

Edison



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

September 5, 2013

From the Principal

Dear Edison Community,

Welcome to the 2013-14 school year at Edison! I was so very excited to see our wonderful community gathered on the school lawn for our annual Lawn Party and Back-to-School Night. Each year I am reminded how committed, energetic and supportive the Edison community is of its children. As I see the small faces each August return from a fun and playful summer, I am also reminded of how quickly our children grow up and how limited our time with each child is.

As we begin a new school year, the teachers at Edison have planned another exciting year of rigorous lessons, technology based projects, hands-on activities, 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 friendships.

At Edison, our school vision and our community values lead our instructional decisions in the classroom. Prior to teachers starting school, teachers spent time re-committing to our core values of: students first, community, fun, respect, integrity, collaboration, equity and accountability. We also 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." I would like to invite all of our parents to join us in achieving our vision for all of our students.

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

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Leadership:

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Sally_Whitelock@dpsk12.org

Eric Hamilton, Assistant Principal

Eric_Hamilton@dpsk12.org

Suzy O'Dorisio, AP intern

Suzanne_Odorisio@dpsk12.org

Secretaries:

Michelle Miller and Barbara Schrant

School day:

8:40 AM - 3:30 PM

Upcoming Events:

- Sept 5** CSC Meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the conference room
- Sept 6** First Friday Recycling/Composting Assembly
- Sept 6** PTA Meet and Greet at 4:30-6:30 at 10Flavors Frozen Yogurt
- Sept 8** Little Man Hula Hoop Competition. Register at 1pm, Competition at 2:30
- Sept 10** PTA Update at 3:45 on the Playground
- Sept 12** Big Zukes Weigh In
- Sept 19** HGT & Advanced Kindergarten Information Night
- Sept 20** PTA Meet and Greet Coffee at 8-10 AM in Edison's Library
- Sept 24** Big Time Jump Fundraiser
- Oct 3** CSC Meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the conference room
- Oct 3** PTA Meeting at 3:45 on the Playground
- Oct 4** North High Homecoming Parade at 4pm
- Oct 9** PTA Meeting at 6-7 PM at Local 46
- Oct 14** No School for students
- Oct 15** No School for students
- Oct 16 & 17** Parent-Teacher Conferences from 3:45-7:45 PM
- Oct 25** Fall Festival at 3:45 PM on the playground

Meet Edison's new Assistant Principal, Eric Hamilton

Dear Edison Families,

As the new Assistant Principal of Edison Elementary, it is my heartfelt and sincere honor to become a member of this fantastic school community. Edison is committed to improving the quality of education for ALL students [regardless of race, class, socioeconomic status] and will continue providing a learning environment that affords students with the opportunities to develop skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in a society characterized by diversity and increased expectations. Edison is also committed to holding true to the shared core values (Students First, Integrity, Equity, Collaboration, Accountability, and fun) that are infused throughout the entire Denver Public School system. I am elated to be a part of these great responsibilities and will do everything I can to support Edison with these endeavors.

Prior to coming to Edison, my professional career was within the Prince George's County Public School system and Syracuse City School District. I believe my 14 years of experience with providing instruction to diverse students in urban schools has adequately prepared me to maintain high and relevant standards for academic success while also maintaining student-centered, success oriented classroom environments. I have realized over the years that educators determine the quality of schooling that students receive. Therefore, I have made it a priority to learn and implement best instructional practices in order to plan and deliver developmentally appropriate learning experiences that produce significant gains in student achievement. The information and skills I have learned without question or doubt will help me support Edison's dynamic team of educators as we work together to ensure we are providing high-level instruction in a learning environment which attends to expectations for academic rigor while remaining sensitive to ALL students' needs and providing each student an opportunity for success.

I am here, excited, and ready to serve! Thank you in advance for welcoming me into this outstanding family. Divided we fall but together we can create an educational culture that is fun, exciting, and conducive for learning — a culture that all stakeholders [parents, students, and staff] can be proud of! We are going to have a great school year.

Sincerely,

Eric A. Hamilton
Assistant Principal

Meet our New Assistant Principal Intern – Suzy O'Dorisio

Dear Edison Families,

I want to take a moment to introduce myself to you. My name is Suzy O'Dorisio, and I am both honored and excited to be Edison's Ritchie Principal Intern during the 2013-14 school year. I have been a teacher and instructional leader in Northwest Denver for the past nine years. It is my pleasure to now become a part of the Edison community: to assist Ms. Whitelock and work with Edison's dedicated staff, outstanding students and families and community stakeholders to make the 2013-14 school year one of the best ever!

I have spent my entire educational career dedicated to the children of Denver Public Schools. I began as a paraprofessional and substitute teacher and then became a fifth grade teacher at Brown International Academy. For the past three years, I worked as a turnaround leader at Lake International School in the role of Instructional Dean and IB Coordinator.

Over the next year, my goal is to support and help facilitate a school environment that provides differentiated instruction to meet the needs of each student. I strongly believe we must create challenging learning environments in which all students are engaged and held to high expectations on their journey as active learners. Having worked at both the elementary and middle school levels, I've gained an understanding of the challenges of supporting students at varying developmental stages and would like to support vertical articulation between the elementary and secondary levels to create a smooth transition for our students as they move levels.

I look forward to getting to know you, your child(ren), and the entire Edison community. Please feel free to come and introduce yourself to me. I'll be the one on the playground in my sunnies!

Kind Regards,
Suzy O'Dorisio



Highly Gifted and Talented and Advanced Kindergarten Information Night

DPS will be holding a Parent Information Night for all parents interested in testing their children for the HGT program or Advanced Kindergarten Program for the 2014-15 school year on September 19 at 5:00 PM in the Auditorium at Edison. If you are interested, please plan to attend.

