

May 1, 2017

Dear Cotton Creek Families,

The 2016-2017 school year is quickly coming to an end! The month of May promises to be busy with end-of-year classroom activities, field trips, and extra-curricular events.

I would like to thank the Cotton Creek Parent Teacher Association for their continued support of our students, staff, and parent community once again this school year. The PTA provided so many opportunities for our school community that would not otherwise be possible.

Thank you to all the many volunteers who unselfishly served countless hours to meet the needs of our school in so many ways. With more than 6,000 hours of volunteer service, you continue to be an invaluable resource to students and staff!

I wish all the best to our fifth grade students as they move forward to middle school and to all our students as they continue to grow academically and socially.

Last but not least, I would like to publically acknowledge our staff members who have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of our students! Special appreciation goes out to our Mrs. Charlene Baker who is retiring after 20 years in the District. Congratulations!

Please enjoy the summer months ahead with great books, opportunities to write and play! We'll see our kindergarten through fifth grade students and their families at the Cotton Creek Open House on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

Sincerely,

William (Bill) Kempell, Principal

*"Dare To SOAR"*

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Monday, May 1                   ☺Knitting Club 2:30 – 3:30  
   ☺1<sup>st</sup> grade Math Club 2:30 – 3:30
- Tuesday, May 2                   ☺Honor Choir 2:30 – 3:30  
   ☺Green Team 2:30 – 3:15  
   ☺Lego Club 2:35 – 3:35  
   ☺5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Fair 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 3               ☺PTA Dash for Cash  
   ☺Early Release 1:15  
   ☺Mad Science 1:15 – 2:15  
   ☺Chess Club 1:15 – 2:15
- Thursday, May 4                 ☺1<sup>st</sup> grade field trip 9:00 – 2:00  
  Denver Botanic Gardens
- Friday, May 5                   ☺Assessment Day  
  Students attend by appointment only
- Monday, May 8                   ☺1<sup>st</sup> grade Math Club 2:30 – 3:30
- Tuesday, May 9                 ☺2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip 9:00 – 2:00  
  Denver Museum of Nature & Science  
   ☺Honor Choir 2:30 – 3:30  
   ☺Green Team 2:30 – 3:15  
   ☺Lego Club 2:30 – 3:30  
   ☺SIT Meeting 5:00 Library  
   ☺PTA Meeting 6:30 – 8:00 Library
- Wednesday, May 10             ☺Early Release 1:15  
   ☺Chess Club 1:15 – 2:15  
   ☺Mad Science 1:15 – 2:15
- Thursday, May 11               ☺4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip 9:00 -1:45  
  4 Mile Historic Park  
   ☺5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip 9:00 – 1:30  
  Water Festival – Front Range Comm. College

- Friday, May 12           ☺Elementary Work Day  
                                   No School/BASE Open  
                                   ☺Honor Choir Rehearsal 7:15 – 3:15  
                                   ☺Honor Choir Performance 6:00 – 8:30pm
- Wednesday, May 17       ☺5<sup>th</sup> grade Picnic 11:30 – 1:00  
                                   ☺Early Release 1:15  
                                   ☺Mad Science 1:15 – 2:15  
                                   ☺Chess Club 1:15 – 2:15  
                                   ☺3<sup>rd</sup> grade Mini Society 6:30 – 7:30pm
- Thursday, May 18         ☺5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip 9:00 – 12:00  
                                   Chippers Lanes Bowling
- Friday, May 19           ☺Field Day  
                                   3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 8:00 – 10:00  
                                   Keg. – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 12:00 – 2:00
- Wednesday, May 24       ☺**Last Day of Classes**  
                                   ☺5<sup>th</sup> grade Continuation 8:30 am  
                                   ☺Early Release 1:15

**WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK**

You may contact the office by phone (720) 972-5340, fax (720) 972-5355, or with a personal visit anytime during our business hours (7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.). Your ideas and comments are always welcome!

**2017 – 2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

You can view next year’s school calendar by accessing the Adams 12 District website at [www.adams12.org](http://www.adams12.org) and scrolling down to **quick links** on the bottom right hand side and clicking on **calendar**. This calendar will show all the District days off but will **NOT** include days off for conferences and comp days which are specific to Cotton Creek. Calendars for Cotton Creek will be sent home with

students the end of May. Please note: *Wednesday, August 16 is the first day of school for elementary students.*

## **LOST & FOUND**

Our lost and found is overflowing!!!! Please be sure to stop by to claim any items your child(ren) may be missing. All leftover items will be donated at the end of this school year.

