



Paw Prints

Volume 2, Issue 23

September 11, 2009

Sponsored by Tutor Train

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Grant Ranch is Proud to Announce...

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:

Holly Burns Dylan Burns Joshua Barrera
Isaiah Garcia Eric Hughes Luke Linscott

Assessment Day

Denver Public Schools will not be in session on Friday, September 18, 2009 for Assessment Day. During this time, teachers will be collaboratively planning lessons and scoring the District Benchmark Assessments. Classes will resume on Monday, September 21, 2009.

Volunteer of the Week

We cannot thank our volunteer, James Rios enough for the EXCELLENT job he is doing out on S. Jay Circle. James asked how he could help Grant Ranch School and contribute to his community. He then gladly picked up the stop sign and took over out in the street. What a difference it has made. Although the parking lot can get very tricky, Jimbo has eased up that hot spot coming out. We THANK YOU for taking the time to become part of the solution. Jim's son Erik, is a 2nd grader at Grant Ranch. Thanks for your involvement at our school Jim. You make a DIFFERENCE!!

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.

District Benchmark Assessments

Second grade through eighth grade students will be tested in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics with the District Benchmark Assessments. The schedule for testing will vary according to the grade level. The time frame for the fall assessments is September 8, 2009 through September 17, 2009.

Positive Points

Congratulations to this year's NJHS officers:

Kristie Trinh--president Aaron Cohen--vice president
Taylor Teske--treasurer Danielle White--secretary

NJHS's first service event will be this Saturday, September 12 at the annual SMA walk at Clement Park.

Journey Through Grant Ranch ECE-8 School

Primary

The primary teachers would like to thank all of our families for taking time every day to read with their children. It was a pleasure to meet our families at the curriculum night and we are looking forward to a wonderful, positive school year!

Intermediate

Now that Labor Day is over (and we hope that you all had a refreshing three day weekend) and there is an early feeling of fall in the air, it is time to get serious about learning. We are starting our fourth week of school (hard to believe!) and we are well into the grade level curriculum.

We hope you have all spoken with your children about President Obama's message of the importance of school, of the necessity of doing their best, and of the value of making positive choices. It is a nation wide effort to support our children to continue to stay in school and to learn and to grow into knowledgeable citizens.

We appreciate our Grant Ranch parents and the students they send to our classrooms.

Upper Grade

Parents should have received a password to access their students' grades in the Snap Grades program. With this password, parents and students are able to go to the internet to access grades at any time for all of the core classes. If you did not receive your temporary password (you will create a permanent one once you login), please contact one of your child's teachers.

Fun activities are planned for the upcoming weeks. Seventh grade students will see the "Legend and Lore" presentation on Thursday, September 17th as part of their study of Medieval Times. Eighth graders will be going on a scavenger hunt in downtown Denver on September 25th. This annual "Lost in the City" educational field trip is always a fun and rewarding experience. More information will be coming home about the excursion.

We would like to take this chance to reiterate our expectations during recess so that we maintain a safe environment. First of all, students may play football on the field, but please remember that no balls, etc. from home may be used—only the school-provided equipment is allowed. Wall ball is not allowed. Secondly, students are not to visit/socialize next to the fence along Grant Ranch Blvd.—they are to stay along the fence closest to the school. Lastly, students may not go on or beyond the sloped areas at the east end of the football field or behind the basketball courts. Also, please remember that all students are to leave the school grounds immediately after school unless they are in a school sanctioned activity

Flu and Cold Season Has Arrived

Autumn brings not only fallen leaves but also the beginning of the cold and flu season. Please read the letter from the Denver Public Schools Nursing Services that has been included to provide information that will help to keep our students healthy.

Artful Journey Returns

Artful Journey, a Fine Arts School, will again be offering drawing and painting classes at Grant Ranch. The fall session will begin on September 17, 2009 and will continue for eleven weeks. Flyers with additional information are available in the school office

Are You Receiving the "Paw Prints" Electronically?

"Paw Prints" has gone green. If you have not already provided your email address to receive your copy electronically, please send an email to [Sandra Blomeyer@dpsk12.org](mailto:Sandra_Blomeyer@dpsk12.org)

Technology

Technology at Grant Ranch continues to improve! Thanks to our voters last November, Grant Ranch will be replacing the typing lab upstairs with 35 Dell computers through the 2008 Bond Money! We get to spend a third of the money this year and that is about the cost of the new lab! There is enough money left to purchase one Promethean Board and one set of clickers.

Virginia Edwards also wrote a grant for her Career Tech Lab over the summer. She just found out that she was granted \$8000.00 for that lab! Mrs. Edwards will update the Virtual Makeover Station with new software and a new student guide, she will replace the cameras at the Photography stations and she will install a Promethean Board and share a set of clickers with the middle school teachers. Mrs. Edwards and her CTE students will host a "Technology Share Fair" once each trimester so the students in the CTE lab can demonstrate their skills acquired at the 18 different stations offered in one trimester. (More to come about the Tech Share Fair at a later date!)

We are currently in our second year of lease for our ECE-5th Grade lab downstairs. PTO is purchasing those 30 IMAC computers with the help of the Cookie Dough Sales. After the third year, the computers belong to Grant Ranch! Thank you to the parents and the PTO for updating our ECE-5th Grade Lab. You are welcome to stop by and check out this awesome computer lab—Rm. 189!

The Promethean Board



Friendly Reminders

Join Us for Breakfast! In an effort to continue to promote good nutrition, Denver Public Schools will continue to provide breakfast at no cost to our students. Breakfast will be served Monday through Friday from 7:15 am to 7:55 am in the cafeterium.

