



Paw Prints

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Sponsored by Tiger Team

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Where to Begin...

There are so many individuals to thank for their support during these last few days. Without them, suffering the loss of Sharon Hulse would have been much more difficult.

Many thanks to:

- Laurie Grosselfinger, K-8 Instructional Superintendent, who secured the District personnel that was necessary for over forty Grant Ranch staff members to be able to attend Sharon's Memorial Service.
- The District administrators, facilitators, specialists, teachers, etc. who provided quality instruction in an effort to make the day as normal as possible.
- The DPS Transportation Department who provided a bus so that the Grant Ranch School family could all travel together to attend Sharon's Memorial Service.
- The parents who supported our staff with homemade soup and sandwiches. (Your overwhelming generosity is so appreciated!!)
- Our students who displayed the up most behavior to the many guest teachers in our building. (We could not have done it without you!)
- Our staff members who all gave each other strength and comfort when needed. (You are the BEST!)
- The DPS Crisis Team, who so generously arrived at Grant Ranch in the early hours to render support to teachers, staff, and students alike. They also returned on Thursday with a follow up to assist and make sure we were all OK.

Volunteer of the Week

Congratulations, Christina Gibson! Christina has been a regular volunteer since her oldest son, Anthony, began Grant Ranch School as a Kindergartener. In my fifth grade classroom, Christina is in her second year with second child-Claire of weekly classroom volunteering. She consistently spends one to two hours in the classroom on a weekly basis and is always available to chaperone field trips and host class parties. It has been a pleasure to work both with her and the kids. Grant Ranch is lucky to have such a dedicated parent!

Grant Ranch is Proud to Announce...

This year our GRS Girls' Fast pitch Softball Team had an outstandingly productive season. We finished 1st in the SW division and placed 3rd overall in the Denver Prep League. Our record ended with 7 wins and 1 loss. We are looking forward to another great season next year. Congratulations girls, your efforts and accomplishments make us proud.—Coach Fox

Welcome to Grant Ranch!!!

We are proud to announce that we have one hundred fifty new students! Grant Ranch staff and members of the PTO would like to welcome each and every one of them to our school.

This week we are welcoming the following Early Childhood Education (ECE) students:

Alex Ahlers	Kassandra Claice	Duncan Coons
Erasmio Duran-Tartaglia	Abel Kora-Thomas	Dasha Ochoa

Journey Through Grant Ranch ECE-8 School

Primary

ECE: ECE has been learning about pumpkins this month and took a trip to the pumpkin patch at the Littleton Historic Museum on Thursday, October 15.

Kindergarten: Kindergarten is going on a field trip to the Littleton Historic Museum next Wednesday, October 21 as a part of our fall unit.

1st Grade: Remember, Parent Teacher Conferences begin next week.

2nd Grade: Second grade classes are sharing their personal narratives with each other. We are finishing up our science unit on Earth Materials

Intermediate Level

SHARON LOU (O'Dell) HULSE

(you will be in our memories FOREVER!!!)

Upper Grades

The seventh graders are going to the Denver Public Library downtown on Wednesday, October 21.

Student-led conferences will be held on Thursday, October 22 or Monday, October 26. Confirmation forms will be sent home on Monday, October 19. Please ask your child for the form.

Fall Festival will be held on Friday, October 23. Please join us for games, treats, and lots of fun!

Parent Teacher Conferences

In order to accommodate the various schedules of our parents/guardians and the change to trimesters, Grant Ranch School will be conducting formal parent teacher conferences on Thursday, October 22, 2009 and Monday, October 26, 2009 from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The locations of the conferences for each grade level will be communicated in upcoming "Paw Prints."

National Junior Honor Society

Make plans to tour NJHS's annual haunted house during the Fall Festival this year! Members are working to make this the best haunted house ever!

On October 17, NJHS members will be volunteering their time at the Humane Society of Denver. If you know of any organizations that could use our help, please let Ms. Peel or one of the members know.

