



# Paw Prints

Volume 2, Issue 22

September 4, 2009

Sponsored by Tutor Train

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## Grant Ranch is Proud to Announce...

Grant Ranch School's student enrollment has exceeded expectations! We currently have 127 students more than was predicted. Thank you parents, guardians and students for choosing Grant Ranch School!!!

## Cookies, Magazines and Cards

Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Fall Fundraiser has something for everyone: selling cookie dough, discount cards and/or magazines. All sales need to be completed and the money turned in by September 9, 2009. Wait till you see the limo we are getting for the reward lunch in October!!

## Reallocation/Staffing Day

Funding for individual Denver Public Schools is based upon student enrollment. Thursday, September 10, 2009 has been designated as Reallocation/Staff Day. Therefore, it is necessary for all of the Grant Ranch students to be present for our school to receive appropriate funding. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter!

## Positive Points

The Grant Ranch School Collaborative School Committee (CSC) will conduct its first meeting of the 2009-2010 school year on Monday, September 14, 2009. The purpose and scope of the collaborative school committee shall be:

\*to enhance student achievement and school climate by engaging the school community in collaborative efforts supporting the school and District's goals.

\*to provide strategic direction in support of the school's mission and vision as stated in the School Improvement Plan.

\*to be in compliance with state and federal law, regulations of the Colorado Department of education, applicable U.S. District Court orders, the DPS/DCTA Agreement, other contracts and District mandates.

CSC meetings are held throughout the school year from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Grant Ranch

## No School

There will no school on Monday, September 7, 2009 in observance of Labor Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, September 8, 2009.

## Are You Receiving "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)

## 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.

## Journey Through Grant Ranch ECE-8 School

### Areas:

#### **Primary**

Mrs. Foelker's 21 first graders are starting the year with enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. We are establishing our rituals and routines. In Reading, we are learning to listen to our partners during "Partner Share," writing responses to our stories and learning how to select a "just right book." With our Everyday Math program, we are learning Number Sense with games, chants and songs. Our Social Studies lessons help us become co-operative and responsible students. Our Music, Art, Computer, Library and P.E. classes bring enrichment and enjoyment to our school day. "Two, four, six, eight, First Graders are really great!"

#### **Intermediate**

COUNT DAY - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2009!!! Please make certain your child is in attendance! "Looking Good" - All of our students looked especially pretty and handsome (more so than maybe usual) this past Wednesday and Thursday as it was Picture Day! Everyone's smiles were showing their pearly whites! Our Cookie Dough ongoing sales continue to be the 'talk' of each classroom. Indeed, there are some big prizes to be earned! For the most part, we have wrapped up our DRA 2 assessments (Developmental Reading Assessment). It's important for everyone (students, teachers, parents) to perform these early assessments to serve each child more effectively. Next up, the 2009 Fall Benchmark Tests - next week. The children will be 'tested' on their reading, writing, and math skills. There will be three such 'tests' throughout the school year (fall, winter, spring). Parents/Guardians - we could really use your help in regard to returning our RTI (Response to Intervention) Parent Surveys. We, as instructors, are really getting to know your child more thoroughly both as an individual (social skills) and academically. We realize the beginning of each and every school year translates into many but needed 'forms' for you parents/guardians to complete. "Thank You" for your prompt responses to date. Our G.R.S. enrollment numbers are definitely on the rise and over DPS projections. As a result of so many children/parents wanting to come to Grant Ranch School, there may be changes on the way for our third graders. Currently we have one split classroom (grades 2/3) and two third grades. We may be adding a full time third grade teacher in the near future. There is also a possibility of the three Grade 3 teachers going to a 'platoon' teaming situation so the kids will indeed get the best of 'all worlds'. "Welcome" to Mr. Walter Heidenfelder - Grade 3 (Mr. Lyons' room) Student Teacher from Metro State. He brings a wealth of experience as he has taught in California and he's also currently a licensed substitute teacher in Colorado.

#### **Upper Grades**

##### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Newsletter**

We would like to thank all the parents that attended the "Curriculum Night" this past Thursday. We hope that it was informative and we appreciate your support in your child's education. For those parents that could not attend, please ask your student for the following:

**SnapGrades login procedure** – each student was given the informational sheet for parents to log on to "SnapGrades" on Friday, Aug 28. All parents must follow the 5 easy steps to log on so they may have access to their students grades in each class. **This must be done yearly as "SnapGrades" resets all passwords.** We encourage parents to be checking their student's grades on a weekly basis. If your student failed to give you this information please contact one of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.

