

# Edison



3350 Quitman St. • 720-424-7780 • <http://edison.dpsk12.org>

September 6, 2012

## From the Principal

Dear Edison Community,

It has been an exciting beginning to the 2012-13 school year at Edison. Nadine, Kali, myself and all of our teaching staff were excited to see all of the energetic children and committed parents on back-to-school night. We were excited to share our plans for the school year, including our commitment to technology, hands-on projects, and implementation of the new Common Core Standards. We hope that students were also excited to come to school on the first day with dreams of new learning, adventures and friends.

At Edison, our school vision leads our instructional decisions in the classroom. Prior to teachers starting school, teachers spent time identifying our core values of: students first, community, fun, respect, integrity, collaboration, equity and accountability. We re-committed to our vision: "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." Our core values and our vision will lead all of our decision making as we move forward.

Teachers have spent the first few weeks of school teaching students expectations and building a positive school community. Teachers and students will now begin a challenging academic year of learning. We would appreciate parent support both within the school walls and at home. Please support your children by encouraging them to complete their homework and read at home. Please volunteer at school whenever you can – helping the PTA, reading in the classroom, going on field trips, and participating in community events. We love seeing parents and children in our halls!

We are off to a great start. Thank you to everyone – parents, students and teachers – who have helped this school year begin successfully!

Sincerely,

Sally Whitelock, Principal

## Leadership:

Sally Whitelock, Principal

[Sally\\_Whitelock@dpsk12.org](mailto:Sally_Whitelock@dpsk12.org)

Nadine Ritchotte, Assistant Principal

[Nadine\\_Ritchotte@dpsk12.org](mailto:Nadine_Ritchotte@dpsk12.org)

Kali Garofoli, AP intern

[Kali\\_Garofoli@dpsk12.org](mailto:Kali_Garofoli@dpsk12.org)

## Secretaries:

Michelle Miller and Barbara Schrant

## School day:

8:45 AM - 3:30 PM

## Upcoming Events:

**Sept 6:** CSC Meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the auditorium

**Sept 6:** PTA Meeting at 6:00 PM in the auditorium

**Sept 14:** No School for Elementary students

**Sept 20:** HGT information meeting 6:00 PM in the auditorium

**Oct 4:** CSC Meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the auditorium

**Oct 11:** PTA update meeting at 3:45 on the playground

**Oct 19:** 1st Box Top collection

**Oct 19:** Fall Festival

**Oct 25:** No School for students

**Oct 26:** No School for students

## Parent Information Night for the Highly Gifted and Talented and Advanced Kindergarten Programs

Edison Elementary has a Highly Gifted and Talented program within our school. Additionally, we have one Kindergarten classroom which serves students who need Advanced Kindergarten. Each year, in the Fall, DPS's Gifted and Talented Department tests students for placement for the following school year. In order to clarify DPS policies and explain the HGT and Advanced Kindergarten programs at Edison, we are having a Parent Information Night on Thursday, September 20 at 6:00 PM in the auditorium at Edison.

**Denver Public Schools' Highly Gifted Program:** This is a magnet program for gifted students with the most extreme needs. Identification occurs by application (due October 3, 2012) and additional testing. The HGT Program provides an educational option for students in first through eighth grades whose extraordinary educational, emotional and social needs are best met in a setting that clusters these students. This program is available for all students who qualify based on demonstrated achievement, tested potential, teacher recommendations, identifiable characteristics and/or demonstrated need. These students make up approximately 2% of the student population. A nomination form describing the program and providing information about the nomination process is produced and distributed each fall to every K-7 student in the Denver Public Schools.

**Advanced Kindergarten** classrooms are designed for students who are academically advanced for their age with exceptional curiosity, attention span, interests, and verbal or mathematical ability. It was developed so the students who already know much of the kindergarten curriculum do not have to repeat it. Children in Advanced Kindergarten show the following traits: Facility with numbers or words; able to use learning in new contexts; curiosity; extensive vocabularies; solves problems in unique ways; good memories; fast learners; sustained attention spans; works independently; and socially advanced.