NJHS will be selling Boo Grams this year, so plan to send a spooky message to a friend, teacher, anyone in the building! Boo Grams cost .50 cents and will be on sale during lunch the week of 10/19--10/23 for 4-8 grade students. Boo grams orders will be sent home via Friday folders for ECE-3rd grade students. Boo grams will be delivered on 10/27.

Counselor's Corner

The unexpected and sad death of Mrs. Hulse leaves many of us in shock and with many questions. Undoubtedly, your children are also seeking answers and look to you as someone who will support them during this time. Please see "**Counselor's Corner Continues**" for some helpful things to keep in mind if this conversation comes up as well as some common questions that your child may ask.

Fall Break

Mark your calendar! The fall break for Denver Public Schools is Wednesday, October 28, 2009 through Friday, October 30, 2009. Classes will resume on Monday, November 2, 2009.

Cake Walk During Fall Festival

We are in need of donations of cakes, cookies or pies for the cake walk. Look for a note coming home in Friday Folders about donating to this fun activity. If you can donate a cake, please have it at the school by 4:00 on Friday, Oct. 23.

Thank you, Sandra Shields

Specials

Dias De Lost Muertos is a Mexican cultural Holiday that occurs on Nov 1st. It is a day Mexican people to honor and remember those they love that have passed away. We learn about this Holiday in art at Grant Ranch in part to learn about different cultures and the art different cultures create. This is reflected in the Colorado Visual Art Model content standard #4: *Students relate the visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions.*

As part of Day of the Dead, or El Dia De Los Muertos, in Mexico children receive and sometimes decorate Sugar Skulls as a way to celebrate. These skulls are not scary, but are used as a way of celebrating life and are decorated with bright icing colors, foil paper and even sequins. We will be decorating Sugar Skulls at Grant Ranch. We will discuss the authentic process of creating sugar skulls, including mold making and casting, the process of decorating the skulls and also the context of how they were used. Please know we will keep the festivities light and all information is given in a cultural context. **Some classes will be participating. The art room is accepting the following donations:**

► SUGAR ► SEQUINS ► TUBES OF ICING ► Meringue Powder

Wow! The K-Kids Club is Busy!

Thanks for your help with the pink eraser drive. We did get a few, but hope our future drives are more successful. *Here's what we are up to:*

Drink Pouch Recycling: Did you know that drink pouches can't be recycled like other, similar looking trash? Because of this, millions end up in landfills every year. We can reduce this! Bring your empty drink pouches and put them in the boxes provided. There is one in the lunchroom, one in the front hallway (behind the reading area), and one on the afterschool snack cart. We'll reduce the trash in landfills and reduce the strain on natural resources by recycling these for you!

Stuffed Animal Drive: Loving Hugs is an organization that cleans gently used stuffed animals and donates them to kids around the world who are in crisis. They need more, more, more stuffed animals! So, it is time to clean out the closet, dig under the bed, browse through the toy box, and find those forgotten stuffed animals that no one will miss! If they are in good shape, bring them to school between October 12th and November 20th. Look for boxes in the hallway in which you can put the animals (or if you have a big bag, put them near the boxes).

Canned Food Drive: The Food Bank of the Rockies experiences a HUGE drain near the holidays. Let's fill it up!! Madison Capital Management wants to help so they've "put their money where their mouths are" and will award the school that collects the most cans during the first two weeks of November. Top prize...\$2,500!!!!!! Second prize...\$1,000! Help us win while helping those in need! Start looking for sales on canned goods and stock up! Dig to the back of your pantry for those cans you never touch. Get ready to bring them in! Boxes will be provided beginning November 2nd!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP! LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MORE PROJECTS TO COME!!!

Tutor Train

Are you interested in getting your child some extra help? Does your child need to be challenged academically? Tutor Train's program works with students at all levels and can make sure your child has a successful school year. Our diagnostic exams are free and help us know what the right path is for your student. We are a fee-based after school program, but do have scholarships and financial assistance available for those who qualify. Registration for Tutor Train is open now. This is a great opportunity to make sure your child gets the upper hand this school year. Call to enroll (303) 833-2552 and visit our website at www.TutorTrain.com.

