

Walnut Hills Elementary

Educating the head, the heart and the hand

8195 E. Costilla Blvd.
Centennial, CO 80112
720-554-3800 office
720-554-3888 fax

Attendance Line: 720-554-3895
Cougar Club: 720-554-3821
Snow Delay & Closure Line: 720-554-4701
School Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
School Grounds Open: 8:45 a.m.



Important Dates

Friday, April 7
Donuts for Dad
8:15-8:45 a.m.

Run4Funds
During Specials

Tuesday, April 11
PTCO Meeting 6:00 p.m.
4th Grade Colorado
2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12
Volunteer Tea 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, April 13
Class Picture Day

Friday, April 21
Sock Hop

Monday, April 24
Family Date Night
Bad Daddys All Day

April 4, 2017

Dear Walnut Hills Families,

Happy Spring!!! April is here and with it brings growth, warmth, and celebration. There is so much to celebrate at our school. My cups overflow with happiness and joy at our magnificent school!

Love-filled February left no empty hearts at Walnut Hills. Every child in the school created a hand-made Valentine for a special senior citizen in our community. After school on Valentine's Day, our children and families hand delivered Valentine's to every senior resident at Holly Creek Retirement Home and additional volunteers dropped off Valentines to other local senior residencies. My heart was overjoyed to see our sweet children listen and learn from every senior they encountered. We also celebrated Black History Month and the presidential holidays through poetry, literature, writing, and dialogue. Science filled the air as our student shared their incredible Science Fair Projects. I can say, based on these projects, our children have the capacity to change the scientific future.

March came in like a LION! We started off with our spring parent-teacher conferences. The opportunity for families to share their thoughts as well as teachers to share progress and growth of our children was truly wonderful. Our student council kicked off Pennies for Patients which raised money for cancer research. On St. Patrick's Day our gym teacher and before & after care director participated in St. Baldrick's Day to also raise money for cancer research. Our beloved gym teacher, Dan Phelps, has a vested interest in curing cancer as his 23-month old son, Luke, has been battling brain cancer. I am humbled to be part of a community with such a deep desire to give back to their own school family.

Our first annual STEM Day took place on March 16. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics were in full motion as our entire school participated in hands-on activities. Watching and hearing the children squealing with excitement as they went through the events was invigorating! Our new music teacher, Amber Adams, directed two amazing performances in March. The second graders performed "Swamped" which featured a theme of various swamp characters singing and dancing. Our

...continued

**Tuesday, April 25
A Cultural Taste of
Walnut Hills
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Monday, May 1-
Thursday, May 4
Teacher Appreciation
Week**

**Wednesday, May 3
Kindergarten
2017-2018 Orientation
3:45-4:45 p.m.**

**Thursday, May 4
Muffins for Mom
8:15-8:45**

**Friday, May 5
No School**

first graders performed "Squirm" featuring various bugs and insects singing and dancing. Both performances made us laugh and cheer! Finally, I have officially had lunch with every first through fifth grade student at our school. What a joy! The opportunity to get to know each of my students has been a gift. I look forward to talking with each kindergarten student at the April Teddy Bear Picnic!

In February and March, we began enrolling kindergarten students for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year! I am extremely excited to welcome our new students as they begin their educational journey. Walnut Hill believes in EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY. I personally invite you to spread the word to neighbors and friends to come and visit our school!

Finally, we have begun planing for the 2017-2018 school year. PLUS TIME has been valued for many years at Walnut Hills. As we look to renovate PLUS TIME to not only to include the arts but also to include 21st century learning skills, we would like your thoughts and ideas. I have included (see below) 3 questions regarding PLUS TIME. Please either email your feedback to tbourbonnie2@cherrycreekschools.org or print the questions and write feedback. Please return all feedback by FRIDAY, April 14, 2017. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

I hope spring break was fabulous and welcome back to school!

Warmly,



Teolyn Bourbonnie
Principal



PLUS TIME SURVEY for Walnut Hills Families

1. What do you and your children value about PLUS TIME?
2. What do you think of integrating STEM into PLUS TIME?
3. What other thoughts and ideas would you like to share regarding PLUS TIME?

