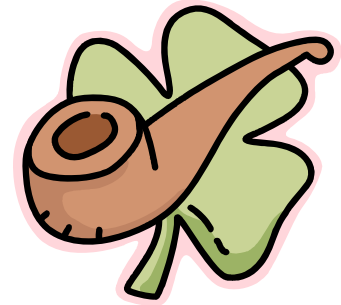


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Zach Core Knowledge Elementary Parent Newsletter
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Busing Changes Could Affect YOU!

Busing distances, space available service changes begin in 2009-10

Poudre School District Transportation wants parents and families to be aware of changes for the 2009-10 school year. Due to budget constraints, transportation costs and grade level changes, the following changes are being made and will impact students and families.

Transportation Eligibility Changes for PSD Students:

Effective July 1, 2009, to align transportation services with grade level changes, PSD transportation policies will be revised to reflect 6th grade students moving to middle school and 9th grade students moving to high school. The transportation eligibility distances for each level (elementary, middle school, high school) will not change; the grades receiving transportation services will change:

- Elementary school students in full day kindergarten-5th grade will receive transportation services to and from school if they live 1 mile or more from school, in the school attendance area. Eligible, half day kindergarten students will only receive one-way transportation.
- Middle school students in grades 6-8 will receive transportation services to and from school if they live 1½ miles or more from school, in the school attendance area.
- High school students in grades 9-12 will receive transportation services to and from school if they live 2 miles or more from school, in the school attendance area.

Space Available Busing Changes:

Due to budget constraints and increasing transportation costs, PSD routes are being adjusted to create more efficiency within each route. This means next year more students will be transported on fewer buses and/or fewer routes, and PSD anticipates the following:

- Next year, PSD busses will be transporting more eligible students and therefore less "Space Available" busing may be available.
- Students attending a school outside of their neighborhood school (school choice) will only be transported on PSD busses if there is "Space Available." The exception is for Poudre High School's International Baccalaureate program, for which a fee-based pilot is planned.



- “Space Available” Bus Service forms will be accepted beginning August 1, 2009; parents will be notified in **October** whether or not a seat is available for their student on the bus. Often during the first months of school, bus routes need to be adjusted to accommodate eligible students and to create efficiencies throughout district bus routes.
- “Space Available” Bus Service forms for the 2009-10 school year will be available starting August 1, 2009, on the PSD Web site on the Transportation page, or may be obtained from your school or by calling 490-3155 to request a copy of the form.

The above changes will be in effect the first day of the 2009-10 school year. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the transportation department by email transportation@psdschools.org or by phone 490-3155.

Calendar of Events



March 13	No School – Teacher Workday
March 16 – 20	No School – Spring Break
March 23	Zach Safety Committee Meeting – 6:00 – 7:00 PM
March 26	PSD Lincoln Center Art Show Green Choir Concert – Gym – 6:30 PM
March 31	Site Based Decision Making Meeting – Media – 7:00 PM
April 2	1 st Grade Music Program – Gym 6:00 & 7:15 PM
April 9	4 th Grade PE Challenge – Gym – 5:00 – 7:30 PM
April 14	K-2 Beginner’s Chess Club Ends!
April 15	Group & Individual Pictures – Gym – 9:00 – 2:00 PM
April 16	5 th Grade Music Program – Gym – 6:30 PM
April 17 & 20	No School – Parent Teacher Conferences & Staff Collaboration Day
April 20 – May 4	Student Art Show @ Foothills Fashion Mall
April 21	PTO Meeting – Media – 6:00 PM
April 27	3-5 Spring Experienced Chess Club Ends!
April 30	2 nd Grade Art Show – Gym, Lunchroom & Media 6:30 – 7:30 PM

ENCORE NEWS!

P. E.

PE Night for 4th Graders!

On Thursday, April 9th, all 4th grade students, along with their parents/guardians, are invited to the PE Central Challenge Parent's night in the Zach Elementary gym. Students in Mrs. Lafflam and Mrs. Kozusko's classes will be from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and students in Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Davenport's classes will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Look for more information coming home from your student after Spring Break.

ART

PSD Lincoln Center Art Show

The Student Art Exhibition will be up through March 26, 2009 during regularly scheduled Lincoln Center hours in the Lincoln Center Galleries. Go check it out!

PSD Designs & Images Art Student Art Show

This year's Student Art Show at the Foothills Fashion Mall is scheduled for April 20th- May 4th. Zach Elementary will have a display-- I hope you get the chance to see the creative talents of our students here at Zach!

Zach Elementary 2nd Grade Art Show

Mark your calendars for the annual 2nd grade Art Show on the evening of Thursday, April 30th from 6:30-7:30.

TECHNOLOGY

LAST CALL FOR YEARBOOK ORDERS! The last day to turn in your Yearbook order has been extended to **Monday, March 30, 2009**. Additional order forms are in the main office.

MUSIC

Green Choir Concert

The Green Choir (2nd & 3rd Graders) concert will be Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Come take a musical trip around the world with us!!

1st Grade Music Program: "Wackadoo Zoo"

The 1st Grade Music Program will be on Thursday, April 2, 2009. Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Sinclair's classes will perform at 6:00 p.m. and Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Uhrich's classes will perform at 7:15 p.m. Please arrive at the school no earlier than 20 minutes before your program start time.

5th Grade Music Program: “Building America”

The 5th Grade Music Program will be on Thursday, April 16, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Please note there has been a change! There will be only **one** performance for all classes.