Upcoming Events

October 22, 2009	Picture Retakes Parent Teacher Conferences
October 26, 2009	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 28-30, 2009	Fall Break

Foothills Sectional Pass, Punt, and Kick Competition

When: Sunday, October 18th at 1 PM

Where: Clement Park, Field #10 (Field #10 is one of the fields on the frontage road that runs parallel to Bowles).
7306 W. Bowles
Littleton, Colorado

Directions: Clement Park is located on the SW corner of pierce and Bowles in Littleton. Enter the park from Bowles; turn right on the frontage road, field on the left. We will be set-up with a table and purple Foothills table cloth near the road. Make sure your participants know to come get checked in at the table.

Are You Receiving Paw Prints Electronically?

There are nearly 300 people currently receiving their weekly newsletter electronically. Thank you to everyone who has signed up so far. This is saving our school lots of paper and saving our teachers time too!

If you have not yet signed up, you can register yourself by visiting www.ptomanager.com. Just click on the link that says "New User for a school using PTO Manager?" and Register. The quickest way to find our school is to search for Grant Ranch School PTO by entering just the state and zip code. You can then select our school. If you've already registered, you can enter your login and password or select the "Click Here" on the right for "New PTO Manager User". Create a login, password and provide your email information so you can begin receiving weekly updates. Again, thanks for your participation and for being part of a successful school year for all of our students!

Grant Ranch PTO News

Grant Ranch Logo wear is now available 24 hours a day 7 days a week at <http://GRSK8.logosoftware.com> there are many different styles and colors to choose from. If you play a Fall Sport (football, cross country, softball or volleyball), there are shirts on there for you too!!!! Order one for everyone in your family! The link is also on the home page of the School website.

SAVE THE DATE!!! The Fall Festival is going to be Friday October 23rd from 5PM - 8 PM. Buy your dinner today so you don't miss out on delicious spaghetti and meatballs from Tony's Market, Students will be able to wear their Halloween costumes and participate in the "Monster Mash" dance. We will have Bounce houses, a singer, balloon animals, games, prizes, the famous Haunted House by NJHS and more!!!! Many volunteers are needed to make this event fun and successful. If you are able to volunteer any amount of time, please sign up at the PTO table in the main lobby. We are also going to be accepting donations of Candy and/or prizes. Contact Dana Smith at Mom2BooBoo@MSN.com for any questions.

Friendly Reminders

Yearbook

Check out the Grant Ranch Website for the new links for the yearbook. Families can now purchase the yearbook on line by clicking the link provided. It is located on the left side of the website right under the Parent Portal link. You will also notice a second link to upload your pictures that you might want to place in the yearbook. The yearbook editor will make the final decision as to which pictures are placed in the yearbook but all pictures will be considered.

Counselor's Corner Continues

Describe death in physical terms. Clarify that death means that life stops, the deceased cannot return, and the body is buried: "Mrs. Hulse stopped breathing, eating, walking and so she is no longer feeling pain, worrying or hungry." "Mrs. Hulse died because her heart stopped beating." Anything less simple and explicit can cause confusion and be misinterpreted by the child.

Be honest, open, and direct. Clear up any misunderstandings about death your child may have. Give the details your child needs to know. Withhold those facts that are not in your child's best interests. If you don't have an answer just admit you don't know.

Be prepared for tough questions. The American Academy of Pediatrics says kids are most likely to ask these five questions: "What is death?" "What made the person die?" "Where is the person now?" "Can it happen to me?" "Who will take care of me?"

Avoid euphemisms. Keep in mind that your child may not grasp the concept of death and take your comments literally. So refrain from statements like: "He is in a deep sleep." "She was laid to rest." "He slipped away." "She is resting peacefully." "She was very sick and the illness made her die." "God took her away." Such comments are often confusing and can cause children worry that the same thing may happen to them as well: ("If I'm sick I may die, too." "If I go to sleep, I will go to heaven.")