PARCC/CMAS Schedule

April 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	NOTES
10	11 3 rd grade ELA 90 min 4 th grade ELA 90 min 5 th grade ELA 90 min *4 th grade show	12 3 rd grade ELA 75 min 4 th grade ELA 90 min 5 th grade ELA 90 min 4 th grade Math 60min 5 th grade Math 60 min	13 3 rd grade ELA 90 min 4 th grade ELA 90 min 5 th grade ELA 90 min 4 th grade Math 60min 5 th grade Math 60 min *Picture Day	14 4 th grade ELA 90 min AM 4 th grade Math 60min PM 5 th grade Math 60 min	All ELA tests in the morning from 9:15-11:00. 4 th and 5 th math 1:30-3:00
17	18 3 rd Math 60 min 9:15-10:30 5 th grade Science 80 min 9:15-10:45 4 th Math 9:15-10:45	19 3 rd Math 60 min 9:15-10:30 5 th grade Science 80min 9:15-10:45 4 th Math 9:15-10:45	20 3 rd Math 60 min 9:15-10:30 5 th grade Science 80 min 9:15-10:45 4 th Math 9:15-10:45	21	
24 Make-ups this week.	25	26	27	28	

DONUTS FOR DAD

Calling all Dads! It's that time of year again when Walnut Hills Elementary wants to show our appreciation for all our great Dads. Come enjoy donuts and be social on April 7, 2015 from 8:15-8:45 a.m.



YEARBOOK PICTURES WANTED

If you have any pictures that you have taken this year and would like to share them with the yearbook staff, we would love to have them. Just put them in a JPEG digital format, either on a disk and send to Jana Lucas, or email them to jucas6@cherrycreekschools.org.

PTCO AUCTION HELP NEEDED!

Please take a look at the sign up link below. If you are able to help with any of the items listed, please sign-up.

Thank you! - Walnut Hills PTCO

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4faeaf22a0fd0-20172>

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING LINKS FOR SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS AND DRIVERS EDUCATION INFORMATION

CCSD DRIVERS' EDUCATION CLASSES: www.cherrycreekschools.org/athleticsactivities/driversed

CCSD SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS: www.cherrycreekschools.org/athleticsactivities/summercamps

NON RESIDENT APPLICATIONS FOR 2017 – 2018

It is time for the Non Resident Applications for 2017 – 2018. If you are currently at Walnut Hills on a Non – Resident Application and wish to remain at Walnut Hills next year, please complete the online application. The form is found at www.cherrycreekschools.org. Go to the Admission tab on left side. Choose Student Registration, then on the right side of the web site choose Non Resident Application. Open the link and complete the 2017 – 2018 Non Resident Application. Any questions? Call Nancy Moore at 720-554-3800.

♥ Thank you from the heart... ♥

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to:

- Pam Berke for organizing dinner for the teachers the late conference night! The soups and salads were delicious and much appreciated. Also a thank you to the many people who donated food: Gwen Spaulding-Barclay, Jen Bosier, Katila Milligan-Pate, Kara Scholl, Sherry Perry, Joy Diamond, Holly Solomon, Erin Poole-Swyers, Carie Mahan, Beth Pratt-Sitaula, Kili Hady, Lili Cho, and Donna Chrisjohn.
- The many parent volunteers who helped with the STEM Science Day! Marcella Duran, Kyle McDonald, Holly Solomon, Elena & Jacob Berzon-Ezzell, and the numerous others who helped with running robots, building computers, operating visual aids and numerous other amazing activities! It was so much fun!

Adopted by the Board of Education
March 13, 2017

Cherry Creek School District 2017-2018 School Year Calendar

All middle schools and Antelope Ridge, Arrowhead, Belleview, Canyon Creek, Cherry Hills Village, Cimarron, Cottonwood Creek, Dry Creek, Eastridge, Fox Hollow, Greenwood, Heritage, High Plains, Highline, Holly Hills/Ridge, Homestead, Independence, Indian Ridge, Meadow Point, Mission Viejo, Peakview, Polton, Ponderosa, Red Hawk Ridge, Rolling Hills, Sagebrush, Summit, Sunrise, Timberline, Trails West, Village East, Walnut Hills, and Willow Creek Elementaries