MEDIA

5th Grade Book Club will be starting up again. We will begin in early April. Our book will be: **A Dog’s Life** by Ann Martin.

Don’t forget to watch for the grand opening of the new Library. Check out the Poudre River Public Library District’s Web site for details:

<http://www.ci.fort-collins.co.us/library/>

Did You Lose Your Glasses???

We have 2 pair of prescription children’s glasses in the office waiting to be claimed by their owner! One pair is pink and the other is green & purple. If you think these may be yours, please stop by the front office and claim them!



Food Services

Food Services has experienced huge losses in funds due to the many charges that don’t get paid. Students are expected to purchase their meals just as they would from any other food vendor such as McDonald’s. Only students on free lunches will get their lunch free. **Beginning May 1st, no charges will be allowed. If a student does not have money for lunch, they will be given a bowl and can help themselves to the fruit and salad bar. No student will ever be allowed to go without any food!**

First walking and wheeling Wednesday is April 1

Warmer weather means walking and biking! As spring approaches, the Safe Routes to School program is gearing up for an exciting spring. The first “Walking and Wheeling Wednesday” of the year will be held on April 1, 2009 (no joke!). These weekly walking and bicycling events are a great chance for children and parents to meet friends and neighbors and have a great time getting to and from school. Prizes and other goodies will be available to encourage safe walking and bicycling.

Interested in volunteering with Safe Routes to School at your school? Contact Matt Wempe, the Fort Collins Safe Routes to School coordinator at 970-416-2040 or email mwempe@fcgov.com. Additional information, safety tips, and upcoming events can be found at fcgov.com/saferoutes.

Character first! Family Seminar

Character education begins at home and the Character First! Family Seminar can help you get on the right track. Learn parenting skills that will help build strong family relationships and resolve family tensions, identify and minimize challenging behavioral problems, develop respect and harmony, praise your children effectively, and improve parental unity!

Join us 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 7th, 2009, at the First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80524. The cost is \$35/person or couple and the registration fee includes one copy of the seminar materials and free lunch. Free child care will be provided for children under the age of 9. Contact Character Fort Collins @ 970-266-2671 or exec.asst@characterfortcollins.org for more information.

Community Character Day

Character Fort Collins invites you to our monthly COMMUNITY CHARACTER DAY on Thursday, March 19th, 2009! Join us for either Breakfast OR Lunch and participate in an advanced discussion of our monthly character focus for the next month - "Sincerity: Eagerness to do what is right with transparent motives." We invite you to come and learn about our community's character initiative and the benefits of active participation for families, schools, and workplaces. Appropriate for ages 12+.

Free continental breakfast, 6:45 to 8:00 a.m., Moot House Restaurant, 2626 S. College Ave, Fort Collins

Free lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Cache Bank & Trust, 100 S. College Ave, Fort Collins

For reservations or information, contact Character Fort Collins at 970-266-2671, or indicate your plan to attend at: reservations@characterfortcollins.org.

Mark your calendars – Character Day is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month in 2009! Visit our Web site at www.characterfortcollins.org.

Site Based Meeting



Please note that this date has been changed from April 7th to Tuesday, March 31st. The agenda will be input on the 2009-10 staffing plan. We will get started at 7:00 PM in the media. There will be NO meeting on the 7th!



Playground Reminders

We are happy to “share” our playground with the neighborhood children however, please keep in mind that Zach children are outside using the playground daily, from 9:30 till 3:30. This time should be for the children who attend Zach. Please feel free to use our playground after this time and enjoy! Thanks for your understanding!



GOOD JOB!



Thanks to all the families who ate spaghetti & meatballs at Noodles in February to benefit the Zach PTO!! Noodles presented our PTO with a check for \$768.94! Wow!!! A special thank you to Ron Burke for organizing this fantastic fundraising event!

CSAP testing starts March 9th – parents can help!

Students will be taking the State-mandated CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Program) tests beginning March 9th. **Parents can help in several ways.**

- Ensure your child gets a good night’s sleep before each testing day.
- Provide your student a nourishing breakfast each testing day.
- Plan ahead to ensure your child is present and on time for each test.
- Schedule appointments or vacations on non-test days.



Staff Appreciation Update

On behalf of the Zach Staff, I would like to thank all the Kindergarten Parents, for making the first Staff Appreciation Luncheon of this year such a huge success. Your generous contributions were VERY appreciated by all the Staff.



A special thanks goes to **Karen Langreck and Ann Henning** for organizing this luncheon. You did an outstanding job!!

Please note that each luncheon is for all members (~50) of Zach's staff.

So far, every class has a parent leader(s) except for 3rd and 4th grades. If you have students in one of these classes and would like to facilitate the organization of one of these luncheons, please contact me at 204-0488 or fos2day@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Based on the staff's desire to enjoy all leftovers for at least one additional day, we would like to move most* of the remaining Friday lunches to Thursday and the 4th grade's Wednesday lunch to Tuesday. The new luncheon schedule will be as follows:

Friday*, March 27th: 1st Grade Luncheon; **Leader: Wendy Lee**

Thursday, April 23rd: 2nd Grade Luncheon; **Leader: Gabi Larkin**

Tuesday, May 5th: 4th Grade Luncheon

Thursday, May 7th: 5th Grade Luncheon; **Leaders: Susan Foran & Stephanie Marrick**

Thursday, May 21st: 3rd Grade Luncheon

Thank you!!

Karlina Popwell



**Volunteers for the 1st grade luncheon were already committed to Friday, March 27th, so this one will remain on Friday. Thanks!*