School/Parent Agreement: According to Goal III of the Denver Plan, "collaboration among the Denver community and all DPS stakeholders will support our children in a safe, orderly and enriching environment in every school and classroom." Therefore, we are requesting that Grant Ranch School parent/guardians read and sign our School/Parent Agreement. This document should be returned to the classroom teachers. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

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.

Community Corner

Girls Scouts: Junior Troop Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2009
2:45 pm-4:30 pm
All 4th and 5th grade girls are invited to attend.

Oops!

Some students have forgotten that "gum, candy, toys, game cards, radios, pop, glass bottles, cameras, CD players, iPods, palm pilots, games, electronic devices, and other nonessential items are not allowed at school. If any items above are brought to school, they will be held by the teacher or held in the office until claimed by a parent. Cell phones are not to be kept by the student on their person during the school day. They must be kept in the locker (upper grades) or backpack (lower grades) and turned off during the day. Cell phones are not to be used in the building. After school, students must step outside of the building to use their phones." (Grant Ranch School K-8 Code of Conduct 2007-2008, Section F).

Grant Ranch School
5400 S. Jay Circle
Littleton, CO 80123



Phone: 720-424-6880
Fax: 720-424-6905
Attendance: 720-424-6951
Student Hours: 7:55am to 2:45pm

Upcoming Events

September 14, 2009	CSC Meeting
September 8-17, 2009	District Benchmark Assessments
September 17, 2009	P.I.E. Meeting
September 18, 2009	Assessment Day—No School

Grant Ranch PTO News

Our cookie dough fundraiser is in full swing. Thanks to all the families who turned in their forms on Wednesday. If you didn't get your forms in, it is not too late! A special thank you to Deb Rodarte, our Fundraising Chairperson, for all her hard work on the cookie dough fundraiser! The PTO had their second meeting of the year on September 8th. The PTO board voted and approved to give the school \$5,000 towards after school programs. Without the generosity of our parents and teachers who contribute to our fundraisers, the after school programs would not exist. A "Thank you" to everyone who donated! There are many exciting events coming up! Don't forget to join us for our second PIE night, an open forum to discuss school improvement, on Thursday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. We have a mom and muffin day on September 24th, and our Fall Festival on October 23rd, information will follow soon. The PTO is working hard to input all of the data collected during registration for directory, volunteer information, and those requesting to receive Paw Prints, the school's weekly communication, via email. We thank you for your patience and hope to have everything in the new system by September 25th.

Thanks,
Amy Austin
Grant Ranch School—PTO President

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 evening October 24th. There will be food, games, bounce houses, 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.

Grant Ranch School
P.I.E NIGHT
Thursday, September 17th, 2009
Grant Ranch School Library
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Please join our administrators, teachers, PTO, and CSC for our second P.I.E. night - "Positive Influence in Education", an open forum to discuss current school issues, address outstanding concerns from the previous meeting, what went well and what needs improvement in the fall registration process, volunteer opportunities, and Fresh new ideas!

Please RSVP to Amy Austin at 303-795-1234 or reply to this email if you would like to join us! Please feel free to contact Amy with any questions! We look forward to seeing you!

Show Your Child How Much You Care

Your child is in his or her current grade only once in a lifetime. Once this year is over, it's gone forever. But one way he or she can remember this year is through the school yearbook. Give the gift of the Grant Ranch Yearbook to your children and show them that you care about the time they spend each and every day at school. Reserve your copy now so you don't miss out on these precious memories.

Yearbooks may be purchased by completing a yearbook order form, available in the school office. Yearbook forms and payment can be returned to the school office. Yearbooks may also be purchased online at www.yearbookordercenter.com (Grant Ranch School's order number is 18389). Online orders are subject to a credit card processing fee of \$3.50. New this year is the option of choosing a hard cover for \$28 or a soft cover for only \$18.

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: _____

DENVER PUBLIC

900 GRANT STREET / DENVER, CO 80203
TELEPHONE (720) 423-3200



GRANT RANCH SCHOOL

5400 S. Jay Circle, Denver, CO 80123
Telephone: 720-424-6881

Dear Families:

Our staff at Grant Ranch School is looking forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that our school provides an academically challenging, safe and healthy learning environment for your children this year. We have all heard national news stories about the H1N1 flu virus. While we have no reason to suspect that this flu season will be worse for our school than in previous years, we'd like to take a moment to provide you with some information that will help keep you, your students, and our school community healthy.

- ▶ Please remind your child to practice basic good hygiene including hand washing, covering their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze and using their elbow instead of their hand when a tissue is not available.
- ▶ Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice) is the best way to keep your hands from spreading a virus.
- ▶ You may also consider cleaning surfaces and items in your home that have frequent hand contact.

It is paramount to your children's learning and academic progress that they attend school every day. However, in order to maintain a healthy school community we are asking you to keep your child home if he or she is exhibiting flu-like symptoms. It's also requested that your child stays home for at least 24 hours **after fever** symptoms have ended. Symptoms of flu include:

- Fever;
- Cough;
- Sore Throat;
- Runny or stuffy nose;
- Body aches;
- And fatigue.

A fever is a temperature taken with a thermometer that is equal to or greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius). If you are not able to measure a temperature, your child might have a fever if he or she feels warm, has a flushed appearance, or is sweating or shivering.

As a precaution, check your children regularly for illness, and keep children home if they have a fever. If your child comes to school sick, we will call you to pick them up. Teachers will work with you and your student to schedule make-up work as necessary and provide support if your child is able to continue their schooling from home.

We appreciate your support in our effort to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for your child, and we are looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

Sandy Blomeyer

Sandy Blomeyer
Principal