



Cougar Chronicle

Cotton Creek Elementary School 11100 Vrain St. Westminster, CO

October 1, 2008

Dear Cotton Creek Families,

On August 20, 2008 the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education voted to place a \$9.9 million mill levy override for school operations and an \$80 million bond for school buildings on the November 4 ballot.

The \$9.9 million mill levy override would help to:

- Limit class size increases
- Retain high quality teachers
- Provide students with up-to-date textbooks and education technology
- Sustain current bus services
- Keep individualized teacher support for struggling students
- Preserve the district's rigorous graduation requirements
- Meet the needs of second language learners
- Offset the increased cost of utilities, fuel and healthcare

The \$80 million bond would:

- Build two new elementary schools
- Upgrade security systems at existing schools
- Replace obsolete computers and upgrade technology networks at existing schools
- Repair and renovate existing schools

For additional details about the Board's decision regarding the proposed mill levy and bond decision, please visit the district website at www.adams12.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Kempell".

William (Bill) Kempell
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, Oct. 1	Chorale 7:00 – 7:35 a.m. Early Release 1:15 Mad Science 1:15 – 2:15 Session 1 Room X
Thursday, Oct. 2	4 th grade fieldtrip 9:00 – 1:30 Molly Brown House/Capital
Friday, Oct. 3	2 nd /3 rd grade Running Club 2:30 – 3:15
Monday, Oct. 6	4 th /5 th grade Running Club 2:30 – 3:15
Tuesday, Oct. 7	Kdg./1 st grade Running Club 2:30 – 3:15 Club Amigos 2:30 – 3:00
Wednesday, Oct. 8	No AM/PM Kindergarten Classes Chorale 7:00 – 7:35 a.m. Early Release 1:15 Mad Science 1:15 – 2:15 Rm. X Parent Conferences 3:15 – 7:45 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 9	No School Grades K-5/BASE Open Parent Conferences 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 10	No School Grades K-5/BASE Open Elementary Work Day
Monday, Oct. 13	No School Grades K-5/BASE Open Comp Day for Parent Conferences
Tuesday, Oct. 14	Club Amigos 2:30 – 3:00 SAT Meeting 5:00 – 6:00 Library PTA Meeting 6:30 Library

Wednesday, Oct. 15	Chorale 7:00 – 7:35 a.m. Pumpkin Run (times available on web site) Early Release 1:15 Mad Science 1:15 – 2:15 Rm. X Chess Club 1:15 – 2:15 Rm. AA
Friday, Oct. 17	Rain Date for Pumpkin Run
Tuesday, Oct. 21	Club Amigos 2:30 – 3:00
Wednesday, Oct.22	Chorale 7:00 – 7:35 a.m. Early Release 1:15 Chess Club 1:15 – 2:15 Rm. AA Mad Science 1:15 – 2:15 Rm. X
Thursday, Oct. 23	2 nd grade fieldtrip 9:30 – 2:00 Denver Post Office Cotton Creek Night at Chuck E. Cheese Sponsored by PTA
Friday, Oct. 24	Kindergarten fieldtrip 9:15 – 12:00 “Seussical”
Tuesday, Oct. 28	Club Amigos 2:30 – 3:00
Wednesday, Oct. 29	Chorale 7:00 – 7:35 a.m. Early Release 1:15 Chess Club 1:15 – 2:15
Thursday, Oct. 30	Halloween Classroom Parties
Friday, Oct. 31	No School Grades K-5/BASE Open District Inservice Day

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

Please note there will be NO SCHOOL on Monday, February 16 due to President’s Day. BASE will also be closed. This was inadvertently left off the Parent Student Handbook/Calendar.

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

You may contact our office by phone (720)972-5340, fax (720)972-5355, or with a personal visit anytime during our business hours (7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). Your ideas and comments are always welcome.

SPECIAL FLAG PRESENTED TO COTTON CREEK

An American Flag, which was flown over the American Embassy in Baghdad, was presented to Cotton Creek Elementary. Caleb and Gabriela Chavez presented the flag to Mr. Kempself at opening day ceremonies. Their father, Lt. Col. Chavez recently completed a tour of duty in Iraq. The Scouts of Pack 372 raised the flag on the school flagpole, recited the Pledge of Allegiance, then lowered and folded the flag. Cotton Creek will display the flag inside the school along with a plaque showing the flag flying over the American Embassy in Baghdad.

PARENTS NEEDED!!!

PUBLISHING CENTER

Our Publishing Center is in need of volunteers to type stories which our students have written. Volunteer time is *EXTREMELY* flexible!! If you can help, please call Dana Gooley at 303-438-0935.

SHUTTERBUGS

We are in desperate need of parent photographers this year! You don't have to be a professional and it doesn't have to take a lot of your time. If you are here for your child's classroom party, take some pictures; if you are on a class fieldtrip, take some pictures; if you're at the Pumpkin Run, take some pictures (you get the idea). Please e-mail your pictures to cottoncreekphotos@gmail.com. These pictures will be used in our Cotton Creek Yearbook.

