

Edison A 21st Century Neighborhood School



October 2018

Sally Whitelock Principal

Benita Cervantes, Assistant Principal

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, we intentionally teach our students character education, a growth mindset and problem solving skills.

During the first two weeks of school, all students learned friendship skills, problem solving skills and how to deal with bullying situations. Please ask your young children what they learned about making friends or ask them what the difference between a conflict and a bully situation is?

In September, Ms. Tomcho and Dr. Coffee began teaching students problem solving, conflict resolution and bully proofing lessons. Monthly, all students will learn how to solve problems in the following areas:

1. **Skills for Learning:** Learners 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:** Students learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings. Students also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.
3. **Emotion Management:** Students learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.
4. **Problem Solving:** Students 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,' not only strong thinking skills and academic skills, but also strong problem solving skills and character education.

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Mark Your Calendars:

- September 28 Picture Day
- October 4 CSC meeting in the conference room at 4:30 PM
- October 4 PTA meeting in the auditorium 6:00 PM
- October 5 Eagle Run pledges due
- October 5 School Tour at 9:30 AM
- October 10 Walk to school day
- October 12 School Tour at 9:30 AM
- October 17 & 18 Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4:00-8:00 PM
- October 19 No School for students
- October 22 & 23 No School for students
- October 25 State of the School Address at 5:00 PM in the auditorium
- October 26 Fall Harvest Festival at 3:45 PM on the blacktop
- October 31 Happy Halloween!
- November 1 CSC meeting in the conference room at 4:30 PM
- November 1 PTA meeting in the auditorium 6:00 PM
- November 8 Picture make-up day
- November 9 English Language Acquisition Parent Advisory Meeting at 8:00 AM in Mr. McConnell's room
- November 9 School Tour at 9:30 AM
- November 15 Thanksgiving Lunch in the cafeteria
- November 15 Build-it Night at 5:30 PM
- November 16 Science Fair during the school day in the gym
- November 16 School Tour at 9:30 AM
- November 19-23 No School due to Thanksgiving Break

School lunch menus can be found at:

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

Parent Teacher Conferences

Please sign up for a parent-teacher conference on either **October 17 or 18, between 3:45 and 7:45 PM**. This is a great time to find out how your child(ren) is doing in school, celebrate success and set academic and/or work habit goals for your children. We strongly believe that teachers and parents must work together, as a team, to ensure the educational success of children. We value these opportunities to collaborate with you and are looking forward to our one-on-one conferences.

State of the School Address/SPF Meeting

We would like to invite all parents to join us on **October 25 at 5:00-6:00 PM** in Edison's auditorium for our State of the School Address parent meeting. Sally Whitelock and Benita Cervantes will present all current achievement and perception data about Edison, as well as share the School Performance Framework and Unified Improvement Plan goals. We will ask parents to share feedback for continual improvement.

Fall Harvest Festival

Please join us for our annual Fall Festival on **Friday, October 26 at 3:45 PM**. Food, games, a haunted house, a dunk booth and LOTS of fun will take place on Edison's blacktop and field. *All children must be accompanied by an adult*. Please keep in mind that this is a community event, so please dress appropriately – **costumes are welcome but masks, blood and weapons (even fake, even foam) are not allowed**. All money raised at booths through games, activities and food will go directly to classrooms to support learning and classroom communities. The PTA will sell tickets for games, booths and food at the event. Spread the word of a spooky (and silly) time happening at Edison.

Science Fair – coming soon!

Our annual science fair is scheduled for Friday, November 16. Information will be coming home soon. If you child is interested in participating, please begin planning a science experiment with them. Watch Thursday folders for more information...

Books, Books, Books

Edison Families! Did you know that DPS Library Services offers over 24,000 books online for students! These books can be pushed to tablets, Kindles, computers, phones, or other devices. All students need to access these books is their student ID number and their password. Check it out! Click on the following links:

<https://dps.libraryreserve.com/10/45/en/SignIn.htm?url=Default.htm>

DPS update regarding emergency communication

Families will now receive emergency texts from the district. The communications team will also send emergency robo-calls. Messages will be sent during crises such as lockdowns, evacuations and weather delays/closures. We

are excited about this change because sending text messages will inform families of crises in a much shorter time frame than what it takes for a robo-call or robo-email to be delivered.

Parents and guardians, you have been automatically opted-in to receive emergency texts based on cell phone numbers provided during registration. Please check to make sure your information is up-to-date in Parent Portal. Messages will be sent in English and Spanish.

Learn more about lockdowns and lockouts go to: <https://safety.dpsk12.org/emergency-management-resources/>

A note from the school nurse:

Please contact Patty Nakata, the School Nurse, at patricia_nakata@dpsk12.org with any important health updates or question about your student.

Please note that a DPS medication form must be completed before medication can be given at school. A copy can be provide by email by contacting the School Nurse.

Lice is very annoying and sometimes hard to get rid of, however, it is as common as a cold. Therefore, DPS nursing policies are that we do not send home communication unless we have a few confirmed cases in the same classroom. Please know that we never share confidential information about students with other students or families. If you would like support regarding the best procedure to get rid of the lice, please contact Edison's nurse Patty Nakata at 720-424-7785.

Mental Health Minute

(by Dr. Coffee, Edison School Psychologist)

I am happy to share a few items with you this month. First, the week of October 7-13, 2018 is Mental Illness Awareness Week, and October 10, 2018 is World Mental Health Day. This article by Mental Health America offers a few pointers on how to further support your child's mental health at home:

<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditions/childrens-mental-health>.

In addition, we recently sent home Edison's attendance policy, which is also accessible online at Edison's website: <http://edison.dpsk12.org/attendance-policy/>. Consistent school attendance is critical to learning, and we are here to support you. If you and your family need any assistance in attending school and/or being at school on time, please contact me any time.

Finally, we have a pantry at Edison that is stocked with food and self-care items. If you and your family are in need of any items throughout the school year, please contact me.

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 first collection date is Friday, October 26.
- **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 funds raiser at the same time! AmazonSmile 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 to 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.

A Message from our PTA...

October is a busy month at Edison, and for the PTA! There are several exciting events coming up over the next few weeks. Please mark your calendars for the following PTA-sponsored events:

Thurs, Oct 4 - PTA Meeting 5:30-6:30 pm in the Auditorium. Childcare will be provided.

Fri, Oct 5 – Eagle Run pledges due!

Weds, Oct 10 - Walk to School Day. Ditch your cars and take a nice walk to school on what will, hopefully, be a beautiful Fall day!

Fri, Oct 26 - Edison Annual Fall Harvest Festival. This year we will have a dunk tank, cake walk, face painting and a ton of other fun events and games, all with prizes and goodies for the kiddos. Throw in some awesome refreshments (sales support the 4th grade field trip), a bounce house and costumes and we'll have ourselves a party! Look for more information as the event date gets closer. All proceeds from this event go directly back into the classrooms. ***To make this event a success, we need lots of Volunteers; be on the lookout for the Sign-up-Genius for volunteer opportunities!***

Fri, Oct 26 - BoxTops Fall Collection. Send in all those box tops you have collected! Each one you turn in directly benefits Edison. *New this year: We have collection jars in each classroom so please send those BoxTops to school with your kiddos and free up that space at home (anytime).*

We're looking forward to a fun (and busy!) month at Edison. Please join in and help us make it a great one.

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