

Edison

A 21st Century Neighborhood School

April & May 2021

Sally Whitelock, Principal | Benita Cervantes, Assistant Principal

A message from the Principal...

Dear Edison Community,

I hope everyone is getting excited for a fun Spring Break and planning to enjoy the time off with their family.

Can you believe that there are only two more months left of this very interesting school year? Typically, the end of each school year is filled with so many fun and exciting events. Last year, with sadness, all of our end of year events were cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. As we approach April and May this year, teachers are planning for end of year assessments and engaging student centered projects. We know, however, that students' memories are often made at field day, enrichment day, the talent show and continuation. Just like everything else this year, the end of year celebrations and events will be a little different. We are hopeful, however, that we will be able to provide some of these experiences for our students. Please see information below regarding our current plans for field day, the book fair and continuation. As things may change, please watch your email for updates as we get closer to the end of the year.

As I reflect on this school year, I continue to be amazed at the efforts and instruction our teachers have been able to provide given the environment they were thrust into. I am also so very appreciative of the support from our community. I want to thank you for supporting me and our teachers as we 'pivoted' time and again this year based on health conditions. I appreciate the kind words about our teachers, understanding as children were quarantined and efforts to communicate with kindness.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement!

Sally Whitelock, Principal

Mark Your Calendars:

March 25	Virtual Culture night
March 26	Passions Day
March 29-April 2	Spring Break - no school
April 5	No School - Planning day for teachers
April 8	CSC meeting -virtual at 4:30 PM - Link - meet.google.com/whp-spfu-yvv
April 8	PTA meeting - virtual at 6:00 PM - Link: meet.google.com/axi-uavx-ujx
May 3-7	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6	CSC meeting -virtual at 4:30 PM - Link - meet.google.com/whp-spfu-yvv
May 6	PTA meeting - virtual at 6:00 PM - Link: meet.google.com/axi-uavx-ujx
May 12, 13, 14	Scholastic Book Fair
May 13	Field day -Grade K & 1 at 9:00-10:30, ECE at 2:00-3:00 (rain date May 20)
May 14	Field day - Grade 4 & 5 at 9:00-10:30, Grade 2 & 3 at 1:30-3:00 (rain date May 21)
May 26	ECE continuation at 9:30 AM (rain date May 27)
May 26	Kindergarten continuation at 2:00 PM (rain date May 27)
May 26	5th grade continuation at 6:00 PM (rain date May 27)
May 28	Last day of school - school ends at 12:30

Mark your calendars for the Fall:

August 12	In-person registration at Edison from 9:00-3:00
August 18	Kindergarten assessment day (sign up online)
August 19	Back to School Night at 5:00 PM
August 23	First day of school for ECE and 1 st -5 th grades
August 24	First day of school for kindergarten (No school for kindergarten on Aug 23)
September 24	Eagle Run

School lunch menus can be found at:

www.schoolcafe.com/dps. Then you can log in as a guest or create an account.

Upcoming Events

Virtual Culture Night

Each March, Edison hosts a community Culture Night. This is typically a fun celebration of Edison's diverse school community with a pot luck dinner of favorite dishes, student dances from around the world, the Mizel museum and a student artifact museum. Due to COVID, we are **going virtual this year**. Please watch for some virtual cultural projects from your students and links to a variety of culturally themed virtual field trips for your family entertainment on **Thursday, March 25**. We would love to hear what you enjoyed and learned, as well as your favorite family cultural activity or recipe - please share these on our Facebook page on March 25!

Passions Day

Culture and Passions Day will be on Friday, March 26 during the school day. Our theme will be "Pursuing passions helps us connect people with respect and compassion". During the school day, students will watch videos from parents and community members sharing a passion/interest, cultural tradition, or career, as well as engage in activities in their classroom related to passions, culture and career.

Spirit Fridays

We will continue to have weekly spirit days each Friday! This is a fun way for students to continue to connect as an Edison community. Please encourage your kiddos to participate.

