Message From the Principal

Dear Columbine Hills Family,

Spring is here! I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful spring break. We have an exciting and busy two months ahead of us as we wrap up this school year.

All 3rd through 6th grade students will be taking CMAS, our state assessment, in April. The testing schedule has sent home and is also attached in this newsletter. We appreciate your help in making sure your child is in attendance each day and on time. It is important for students to be well rested and to have a healthy breakfast each day. Thank you for your support.

Our next SAC meeting will be on April 12th at 5:30pm followed by our PTA meeting at 6:30pm. These are both great ways to get involved at CHE!

We appreciated everyone’s feedback through the Family-School Partnership Survey. We will use this information to continue to make CHE a great place for students and families. A summary of the survey information will be sent out.

As your principal, I continue to strive for a successful experience for your child. Please know my door is always open for questions, concerns or comments. Please feel free to send me an email or contact me at (303)982-5540.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Wilson
Principal

“Aiming for Success, Believing…Together We Can!”
March 18, 2022

Dear Columbine Hills Parent/Guardian,

Our third through fifth grade students will take state assessments that align with the Colorado State Standards. The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) will be given in English language arts, math and science.

Standardized tests inform our school in many ways. Our teachers, for example, review the results from the state tests to adjust their instruction. Students and families will be provided a fuller understanding of their student’s mastery of grade level expectations from the CMAS. And our school is accredited, in part, based on CMAS results. CMAS provides a more accurate understanding of student knowledge because students will be asked to show and apply what they know, instead of just picking the right answer from a multiple-choice question.

We would appreciate your support in making sure your child is in attendance on the days that he/she is testing. Please see the dates listed below for when your child will be taking one of the State tests.

3rd Grade
CMAS ELA     April 5, 6, 7
CMAS Math    April 19, 20, 21

4th Grade
CMAS ELA     April 12, 13, 14
CMAS Math    April 5, 6, 7

5th Grade
CMAS ELA     March 30, 31 & April 1
CMAS Math    April 12, 13, 14
CMAS Science April 19, 20, 21

If you have question about the CMAS, please contact our school at 303-982-5540.

Sincerely,

Christa Wilson
Principal

Aiming for Success, Believing...Together We Can!
Thank you for continuing to fill up the staff snack cart. Use the QR code below to send directly from Amazon or drop off your snacks to the front office.

The end of the school year is right around the corner. Commemorate by purchasing the Yearbook by following the link below.

Yearbook Pre-sale

Race to Read is under way! Race tickets, gift cards, teachers racing on trikes!!! This event is awesome!!! If you missed the bingo sheets or want more info email the CHE PTA!

Canvas and Kids is scheduled for Thursday April 21st. We look forward to the beautiful flower paintings. Deadline for registration is April 15th.

Canvas & Kids April 2022
Get ready to celebrate our fantastic CHE staff! Staff Appreciation week is May 2-6. More info to come.

Order your 2022-2023 school supply kits by May 25 and they will be delivered to your child’s classroom in the fall.

www.edukitinc.com

Save the date, the PTA is planning a Year End Party for May 13th!

The CHE PTA wants to recognize and thank the following business sponsor. If your business is interested in being a sponsor for the 2022-2023 school year please contact us.

LAW OFFICE OF JACOB KARTCHNER LLC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
ADMITTED IN COLORADO AND VIRGINIA

4 WEST DRY CREEK CIRCLE SUITE 100 · LITTLETON, CO 80128
720 693 3147 · JKARTCHNER@JKARTCHNERLAW.COM

Please join us at our next PTA meeting on Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30.

A drawing for a $25 gift card will be awarded.

-CHE PTA

Questions and comments - columbinehillspta@gmail.com
Thank you to the Watch Dog Dads in March! We truly appreciate all your support and look forward to having you visit again! If you have any questions about the Watch Dog Dad program, call the school office!
Writer of the Month Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as the Writer of the Month for the month of March 2022 by their teachers. Their writing will be displayed in the front entry for everyone to read.

