Empathy:** Scholars learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings. Scholars also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.

3. **Emotion Management:** Scholars learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.
4. **Problem Solving:** Scholars learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way.

Please join us in this journey as we teach to the 'whole child' while we teach students not only strong thinking skills and academic skills, but also strong problem solving skills and character education.

Sally Whitelock, Principal

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 30 – Picture Day
- October 5 – National Walk to School day
- October 6 – CSC meeting at 4:30 in conference room
- October 6 – PTA meeting at 6:00 pm in auditorium
- October 7 – School Tour at 9:30 AM
- October 21 – School Tour at 9:30 AM
- October 21 – Fall Festival & Dia de Los Muertos celebration on the Playground at 3:45
- October 26 – ECE Performance at 10:20 AM
- October 27 – No School
- October 28 – No School
- November 2 – Parent Teacher Conferences from 4-8 PM in classrooms
- November 3 – Parent Teacher Conferences from 4-8 PM in classrooms
- November 4 – No School
- November 10 – PTA meeting at 3:45 in the auditorium
- November 10 – “State of the School Address” (SPF meeting) at 5:00 PM in auditorium
- November 10 – CSC meeting at 6:00-6:30 in the auditorium (following State of the School Address)
- November 18 – Science Fair
- November 18 – School Tour at 9:30 AM
- November 18 – Thanksgiving Lunch in the cafeteria
- November 21-25 – No School. Happy Thanksgiving.

## Fall Festival

Parents, friends and community, Edison would like to invite you all to the **Fall Festival and Dia de Los Muertos celebration on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:45 to 6:00 PM**. Food booths, games, a haunted house and fun will take place on the blacktop. Please keep in mind that this is a community event so please dress appropriately. Costumes are welcomed but face paint, masks, blood and weapons (even fake, even foam!) are not allowed. Staff members will be hosting games and selling food to raise funds for their classrooms. Tickets can be purchased from the PTA during the event. Spread the word of a spooky time happening at Edison Elementary.

## ECE Performance – “Leaves”

On Wednesday, **October 26 at 10:20 AM**, our ECE students will be performing “Leaves” in the auditorium. We invite all ECE parents to join us in the auditorium to celebrate ECE students’ learning both in their classrooms and in specials.

## Parent-Teacher Conferences

Please sign up for parent teacher-conferences on **November 2 or 3 between 4:00 and 8:00 PM**. This is a great time to find out how your children are doing in school, celebrate successes and set academic and/or work habit goals for your children. We strongly believe that teachers and parents must work as a team to ensure the educational success of children and value these opportunities to collaborate with you.

## State of the School Address/SPF meeting

We would like to invite ALL parents to join us on **November 10 at 5:00 PM** in Edison’s auditorium at our State of the School Address parent meeting. Sally Whitelock and Joan Wieser will present all current achievement and perception data about Edison, as well as, share the School Performance Framework. We will ask parents to respond to the school data and provide suggestions for continual improvement.

## Box Tops

Have you seen ‘box tops’ on your groceries? Did you know that this is an easy, free fundraiser for Edison? Have you ever taken the time to cut them out and send them in to your child’s teacher at school? Please help us make a little money to support our classrooms by cutting out the box tops and sending them in to your child’s teacher on or before **October 23**. Thank you in advance!

## 2015-2016 CMAS Results for Edison

The Colorado Department of Education released the results of the 2015-16 Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) testing in September. In April 2016, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students across the state took the CMAS test to determine their academic achievement in reading and math.

On the English Language Assessment (Reading), 53.6% of Edison’s 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students scored in the “Met or Above Expectations” category.

- 51.2% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored “Met or Above Expectations”
- 58.1% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders scored “Met or Above Expectations”
- 51.3% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored “Met or Above Expectations”

On the Mathematics Assessment, 49.4% of Edison’s 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students scored in the “Met or Above Expectations” category.

- 56.1% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored “Met or Above Expectations”

- 48.8% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders scored “Met or Above Expectations”
- 43.2% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored “Met or Above Expectations”

Additionally, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students took the science CMAS with 48/8% of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students scoring in the “Met or Exceeds Expectations” category.

Please join us at the “State of the School Address” parent meeting on November 10 to learn more about Edison’s current assessment data.

## PTA Corner...

### **Did you know Fall Fest is celebrating Dia de los Muertos?**

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a very old Mexican tradition where people take the time to remember family members and friends who have died. It is a joyful celebration of life with lovely altars, marigolds and colorful calaveras (skulls), usually made from sugar. The skull represents the passing away of the person, and the decorative designs represent life’s beauty.



### **Friday 21 Oct 3:45-6pm** Fall Fest Dia de los Muertos celebration

To make this event a success, we need lots of Volunteers! **Don’t delay!**

### **Sign up today!**

Volunteer Sign Up [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4BAAAC22A3FC1-20162](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0F4BAAAC22A3FC1-20162)

Love the camaraderie of the classroom teams for the Eagle Run? We're keeping things going through the New Year with the **Edison Read-A-Thon!** Which class will be our Top Readers over Winter Break? Will it be the USA Rockets, Chili Chili Bang Bang!, Outstanding Owls, or some of our other 20 teams? Last year we raised over \$12,000 for classroom libraries. Stay tuned for more details.

If you like to assist the Read-A-Thon, please contact Anne SD at [edisonreadathon@gmail.com](mailto:edisonreadathon@gmail.com)

*“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” – Margaret Fuller*

### **IMPORTANT DATE CHANGES:**

**Student Led Conferences, Math Night & Teacher Treasures will now be on Thu Feb 23.**

(Teacher Treasures was moved from Nov 2,3 Teacher Conferences.

Student Led Conferences & Math Night was moved from Feb 2.)

### PTA Leadership:

- President - Alex Cisney
- Secretary – Kristi Guinn
- VPs - Kurt Wolff & Brian Ripley
- Treasurer - Chris Campbell