## 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.

## The Activity Bus Has Returned

The activity bus will be starting on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 4:05 pm. This bus will be available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for those students that are participating in sports, tutoring and/or the after school programs. Since seating will be limited, bus passes will be made available for student passengers.

## Specials/Electives

The art room is looking for a parent volunteer from each Elementary School classroom to enter all the names of the students in your child's class into **Artsonia**, ([www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)) an online student art gallery for families to view artwork and purchase items with your child's art printed on the pieces. It's a great way to share your child's artistic progress and achievements with relatives at no cost to you. Before we can share all this fabulous art, we need to enter all lower students from GRS. You could enter the names of the students anywhere you have online access; you could enter from home, Starbucks or here at school!! Proceeds will benefit the art program at Grant Ranch. Please contact Ms. Brown-DeThomas, if you would be interested in helping. Mrs. BDT's contact info is as follows: [julia\\_brown-dethomas@dpsk12.org](mailto:julia_brown-dethomas@dpsk12.org) or 720-424-6904. Thanks!!

### Physical Education Department Grades K-5

Supplies: All kindergarten through fifth grade students are required to wear tennis shoes to P.E. class. Tennis shoes must be laced up and have proper foot/ankle support. No platform, skateboarding (Vans, DC's, Etnies...), or Heely's (shoes with wheels in them) are allowed for safety reasons. Please send your child's tennis shoes in his/her backpack, if they do not wear them to school. **All students from Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade should know how to tie their own shoes.** If they have not mastered this yet, please practice with them until they do.

## Your Assignment: Big, Easy Boosts for Your Student

(Condensed from Sunday's USA Weekend, ParentSmart, by Ann Pleshette Murphy)

- 1. Start the day right.** Having a nutritious breakfast can get lost in the morning rush. Even untraditional fare (like whole wheat tortilla with cheese, refried beans and leftover veggies) can be satisfying. Remember Denver Public Schools offers free breakfast to all students.
- 2. Bookmark the school website.** Keep up with school news online and with your kids' teachers via e-mail. ([www.grantranch.dpsk12.org](http://www.grantranch.dpsk12.org))
- 3. Work out during homework.** Research shows that physical activity helps a child academically. So toss a tennis ball during vocabulary/spelling drills or kick a soccer ball while reciting multiplication facts.
- 4. Put "zzz's" on the A-list.** Insufficient sleep can hurt children academically, so be sure your child gets a full 8 – 10 hours each night!

## Meet a New Staff Member

Ann Westra is the new music teacher here at Grant Ranch School. Previously she taught music and worked with Gifted and Talented children at Kaiser Elementary. Ann is very excited to be working with both elementary and middle school students. Prior to becoming an educator, Ann worked for many years as an accountant. She is married to a fifth grade teacher and has two children. Her daughter is in seventh grade and her son is in fifth grade. Ann keeps up with her music skills by singing and playing flute and cello at her church. Her favorite things to do after school are bowling, and watching her kids participate in sports. Ann is looking forward to a great year here at Grant Ranch!

## Community Corner

### The Cub Scouts are coming, the Cub Scouts are coming!

Join us Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> to get your 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade boy involved in Scouts. We will be meeting at 7:00pm in the school cafeteria and look forward to seeing you there, but if you can't make it and have any questions you can contact Jason Mercado at 720-266-2146 or [JMercado@DenverBoyScouts.org](mailto:JMercado@DenverBoyScouts.org)

## 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

<b>September 7, 2009</b>	Labor Day—No School
<b>September 8-17, 2009</b>	District Benchmark Assessments
<b>September 14, 2009</b>	CSC Meeting

## Students Work After School on Yearbook

A dedicated group of students begins the ambitious job of chronicling the events and happenings of the school to produce the yearbook. This week, students met with Yearbook Advisors Paula Phelan, 6<sup>th</sup> grade language arts teacher, and Linda Dunbar, a parent volunteer. Students will continue to meet every Thursday after school to learn journalistic skills such as writing, editing, photographing, designing and producing the school's yearbook. Assignments will be made for writing articles as well as taking photographs, so the Yearbook Staff will soon be hard at work.

## 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](http://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.

## 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](http://www.TutorTrain.com).

## 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 cafetorium.

**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.

## 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:Mom2booboo@msn.com)

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Name of Business \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of the game/activity you will do:

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Prizes/promotions you will hand out: \_\_\_\_\_