## **Children Eat Free!**

### **Six schools offer free breakfast and lunch programs this summer**

Adams 12 Five Star Schools will be hosting FREE Breakfast and/or Lunch this summer at the following schools:

| <b>Schools</b>    | <b>Breakfast</b> | <b>Lunch</b> |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Coronado Hills    | 8:30-9:30        | 10:45-12:30  |
| North Star*       | Lunch Only       | 11:00-12:00  |
| Riverdale         | 8:30-9:30        | 10:45-12:30  |
| STEM Launch       | 8:30-9:30        | 10:45-12:30  |
| The Studio School | 8:30-9:30        | 10:45-12:30  |
| Westlake Middle   | 9:30-10:30       | 10:45-12:30  |

\*North Star will only be open Monday – Thursday.

Breakfast and lunch are provided free this summer to children ages one to 18 years old. It is not necessary to fill out any forms or qualify in any way. Meals will be provided to all children at no charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination during the course of the meal service. To participate in the program, children need to eat at one of the participating schools. The participating schools are there to meet the nutritional needs of all children and each and every child is welcome!

Adults can eat breakfast for \$2.50 or lunch for \$3.75. The program will run from 6/5/17 through 7/21/17, Monday – Friday, and will be closed on 7/4/17 in observance of Independence Day. For questions concerning the Summer Food Service Program, please contact Nutrition Services at (720) 972-6279.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Another school year flew by in the music room! Now we are on the quick path to Summer Break and that means composition in the music room.

1<sup>st</sup> graders are now reading notation from a 3-line staff with success. They are able to notate Sol-Mi La melodies and 4 beat rhythm patterns. In April and May they are creating and notating rhythms to perform as B sections for our Flower poetry. I hope you enjoyed hearing their Baker's Hat Composition. They were to come home in April.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are composing their own pieces about spring. They are using the pentatonic scale and rhythms they have learned throughout the year.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade students continue to hone their recorder skills. We have added our 4<sup>th</sup> note "low E". They continue to improvise 8 beat patterns to poems, chants as well as on song phrases playing them on bars and recorder. These students are developing the skills to sing in harmony; vocally performing layered melodic ostinati.

First, I want to congratulate the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers for a wonderful performance of "In the Attic". What an excellent example of collaboration and integration of the Colorado music and academic standards. The

4<sup>th</sup> grade students are composing and notating their own pieces for recorder and bars. They will perform them and bring home their compositions in May.

5<sup>th</sup> grade students have been studying the blues form. They will be playing the blues chord progression on bars and performing improvisations on recorders and bars. They will also experience playing the blues progression on our new Ukuleles which were purchased with money raised by our Rockies ticket sales.

Congratulations to our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who will represent Cotton Creek at the Five Star Honor Choir on May 12<sup>th</sup>: Brady Andrus, Emily Faehnrich, Chelsea Lavey, Macy Mahoney, Finley Payne, Mckenna Proctor and Keira Wilkinson.

I hope you will consider enrolling your children in one of the excellent music camps or theater programs offered through the Northglenn, Broomfield and Westminster Recreation Centers and the Arvada Center.

Thank you all for your support of the Cotton Creek music program throughout the school year. I truly love teaching these amazing students.

*Happy Summer!*



**Monica Gesicki**

[Monica.gesicki@adams12.org](mailto:Monica.gesicki@adams12.org)

720-972-8380

## **TECHNOLOGY NEWS**

It is hard to believe the school year is coming to an end soon. It has been such an amazing year here at Cotton Creek. I hope that in the time I have worked with your child that they have enjoyed, as well as learned, new things about technology.

Kindergarten has been learning about money and graphing using interactive web sites. First graders are finishing their research projects on matter by writing and printing a

Word document. We are always working on activities that help primary students know the keyboard better, and how to click and drag the mouse.

Second graders are comparing two fiction stories that they read online at Tumblebooks. (There is a link on the school web page under "Links"). Now we are writing about their similarities and differences in a PowerPoint and will copy and paste them into a Venn diagram.

Third, fourth and fifth graders continue to work on keyboarding skills. They will all get a chance to work on various coding activities as well. Third and fourth grade had experiences working on Google slides and fifth grade has completed activities in Google sheets. (Ask them about the million dollars versus the penny activity). In addition, fourth grade is doing research on Famous Coloradans for their classroom project and fifth grade worked on interactive activities involving earthquakes and volcanoes.

Just as reminder from someone who has seen technology change throughout the years. I love technology and the ability it has to make our life better. However one has to be careful how much, and when we use it. Your child will remember the picnics, the hikes, and the family time you spent together. They will not remember the day they got to play a game on the iPad or gaming system or when they got to watch a movie. Please guide your child to a healthy balance of technology, reading, math, music, art and physical activities.

