



Zach Elementary Parent News

August 22, 2008

<http://schoolweb.psdschools.org/zach/>

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Thank you for the very warm welcome to Zach School. We have had a fantastic start to our school year. It is our goal each year to achieve excellence as a school. This means that students, parents, teachers, administrators and support staff work closely together to have the very best school possible. At Zach school our motto has been **“Reaching high...Reaching out!”** This speaks to the commitment we have to maximize learning for all students. To do this we need to have a safe and orderly environment, we need to have high expectations for both academics and behavior, and the school and home have to work together in a spirit of support and collaboration.

At Zach we value parent involvement. There is a tremendous amount of evidence to support the fact that when parents/guardians are involved in supporting their child and the school in positive ways, it has a positive impact on school climate and student performance in the classroom. Many parents at Zach have the opportunity to volunteer in the classroom, the library, and the PTO etc... We are grateful to those who can spend the time to do that. Many parents have schedules that hinder their ability to volunteer....we completely understand. I was not able, because of my profession, to spend much time volunteering at my children’s school. I was able however to be involved in a variety of other ways. I was able to attend (most of the time) school activities after school hours or at night. Most importantly, I was able to daily ask my boys how their day was, share how my day was, stress the importance of homework completion and the enjoyment of reading (when they were little I was able to read aloud to them). Finally, I was able to establish routines such as bedtime and homework time that allowed them to perform better at school.

A couple of things I would ask that you keep in mind:

- ⇒ We both want your child to do the very best they can at school.
- ⇒ We both expect that Zach staff will get to know each child, have a positive relationship with them, and work with you to provide the best possible experience.
- ⇒ You should not have to use anger to get help when needed....again we are on the same team.
- ⇒ School and home routines are critical to student success.
- ⇒ None of us are perfect as educators, as parents, or as students. Making mistakes is part of life. It should be our goal to learn from the mistakes we make and make better decisions the next time around. How we approach each other when mistakes are made makes all the difference in building positive relationships.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children. Together we can build the best school possible.

Respectfully,

Don V. Rangel
Principal

CALENDAR ITEMS

No School

Monday, September 1, 2008 – Labor Day

Monday, September 15, 2008– Collaboration Day for Staff

Site-Based Decision-Making Team

The first Zach Elementary Site-Based Decision-Making Team Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center. This will be the first meeting of the school year. Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month.

Collaboration Day

There will be no school on Monday, September 15, 2008. The Zach Elementary staff will be analyzing test data and writing grade level and personal goals.

Spanish Deadline

The deadline for turning in Spanish Enrichment Registration forms is Tuesday, September 2, 2008.

PTO Meetings

The next PTO Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, in the Zach Elementary Media Center. PTO Meeting Dates for 2008-2009 are as follows:

Tuesday, September 16

Tuesday, October 21

Tuesday, November 1

Tuesday, December 16

Tuesday, January 20

Tuesday, February 24

Tuesday, March 10

Tuesday, April 21

Tuesday, May 19

Back to School Nights

Thursday, August 21	6:00-7:30	First Grade
Monday, August 25	6:00-7:00	Second Grade* Note the day change!
Tuesday, August 26	7:00-8:00	Third Grade
Thursday, August 28	6:00-7:00	Fourth Grade
	7:00-8:00	Fifth Grade

School Pictures

Individual school pictures will be taken on Tuesday, September 23, 2008. Pre-schoolers can have their pictures taken in the Media Center from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. All other students will get their picture taken during the school day. Do not send any money. A few weeks after the pictures have been taken, students will bring home proofs. Parents can decide at that time whether they want to order pictures.

Save the Date

The Fall Family Dance will be held on Friday, October 24, 2008, from 6:00 –8:00 p.m. at “The Ranch”. Families can dance, participate in fun activities planned for the evening, and enjoy snacks.

Lunchroom Reminders

Hot lunch for students is \$1.75 which includes an entrée, fruit and vegetable bar & milk. We are able to accept checks/cash for as many or few lunches as you would like to pay. Please be sure to send the correct amount for the number of lunches you wish to buy. Also, we are able to allow your child to charge for 2 lunches only. If your child has more than 2 charges, their lunch will be a trip to the salad bar and white milk. Please contact Alecia Mein, our lunchroom manager, at 488-5142 if you have any questions!

Safety Drills at Zach School....

Each year in the Poudre School District, we are required to conduct safety drills so that students and staff have a greater chance at being safe in the case of an emergency. These drills include but are not limited to Fire Drills, Tornado Drills, Lock Down Drills (in a situation that would require us to completely lock down the building), and an Evacuation Drill. Many of these drills have been scheduled in our first few weeks of school. Drill Schedule:

Thursday, August 21	9:05	Fire Drill
Friday, August 22	2:00	Fire Drill
Wednesday, August 27	9:05	Evacuation Drill
Friday, August 29	2:00	Lock Down Drill
Monday, September 8	9:05	Tornado Drill/Severe Weather Drill

We are currently in the process of revising the “Tornado Drill” plan. It has come to our attention that some children were really bothered, even traumatized by the experience last spring when a Tornado touched down in Windsor. It is important to develop consistent language and practices with all of our students so that they feel safe and know that we will work hard to keep them safe.

Finally, it is important that we all do our part in keeping Zach children safe. The area that we have the most control over as a school community is dropping off and picking up students, following the plan that was developed many years ago at Zach. Driving slowly, watching out for pedestrians, parking in appropriate locations etc...This requires us to put personal convenience aside to do what is best for everyone. Again thank you for all that you do to keep our children safe.



