

Edison



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

September 8, 2011

From the Principal

Dear Edison Community,

It has been a hot, yet engaging start to the 2011-12 school year. Nadine, myself and all our teaching staff were excited to see all the energetic young faces and interested parents on back-to-school night. Teachers were excited to share their plans and ideas for their classrooms. We hope that parents and students received a preview into the year before us and dropped their students off on the first day of school prepared for the learning ahead.

At Edison, our school vision leads our instructional decisions in the classroom. Teachers believe that 21st century skills, rigorous academics and character education ensure the development of the whole child. It is important for us to challenge every student whether they are advanced learners, students learning at grade level or learners in need of additional support. Therefore, we have started implementation of our "flooding" model. Flooding is the term we use to describe an increase in the number of teachers at a grade level during a specific block of time. Daily, during "reading flooding" and "math flooding" students will be re-grouped based on reading or math achievement. Student reading and math progress will be reviewed by grade level teams, with the support of the principal, assistant principal and literacy facilitator every 6 weeks, and groups will be adjusted as is appropriate to continue to challenge students academically. As a result of our achievement data, teachers have decided that strategically grouping students, in addition to carefully considering what level of curriculum to use, will best meet the needs of our students. For more information regarding instruction at Edison, please visit our website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org>

Additionally, after a few weeks of establishing routines and classroom communities, teachers have begun their typical instructional schedule. Students will be strongly encouraged to complete homework and read at home to support the learning they are doing at school. We encourage parents to talk to their children about their homework, their AR reading level, and what they are learning in the classroom.

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

Nadine Ritchotte, Assistant Principal

Nadine_Ritchotte@dpsk12.org

Secretaries:

Esther Martinez & Michelle Miller

School day:

8:45 AM -3:30 PM

Upcoming Events:

September 8th

PTA Meeting, Communications Plan Meeting, HGT Information Meeting
Auditorium 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

September 16th & 19th – No School

September 24th – *Community Forum*

Visioning Summit
Scheitler Recreation Center 9:30 am

September 28th – 30th – *Vision & Hearing Screening*

October 6th – *Edison Community Gathering*

Edison Playground East 3:30 pm

CSC Meeting - Library 4:30 pm

October 13th

PTA Meeting - Auditorium 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

October 14th

Picture Day
Box Tops, 1st Collection

October 21st

Picture Retakes

Fall Festival - 3:45 – 6:00

RIF Distribution

October 25th & 26th – *Parent/Teacher Conferences*

October 28th & 31st – No School

Please join us at our Community Forums

The Community Forums this summer did the groundwork necessary for our community to identify the issues causing concern and developed plans to begin to address the issues raised. We will begin to resolve these issues in upcoming Community Forum meetings, please join us! Your voice is valued and appreciated.

Collaborative Communications Plan

The PTA and Forum Communications Committee will present the Edison Collaborative Communications Plan on Thursday, September 8 from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm (immediately following the PTA Meeting from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm) in the Auditorium at Edison. Come hear from the Principal, the Assistant Principal, PTA and Communications Committee about the proactive communication process that has been collaboratively developed for Edison.

HGT/GT Informational Meeting

Immediately following the PTA Meeting and presentation of the Edison Collaborative Communications Plan on Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 pm, the DPS Gifted and Talented Department, in collaboration with Edison's leadership, will present on DPS's policies on testing, identification and qualifications for HGT and GT with DPS and at Edison. Please join us to find out new procedures and deadlines.

Community Forum Visioning Summit

Please join us on Saturday, September 24 from 9:30 to 2:00 at Scheitler (5031 West 46th Ave, Denver 80212) to voice your thoughts and hopes for Edison's school vision and guiding principles.

Watch for more Forums to come. In October, we will begin to discuss our educational model and how we can ensure that we provide a challenging, quality educational experience for ALL students at Edison.

CSC Update

The CSC met on September 1 to discuss the current budget and staffing situation at Edison and to update the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) for the 2011-12 school year. At the CSC meeting, Sally Whitelock shared that due to a decrease in enrollment, mostly due to many students from Edison moving to a newly opened Charter school, the budget was significantly impacted, resulting in a likely cut in paraprofessional staff and teaching staff. Additionally, the CSC discussed the Unified Improvement goals for this year, which include a continued focus on improving writing instruction and analytical writing, ensuring students have opportunities to learn 21st century skills, a focus on student engagement, and data driven instruction within a guaranteed and viable core curriculum. Please visit the Edison website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org> for CSC minutes.

