



Paw Prints

Volume 2, Issue 25

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Sponsored by Tutor Train

Inside this issue:

Journey through GR	2
Tutor Train	2
Show Your Child How Much You Care	3
Specials	3
Artsonia	3
Paw Prints Request	3
Upcoming Events	4
PTO News	4
Yearbook	4
Community Corner	4
Friendly Reminders	4
Fall Festival Sign-Up	5
SPF Letter	6
SI Kids Football	7

Grant Ranch is Proud to Announce...

Denver Public Schools launched the School Performance Framework (SPF) in 2008 and it is currently used to accredit our schools, but more than that, the SPF shows us a body of evidence that allows us to see how much of an impact our schools are having on their students from year to year. The School Performance Framework provides the most complete and comprehensive picture of school performance that we have. We believe this tool will help transform the work our schools are doing and get us that much closer to making all of our schools places of academic excellence. We are proud to announce that Grant ranch School has earned the "Meets Expectations" category. Congratulations, staff and student!!!!!! (Please see attached letter).

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:

Lillian Lafontano	Jagger Long	Mitchell Oliver
Zoe Papdopoulos	Luke Parker	Hayden Penny

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to those who attended "Muffins with Mom!!!" There were over one hundred seventy participants. A GREAT time was had by all!!! Way to go, Grant Ranch!

Volunteer of the Week

Congratulations, Amy! Amy Austin took on the responsibility of PTO president and has created the P.I.E. forum which has been very informative. She is always volunteering her time and energy to support Grant Ranch and the classroom teachers. She has been an extremely supportive parent and community member since the opening of the school. She is doing a variety of things to keep parents involved and make Grant Ranch a top notch school.

October 1 Count

The Denver Public Schools and other school districts receive annual funding from the State of Colorado. This funding is used for the purchase of instructional materials, textbooks, etc. and is based upon the number of students that are attending school on October 1st.

Therefore, it is necessary that our Grant Ranch students be in attendance on that day. As an incentive, students who are present on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 and Thursday, October 1, 2009 will have opportunities on each of these days to earn prizes.

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."

Journey Through Grant Ranch ECE-8 School

Primary

ECE – We are studying apples, and will be culminating our unit with an Apple Pie Party for our parents.

Kindergarten – We are currently working on good reading habits. You can help at home by reading with your child each night.

First Grade – First graders are focusing on strategies for reading. We want the first graders to keep on working on the 100 word list.

Second Grade – The second graders recently had a geologist speak to the classes in coordination with our Rocks and Minerals unit in science. The children were excited to get rock samples

Intermediate Level

As the school year has shifted into full swing, you have probably noticed your child bringing home more homework. There are several reasons why teachers consider homework an important time investment.

Homework can help children:

- review and practice what they've learned
- get ready for the next day's class
- learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and encyclopedias
- explore subjects more fully than time permits in the classroom

Homework can also help children develop good habits and attitudes. It can teach children to work independently, encourage self-discipline and responsibility, and encourage a love of learning. Homework is meant to be a positive experience and to encourage children to learn.

There are many ways that you can help your child be successful in completing his/her homework. First, pick a regular time and place. Consistency is important. Children should have a location where all the necessary supplies are at their fingertips. Distractions should be kept to a minimum. The television should be turned off, and telephone calls and other disruptions should be limited. Some children do well with quiet music playing, but a blasting radio is too distracting.

Children are more likely to complete assignments successfully when parents monitor homework. This does not mean doing the assignment for them, but rather being available if they need to ask questions. Checking over the assignment to make sure it is complete is helpful, too.

Helping your child with homework is an opportunity to improve your child's chances of doing well in school and life. By helping your child with homework, you can help him learn important lessons about discipline and responsibility. You can open up lines of communication--between you and your child, and you and the school. You are in a unique position to help your child make connections between school work and the "real world," and thereby bring meaning (and some fun) to your child's homework experience.

Upper Grades

The annual eighth grade "Lost in the City" field trip will take place on Friday, September 25, 2009. The eighth grade will travel to the 16th Street Mall for this academic scavenger field trip. The purposes of this excursion are:

- * To allow students to practice cooperative group skills outside the school building.
- * To build individual problem-solving skills.
- * To promote the investigation process.
- * To allow students the opportunity to experience their own capital in an academic manner.

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.

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.

Specials

Please see the attachments, "SI Kid Youth Football Team of the Year."