JULY						
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30	31					

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DECEMBER						
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31						

JANUARY						
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25	✕	✕	✕	✕	✕	31

APRIL						
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29	30					

MAY						
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27	✕	29	30	31		

JUNE							
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

X No School for Students and Staff
[School Starts
] Last day of School

Days marked with symbols below are non-pupil contact days:
□ Teacher Work Days Prior to Start of School
○ K-12 Non-contact/conferences
△ K-8 Non-contact/conferences

If for any reason the school district must close schools for more than two days, this adopted 2017-2018 calendar will be amended by the Board of Education to provide additional school days.

CCSD Board of Education approves changes in school start times

The Cherry Creek School District Board of Education unanimously approved changes to school start times during its regular meeting on March 13, citing the latest research and best practices regarding sleep patterns in adolescents.

The vote followed many months' worth of public forums, careful research and community dialogue across the district regarding the changes, which will kick off at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. Starting in the fall, elementary schools will start at 8 a.m. and release at 2:45 p.m., high schools will start at 8:20 a.m. and release at 3:30 p.m. and middle schools will start at 8:50 a.m. and release at 3:45 p.m. These changes were carefully designed to offer adolescents and teens a later start, and specifically to provide them with added sleep that research has shown to be so critical to development and learning.

That research played a large part in the decision of the CCSD board members, who spoke to the ties between education and physical well-being before their vote on Monday.

"I think that the sleep research is very clear," Cherry Creek School District Superintendent Harry Bull said. "Adolescents stay up later. Subsequently, the longer they can sleep in the morning, the closer they are to the recommended amount of sleep for adolescents."

The changes came after exhaustive communication with the community as part of the district's wider Cherry Creek 2021 initiative to review structures and practices at all levels. With the goal of creating an ideal schedule for student learning, district officials held meetings, conducted online polls and garnered feedback in many forms. In the end, surveys showed overwhelming support for the measure. The district received more than 25,000 responses during the course of its outreach, and about 73 percent of those responses reflected support for the proposed changes. What's more, district officials responded to specific suggestions and critiques after collecting the initial survey results, collaborating with stakeholders throughout the process.

"The amount of feedback to our survey, attendance at meetings and online surveys has truly been unprecedented," Cherry Creek School Board member Karen Fisher said. "I applaud our community."

The changes align with the latest research and data from medical professionals regarding the importance of sleep for middle- and high-school aged children. Lisa Meltzer, associate professor of pediatrics at National Jewish Health, spoke during the Board of Education's meeting in February and pointed to the latest research on the topic, maintaining that a proper amount of sleep is "essential for healthy daytime functions and for well-being" when it comes to adolescents and teens.

During a research process that lasted more than a year, the district's priority was developing a schedule that best fit the needs of the entire community. Though no single timetable can fit every individual's personal preference, the option approved by the board ultimately garnered the most support from all corners of the Cherry Creek School District.

"Things do change, and the routines change," board member Janice McDonald said. "Even now, my routine will change as a grandparent. But we always manage to make it work. As the change takes place, I believe it is for the greater good of our students. We will do things that are necessary to make the changes."

El Consejo Educativo del Distrito Escolar de Cherry Creek (CCSD, por sus siglas en inglés) aprueba los cambios para la hora de entrada a las escuelas

El Consejo Educativo del Distrito Escolar de Cherry Creek unánimemente aprobó los cambios para la hora de entrada durante su reunión regular del día 13 de marzo, citando las investigaciones más recientes y las mejores prácticas sobre el patrón del sueño en los adolescentes.

El voto seguido de muchos meses activos de foros públicos, investigaciones cuidadosas y diálogos comunitarios a lo largo del distrito sobre los cambios, los cuales comenzarían al principio del año escolar del 2017-18. Empezando en el otoño, las escuelas primarias empezarán a las 8 a.m. y saldrán a las 2:45 p.m., las escuelas preparatorias/bachilleratos empezarán a las 8:20 a.m. y saldrán a las 3:30 p.m. y las escuelas secundarias empezarán a las 8:50 a.m. y saldrán a las 3:45 p.m. Estos cambios fueron cuidadosamente designados para ofrecerle a los adolescentes y jóvenes una hora de entrada más tarde, y específicamente para proporcionarles a ellos con el descanso adicional que la investigación ha demostrado ser crítica para el desarrollo y el aprendizaje.