Edison's Thematic Units for 2011-2012

Teachers and staff are currently planning for engaging and experiential units for our Edison students. Here are some of this year's highlights from each grade level:

ECE: *All About Me* — Pre-schoolers begin to identify who they are as well as share with and learn about other classmates. *Farms* — students gain knowledge about farms and farmers and what their role is in the greater community.

Kindergarten: *5 Senses* — Kindergarteners will identify and learn about the senses, using a trip to the Zoo to help them experience all five. Kindergarten parents are always welcome to join field trips and get in on the fun! *Getting Along* — Students learn to work together, in formal and social situations, with other children and adults.

1st Grade: *Animals and their Needs* — First graders will explore the differences and similarities in animals and their needs. They will perform for the Kindergarteners (first grade parents will be invited) showcasing their learning through a variety of arts. *Rules and Responsibility* — Students will not only look at their own, but parents will be invited to share what their responsibilities are in their workplace.

2nd grade: *Sound Systems* — Students learn about how sound is made and how our brains hear sound, classrooms will give a concert using their handmade instruments. *Geography of Communities* — Students celebrate their own culture as well as learn about other cultures in our community

3rd grade: *Electrical Systems* — Parents will be able to come in, learn about research students are doing, and see the experiments students have done in school during a celebration of learning. *Denver History* — Students will take a historical tour of the Highlands and present their Denver Landmark research and Models to classmates.

4th grade: *The Changing Earth* — Students will explore our planet and changes over time. Parents will be invited to an evening that showcases student learning on the topic and explores current events and issues involving our planet. *Regions of the US* — Fourth graders study the different regions of the US throughout the school year looking at what makes each one geographically and culturally unique.

5th grade: *Explorers and Early Settlements* — Students will become an Explorer or Native American and learn about the societal implications of the time and how geography made a historical impact. Parents will be invited to an evening that celebrates student learning about the subject and allows them to travel back in time. *Human Systems* — Learning about each human body system in general and the changes that happen to your body at this time in life.

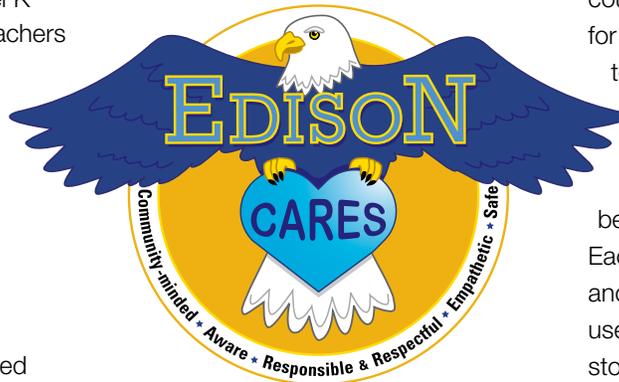
Student Engagement

The Edison mission states that we believe in "...character education... to ensure the development of the whole child." Our staff has been very busy doing just that.

The teachers who make up the Student Engagement Committee work on Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) and character education within the Edison community. This team is made up of one representative from every grade level K through 5, two special education teachers and an administrator. We are also actively recruiting parents who would like to work alongside us. This team has been hard at work last year into this year.

At the end of last year, the Student Engagement Committee looked at behavior data and pinpointed our "hotspots" or areas where we believed that there was a high chance for an elevated level of behavior incidents. The committee then created a list of expectations for behavior for these "hotspots" in our Edison community. The list was then compared with the existing CARES traits and language was adjusted to meet the needs of all students. The list was divided into six areas of our building which we deemed to be hotspots. Those areas are: the cafeteria, the playground (field), the playground (equipment),

hallways, bathrooms and indoor recess. The team then developed posters that stated the expectations for all of these areas and posted them around the school. We talked to ALL staff in our building (teachers, paras, office staff, custodians, kitchen staff, etc.) about the importance of consistency in our expectations for students. On the first two days of school, all classes visited each of



these spots for an interactive discussion about these expectations given by Lisa Archuleta (bathrooms), Leslie Turner (hallways), Lauren Stewart (cafeteria), Megan Endrizzi (inside recess), Sally Whitelock (playground equipment) and Nadine Ritchotte and Jayne Sbarboro (playground field). Classroom teachers also participated in these discussions and will continue to review the expectations

with their classes. What this process does is give us a common language to use with students and it creates a community in which all adults who work within the community are responsible for all children within the community.