## Touch the World Fundraiser

Touch the World is a fundraising and community building effort of several of DPS's autism classroom teachers with the goal of transforming education through inclusion and technology. The event will help build inclusive education by bringing the most cutting edge technology to DPS classrooms. It will also be a great opportunity to get to know students, families, teachers, and friends from different classrooms, helping to build the supportive community for our students with autism.

The teachers that are working to build this fundraiser have been working for months to build a community that is focused on using technology and inclusion to bring down the walls of autism. Students that have Autism have difficulties communicating with others, regulating social/emotional changes, and they often have repetitive or unusual behaviors that prevent them from being educated in the general education classroom. Our hope is to create a classroom environment that is nurturing and supportive of ALL students. We hope to promote knowledge and understanding of people who communicate or behave in a different way, as well as give students in need the tools that will allow them to participate with their peers in this 21st Century world. Touch the World is a fun and family-centered opportunity to help make this happen.

Please join us for a fun event that will greatly impact Denver's students:

**What:** Touch the World, a fundraising event to bring technology into DPS autism classrooms

**When:** Wednesday, September 19 at 6 pm

**Where:** The Mercury Cafe, 2199 California Street

**Tickets:** Purchase at <http://whatsuproom125.wordpress.com/touch-the-world/> or at the door. \$20 per ticket, kids 12 and under FREE

## Attendance Is Important!

Hi Edison families,

Welcome back to yet another successful year at Edison Elementary. My name is Margarita Cordero and I am the School Psychologist/Social Worker. It is my job to make sure that all students are at school every day and that they are on time. When I visit classrooms and ask "Why is it important to be in school every day and to be on time?" their answer is correct: to LEARN. Unfortunately most of the students during the elementary years have to rely on adults to get to school and to be on time. The Colorado School Attendance Law states that every child who has attained the age of seven years and is under the age of seventeen shall attend public schools for at least one thousand fifty six hours if a secondary school pupil or nine hundred sixty eight hours if an elementary school pupil during the year. Even with a 93% attendance rate per year, a student will have missed a full year by High School graduation.

The habit of regular attendance and punctuality is important for successful school achievement. The first bell rings five minutes prior to the start of school and provides time to assemble students and prepare to enter the building. Students who are not at their desks by the start of school are considered tardy.

Thank you for getting your children to school every day and on time. Please remember to call the Edison Attendance line at (720) 424-7784 early in the morning when your children are sick so that their absences are marked correctly.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Margarita Cordero

School Psychologist

M/T/Th. 720 424-7815

### Check Your Student's AR Progress On-line

All 1st-5th grade students at Edison are working hard to achieve their AR (Accelerated Reader) goals. Parents can check their progress online at:

<https://hosted252.renlearn.com/245193/homeconnect/>

The user name is your child's Student ID number preceded by "DPS;" for example: DPS123456

The password is your child's date of birth formatted as: mmddyyyy. For example, if your child's birthday is January 9, 2004, the password is 01092004

Contact your child's teacher if you need assistance with the user name and password.

## News from the Student Engagement Team-CARES and Bully Prevention at Edison

The staff at Edison is committed to building a strong sense of community and shared values within our school. To that end, we have developed a plan to ensure that all students at Edison know how Edison Eagles act at school to achieve the most academically and that we are a community built on "CARES" and common expectations.

During the first week of school, every child visited six areas within the school where problems for students are most likely to occur, such as the playground, the cafeteria, bathrooms, hallways and the auditorium, library or gym for indoor recess. Students learned or re-learned the expectations for those areas through discussion, modeling and having some fun. Teachers will continue to reinforce those expectations with their students throughout the school year on a daily basis. Teachers and students also created a video last year that reinforces those expectations for students. That video is available at all times for teachers to share with students and is shared by all classrooms after any extended break or vacation, so that we always remain on the same page with our expectations as a community.