- Friday, April 9 - Comfy/Cozy Day
- Friday, April 16 - Silly Accessory Day (Crazy hat/sunglasses/socks)
- Friday, April 23- Recycled Day
- Friday, April 30 - Dress Like Your Teacher Day
- Friday, May 7 - Mustache Day
- Friday, May 14 - Edison Colors Day (Blue and Yellow)
- Friday, May 21 - Summer Vacation Day

CMAS Testing

April is the time of year in Colorado for standardized assessments. The Colorado Department of Education requires that all 3rd-5th grade students take the CMAS (Colorado Measures of Academic Success). Typically, all 3rd-5th graders are required to take assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts and, additionally, 5th graders are assessed in science. As you are aware, there is the possibility that this testing will be decreased this year due to the pandemic. These assessments will be given online and will be administered under standardized conditions to ensure the reliability and validity of the results. If you wish to opt your child out of testing and have not already done so, please email Benita Cervantes at Benita_Cervantes@dpsk12.org as soon as possible.

- The following schedule will be followed if HB 21-1161 is not passed and/or is passed but not approved by the Federal government:
 - April 13, 14, 15 - 9:00-11:30 - Grades 3-5 ELA
 - April 16, 19, 20 - 9:00-11:30 - Grades 3-5 Math
 - April 21, 22, 23 - 9:00-10:50 - Grade 5 Science
- If HB 21-1161 is passed AND approved, we will use the following schedule:
 - April 13, 14, 15 - 9:00-11:30 - Grades 3 & 5 ELA, Grade 4 Math

In order to provide students with the opportunity to do their very best on these assessments, we need parent support. Please support us by:

- Refraining from taking vacations or keeping students out of school during these dates;
- Talking with your students about focusing well and doing their very best on these tests;
- Ensuring that your children get a good night's sleep and have a good breakfast;
- Encouraging your children!

At Edison, our teachers understand the importance of CMAS and other assessments to monitor student progress and assess the effectiveness of schools; however, we believe that students demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. Ultimately, we want our students to love learning and be excited for their future college and career options. Therefore, we work hard to remain balanced. In April and May, teachers will assess students with STAR reading and STAR math. Additionally, teachers will continue to engage students in reading, research, writing, projects, collaboration with peers and presentations. We will continue to encourage students to set personal academic goals for reading and pursue learning in areas that interest them. As we approach this 'testing season' in education, please help us to continue to celebrate learning and the efforts our children make every day.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Please help us thank the fantastic educators at Edison by letting them know how much you appreciate them! Teacher Appreciation Week is May 3-7.

Field Day

We are planning on having Field Day this year on May 13 and 14 on Edison's playground during the school day. At this annual event, students will participate in competitive and fun physical events and celebrate physical activity. Unfortunately, we are **unable to allow parents and family members to come cheer on students** at Field Day this school year. Students will be required to compete within their cohort/class and wear masks during the activities. Please remind your child to wear sunscreen and bring personal water bottles to school.

- May 13 - Grade K & 1 at 9:00-10:30, ECE at 2:00-3:00 (rain date May 20)
- May 14 - Grade 4 & 5 at 9:00-10:30, Grade 2 & 3 at 1:30-3:00 (rain date May 21)

Scholastic Book Fair

Did you know that reading 20 minutes a day with your child is the best investment your family can make in their future? Research shows that children who read just 20 minutes per day score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests. Come to the Book Fair to stock up on books your child will love reading and ignite your home reading habits.

The Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for May 12-May 14 from 8:00-4:00 PM. Please plan to get great deals on kids' favorite books, just in time for summer reading! Watch for more information as these dates get closer.

ECE, Kindergarten and 5th Grade Continuations

It is important and fun to celebrate milestones in our lives! Therefore, Edison staff is planning on celebrating the continuation of our ECE, kindergarten and 5th grade students in late May. It is our hope that we can invite parents to our continuation celebrations. At this time, we are planning to have our continuation ceremonies outside in Edison's amphitheater area with social distancing measures in place. Please join us in celebrating our students' successes as they continue forward in their educational careers with the following COVID precautions:

- We will set up chairs in a socially distanced manner.
- Each student may have a maximum of 2 family members attend.
- All family members must wear masks, over their mouth and nose, the entire time they are on school grounds.
- Please do NOT congregate.

Please plan on the following dates:

- ECE continuation is scheduled for May 26 at 9:30 AM outside in Edison's amphitheater (rain date May 27);
 - Kindergarten continuation is scheduled for May 26 at 2:00 PM outside in Edison's amphitheater (rain date May 27);
 - 5th grade continuation is scheduled for May 26 at 6:00 PM outside in Edison's amphitheater (rain date May 27).
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Important Information

Parent Input forms

In April/May of each school year, the Edison teachers draft class lists for the following school year. In order to provide a transparent, fair process for placing students into classrooms/with teachers each year, the following process will be followed:

- In March/April, parents will have the opportunity to complete a Parent Input form, describing the social and educational needs of their child. This information will be considered in determining classroom/teacher assignments.
- Parents will not be allowed to request teachers for their students.
- Teachers will make recommendations for classroom/teacher assignments based on all information known about children.
- Teacher assignment decisions may change until the first day of school based on class sizes.