Teachers, through the Student Engagement committee, also noticed some problems with the "Gotcha" process. We got together to see what we could do to make it a more real process for students. We decided to create a token economy using "Edison Earnings" as our currency. Edison Earnings will be given to students who exhibit Edison CARES behavior. Earnings can be distributed by all staff in the building. Each Edison Earning is worth one dollar and students will be able to save them to use in our new school store. The school store will feature items such as school supplies, water bottles, string backpacks, T-shirts, pennants, most of which will bear the new Edison logo and/or colors. Every Friday morning from 8:00 am to 8:40 am, our school store will be open in the cafeteria (For ECE and Kinder, the school store will rotate through their classrooms.) The store will open for the first time on Friday, September 9th.

Our staff is committed to PBIS. Stay tuned for more info about what's going on.

Here's What You Might Have Missed In The Eagles Roost Blog!

[Scrip Fundraising Is Back For Edison Parents!](#) September 3, 2011

[North High School's Jv Football Outreach](#) September 2, 2011

[CSC Update](#) September 2, 2011

[Volunteers Needed For Sunnyside Music Fest](#) September 1, 2011

[Garden Gate Opens With New Ground Rules](#) August 31, 2011

[Community Garden To Cafeteria!](#) August 31, 2011

[CSC Meeting September 1 At 4:30](#) August 31, 2011

[The Gate By The Garden Is Locked?](#) August 30, 2011

[Differentiated Reading And Math Groups At Edison](#) August 28, 2011

[Help Us Keep Edison Green And Clean!](#) August 26, 2011

[Welcome Back To School!](#) August 21, 2011

[Social Media Guidelines](#) August 19, 2011

[Back To School Night & Lawn Party!](#) August 16, 2011

[Enrichment: Fall 2011](#) August 16, 2011

[Traffic And Safety](#) August 16, 2011

[Successful Summer – Thank You For The Dedication](#) August 8, 2011

[Registration Days: Welcome Ece & Kindergarden Students](#) August 7, 2011

PTA Corner

September 8th

Big Zukes Weigh-In

Parks & Gardens Office-4309 W. 44th Avenue
4:00 pm

PTA Meeting

-Communications Plan

-HGT Information

Auditorium

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

September 10th

Sunnyside Music Festival- Kid Zone

Chaffee Park (Tejon & 44th)

**Volunteers needed

September 19th

Edison School Yard Cleanup with the Green Team

Edison Garden 9:00 am

**Volunteers needed

September 27th

Chipotle Fund Raiser for Green Team

3:30 pm - 7:30 pm

October 13th

PTA Meeting

Auditorium

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

October 16th

Edison School Yard Clean Up with the Green Team

Edison Garden 9:00 am

**Volunteers are needed

October 21st

Fall Festival

Edison Playground

3:45 – 6:00

**Volunteers are needed

RIF

**Volunteers are needed.

For a description of upcoming volunteer opportunities that note **volunteers are needed, please visit the PTA tab on the Edison Website or contact: ptaedisondenver@gmail.com.

The Following are volunteer requests from Edison Elementary teachers:

Ms. Allgeier, Edison's librarian, would like a weekly helper to assist her in the library. She also needs help leveling books. Please contact: Kathleen_Allgeier@dpsk12.org to volunteer or for further information.

Ms. Mansfield, Edison's Art Teacher, would like help stuffing original artwork information in plastic sleeves and making pinwheels for International Peace Day. Please contact: Kelly_Mansfield@dpsk12.org to volunteer or for further information.

The following one time and monthly positions, as well as, full time positions are listed below:

Community Gatherings – Greet parents and teachers, take notes to share with administration and PTA leadership.

Community Outreach – Poster on Highlands Mommies website, HUNI, SUNY and West Highland event posts. (Monthly)

Edison Directory – Tweak the color and minor layout changes. This task begins on September 10th and ends on September 15th. (One Time)

Edison Extra Newsletter – Collect content from list of sources. Print for Thursday Folders and send to Lisa Meeks for website posting. (Monthly)

Please contact ptaedisondenver@gmail.com to volunteer or for further information.

Thank you to ALL of the volunteers that have offered to donate their time and services this year for events, in classrooms and specific tasks throughout the year!

Fundraising

During the 2010-2011 school year, Edison PTA raised \$39,000.00. Edison PTA has a fundraising goal of \$55,000.00 for the 2011-2012 school year.

The amount that Edison PTA has raised so far is \$1,500.00.

One fundraising opportunity new to Edison this year is Donors Choose. Please visit <http://www.donorschoose.org/donors/proposal.html?id=620956> to view Ms. Archibald's classroom project. Encourage your child's teacher to participate in Donors Choose!

Please utilize the amazing website and Facebook page that the Edison Administration and the Communications team have put in place for the Edison community. On it, you will find a plethora of information about Edison.

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.

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