



Stove Prairie

February 25, 2010



Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Science Fest 2010

Please come to the gym to enjoy the activities we have planned for Science Fest 2010. The fun begins at 10:15 next Thursday, March 4, before Potluck.

P.E. News

Congratulations to **Emma Bowen**, the February Trivia Question winner! All students who had the correct entry will receive a fitness prize next week in P.E. Cheers for all the winners!

Schools on the Move Challenge sheets are due at P.E. time on Wednesday. Teachers will send them home in Thursday folders. Students have been recording their physical activity daily in class or weekly in P.E. Look over your child's activities and feel free to add anything they may have missed—example: weekend ski trips, weekly sports practice, family hikes, jumping jacks in front of the TV, etc. The dates don't have to be exact as long as the activity was done in the month of February. (Remember to include Friday, February 26.) Every child who returns a sheet with a parent signature will receive a free t-shirt and we have a great chance on winning P.E. equipment. We have had 100% participation in this contest in the past. Let's do it again! Thanks so much,

~ Nancy West, P.E.

Art News

The Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Lincoln Center begins on February 24 and art remains on display through March 25. Special recognition to our Stove Prairie students who will have their artwork exhibited: **Saleen Rowell, Jenna Schmidt, Emma Bowen, and Tannis Downing**. I hope all families in the Mountain Schools will have a chance to visit and view the marvelous art created by PSD students. ~ Brenda Colter, Art

Report on Collection for Haiti

Thank you for your support of the Save Haiti Fund Drive sponsored by the K-1 Class. Students collected \$167.81. Idea man and team leader, **Makabe Aberle**, will present this donation to the Red Cross this weekend. Makabe said, "One quarter buys a meal for one person." With this donation we will provide over 650 meals for citizens of Haiti! Thank you!!!

PSD Vision—from page 2 of the Handbook

Poudre School District exists to support and inspire every child to think, to learn, to care, and to graduate prepared to be successful in a changing world.

Mountain Schools Mission—from page 2 of the Handbook

The Mountain Schools will provide a challenging learning environment so all students will achieve to their highest potential.

Attachments

- March Calendar—*on the back of paper copies >>>*
- Healthy Kids News

The Staff

Poudre School District

Watch for your census form this month – be a part of history!

March 2010 is an important month for our country and community. The 2010 Census form will be delivered or mailed to households across the United States in March, and you can make history by filling out and returning your census form as soon as it arrives. Please watch for your census form and respond immediately by mailing it back. Census workers will visit households that do not return the forms to take a count in person. They can be identified by a census badge and bag.

Every person living in the United States must be counted in the 2010 Census – including people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens. Your participation is vital and helps to provide a new portrait of America – illustrating our nation's growing and changing population and demographics.

2010 Census: Why it's important

- By completing and returning your census form you are performing an important civic duty while helping to better define the future – for you, your community and our country.
- Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to tribal, state, and local governments based on census data.
- Census data guides local planning decisions, including where to provide additional social services, establish child-care and senior centers, and build new roads, hospitals, schools and job training, and community centers.
- Census data are used to reapportion congressional seats to states and assure proper district representation.
- Many businesses, social service and non-profit organizations use census data to make critical decisions that affect communities everywhere.

Easy. Important. Safe.

Participating in the census is easy, important and safe. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form takes about 10 minutes to complete. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

PSD asks for your participation in 2010. Look for your 2010 Census form in March and return it upon receipt. Join us in helping to make our community a brighter place by participating in the 2010 Census.

Review elementary boundary recommendations at March input meetings

The Elementary Boundary Steering Committee invites parents and community members to review boundary scenarios at two public meetings in March. The Steering Committee is analyzing elementary boundaries to better balance enrollment, as well as to correct non-adjacent elementary attendance areas and to the degree possible align elementary and middle school feeder school systems.

Proposed recommendations will be reviewed at two public input meetings in March. The same information will be available at each meeting. Parents, staff and community members are encouraged to attend one of the meetings:

- **5-7 p.m., Monday, March 1, Rocky Mountain High School Commons, 1300 W. Swallow.**
- **5-7 p.m., Wednesday, March 3, Rocky Mountain High School Commons, 1300 W. Swallow.**

Scenarios will also be posted on the PSD Web site by late February/early March for the public to review.

The Steering Committee, which began meeting in December, will also determine the feasibility of zonal bussing in elementary areas affected by non-adjacent boundaries. In February, the Steering Committee continued to narrow scenarios and present recommendations to the Review Committee.

Information: visit "Elementary Boundary Process," under "District Updates" on the PSD Web site at www.psdschools.org, or contact Sarah Siple, PSD business services, at 490-3501 or email ssiple@psdschools.org.

Talk with Superintendent

Parents and community members are invited to visit with Superintendent of Schools Jerry Wilson during upcoming "listening sessions." Listening sessions are an opportunity to talk with Dr. Wilson about issues and concerns, ways to enhance student achievement, and ask questions about Poudre School District. Everyone is encouraged to attend. No registration is necessary. For more information, call 490-3607 or e-mail info@psdschools.org.

Next listening session: 7-8 p.m., Thursday, April 1, Boltz Middle School Media Center, 720 Boltz Dr.

Stay connected! Online e-mail sign-up now available

We want your current e-mail address! Sign up to receive PSD emergency information and the quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives (grade configuration, boundary changes, etc.), and current news and events. You may also receive important school updates, calendar changes, and critical information from your child's teacher.

PSD now has an online e-mail subscription system. If you provided an e-mail address on your child's information form, your address is already in the system. If you have not yet provided one or your e-mail has changed, please go to the **E-mail Alert Sign-up** link on the www.psdschools.org and input your address. Stay connected. Sign up today!