Be prepared for tough questions. Your child may ask: "Will you die?" It's fine for you to answer, "Not for a long time. I'm taking care of myself and I'm just fine."

Your child may ask the same question over and over. That's just how children process information. Encourage those questions and tell your child to come to you anytime. You want this information to come from you so your child gets the right facts about death as well as any other topic. A child's understanding of death varies by different ages and stages.

Here is a quick review of what to expect by stages and ages from the book, [The Big Book of Parenting Solutions](#) by Michele Borba.

Preschool: Think death is only temporary like going to sleep (the dead might or might not wake up after a while). Difficulty separating real from fantasy so they often believe their thoughts or actions may have caused the death (especially if they were "bad"). "Wishing hard enough" or "acting right" might bring the deceased back. Abstract concepts such as heaven are difficult to grasp. Most assume they personally will not die: it happens only to others.

School Age: Gradually begin to understand death is final (the dead stay dead and aren't just sleeping), but still need perspective. May think of death as a person or ghostly figure such as a clown, shadowy death-man, or skeletal figure. Believe thoughts can make things happen so some see the possibility of escaping from death if they are clever or lucky enough. May fear that death is contagious and other loved ones (themselves included) will "catch it" and die as well. Abstract concepts (heaven, an "after live" and spirituality) are still difficult to comprehend.

Preteens: Ten and up: Most understand that death is an irreversible and inescapable part of life and now aware of the possibility of their own death. More aware how their world will change and impact of losing a loved one has on their future ("Who will go with me to the football banquet?" "Who will walk me down the aisle at my wedding?") Curiosity about the process of death develops and may ask for more specific details such as: "Is the body cold?" "Where does the body go?"

Adapted from <http://micheleborba.ivillage.com/parenting/archives/2009/06/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-the.html>

If you would like more resources or someone to talk to, please contact me: Leah Rahe, School Counselor, Leah_Rahe@dpsk12.org , 720-424-6887.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS AT THE GRS FALL FESTIVAL FOR **FREE**!!!!!!!!!!!!

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23rd 5 – 8 PM

This year at the Grant Ranch Fall Festival, we would like to offer businesses the opportunity to advertise themselves for **Free** to over 500 people!!! If you can do all of the following, then please join us for a fun evening of games, music, haunted houses, bounce houses, a cake walk and more!!!!

- Be a family friendly business
- Bring a carnival game—you can do this as easy as you want, or get complicated it is up to you!!! (For example—lollipop tree, knock over cans, ring toss, clothes pin drop, be creative!!!) OR
- Bring a mascot and walk around handing out prizes and coupons
- Bring Candy and Business Cards, Coupons, etc to hand out as prizes

Have FUN!!!!!!

We will have limited space, and I will take people on a first come first serve basis. You may begin to set up your booth at 4:00pm.

Please return the following information to: Dana Smith c/o GRS PTO

5400 South Jay Circle

Littleton, CO 80123

Or email the info to: Mom2booboo@msn.com

Name of Business _____

Contact Person _____

Phone Number _____ best time to call _____

Email address _____

Brief description of the game/activity you will do:

Prizes/promotions you will hand out: _____

Art on the River

Who: YOU, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR TEACHERS, AND YOUR FAMILY.

What: A FUN DAY OF ARTS AND CRAFTS ALONG THE BANKS OF THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER!

Where: CHECK IN AT GRANT FRONTIER PARK AT 2190 S. PLATTE RIVER DR, DENVER, CO 80223

When: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 2009. 10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

Why: LEARN SOME ARTISTIC TECHNIQUE AND TAKE PART IN THE BEGINNING OF THE MILE HIGH MURAL

How: RSVP ONLINE AT [HTTP://WWW.SPREEWEB.ORG/RSPV](http://www.spreeweb.org/rsvp), OR CALL (303) 743-9720



**RSVP by
Friday
October 16th**

Other Upcoming SPREE Events

November 15th

Fishing For Kids

When: Sunday, November 15th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: Overland Pond Park at 861 E Florida Ave, Denver, CO 80223

What: Hook, line, and sinker. Learn about aquatic ecology, fishing etiquette, and fishing technique, and then explore the fishing opportunities at Overland Pond (stocked with rainbow trout). Kids will get to keep their fishing rod at the end of the day!