Kindergarten: Judah Sotile (Ms. Baltazar’s class)  
Kennedy Radis (Mrs. Blackwell’s class)

Grade 1: Kennedy Reyes (Mrs. Hartley’s class)  
Aiko Burnett (Mrs. McGeeney’s class)

Grade 2: Mia Griego (Ms. Johanson’s class)  
Brenna Steele (Mrs. Strayer’s class)

Grade 3: Kylie Maley (Mrs. Bawden’s class)  
Maycee Capansky (Mrs. Sarcletti’s class)

Grade 4: Ryder Potter (Mr. Capansky’s class)  
Kate Williams (Ms. Kirkland’s class)

Grade 5: Jayden Girard (Mrs. Bettmann’s class)  
Josie Ellis (Ms. Leebrick’s class)
BEE Awards

Congratulations to the following students who were chosen by their homeroom teachers to receive the BEE (Being Excellent Everyday) Award for the month of March 2022. The BEE awards are sponsored by the Littleton Optimist Club. Selection is based upon students showing their best effort in citizenship, attendance, and perseverance. Each selected student receives a “BEE” t-shirt, a “BEE” pencil and a certificate.

Kindergarten: Samuel Badalpour (Ms. Baltazar’s class)
Max Cummings (Mrs. Blackwell’s class)

Grade 1: Kennedy Reyes (Mrs. Hartley’s class)
Suzi Santos (Ms. McGeeney’s class)

Grade 2: Kalila Watkins (Ms. Johanson’s class)
Flynn Hamilton (Mrs. Strayer’s class)

Grade 3: Skylar Good (Mrs. Bawden’s class)
Angelina Maj (Mrs. Sarcletti’s class)

Grade 4: Kristina Tsuber (Ms. Kirkland’s class)
Marcus Sanchez (Mrs. Capansky’s class)

Grade 5: Ollie Shisler (Mrs. Bettmann’s class)
Kenny Crawford (Ms. Leebrick’s class)
BEE Awards, continued...
Welcome to CHE!

Please welcome a few new staff members to Columbine Hills!

Chantee Eam - Custodian

Hello My name is Chantee Eam. I was born and raised in Denver, Colorado and I am Cambodian, Thai and Vietnamese. I am a mommy to an 18 month old little boy named Dj. It’s currently my first year at Metropolitan State of Denver. I am in school to become a middle school math teacher. I love being a mom. I enjoy cooking and grilling.

Chris Wilkins - ASD Para

My name is Chris Wilkins. My husband and I recently moved to Colorado, but we are originally from the Chicago area. I love children and have three of my own. I enjoy hiking with my dog and am excited to be here at Columbine Hills.

Mary Grace Cleary—Special Education Para

Hi! My name is Mary Grace Cleary, I am a Special education para. I started working in Columbine Hills Elementary this year. I have lived in the Jeffco area for many years now. When I am not working, I enjoy playing the violin and a lot of my extra free time is spent baking. I am excited to be in this positive community as I continue to learn and grow at my new position here.
Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable! Reach parents in your local community & a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school! Want to sponsor this school? Please contact Rob Mangelson at Rob@tscacolorado.com or (720) 878-4107.
Sharing Wordless Picture Books

Wordless picture books are told entirely through their illustrations — they are books without words, or sometimes just a few words. Sharing wordless books with a child provides an opportunity for literacy-rich conversations. Each "reader" listens and speaks, and creates their own story in their own words. Sharing wordless books also reinforces the idea that, in many books, the story and the pictures are connected. Elementary-aged students often enjoy writing down their original story to accompany a wordless book.

Below are a few tips for sharing wordless picture books with a child:

- Recognize that there are no "right" or "wrong" ways to read a wordless book. One of the wonderful benefits of using wordless books is how each child creates his own story (or stories!) from the same pictures.
- Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.
- Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Enjoy the illustrations, which are often rich with detail. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the setting and the use of color. Talk to each other about what you see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.
- Enjoy the pictures and point out a few things, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Ham it up! Have characters use different voices, add sound effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.
- Encourage your child to "read" you the book with his story. Focus on the words your child uses when he tells the story. Help your child expand his sentences or thoughts by encouraging him to add information from the illustration's details. One way to encourage more details is by asking "W" questions: Who? Where? When? Why?
- Finish your wordless book sharing by asking a few simple questions: What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favorite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?

Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension — and an increased awareness of how stories are "built," as the storyteller often uses a beginning, middle, end format. For a book with few words, you'll be surprised at all the talking you will do, and all the fun you'll have!

