

# Edison

A 21st Century Neighborhood School



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

September, 2014

## From the Principal

Dear Edison Community,

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year at Edison! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer with family and friends. I am always grateful for the adventures I have each summer with my husband and children. I was so very excited to see our wonderful community gathered on the school lawn again for our annual Lawn Party and Back-to-School Night. I continue to appreciate how committed and supportive the Edison community is of its children and school. As I see the small faces each August return from a fun and playful summer, I am reminded of how quickly our children grow up and how limited our time with each child is.

At Edison, our school vision and our community values lead our decision making throughout the school. I therefore would like to remind everyone of Edison's core values:

- students first, community, fun, respect, integrity, collaboration, equity and accountability.

And 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 always 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!

*"If we did the things we were capable of, we would astound ourselves." – Thomas Edison*

Sincerely,



Sally Whitelock, Principal

## Leadership:

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

Eric Hamilton, Principal Intern  
[Eric\\_Hamilton@dpsk12.org](mailto:Eric_Hamilton@dpsk12.org)

Joan Wieser, AP intern  
[Joan\\_Wieser@dpsk12.org](mailto:Joan_Wieser@dpsk12.org)

## Secretaries:

Michelle Miller and Barbara Schrant

## School day:

8:40 AM - 3:30 PM

## Upcoming Events:

- Sept 4** CSC Meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the conference room
- Sept 5** PTA Coffee Social 8:45-9:30am on East playground
- Sept 5** ABC Catalog fundraiser kickoff
- Sept 11** HGT/ADK parent information night
- Sept 18** PTA Meeting to finalize 2014-15 budget 3:45-5:15 in the Auditorium
- Oct 1** Picture Day
- Oct 2** CSC Meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the conference room
- Oct 2** PTA Meeting at 3:45 on the Playground
- Oct 3** All HGT and ADK applications due to the GT department

## Assistant Principal, Eric Hamilton...now Principal Intern!

Greetings Edison Community,

I hope you had a fantastic summer, filled with exciting and enjoyable activities with family and loved ones. I certainly enjoyed spending time with my family and receiving much needed rest and relaxation.

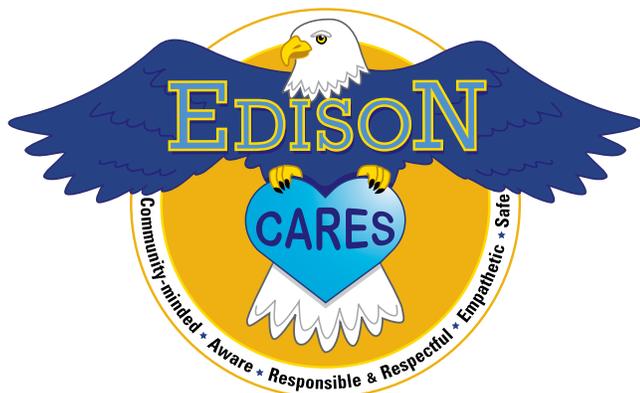
A new school year is always exciting. It is filled with new beginnings that present new opportunities—new relationships, new classes, new curriculum, and new teachers just to name a few. Although I will be continuing my service to the Edison community for the second year, I am elated to be embarking upon a new role as Edison's Principal Resident. I will be leading more and developing my skills as a school leader at a deeper level. This residency will prepare me to fulfill my desire and dream of becoming a future school principal. I have been in the field of education for over 15 years and I am not tired yet. I remain vigorously passionate about helping students achieve their maximum potential.

I believe each of us at Edison shares this same passion. Edison is an excellent school because we do what is best for students and are always looking for ways to achieve this goal. This year, I will work hard to ensure that each and every student that enters the doors of our school enters into an environment that is safe, nurturing, challenging and engaging. No matter what questions and/or concerns you may have, my door is always open. Let's work together to achieve the highest standards possible for Edison Elementary. This year we are going to the "Higher Level"!

Educationally yours,

Eric A. Hamilton

Principal Resident



## Joan Wieser, our Literacy Facilitator and new AP intern!

Dear Edison Families,

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Joan Wieser, and I am excited to be the next Assistant Principal intern at Edison Elementary. I live in Denver with my husband and two daughters, Sydney and Madison, who also went to Edison. I am excited to be a part of the leadership team. I have been spending time researching and evaluating the school's improvement goals and achievement data, as well as reaching out to teachers, students and parents to determine their perception of school. Edison is a place where strong connections are made between home and school because staff members are committed to developing the whole child. I value both of these characteristics and I'm excited to help continue moving Edison along the path of excellence for student success.