Thank you for all your support this past year.

Charlene Baker

## **Reader's Corner**

By Mrs. Moore (Instructional Coach at CCE)

It's hard to fathom that it is already the end of the school year. That means lazy summer days filled with getting up late, watching endless hours of TV, and infinite amounts of time at the pool!

~ SCREEEEEECH!!

Wait a minute ~

Summer can be all that, but is that what you really want your children doing ALL summer long? There are so many fun things that kids can do around reading, writing, and math that they won't even realize they are doing it! Click on the

Reading Rockets link below to read about some great ideas to do during the summer:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families>

Here's just a few ideas from the article:

- Scientific websites to learn about current, non-fiction material (great conversations can happen during dinner time)
- Make cool crafts (kids read the directions step by step)
- Plan out road trips (how far, how long, how many miles,...)
- Keep a kids journal of all the fun activities they do during the summer
- Learn a new game (kids read the directions)
- Kids blog (article gives you some safe places for this to happen)
- Scavenger hunts using technology
- Organize a kids neighborhood book club

To get started, together with your children, make a list of all the things everyone wants to do this summer. Remind your children, it's not all about visiting expensive places ~ it's about doing things together as a family. Try and organize your list from highest priority to lowest. Post your list somewhere so you don't lose it. Depending on the activity, try and do two things each week because before you know it, it will be time for school to start again!

Happy summer ~ hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable time with family and friends. We'll see you all in August!

## **News from the Library**

**TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017:**

**ALL STUDENT CHECK OUTS ARE DUE**



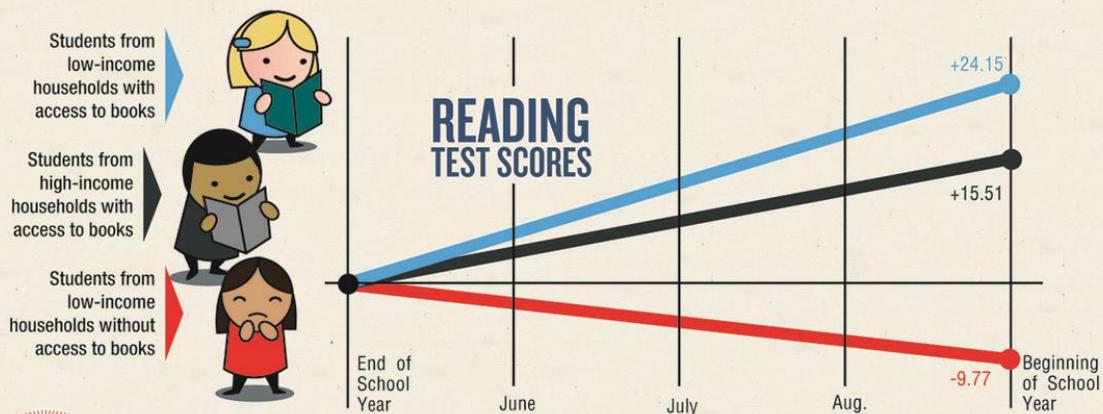
Heartfelt  **THANKS**

**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

As we end the school year and reflect back on the library program, we realize that the Cotton Creek library would not be the place that it is...the HEARTBEAT, the HUB, the PLACE...of the school without our wonderful VOLUNTEERS. Our volunteers have dedicated countless work hours repairing, cleaning, shelving, cataloging, organizing books, as well as, running reading contests, creating book displays, and helping the students. Because of our volunteers, we have been able to maintain the circulation of books, maintain a fabulous collection, and teach lessons that extend the classroom lessons for literacy and research.

# KIDS WHO READ BEAT SUMMER SLIDE

Studies show that access to books during the summer prevents a drastic loss in reading skill – especially for kids in need.



SOURCES: 1. Change in scores between end-of-year and following year testing as shown by the California Aptitude Test. (Slates, S. L., Alexander, K. L., Entwisle, D. R., & Olson, L. S. (2012). Counteracting summer slide: Social capital resources within socioeconomically disadvantaged families. Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk, 17(3), 165.)

# **THE "SUMMER SLIDE"...DON'T LET YOUR LEARNING EVAPORATE WITH THE SUMMER HEAT!**

Check out this resource from the Colorado Dept. of Education and the Colorado State Library to prevent your students from the "summer slide."

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/summerslide>

This resource has activities about all topics, games, and videos. Appropriate for all ages.

<https://kids.usa.gov/>

Smithsonian Kids:

<http://www.si.edu/Kids>



The Usborne Book Fair will in held in the library May 2 – 5, 2017 during school hours. The proceeds from this book fair will go towards purchasing new books for the library. Thank you for all of your support.