Parents are NOT required to complete this form, however, if you would like to share information which the teacher may not know that you would like to be considered, please complete and submit this form by April 10:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnSRjICWxRWc8zu7RvJ1ETclorp6IMHgCVQ_cfeyDWVDbgIA/viewform?usp=sf_link

CSC Nominations

The Collaborative School Committee (CSC) is a great opportunity for parents to further participate in the education of our children by supporting decision making at the school. The CSC is a collaborative committee of school leadership, teachers, parents and classified staff who meet monthly to strategically design the school's Unified Improvement Plan, analyze school data, provide guidance on and approve the school budget and staffing allocations, and advise the school leadership on school design decisions. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month from 4:30-5:30 at Edison and are open to all community members.

Hannah Koski and Catherine Salguero will continue as two of our parent CSC representatives for the 2021-22 school year. Feel free to contact a CSC parent representative for more information at: Andrew Crossley at a.p.crossley@googlemail.com or Jane Reimer at janemreimer@gmail.com or Hannah Koski at hann11007@yahoo.com or Cat Salguero at catsalguero@yahoo.com. We have two additional openings for CSC parents representatives. If you are interested in serving on the CSC, please complete a nomination form no later than **April 16** at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZsO0jBRQci5jTbjObVBjJcGQNE5OjuYqH28rLAFRD1TbKtQ/viewform?usp=pp_url

Discovery Link Fall 2021 information

Discovery Link Registration for the 2021-22 school year will open April 12 at 6:00 a.m. At this time, families will only select the site where their child(ren) will attend next year. Once approved, families will be given access to the calendar, and will select days for August starting on July 1st.

Families who are enrolled in school year 2020-2021 **do** need to register for school year 2021-2022, even if their site is unchanged. This will give them access to the new school year's calendars.

[Mental Health Minute](#) (by Dr. Coffee, Edison School Psychologist, gina_coffee@dpsk12.org)

April

April is Autism Awareness Month, and World Autism Awareness Day is on 4/2. The Autism Community Store at 14095 E. Exposition Avenue offers many helpful supports for individuals with Autism:

<https://www.autismcommunitystore.com/>.

May

May is Mental Health Month, and National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is on 5/7. To learn more about Mental Health Month and download a toolkit with helpful mental health resources, please visit the Mental Health America website: <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/may>.

Safety

Please be aware that Safe2Tell Colorado not only provides a safety reporting system where you can anonymously report anything that concerns or threatens you, your friends, your family, or your community (hotline: 1-877-542-7233), but also offers an online parent resource center with information about safety topics such as suicide and youth, bullying, and trauma: <https://safe2tell.org/?q=parents>.

[Equity Initiatives at Edison](#)

Supporting our BIPOC students, teachers and community members is a focus of DPS and of Edison. We are continuing to have deep conversations around bias, race and supporting all of our students. This semester those conversations will be through the lens of systematic reading instruction in our lower grades and through rigorous planning in our 4th and 5th grade classrooms.

We are still working to collect classroom libraries that are truly inclusive and would love donations to support this effort. Here is a website full of ideas: <https://diversebooks.org/resources/where-to-find-diverse-books/>

Thank you for your support!

[Free COVID testing for DPS students](#)

DPS is expanding their partnership with COVID Check Colorado to offer free COVID-19 testing to students to support a safe return to school. Students will now be able to take an initial COVID-19 test before coming back to school as well as ongoing screening tests every other week. To register, please go to:

https://www.primarybio.com/members/sign_up?redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.primarybio.com%2Fm%2Fr%2Fdenverps&test_group=denverps

Testing sites: <https://covidcheckcolorado.org/where-to-test/>

[Weather Delays and Closures](#)

We want to make sure that parents understand the DPS/Edison school closure policies. If schools are to be closed due to weather conditions, the district is committed to making a decision as early as possible. The decision to close is made by the Superintendent based on information provided by representatives from transportation agencies, the weather bureau, city and county law enforcement and DPS Transportation. If school is cancelled, this information will be communicated in the following ways: local television and radio stations, dpsk12.org, and the district's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

- For severe weather that is limited in duration, we will do a **traditional snow day**, with no in-person or remote learning.
- If there is an extended stretch of severe weather during the week and we are not able to safely allow students to attend in-person school for **multiple days**, then — starting with the second day — we will **pivot to remote learning**.