Every teacher in every classroom at Edison has committed to holding classroom meetings and will spend the first two weeks of school learning about and reviewing Edison CARES and bully prevention using Olweus (contact Nadine for details.) This fidelity to vocabulary and common skills will give us a common language for dealing with conflicts throughout our school. Later classroom meetings will address problem issues for classrooms or grade levels or will proactively address skills that students of a certain grade level need to master, (ie. organizational skills in 5th grade.) Teachers will continue to reinforce CARES throughout the school year in classroom celebrations and through the use of Edison Earnings. Edison Earnings will be given by all school staff starting the second week of school to students who exemplify CARES traits in various ways. Students may then save up their Edison Earnings to spend at the school store which will be open every other Friday in the cafeteria before school. Since implementing these strategies last year, we have noticed a dramatic change in the behavior and engagement of our students. We are encouraged that these gains will continue to increase as we continue to reinforce our expectations for behavior.

The Student Engagement Team is a group of teachers representing each grade level at Edison who work together to create a positive culture within our school. The team is still looking for some parent members. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 7:45-8:30. If you are interested, please contact Nadine at 720.424.7786 or [nadine\\_ritchotte@dpsk12.org](mailto:nadine_ritchotte@dpsk12.org).

# Welcome new and returning families.

PTA has some exciting events planned for the 2012-2013 school year, many of which we provide to students and families at no cost. Fundraising events are essential at Edison.

Last year Edison's PTA funded the following:

- Edison t-shirts
- Thursday folders
- School Directory
- Autism horseback riding
- Classroom activities
- TCAP Party
- Fall Festival
- Field Day
- Book Club
- Family Valentine's Dance
- ECE, Kindergarten, 5th grade Continuations
- Teacher Appreciation and Conference Dinners
- Build it Night
- Edison Extra scholarships
- Edison Earnings Store
- School wide Enrichment Day
- Donor Choose Classroom Funds
- Science Assembly
- RIF
- Field Trip transportation
- \$13K school supplies
- Basketball with Mr. Auday
- Young Author Tea
- Technology
- Literacy Night

One thing we have learned is that Edison is not a one size fits all school. We have received a lot of helpful feedback over the past year. Many families love participating in Edison's Community Night fundraising events. Other families would prefer to give a monthly donation (Direct Funding). Some families have asked that we bring back the "Sales" fundraisers so their families and co-workers can contribute. By providing these various options for contributing to Edison's fundraising efforts, we hope that every family will support us by participating in at least one way.

## **Our goal is for ALL Edison families to participate in ONE OR MORE fundraising event this year.**

Here are some ways you can help:

- Volunteer at a PTA sponsored event
- Sign up for Direct Funding and pledge a one time or reoccurring monthly donation
- Attend a Community Night Fundraiser
- Donate/Bid on silent auction items
- Purchase a reloadable King Soopers gift card through PTA and 5% of all purchases will come back to Edison
- Save Box Tops and Labels for Education
- Purchase a magazine or shop online at schoolstore.com (more info in Sept)
- Buy a Chinook Book
- Share the Fundraising Catalog (sent home in Oct) with friends and family
- Donate to Donors Choose
- Shop the Edison Online Store for cool Edison gear

In the following weeks, fundraising flyers will come home in your weekly folders. Please take a moment to read through these and decide which way your family can best help support Edison's PTA, teachers and students.

Thank you!

Julianne Sullivan  
President

Kristi Mackenzie  
Vice President

Bruce Meyer  
Treasurer

Jen Ibanez  
Secretary

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## Connect with Us

 [edison.dpsk12.org](http://edison.dpsk12.org)

 [twitter.com/edisondenver](https://twitter.com/edisondenver)

 [facebook.com/EdisonElementary](https://facebook.com/EdisonElementary)

 <http://edison.dpsk12.org/?feed=rss2>

# PTA Corner

Upcoming events and teacher needs:

Edison's PTA is excited to share the fundraising events for the 2012-2013 year. We have a lot of variety this year to give families options on how they want to support Edison. Last year PTA granted over \$47,000.00 to support Edison's students and teachers. Everything from t-shirts, to school supplies, field trips, and scholarship money. A big THANK YOU for the support of all our Edison families!

