



Paw Prints

Volume 2, Issue 27

October 9, 2009

Sponsored by Tutor Train

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Journey through GR | 2 |
| Specials | 3 |
| K-Kids Club | 3 |
| Tutor Train | 3 |
| Upcoming Events | 4 |
| Para Educator's Week | 4 |
| Foothills Competition | 4 |
| Electronic Paw Prints | 4 |
| Community Corner | 4 |
| Parent Teacher Conferences | 4 |
| Friendly Reminders | 4 |
| PTO News | 5 |
| GRS Fall Festival Sign-Up | 5 |
| Art on the River | 6 |
| Destination Imagination | 7 |
| Fall Festival | 8 |

Early Release Days

Have you marked your calendars for the three hour Early Release Days?

- Friday, October 16, 2009
- Wednesday, December 9, 2009
- Tuesday, January 19, 2010
- Thursday, February 11, 2010
- Monday, April 19, 2009

School will be dismissed three hours earlier than normal on the above dates. Our Dismissal Time is 11:45 am. Sack lunches will be served to ALL students!

The Denver Public School calendar was amended to reflect the agreement reached on September 9, 2008 between the Denver Classroom Teacher Association (DCTA) and Denver Public Schools. Five (5) early release days for students were placed on the calendar. Early Release means school will dismiss three (3) hours earlier than normal. During these late starts teachers will be involved with district-focused professional development.

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:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Danessa Chavez | Kaden Hall | Natalie Jessen |
| Jensen Martineau | Ethan Martinez | Mia Martinez |

Grant Ranch is Proud to Announce...

Congratulations to the following "Pass, Punt and Kick" winners:

| Age Group | Student | Score |
|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| 3-9 | Taylor Cruz | 168 feet |
| | Peyton Kelly | 141 feet |
| 10-11 | Chloe Chapman | 159 feet |
| | Russell Cruz | 215 feet |
| 12-13 | Anaya Duran | 298 feet |
| | Joseph Munoz | 267 feet |
| | Alexandra Perez | 132 feet |
| 14-15 | Adrian Ramirez | 249 feet |

"Principal of the Day"

Students, have you ever wanted to be the Principal of Grant Ranch School for a Day? Congratulations, Claire Gibson! Claire will be conducting "principal business" such as lunch supervision, classroom visitations, building inspections, etc. on Thursday, October 15, 2009. "Principal of the Day" is one of many items available for bidding at the PTO's Silent Auction.

Journey Through Grant Ranch ECE-8 School

Primary

ECE/Kindergarten: ECE and Kindergarten will be going on a field trip to the Littleton Historical Museum. ECE will visit the museum on October 15 and Kindergarten classes will visit the museum on October 21. We have been learning about fall our 5 senses. We will see lots of signs of fall as we visit the museum. Please watch for a letter from your child's teacher about upcoming parent/teacher conferences. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress.

First Grade - Field trips coming up for First Grade are: Room 145 on October 13th to Botanic Gardens at Chatfield and Rooms 138 and 142 to Spree at Commons Park on October 20th.

Second Grade- Second grade had a fabulous time attending their SPREE field trip on Tuesday. It fit perfectly within the science curriculum. Please ask your 'scientist' to tell you all about the new things they learned. We are also working diligently on writing and publishing our first personal narrative story. Keep your eye open for information to come regarding author celebrations. Please continue to work on math fact families and the triangles that came home in homework. The students need to be learning the addition/subtraction problems and how they relate to each other.

Intermediate Level

Grant Ranch students are privileged to be able to take annual field trips to the South Platte River through the SPREE (South Platte River Environmental Education) program. These free hands-on, experiential trips are enjoyed by students ECE-5th grade. Our students look forward to their days with Mr. Jolon Clark and his team.

This year, students may again sign up to be a part of the SPREE Force which enables them to fulfill missions which help them learn about and improve the environment.

Check our website at www.spreeweb.org for more information on SPREE Force and your child's trip!

The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade trips are scheduled, so mark your calendars and join your child on their outdoor adventure.

3) Wilson & Siwek - April 20

(3) Lyons - April 21

(4) Pepin - Oct. 8

(4) Card - Oct. 9

(5) Jackett - Oct. 13

(5) Eikenbary - Oct. 14

(5) Workman - Oct. 15

The 3rd grade SPREE excursion takes place at Confluence Park in Downtown Denver. This trip is an exploration of the birthplace of Denver at the confluence of the South Platte River and the Cherry Creek. During the morning, students rotate through 4 stations where they relive different parts of Denver's history leading up to the flood in 1864. During the afternoon, students learn about more modern Denver history as it relates to the South Platte River.

The 4th grade SPREE excursion takes place at Grant Frontier Park. This trip explores life in Colorado from the days of Arapahoe and Cheyenne roaming the plains to the gold rush days of mining and panning to the pioneer days as plains homesteaders. Students also learn about the importance of the Cottonwood tree to all of Colorado's earliest residents, explore a Colorado ghost town on the site of the first chartered city in Colorado, learn to identify different needle trees, learn how to pan for gold, and turn over rocks to see what is living in the South Platte River.

The 5th grade SPREE trip takes place at Overland Pond Park. This excursion takes students on a day-long journey as scientists and explorers. Overland Pond, originally designed as a learning habitat park, is the perfect backdrop as students test water quality, learn about the ways that beavers adapt to life along the South Platte River, learn how to operate a white water raft, and work in teams to capture and observe living creatures

Upper Grades

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! Boograms 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.

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

GRANT RANCH MUSIC HAPPENINGS

Well, we are off to a great start in all music activities this year. We have 32 aspiring musicians in the fourth grade band and 35 future opera/rock stars in the elementary choir.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates for upcoming performances:

November 10, 2009, 7:00 P.M. - Fifth grade salute to our homeland and Middle School Choir sings the 1960's

December 8, 2009, 7:00 P.M. - Fifth grade and Middle School bands concert

December 15, 2009, 7:00 P.M. - Second grade holiday songs and Grant Ranch Singers holiday songs

Hope to see you there. Thanks for your continued support of Grant Ranch Music!

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 after-school 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 16, 2009 | Early Release |
| October 22, 2009 | Picture Retakes Parent Teacher Conferences |
| October 26, 2009 | Parent Teacher Conferences |

Colorado Para Educator's Week

Governor Bill Ritter has declared October 11, 2009 to October 18, 2009 as Colorado Para Educator week! Para educators make unique contributions to the education of our students through their hard work, commitment and dedication. Para educators, we THANK YOU!!!!

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!

Community Corner

Girls Scouts: Brownie Troop Parent Meeting

Monday, October 12, 2009 from 6:00pm-7:00 pm

All 2nd grade girls are invited to attend. Please bring a parent or guardian along with \$12.00 for registration. If you have any question please feel free to contact Maria Romero 303-877-9852

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."

Friendly Reminders

S & K Homes

As a result of the recent hail storm, many homes and businesses in the Grant Ranch area received extensive damage to roofs, windows, siding, etc. As a fund raiser, Grant Ranch School will receive donations up to \$250.00 from S & K Homes when individual use S & K Homes to repair hail damage. There are flyers available in the school lobby for interested parties. Thank you, S & K Homes!!

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.

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.

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

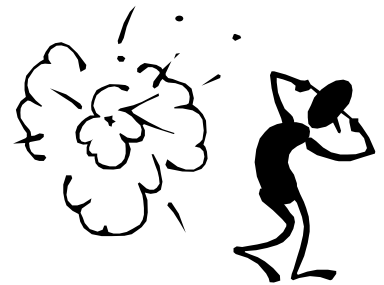
I am interested in participating in DI:

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