- To support in planning and this shift, any time we are considering a potential snow day, we will **send messaging to schools by mid-day the day before** to remind students and teachers to prepare (such as by taking home computers) in the event that it becomes a multi-day event and we need to shift to remote learning.

A Message from our PTA...

School Supplies

We will be participating in the EPI school supply packs again. We will let you know when to start ordering your supplies.

PTA Board Member nominations

Are you looking to get more involved with your child's school? Join the PTA Board!!!

2021/2022 Board Members needed:

- **Secretary:** take notes for meetings, help with social media posts, communicate with class parents.
- **Vice President:** help the president with a variety of projects, especially fundraising and planning Edfest.

PTA Membership:

If you're not up for a board seat, still join us! We will need your help with committees for some of the fun events we hope we can do again once Covid is under control.

Some Ideas we are kicking around:

- Outdoor Movies on the lawn
- Field Day
- Eagle Run 2021
- School Directory
- and many other fun things!

You can register for Edison PTA membership by emailing ptaedisondenver@gmail.com or on our website soon!

PTA Fundraising:

We are looking at changing how we fundraise for Edison. We believe that the fundraiser for the paraprofessionals is going to stay a big fundraiser for the school, but we are looking to fundraise for that in the beginning of the year. We are also looking into the schools budget to see what costs (paper, pencils, supplies, ect) we can cover with PTA fundraising so that the schools budget can be used for the most important part of their budget...Teachers!!! If you have any ideas, we would love your input!

Thank you for being a valued part of the Edison Community!

Connect with us online or through social media at:

Facebook – Edison Elementary Denver

Instagram - @edisonelementarydenver

Online - <https://edisonptadenver.org/>

PTA Board:

President - Tara Littell ptaedisondenver@gmail.com

Secretary – Jessica Key edisonptasecretary@gmail.com

VP - **OPEN POSITION** edisonvpdenver@gmail.com

Treasurer - Jennifer Maloney edisonptatreasurer@gmail.com

Opportunities to GIVE to Edison

There are a variety of VERY easy ways that you can donate to the Edison PTA and school, sometimes without even spending an extra penny! Please support us any way you can!

Direct Ask Campaign: The Edison PTA asks all Edison families to strive to support Edison and the Edison PTA with as much of a contribution as possible each year. We know this year is very different with the pandemic, and some families are more affected by this than others. Unfortunately, the pandemic is also affecting school budgets, so your donation is even more important this year. Families can make a one-time donation or split into recurring monthly donations.

Last year PTA funds were used for: Paraprofessionals, Tutoring, Online subscriptions for students (e.g. IXL), RIF books, Enrichment Scholarships, Field Trips, Playground Painting, and Community Events. The PTA is currently reviewing our programs to see what is feasible during the pandemic, while also hoping to have some of our normal funded events in the spring.

To contribute, you can give through any of these convenient methods:

- Venmo ID: @EdisonElementaryPTA
- Online at the PTA or Edison websites: <https://edisonptadenver.org> or <https://edison.dpsk12.org>.
- Snail Mail or Drop Off: Edison Elementary, Attn: PTA Fundraising, 3350 Quitman Street, Denver, CO 80212

**Check to see if your employer provides matching of qualified contributions made; we are a qualified 501c3 organization!

King Soopers Rewards: Register Edison PTA as your Community Rewards partner for King Soopers! How do I enroll? 1) Go to www.kingsoopers.com 2) Sign-in to you digital account (or create one if needed); 3) Select 'Community Rewards' from the side menu; 4) Enter "Edison Elementary PTA" into the 'Find an Organization' search box; 5) Find 'Edison Elementary PTA' with address [3350 Quitman St, Denver, CO 80212](http://www.kingsoopers.com) and select 'Enroll'; 6) You're all done!

Box Tops: The new and improved Box Tops mobile app uses state of the art technology to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to your school's earning online at: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/>

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/>.

Amazon Smile: Shopping on Amazon.....Let that shopping benefit Edison too!!!! You can get the benefits of Amazon Prime AND be a fundraiser at the same time?! AmazonSmiles provides a .05% benefit on qualifying purchases made via our link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7150820> to Edison!

We appreciate your continued support!