Punt, Pass, and Kick Contest

The PE Department is holding its annual Punt, Pass, and Kick contest for all 3rd – 8th grade students. This contest is sponsored by the NFL and Pepsi. The participants will punt, pass, and kick a football for distance during their PE classes. The highest scoring male and female from each age group will advance to the next level of competition. The age groups are 8-9 years old, 10-11 years old, 12-13 years old, and 14-15 years old. Grant Ranch has always performed well in this competition and hope we do as well again this year! For more information, please contact Mike Riedel or Kathy Dentino

Grant Ranch Singers

If you are in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade and you like to sing, come join us in the music room for elementary choir! We will be performing our first concert in December. We will be meeting on Tuesdays after school. Students may ride the activities bus home. The first meeting will be on September 22, 2009. Hope to see lots of you there! Mrs. Westra

Artsonia

At the end of this week you will be receiving a code and an introduction letter to www.artsonia.com, an online virtual art gallery for grade school children and their families. With this code you will be able to manage their account, send their art work images to relatives and purchase items with your child's artwork on them. (Grant Ranch art dept. gets 15% of proceeds) Please know that I will try to get your child's art work as soon as possible, but each piece has to be photographed, edited, entered into the artsonia one at a time. Basically if the art is hanging in the hallway, it will be entered into artsonia. Please watch for information and when you get it, please log in and view & share your child's work!!

Grant Ranch School Paw Prints Request 2009-2010

Grant Ranch School is making a conscious effort to help save the environment by first implementing a recycling program and now by "going green" with an electronic "Paw Prints." "Paw Prints" can be found at <http://grantranch.dpsk12.org/>

Beginning October 3, 2008 a paper version of "Paw Prints" will be available only upon request. If you would like to continue receiving a paper version of "Paw Prints," please complete the form below and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support in this matter!

Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

_____ Yes, I would like a paper version of "Paw Prints."

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

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

October 1, 2009	October Count Day
October 2, 2009	Mother and Son Activity
October 7, 2009	Picture Retake Day

Grant Ranch PTO News

Grant Ranch Logo wear is now available 24 hours a day 7 days a week at <http://GRSK8.logosoftwear.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.

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.

Community Corner

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!!

Friendly Reminders

Annual Notification of Parents and Student's Rights and Directory Information

By law, each family must be given a copy of the *Annual Notification of Parent and Student's Rights Brochure* each school year. This brochure has been updated for the 2009-2010 school year and is included with this week's Paw Prints. In addition, Denver Public Schools may disclose "directory" information unless the parent/eligible student annually objects to such disclosure in writing to the Superintendent and/or the student's school of enrollment within two weeks of enrollment. The directory information includes: name, date of birth, gender, participation in officially recognized activities, weight and height of athletics, degrees and awards received, dates of attendance and photographs. Please complete the "Parent Permission and Release Form" and return it to your child's teacher.

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: _____

Grant Ranch School
5400 S Jay Circle
Littleton, CO 80126

September 25, 2009

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

I am excited to announce that Grant Ranch School achieved a rating of **Meets Expectations** on the 2009 School Performance Framework (SPF) which means that our school. Our Meets Expectations rating is a true tribute to the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers, support staff and parents and while we celebrate this tremendous success, our goal is to exceed district expectations and achieve high status and high growth with a Distinguished rating. Now is the time to accelerate our progress and make sure that all of our students are successful. Areas where we will continue to work and strive for improvement include:

- *Closing the gaps in reading, math writing and science,
- *Student engagement and
- *School demand.

If you would like a copy of our SPF scorecard go to <http://www.dpsk12.org/SPF> or pick one up in our front office.

About the SPF:

DPS launched the School Performance Framework (SPF) in September 2008. It is a mechanism the district uses to accredit schools as required by the Colorado Department of Education, but more importantly, it provides a comprehensive body of evidence about school performance. It is aligned with district goals, as well as state and federal mandates. It incorporates data provided by CSAP and AYP, but it does not replace those measures.

What makes the SPF so unique and powerful is that it reflects the work being done in our schools by showing us whether our students are learning over time and demonstrating improvement from one year to the next. It provides the most complete and comprehensive picture of school performance in DPS that we have ever seen.

I am proud of the hard work that all of our students and teachers do every day. I believe we will find the SPF to be a valuable guide in our efforts to improve and achieve.

Thank you for all you do in support of your child's academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Sandy Blomeyer

Sandy Blomeyer

Principal

CONTEST

We're looking for the Youth Football Team of the Year!

Sports Illustrated Kids is searching the country to find the best youth football team. Whether you are a boy or a girl, play flag football or tackle, we want to hear about your team's achievements. The winning team will be featured on the cover of the December 2009 issue of *SI Kids*, and a story about the squad will appear inside the magazine. Please note, the contest is not open to high school football teams.

Use the form below to tell us about your youth football team's accomplishments. We're looking for much more than wins and losses. While athletic achievements are important, we also want you to tell us about obstacles that your team has had to overcome and how your team is involved with the community. Good luck!



2009 SI Kids Youth Football Team of the Year

Team Name

Team Story [You can write on another sheet of paper but all entries must be 250 words or less.]

Your Name

Date of Birth

Phone Number

Address

Send your nomination by October 12, 2009 to:
Youth Football Team of the Year, SI Kids
1271 Avenue of the Americas, 32nd Floor
New York, NY 10020

Download this form and see complete rules at:
SIKIDS.com/youthfootball

SIKIDS.com

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