In the Denver Public Schools, “gifted and talented children” means those students whose demonstrated abilities, talents and/or potential for accomplishment are so exceptional or developmentally advanced that they require special provisions to meet their educational needs. These students perform, or show the potential of performing, at remarkably high levels in intellectual, specific academic or creative areas when compared with others of their age. Gifted and talented children are present in all student groups, regardless of gender, disability, English language proficiency, economic status, ethnic or cultural background.

The HGT program at Edison, and select other DPS schools, 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 1% of the student population.

The Advanced Kindergarten program at Edison, and select other DPS schools, provides an educational option for students in Kindergarten who demonstrate advanced academic abilities and would therefore benefit from advanced curriculum and extension educational activities. This program is available for all students who qualify based on demonstrated achievement.

Parent Portal

Learning doesn't happen by luck, it takes a determined effort from students, parents, teachers and the community. This effort is what we mean when we say “Get Your ED On”.

To help us all Get Our ED On, DPS has created an online Parent/Student Portal to make it easier to track a student's progress and plan for their future. When a student logs into the Parent/Student Portal to see if they have all their assignments handed in, that's Getting Your ED On. When a parent logs into the Parent/Student Portal to check on their child's grades and test results, that's Getting Your ED On. When a teacher reaches out to a parent about a student's progress and successes, that's Getting Your ED On.

If you do not have a Parent Portal account, please come in to Edison's office and complete the paperwork.

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.

What is the Collaborative School Committee?

The Collaborative School Committee consists of Edison parent volunteers, teachers, classified staff, and Ms. Whitelock. The CSC serves at the direction of the Denver Public Schools Board of Education. The School Board empowers and mandates the CSC to work collaboratively with the Edison community to enhance student achievement, provide strategic direction in support of the school's mission and vision, as stated in the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP), ensure compliance with federal and state laws, including relevant contracts and District policies, offer guidance and evaluation on staffing and budgeting, and participate in the Principal's annual review. The CSC does not get involved in the day-to-day operations of the school or in personnel or individual student issues.

CSC meetings are open to any one who wishes to observe. All observers are asked to hold comments and questions until the end of the meeting. Our first CSC meeting is Thursday, Sept. 5 at 4:30pm in the Conference Room downstairs across from the Art Room.

Connect with Us



edison.dpsk12.org



twitter.com/edisondenver



facebook.com/EdisonElementary



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

PTA Corner

PTA President's Welcome

I firmly believe NW Denver is the best small town in the city in the country. That said, this isn't Harper Valley, and our PTA officers do not have bubble hairdos or wear daily pearls. We are ordinary parents who are committed to making our neighborhood school actually better than what you can find in the suburbs. Edison thrives because of parents like you who care, parents who are as diverse and unique as the reasons we choose to live in the city. PTA is not just about fundraisers, it's about providing enriching experiences for our students, supporting programs and technology needs of teachers. What our officers do have in common is that we are all conscientious about making sure we do things in an accountable, transparent, and reliable way. That includes following the bylaws, which bind us to the Colorado PTA, who provide guidelines regarding staying in compliance with federal and state law regarding non-profits. Ok, that does sound like we have bubble hairdos, I'll admit. What it really means is that in order to stay official we really need dues paying members to come to meetings. In fact, we need to have 9 meetings per year with at least 6 dues paying members in attendance; otherwise the business we conduct is not officially in compliance. Would bubble hairdos plead? We are. Come to our meeting on September 10th, after school, and please bring \$10 to cover your PTA dues (cash, check, or charge!). We'll be voting on the budget and we cannot get it approved if we do not have a quorum of paid members. Welcome to Edison, the best school in the best small town in the city in the country. Let's make it a great year and hope to see you on the 10th!

- Jennifer Wolf



For more details on participating in Homecoming, or if you'd like to help prepare the Edison float for the parade, please contact ptaedisondenver@gmail.com.

For more details on the Little Man Ice Cream 4th Annual Hula Hoop Competition, please visit the Edison Eagle's Roost Blog: <http://edison.dpsk12.org/hula-hoop-contest-sept-8>

Edison Directory:

Each year the PTA collects family information to add to the Directory. Include your children in the directory, by following the link below, and adding phone, email address, or just their name. Each family receives a directory, and more can be purchased through the office. Each year, you'll need to re-enter your child's info, so if you missed the table at Registration or the Back to School Lawn Party, do it now! It takes less than 2 minutes per child, and is a great way to plan socials, birthday parties, and stay in touch! Sign up before Sept 15th to be included. If your company would like to be featured in an ad, please contact Christa Conrad at christaconrad@hotmail.com or Jen Ibanez at jenibanez@live.com <http://bit.ly/1emrgx6>

Edison Elementary Family Forum:

Edison now has a community forum, on BigTent! This moderated forum allows you to ask questions, get info, spread the word on cool stuff going on, etc. Each grade level from ECE-5 has a subgroup, so your topics will be more relevant, and we have an all-school forum for things that pertain to everyone. For assistance joining, especially if you have a Hotmail or MSN email address, please contact Anne Spires DeLong at edisonptasecretary@gmail.com <http://www.bigtent.com/groups/edfamdenver>

Contact the PTA Officers:

President: Jennifer Wolf ptaedisondenver@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jenny Jeffrey edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary: Anne Spires DeLong edisonptasecretary@gmail.com

Vice Presidents Pro Tem: Christa Conrad and Juli Adams edisonvpdenver@gmail.com

Open Positions (PTA and other School Needs):

Auction Co-Chair In Training (2014-2015 school year)

Totally Tennyson Team (Spring)

Landscape Management

Green Team Programs

DonorsChoose committee

Legislative Advocate

Superintendent Advisory Committee

Class Parents