



Paw Prints

Volume 2, Issue 21

August 28, 2009

Sponsored by Tutor Train

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Grant Ranch is Proud to Announce...

Good job, staff and students, Grant Ranch School has made AYP!

Under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) states and school districts are required to make Adequately Yearly Progress. The ultimate goal of AYP is to have all students proficient in reading and mathematics by the year 2014. To meet the AYP Proficiency Requirement, students must reach targets in reading and mathematics as measured by CSAP.

Cookie Dough is Back!

Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Fall Fundraiser began on **Wednesday, August 29th** with a Kick-off in the morning .The 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!!

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.

Meet a New Staff Member

Phyllis Whitaker is the new 7th grade mathematics teacher at Grant Ranch. She comes from Mountain Ridge Middle School in Douglas County. Phyllis is married and has two children, a freshman in college and a junior in high school. Her hobbies include music (especially jazz), cooking, golf, skiing, and traveling. Prior to teaching, Phyllis worked as an engineer in the Air Force. She left the Air Force to raise her family. During that time, she served as a church organist and worked as a substitute teacher in Jefferson County. Phyllis is excited to be part of the Grant Ranch family and looks forward to working with your 7th grade students.

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 Virginia_Edwards@dpsK12.org.

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.

Journey Through Grant Ranch ECE-8 School

Areas:

Primary

Early Childhood Program

The Early Education Program has had a successful start with a new classroom added this year. We now have a half day three and four year old program that was such a success, that we have added a class in the afternoon. We also have a full day four year old program this year. We are now servicing almost 60 children! Thank you to all the parents that were so cooperative as we started this new venture. A special welcome to our new ECE teacher, Ms. Kelly Francis! We are looking forward to an exciting year!

Upper Grades

We have gotten off to a great start. This week middle school is conducting several tests to help us get to know your child better.

NJHS members held their first meeting of the year on 8/25. Students interested in running for an office must submit their intention in writing to Ms. Peel no later than September 1st. Our first service project will be helping at the annual SMA walk at Clement park on September 12 from 8-noon.

Positive Points

Many thanks to all the Grant Ranch School staff, students and parents/guardians who contributed to the success of the second annual Open House and "Back to School Bash" that were held on Monday, August 17, 2009. The "Back to School Bash" as a fundraiser, made over \$1,000.00!!

Community Corner

GIRL SCOUT INFO NIGHT – AUGUST 31st

A Girl Scout Information Night will be held on August 31st at 6:30 pm in the Grant Ranch School Cafetorium. All girls, kindergarten thru 8th grade, are eligible to join Girl Scouts. For more information on Girl Scouts or the Information Night, please contact the Grant Ranch Girl Scout School Coordinator - Linda Bowles at 303-933-4989.

Reallocation/Staffing Day

Funding for individual Denver Public Schools is based upon student enrollment. Thursday, September 10, 2009 as 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!

No School

School will not be in session on Monday, September 7, 2009 in observance of Labor Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, September 8, 2009.

Specials/Electives

We are starting off fresh with a new teacher, Mrs. Westra, our new Music teacher. Please stop by to welcome her in the music room!

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) 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. But 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 or 720-424-6904. Thanks!!

Your Assignment: Meet Your Kid's Teacher

One way to help your child succeed in school: Get to know his/her teachers. "I'd never allow a stranger to educate my child," says Jan Harp Domene, former PTA national president. She suggests taking the following actions:

- *Introduce yourself. Get acquainted with the teachers at the start of the school year.
- *Be positive. Emphasize that you are there to help-not disrupt- the education process.
- *Understand the teacher's objectives for the semester, so you can help guide your student and eliminate the end of the year surprises.
- *Attend parent-teacher conferences, even if your child is doing well. One-on-one time with his teachers is valuable and you can ask any questions you may have. Knowing your child's teacher will help you connect more with your child, too.
- *Show up regularly at school events to establish visibility.
- *Join parent groups, including online communication such as greatschools.net and sites where teachers go to hang out, like teachers.net.

Picture Days

The schedule for school pictures of students and staff members is as follows:

September 2, 2009 Elementary level

September 3, 2009 Upper Level

Additional information will be sent home with the students.

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 2, 2009	"Picture Day" for elementary
September 3, 2009	"Picture Day" for upper grades
September 7, 2009	Labor Day—No School

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, 6th 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 (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.