## September Fundraising Events

**Big Zukes IV Weigh-in:** You've been nurturing those zucchinis all summer long and now it's time to enter them into the Big Zukes IV Weigh-in at Studio CPG located at 4309 West 44th Avenue on September 13th from 4-6. \$5 Entry fee per zuke: 100% of entry fee goes to NW Denver School of your choice.

**Chinook Book Sales:** The same book sold at Whole Foods and Sunflower is now available through Edison. Books are \$15 and their new mobile coupon pack is \$10. Order forms will be arriving home in your weekly folders. If you would like to see a sample of the book (or borrow one to show co-workers), we will have a table set up from 3:15-3:45 on Sept 11th (South playground) and on Sept 13th (East playground).

**SchoolStore.com:** Look for signup information in mid September. This is a great opportunity for family members to help support Edison. Shop online at thousands of stores (Target, Barnes and Noble, iTunes, Kohls) and the merchants will donate a percentage of sales back to Edison. Magazine subscriptions give 50% back!

## Ongoing Fundraisers

**BoxTops/Labels for Education:** Keep cutting out your Box Tops and don't forget to look through your cupboards for products containing Labels for Education. Money raised from this goes directly to the classrooms! First collection is Oct 19.

**King Soopers Cards:** when purchased from Edison's PTA, 5% of all purchases (groceries, gas, pharmacy, gift cards) are donated back to Edison. You can reload your card anytime, directly from a King Soopers cashier. Contact [edisonfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:edisonfundraising@gmail.com) to purchase yours.

**Edison Online Store:** <http://www.zazzle.com/edisonelementary> A ton of cool gear, customized with Edison's logo.

**Direct Donation:** Too busy to deal with fundraisers but want to still help out? Click the donate button on the top of Edison's home page and give a one time or recurring donation.

**Donors Choose:** Watch for projects posted by Edison teachers. Way to go Ms. Archibald on the funding for your latest project. A generous 50% matching grant from KIA closed it out.



## September and October volunteer opportunities:

### Wednesdays in September

-Join Edison's Green Team on Wednesdays in sprucing up the school yard. 9/5 & 9/12 at 3:30 pm. 9/19 & 9/26 at 9:00 am. For more information, please contact [edisongreenteam@gmail.com](mailto:edisongreenteam@gmail.com).

### October 18th & 23rd

-Prepare a dish for Edison's teachers and staff for the October parent teacher conferences. Please contact [ptaedisondenver@gmail.com](mailto:ptaedisondenver@gmail.com) to sign up.

### October 19th

-Sell tickets during the Fall Festival. Please sign up for a shift at: <http://www.mysignup.com/fallfestivalticketsales>

-Fall silent auction setup and table management. Please sign up for a shift at: <http://www.mysignup.com/fallsilentauktion>

-Volunteers are also needed to begin gathering up auction items from businesses for the silent auction which will be held during the Fall Festival. The Edison PTA has a list of businesses that Edison has established a relationship with from past auctions. Volunteers will be contacting the businesses on this list, securing the auction items and delivering the items to a specified location. Please contact [edisonfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:edisonfundraising@gmail.com) for further information, or to sign up.

There are also many yearlong volunteer positions that need to be filled. Please contact [ptaedisondenver@gmail.com](mailto:ptaedisondenver@gmail.com) if you are interested in taking on a volunteer position.

Would you like to join the teacher needs/ volunteer email list? If so, please send an email to [ptaedisondenver@gmail.com](mailto:ptaedisondenver@gmail.com) and you will receive a monthly email containing upcoming volunteer opportunities for the school and teachers, as well as, special requests from teachers.

The first PTA meeting of the year will be held on September 6th at 6:00 pm in the auditorium. Child care is provided, however, food is not. Please feel free to bring your own dinner for yourself and your children.