Professionally, I have been an active and supportive member of the Denver Public School District for many years. I was a first grade teacher and Humanities Facilitator at Edison Elementary and am excited to continue this tenure as the Assistant Principal Intern. Before Edison, I was a teacher in Weld County School District 6. During my years as a teacher, I spent much of my time working with committees, supporting new curriculum initiatives and developing meaningful student growth opportunities. I seize every opportunity to learn and grow in whatever position I may hold in a school because it impacts the learning of our students. I continue to stay current on the latest research and best practices for kids and successful schools.

One of the most important aspects of my work this year as Edison's Assistant Principal Intern is building a solid and trusting relationship with students, families and teachers. It is very important to me to be active and present in the hallways, classrooms and on the playground to help build strong and trusting relationships. In my experience, students appreciate people who genuinely are invested in them and who are fair in decision making.

In addition to building a strong and trusting learning environment for all, I believe it is crucial to create a safe environment. If you ever have a concern about something or a question about a specific situation or procedure please don't hesitate to ask. My door is always open to you because we are partners in your student's success. Communication is paramount in a school. For this reason, I will always encourage you to contact your child's teacher or myself with any questions and/or concerns.

I feel very lucky to learn and grow under Mrs. Sally Whitelock. She has instilled in me the values of fairness, honesty, integrity and trust. Mrs. Whitelock takes pride in everything she does at Edison which is reflected by the systems and procedures that are in place to help stimulate student success. Edison is a school that has many things to be proud of. Thank you for welcoming me into this fantastic community in my new role.

Sincerely,

Joan Wieser, Assistant Principal Intern

# Highly Gifted and Talented and Advanced Kindergarten Parent Information Night

DPS will be holding a Parent Information Night for all parents interested in having their children tested for the Highly Gifted and Talented (HGT) program or Advanced Kindergarten (ADK) program for the 2015-16 school year on September 11 at 5:00 PM in the Auditorium (HGT) and Library (ADK) at Edison. If you are interested, please plan to attend. Applications for testing are due to the Gifted and Talented Department on October 3.

In the Denver Public Schools, "gifted and talented children" means those students who demonstrate abilities, talents and/or potential for accomplishment which 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.

## A Message from the Student Engagement Committee

### Thank You So Very Much

The Student Engagement Committee (SEC) would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our parents and guardians for your support during the 2013-2014 school year. We look forward to your continued support during the 2014-2015 school year.

Jane Hull indicated "At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents/guardians."

The SEC looks forward to partnering with parents/guardians in order to engage your children in learning.

### At Edison, Every Child Succeeds!!!

### 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.

# PTA Corner

## PTA President's Welcome

I am honored to serve as your PTA President. Edison has a remarkable history of parents, community members, teachers and school leadership all coming together for the benefit of our Edison scholars. Last year's PTA board did a great job and we are starting with terrific momentum this school year.

But there is much to be done.

My ask is simple: join us. Come to the Sept 18th PTA meeting to share your ideas about making our activities even better. Become a voting member of the PTA for only \$15 per household, or \$10 per individual, and support those important services our Edison PTA receives from the Colorado PTSA.

If you have a handful of spare hours in the school year, bring your talents to the Edison PTA and together we can do great things for our Edison scholars. Come have some fun with us in the PTA!

-Michael Kiley II

## Newsletter

What's this you say? We've taken the PTA Volunteer List and created a more inclusive email format, run via Mail Chimp. Easy to read (or skim, we know you are busy), and links are right there! Plus, you can unsubscribe or change your email address at anytime, and look at the archive. It's great! We plan on emailing only 1-2 times a month. You don't need to be a PTA member to volunteer or to receive the newsletter!

If you were on the 2012-13 or 2013-14 volunteer lists or were a 2013-14 PTA member, you should have gotten the inaugural edition last month. If you didn't, or want to be a new subscriber, please sign up via the teacher links above, or head straight over to <http://eepurl.com/0ruEj>

## Fundraising

Fall Catalog Fundraiser is Here!