For a list of wordless picture books visit: https://www.readingrockets.org/booklists/our-favorite-wordless-picture-books
Autism Awareness Month

Columbine Hills is honored to have an outstanding Autism Program to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. April is Autism awareness month and a time that we can recognize and celebrate differences. We wanted to share some facts and resources about Autism with you.

A few facts about autism:

- 1 in 68 kids are diagnosed with autism
- Boys are 4x more likely to be diagnosed than girls
- Autism is a bio-neurological developmental disability that generally appears before the age of 3
- Autism impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction, communication skills, and cognitive function.
- Individuals with autism often suffer from numerous co-morbid medical conditions which may include: allergies, asthma, epilepsy, digestive disorders, persistent viral infections, feeding disorders, sensory integration dysfunction, sleeping disorders, and more.
- Currently there is no cure for autism, though with early intervention and treatment, the diverse symptoms related to autism can be greatly improved

Facts from the National Autism Foundation and Autism Speaks.

Resources for students:

- [http://pbskids.org/video/arthur/1447843659](http://pbskids.org/video/arthur/1447843659)

Parking Lot Safety

Please help us keep our students safe by driving slowly through our parking lot and watching closely for students walking to cars. Please use the crosswalk so that we can ensure that students are getting to and from school safely. We are asking that families do not cross at the entrances of the parking lot. There are no crosswalks at these locations. Please do not park in the bus lane in the front of the school or in no parking areas in the parking lot. Thank you for your help and support!
Dear Families,

Everything we post online creates a permanent trail of information. Today, it is not uncommon for employers and colleges to rely on simple Google searches to make initial judgments about applicants. According to Metropolitan State University, 70% of recruiters have admitted to denying a potential candidate due to information found on their social media accounts.

During the month of April, students at all levels will be invited to dive deeper into digital citizenship learning related to creating and maintaining one’s Digital Footprint & Identity. Today’s learners are heavy internet users and it’s important for them to understand that WE should both shape and then protect our own digital footprints. As an adult in a student’s life, you can help guide positive choices in this direction.

Talk to your student(s) about what is NEVER okay to share online. The image, to the right, from www.kathleenamorris.com, is one way to engage younger students in a conversation about digital footprint.

With older students, it is okay to be more specific and to have detailed conversations around their digital footprint. The image, to the left, from www.kathleenamorris.com, is an example of what students should keep in mind while navigating their digital lives.

Additional Family Resources

Jefferson County Parent Resources
FBI Family Resources
Common Sense Media
Each Thursday, the **Food For Thought BakPak Program** will distribute sacks filled with food to students **who need food during the weekends**. The **Food For Thought BakPak Program** is a partnership of businesses, faith-based ministries, and the communities of SW Jefferson County who care about hunger needs of students in our schools. This program is designed for families who are struggling financially and may need support to provide adequate food for their children on weekends. The weekend bags consist of food for meals for each participating student. The food will be packed in a plastic grocery bag. It will fit in the child’s own backpack or will be easy to carry.

*If you wish for your student(s) to participate in this program, please complete the information below and return to the school office as soon as possible.* If participating in this program, your student’s name will be shared with the BakPak program coordinator for the purpose of labeling the bags.

If you do not need assistance, but may be interested in making a monetary or food item donation toward this program, please let Denise Woodin, Columbine Hills Elementary Enrollment Secretary know. If you have any other questions, please contact Denise Woodin at 303-982-5540 or email at denise.woodin@jeffco.k12.co.us

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_____ Yes, I would like my child (children) to participate in this program.

**Parent Name:** ____________________________________________________________

**Student:** ___________________________ **Classroom Teacher:** ___________________________

**Student:** ___________________________ **Classroom Teacher:** ___________________________

**Student:** ___________________________ **Classroom Teacher:** ___________________________
Columbine Hills Elementary School “Home School Connection”

Please return to Christa Wilson, Principal

I have a question, a concern or something positive to share:

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

This information is optional:

Name:________________________________
Daytime Phone:_________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________

We would like to give you an opportunity to share your appreciation of our staff by using this form below. Simply return the form to the office.

Staff Appreciation

Dear _________________________,

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Dear _________________________,