March 21st

Get Outside and Play Day

When: Sunday, March 21st, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Where: Grant Frontier Park at 2190 S Platte River Dr, Denver, CO 80223

What: Learn about fun ways to get active and get outside. Use the South Platte River and the adjacent trails and parks to build healthy habits. Learn training tips for the Mile High Mile and other fun games and activities that incorporate nature into a healthy lifestyle.

April 18th

Mile High Mile

When: Sunday, April 18th, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Where: At the State Capitol building in Downtown Denver

What: Chompers has thrown down the challenge to all SPREE kids to get active, get outside, and to push themselves to run the fastest mile they can. The race starts and ends at the State Capitol building. Trophies will be given to the fastest boy and girl from each SPREE School, and the giant Chompers' Challenge Trophy will be given to the school with the highest participation. Moms, Dads, brothers, and sisters are encouraged to participate too!

May 1st

SPREE Force Special Agent Celebration

When: Saturday, May 1st, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: Grant Frontier Park at 2190 S Platte River Dr, Denver, CO 80223

What: A special event for SPREE Force Special Agents only! Details of this event are highly secretive and completely mysterious. SPREE Force Special Agents will receive a Top Secret invitation in April. Stay tuned...



IT'S DESTINATION IMAGINATION TIME!

It's that time of year again, to begin forming teams and preparing for Destination Competition. What is Destination Imagination? Destination Imagination is a community-based, school friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways. The goals of Destination Imagination are for participants to:

- Foster creative and critical thinking
- Learn and apply creative problem solving methods and tools
- Develop teamwork, collaboration and leadership skills

The teams consist of seven children in relatively the same grade. **EVERY TEAM REQUIRES A MANAGER.** Teams usually meet once a week. Teams usually meet more than once a week closer to competition. This year, the Denver Tournament will be held March 20, 2010.

The purpose of this letter is to assess the interest level of both participants and managers at Grant Ranch School. Please complete the bottom portion of this form and return to your classroom teacher by Friday, October 23. We will begin team formation at that time.

Please consider volunteering as a team manager. We often have more children wanting to participate than managers allow. Training is provided both on a formal and informal basis.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 303-973-5919.

Mary Ann Barwick
DI Coordinator

I am interested in participating in DI:

Child's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Class: _____

Phone: _____

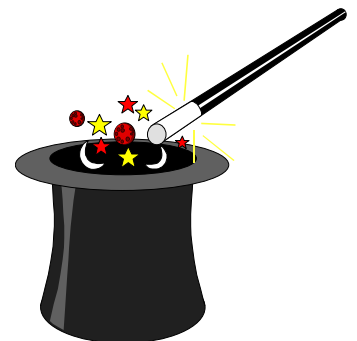


I am interested in managing a DI Team:

Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Phone: _____



FALL FESTIVAL



The Fall Festival is Friday October 23rd from 5pm – 8 pm.

This year, we will be offering a delicious meal of Spaghetti and Meatballs prepared by Tony's Market.

As usual, concessions will be sold at the festival; however Spaghetti may not be available if you do not PRE-ORDER NOW!!!!!!!

Dinner will be \$5.00 per person, and will include: Spaghetti with or without meatballs, breadsticks and a drink.

Return this form to school by **October 16th**. Please make checks out to GRS PTO.

You may pick up your food coupons at the Fall Festival.

If for some reason the event is cancelled, you will get your money back. However, if you do not arrive on the day of the event, then we kindly thank you for your tax deductible donation to the school.

Family Name: _____ Phone # _____

Number of meals _____ X \$5.00 each

Total amount due: \$ _____

Check or Cash is accepted. Please make checks out to GRS PTO