PSD Weather-Related Delayed Start Plan

Should the need arise due to bad weather and/or questionable road conditions, PSD may implement a delayed start of all schools by 2 hours. The following is important information for parents regarding delayed start, as well a refresher on school closure and early release plans.

Delayed Start of Schools Due to Weather, Road Conditions

Should the need arise, the delayed school start time will be 2 hours, for all schools.

- **Delayed start decision:** A decision about delayed start will be made by 5:30 a.m.
- **Parent notification:** visit the PSD website at www.psdschools.org or tune in to local radio or television stations to find out about delayed start the morning of the day in question. Please do not call schools, district offices, or broadcast media. No announcements by media and on the website means all schools are open as usual.
- **Bus pick up times:** Buses will pick up students at bus stops 2 hours later than regularly scheduled pick-up times. Buses will make every effort to be punctual, although traffic and road conditions may increase travel time. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly in anticipation of a potentially longer wait time. Parents are encouraged to walk their children to bus stops and avoid walking along the roadways. Sidewalks are safer even if these areas are not cleared of snow.
- **Drop off and arrival times:** Parents dropping off students, students who walk, and students driving to school should arrive 2 hours after their regular arrival times. Please do not arrive earlier.
- **Kindergarten and Early Childhood:** Morning-only kindergarten programs and morning Early Childhood programs are cancelled when there is a delayed start schedule. Afternoon kindergarten and afternoon Early Childhood programs will run on normal schedules. Full-day kindergarten and full-day Early Childhood programs will start 2 hours later than normal.
- **Before- and after-school childcare:** B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will open as normally scheduled for students attending these programs. If your childcare provider is other than B.A.S.E. Camp, contact them for start times.
- **School dismissal times:** School dismissal times will remain on regular schedules, including bus drop-off times in neighborhoods and parent pick-up times at schools.

School Closures Due to Weather, Road Conditions

If schools are closed due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, parents should tune in to local radio and television stations, or go online to PSD's website at www.psdschools.org to find out about school closures the morning of the day in question.

Media outlets are informed if schools are closed. No announcements by the media or on the PSD website means all schools are open as usual.

A decision about weather-related school closures is made by 5:30 a.m., and media outlets are notified immediately.

Parents should NOT call schools, district offices, or broadcast media.

The PSD website (www.psdschools.org), radio and television stations will provide information about PSD school closures. We will notify Spanish radio stations KGRE 1450AM and KJJD 1170AM for Spanish speaking families.

Note: When PSD schools are closed, B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will be closed.

Early Release of Schools Due to Weather, Road Conditions

If the weather forecast suddenly changes to adverse conditions, PSD may put into action an early release. Parents are urged to please develop a plan for the possibility of your student's early release to your home. B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will not be available after school if schools release students early.

When PSD makes a decision to close schools earlier than the regularly-scheduled release times due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, parents will be notified by phone. **In addition, media outlets (listed above) and the PSD website (www.psdschools.org) also will communicate early release information.**

Parents are urged to make sure family contacts and telephone numbers are current at your child's school for such an emergency. For additional information about the policy and procedures, contact Scott French, PSD director of transportation, at 490-3555.

PSD begins budget process, state announces major K-12 education cuts

Colorado is facing major fiscal challenges, and PSD is monitoring all announcements and information as the budget development process for 2010-11 begins.

What is PSD's current budget situation?

The State of Colorado has announced it will likely rescind (take back) \$3.3 million already budgeted to PSD for this school year. PSD has set aside this amount in anticipation of the state's action.

In November, Gov. Ritter presented an early proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11 that included a \$260 million, or 4.6% reduction to K-12 education when compared to the current school year (FY 2009-10).

Because of the state's budget proposal, PSD is planning for three possible levels of reductions—\$5 million, \$8 million, or \$12 million.

"We are preparing for several scenarios, and all involve budget cuts from last year to this year," says Jim Sarchet, PSD assistant superintendent of business services. "With each state report, we are able to fine-tune information."

Following are key dates for development of PSD's 2010-11 budget:

- **October/November:** Board of Education established priorities for PSD budget
- **November:** Governor releases preliminary budget to Joint Budget Committee
- **December:** Colorado quarterly economic report released
- **January:** Legislative session begins, and budget discussions continue through April/May
- **February:** Colorado rate of inflation announced (currently projected to be negative)
- **March:** PSD presents preliminary budget to Board of Education
- **February – May:** PSD revises budget assumptions/priorities, based in information/input
- **March:** PSD announces preliminary Student-Based Budgeting (SBB) allocations to schools
- **March:** Colorado quarterly economic reports released
- **March - May:** Budget discussions held during PSD employee negotiations
- **Late April/early May:** Legislature adopts K-12 funding in the School Finance Act
- **May:** PSD Administration presents preliminary budget to Board of Education
- **June:** Board action to adopt 2010-11 budget

For the latest in-depth information, please visit the PSD Web site at www.psdschools.org under District Updates, "Budget Development Process."

Flu season is here, help control the spread of germs

Flu season is here and it is time to start practice prevention strategies. You can help us in the following ways:

- Encourage your children to **practice healthy eating, sleeping and exercising habits.**
- **Teach children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Teach children to cover coughs/sneezes and not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.
- **Clean surfaces and objects that your child touches frequently**
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Children who are sick while at school *will be sent home.*

- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs.
- **Get your family vaccinated** for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu when vaccines are available.

We continue to work closely with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and other city, county and state agencies to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. **Please make sure you are on the PSD Parent E-mail Alert list (www.psdschools.org), so we can provide you with new information as it becomes available.** This also assures you receive email updates from your child's school. Additional H1N1 flu information and resources can be found at www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636).