Ésa investigación jugó una parte muy grande en la decisión de los miembros del Consejo de CCSD, quienes hablaron en cuanto a los vínculos entre la educación y el bienestar físico, antes de sus votos del día lunes.

"Yo pienso que la investigación sobre el sueño es muy clara," dijo el Superintendente del Distrito Escolar de Cherry Creek, Harry Bull. "Los adolescentes se quedan despiertos hasta tarde. Subsecuentemente, lo más que ellos puedan dormir en la mañana, los acercara más a la cantidad recomendada de dormir para los adolescentes."

Los cambios llegaron después de una comunicación exhaustiva con la comunidad como parte de la iniciativa Cherry Creek 2021 más amplia del distrito de revisar las estructuras y prácticas en todos los niveles. Con el objetivo de crear un horario ideal para el aprendizaje del estudiante, oficiales del distrito tuvieron reuniones, condujeron encuestas en línea y recolectaron respuestas en muchas maneras. Al final, las encuestas mostraron un apoyo contundente para la medida. El distrito recibió más de 25,000 respuestas durante el curso de su promoción, y cerca de un 73 por ciento de esas respuestas reflejaron apoyo para el cambio propuesto. Lo que es más, oficiales del distrito respondieron a sugerencias y críticas específicas después de coleccionar los resultados de la encuesta inicial, colaborando con los accionistas durante todo el proceso.

"La cantidad de respuestas a nuestra encuesta, asistencia a las reuniones y a las encuestas en línea han sido verdaderamente sin precedente," dijo la miembro del Consejo Educativo de Cherry Creek Karen Fisher. "Yo le aplaudo a nuestra comunidad."

Los cambios se alinean con la investigación mas reciente y datos de parte de profesionales médicos sobre la importancia de dormir para los niños de edad escolar en la secundaria y la preparatoria/bachillerato. Lisa Meltzer, profesora asociada de pediatría en el National Jewish Health, hablo durante la reunión del Consejo Educativo en febrero y señaló hacia la investigación mas reciente en el tema, manteniendo que la cantidad apropiada de dormir es "esencial para las funciones saludables durante el día y para el bienestar" cuando se trata de los adolescentes y jóvenes.

Durante un proceso de investigación que duró más de un año, la prioridad del distrito fue desarrollar un horario que mejor se ajuste a las necesidades de toda la comunidad. Aunque no hay un horario que pueda ajustarse a cada preferencia individual personal, la opción aprobada por el Consejo finalmente recibió la mayor cantidad de apoyo de parte de todos los ángulos del Distrito Escolar de Cherry Creek.

"Las cosas cambian, y las rutinas cambian," dijo la miembro del Consejo Janice McDonald. "Aun ahora, como abuela mi rutina cambiará. Pero nosotros siempre nos ingeniamos para hacer que funcione. Mientras el cambio toma lugar, yo creo que es el mejor de los mejores para nuestros estudiantes. Nosotros haremos cosas que sean necesarias para hacer el cambio."

**JOIN
US**

CULTURAL TASTE OF WALNUT HILLS

Celebrating our school
community's culture and heritage

**FOOD
PERFORMANCES
CULTURAL ARTIFACTS
& DRESS**

TUESDAY

**April 25
6 - 8 pm**

More Info:
720.554.3800

Please RSVP by April 18.

Family: _____ # of Guests: _____

Want to exhibit your heritage? Which state/country/culture/region will you represent? _____

Your Email: _____ Your Phone: _____

Set up time is 5:30. Each family has 3 feet of table display space (1/2 a banquet table). Someone should be at your table at all times. If providing food, please provide in individual servings and list all food ingredients. Please also provide plates and plasticware for your table. Electrical outlets available but limited.

GUIDING GOOD CHOICES®



CHERRY CREEK SCHOOLS
**PARENT
ACADEMY**

Pick a location that works best for you!