CROSSING GUARDS

We are still in need of parents to help with our Crossing Guard Program. We count on our parents to get kids across Vrain Street safely in the mornings and at dismissal each day. If you can help with this important program, please call the office at (720)972-5340. Currently we have no volunteers for Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday mornings.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM

Being a parent is the only qualification you need to be on this committee! SAT meets on the second Tuesday of each month, 5:00 – 6:00 in the school library. SAT is an integral part of student education and goal setting. Please call the office at (720)972-5340 if you are interested in participating.

DISTRICT –WIDE FOOD DRIVE

The ESC (Educational Support Center) is sponsoring a district-wide food drive. All donations collected will be distributed to the five food banks that our school district serves. Participation in this food drive is absolutely voluntary. Donations can be delivered to the Educational Support Center at 1500 E. 128th Avenue, Thornton, Co. 80241. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

MEET THE STAFF

One of our alumni has returned! Denine Dains attended Cotton Creek from 1987-1993. Now she is back working with our English Language Learners. Denine enjoys scrapbooking, cooking, and spending time with her husband, Jared and daughter Rhianna. The Dains family LOVES Disney. They've been to Disney World, Disney Land and on a Disney Cruise. Denine, we are glad to have you back at Cotton Creek!!

Cotton Creek is also lucky to have Anne Szary teaching art this year! Anne is originally from Detroit, Michigan. She graduated from Ferris State University and Eastern Michigan University. Her family includes two boys, ages 13 and 16 and one dog named Cassidy. Anne enjoys gardening and spending time with her family. Italy and France are among the fun and interesting places Anne has traveled. Please take a moment and welcome Anne to Cotton Creek!

ROUSING COUGAR ROARS TO...

...PTA for copying and stuffing folders for Open House. Your help was *greatly* appreciated!!

...The Scouts of Pack 372 for assisting with opening ceremonies. The Scouts in attendance were Wolves - Michael Workman and Matthew Dryden, Bears - Joshua Tjarks and Jacob Cohen, Webelo 1 Nathan Trevarton, and Webelo 2s Connor Wood, Quentin Finochio, Tanner Baysinger, Douglas Drake, Justin Manujano and Brandon Glandt.

What's Up in Art!

Art students have been working very hard on their projects this month. **Kindergarteners** are trying out different kinds of LINE on their Georgia O'Keefe Butterfly Mixed Media. **First Grade** is observing LINE in photos of flowers and reinterpreting them into a Georgia O'Keefe – Eric Carle style collage. **Second Grade** is describing LINE by studying the cut paper style of Henri Matisse and creating their own environment for an invertebrate of their choice. **Third Grade** is incorporating LINE as an all-over pattern in the style of The Aboriginal artist of Australia. **Fourth Grade** is discovering the world of Japanese Netsuke and Inro with Ojime. They have finish their Haiku about an Invertebrate of their choosing that will be part of the design and the central theme for the finished piece. **Fifth Grade** is finishing their focus on LINE by designing a piece of jewelry in the Harry Bertioia style with Picasso accents.

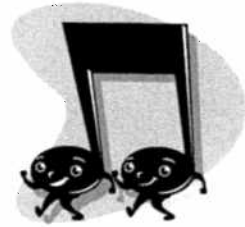
The work for these project, kindergarten thru fifth grade, will be considered for the student show at the Butterfly Pavilion that will be held from mid November 2008 to the end of January 2009.

Pumpkin Run Tee-Shirt designs are coming in as this newsletter goes to print. Best of luck to fifth grade participants!

Art Club for 4th and 5th Grade

Set Design for Cotton Creeks Musical Performance is our focus for this art club. A limit of 20 students will work on creating a three dimensional theater scale set. Sign-Up forms will be in Ms. Szary's mailbox (outside art room door). The club will run from Mondays, October 20, to November 24, 2008 from 2:30pm to 3:30pm.

MUSIC NOTES



As fall approaches the music room takes on an eerie pitch and it's not because of the holiday at the end of the month. October is when we pull out our recorders for the first time this year. 3rd graders will be introduced to the instrument and learn the pitch B as well as reading music from a 5 line staff. 4th grade will begin with review of skills learned last year and add two new pitches to their repertoire. 5th grade will play a 3-part recorder piece accompanied by the Orff ensemble.

All our classes will work on seasonal pieces throughout the month. 5th grade students will attend a ball. The Hip Hop Halloween Ball, that is. Bringing back characters from fairy tales and nursery rhymes they will dramatize, scat sing and improvise on the bars to this entertaining literary piece Shake dem Halloween Bones by: Lisa Nikola. What a hoot watching these students perform- all their inhibitions just melt away!

2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students will create their own autumn brews with rhythms and melodic fragments. These will be performed on percussion instruments as the B section to ABA forms.

1st grade and Kindergarten will march down the street dramatizing characters they wish to be for Halloween using their self-space and loco-motor vocabulary, as well as, learning the un-pitched percussion family names and sounds. They will use these to create sound scapes to accompany stories and poems.

All classes will have experienced the "Prelude" to the Symphony from Carmen composed by George Bizet. They will analyze the form, perform the piece through movement and play along with the recording on percussion instruments. So, don't be surprised when they ask you if you can name the piece. It is currently being used on a commercial for the Disney Channel.

And here's a little puzzle for those of you who like that sort of thing. The answer can be found in the notes above.

Happy Autumn!

Mrs. Gesicki

Bonus Question: Who is the composer? _____