Sept. 5th - Sept. 19th.

The sale will kick off on Friday, Sept 5th. Turn in order forms and money on Friday, Sept. 19th. Items will be delivered the week of Oct. 20th.

This is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year! Help raise money for the art room sink, Enrichment day, field trips, and updated technology.

Watch for the red backpacks to come home with all the materials needed to get started.

## Help us help you stay informed

This year, we are trying to make one-stop, efficient means of helping our community connect!

Please help us create our directory, gather info for your classroom teachers and class parents, as well as sign up for the NEW PTA e-newsletter mailing list full of News and Needs, ALL in ONE place! The directory will be solely grade-level info, and should be completed and distributed by the end of September, so act NOW. Scroll down the list to find your teacher's unique link. Please, if you have more than one child, you will have to fill out the form once under each child's teacher. These links ARE case-sensitive.

## K-2 Combined

Wales <http://bit.ly/UstSGA>

### ECE

Senft <http://bit.ly/WRpq5A>

Brown <http://bit.ly/1qEk7DS>

### K

Berard <http://bit.ly/1AgZ4Jy>

Jackie McSherry <http://bit.ly/1rFLexY>

L McSherry <http://bit.ly/1nHaqTl>

Palmer <http://bit.ly/1xcSiAt>

### 1

Lahner <http://bitly.com/1l1zKxm>

Larson <http://bit.ly/1xcUzeR>

Pitman <http://bit.ly/UyIJig>

Telitz-Torres <http://bit.ly/1lExnRa>

### 2

Bushong <http://bit.ly/UyLIHD>

Martin <http://bit.ly/WHsrWp>

Mohr <http://bit.ly/1rji4B1>

Lala Wing <http://bit.ly/WHsnpI>

### 3

Baltz <http://bit.ly/1rF05ag>

Hardy <http://bit.ly/1oosqRw>

Mathews <http://bit.ly/1xcYUiz>

### 4

Bisceglia <http://bit.ly/1kfVwYo>

Burkenheim <http://bit.ly/1rFMFN0>

Swift <http://bit.ly/1zd8G6K>

### 5

Archibald <http://bit.ly/1kfuRpS>

Barston <http://bit.ly/1xcTN1A>

Roberts <http://bit.ly/1qEkfn0>

## PTA Membership

Wow! So great to meet so many new families at Back To School Night! Thank you to so many of you who have decided to join or renew your membership in the Edison PTA for the 2014-15 school year. Membership allows you to vote on what programs we bring to Edison, and how money raised gets appropriated. Plus, you get benefits from national businesses, can receive information from National and Colorado PTA, can help advocate and/or receive info on educational issues in our legislatures, be a role model for your kids, and stay informed. As GI Joe said, knowing is half the battle.

Dues for the 2014-15 School year can be paid by dropping off a check or exact cash to the office, and filling out a membership, in person at most PTA events, or by paying online at <https://edisonpt.ejoinme.org/AnnualDues>

2013-14 Membership expires Sept 30th, so please renew today! Individual membership is \$10.00; Staff pay only \$6.25. New for this year is our Household Membership level. Two members within the same household pay a reduced rate of \$15.00. We want to see moms, dads, grandparents, and other caretakers involved in PTA, so that PTA will reflect our community, the people we see everyday at pick-up and drop-off and at our events. PTA is YOU.

Meeting dates, times and locations can be found on the Edison website calendar, and we are working on plans for childcare and/or food at meetings. Stay tuned!

## Edison Elementary Family Forum:

Edison 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](mailto:edisonptasecretary@gmail.com)

Join here: <http://www.bigtent.com/groups/edfamdener>

## Contact the PTA Officers:

President: Michael Kiley II [ptaedisondenver@gmail.com](mailto:ptaedisondenver@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Steve Smith [edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com)

Secretary: Anne Spires DeLong [edisonptasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:edisonptasecretary@gmail.com)

Vice Presidents:

Christa Conrad and Juli Adams [edisonvpdenver@gmail.com](mailto:edisonvpdenver@gmail.com)

Fundraising Chair: Kim Adams [edisonfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:edisonfundraising@gmail.com)



The 2014-2015 DPS calendar is now out.

Parents can access it here:

<http://www.dpsk12.org/calendars>

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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>