Each class meets from 6:00 to 8:30 pm

West Middle School

Sept/Oct on Thursdays
(9/15, 9/22, 10/6, 10/13)
no class on 9/29

Fox Ridge Middle School

Nov on Mondays
(11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28)

Laredo Middle School

Jan on Wednesdays
(1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25)

Prairie Middle School

Feb on Thursdays
(2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23)

Horizon Middle School

Feb/Mar on Tuesdays
(2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21)

High Plains

Apr/May on Wednesdays
(4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10)

*Childcare available on a limited basis
Light snacks provided*

Cherry Creek School District psychologists, social workers and counseling staff present the Guiding Good Choices program throughout the district year-round. Guiding Good Choices is nationally recognized as a Model Program by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Help Guide Your Child through their Tweens!

A Program for Parents of 4th-8th Graders!

As children evolve from parent-pleasing little ones, to adolescents yearning for independence, testing boundaries and seeking peer acceptance, this **proven effective** four-week class offers tips for parents on navigating those challenging years.

LEARN TO:

- » Teach your child to stop, think and control impulses
- » Communicate peer pressure refusal skills
- » Understand adolescent brain development and how it affects behaviors
- » Develop healthy beliefs and clear standards within your family
- » Strengthen family bonds
- » Manage family conflict

INVEST THE TIME!

- » Four classes can make a lifetime of difference!
- » Research shows that Guiding Good Choices has been demonstrated to:
 - › Reduce alcohol use by 40 percent
 - › Increase the probability of remaining drug free
 - › Significantly reduce the the rate at which adolescents develop depression

Cost: \$30.00 per family - includes a \$10 workbook fee (Scholarships available for families who receive Free & Reduced Lunch - Call 720-554-4247 for more information.)

Additional costs of the program are sponsored by the CCSD Wellness Office.

SPACE IS LIMITED!
Register Now at
cherrycreek.revtrak.net

QUESTIONS?

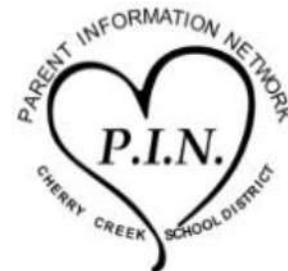
EMAIL: lkoenig2@cherrycreekschools.org
PHONE: 720-554-4247



Dedicated to Excellence
Cherry Creek Schools

WHAT BOYS NEED

A TRIBE, AS IT TURNS OUT.



At yet another standing-room only presentation, PIN's February speaker, Nick Jackson of The Boys School of Denver, spoke on the subject of raising boys. "Boys need a tribe," stated Jackson, "just as they have for thousands of years." Jackson urged parents to find ways to make sure their sons have a "tribe," warning that without one, boys will find potentially destructive alternatives.

So what does a positive tribe look like? Citing the work of past PIN presenter Michael Gurian, Jackson outlined these three core areas:

- **Family 1: Birth or Adoptive Parents** including grandparents who raise kids
- **Family 2: Extended Families** such as relatives, friends, teachers, peers or mentors
- **Family 3: Culture and Community** including media, church, government, institutions, and influential community figures



Dr. Leonard Sax, who will be PIN's keynote speaker at the Annual Brunch on May 2, states, "To be a man, a boy must see a man." Jackson used this quote to illustrate the importance of having positive male role models for boys so they can connect and learn how to be as they're growing older. "When a young man doesn't have a community of men, he's likely to look elsewhere for his role models, and that leads to a rise in violence, drug use, suicide and school drop-out rates," said Jackson.

Hear more about raising boys with character. Want to learn more? Download the free podcast of Jackson's presentation and look through his accompanying PowerPoint slides at www.PINccsd.org. Also, check out: *The Wonder of Boys* by Michael Gurian, and *Boys Adrift* by Leonard Sax.



Don't miss these last two PIN presentations of the year:

April 4th **Visual Processing Beyond 20/20: Improving Academics, Sports & Confidence**
Dr. Lynne Hellerstein

May 2nd **Instagram is Eating My Daughter...and My Son Won't Stop Playing Grand Theft Auto**
New York Times best-selling author Dr. Leonard Sax. PIN's Annual Brunch will be held at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church. For more information, visit www.PINccsd.org.