



Fall Has Arrived!



Coal Creek Elementary

Louisville, CO

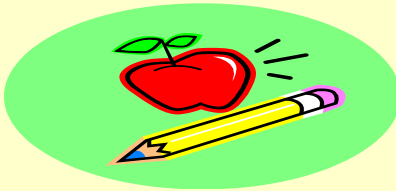
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4th Grade Gazette

Dear Parents:

To date, several children/families have not submitted their \$37.00 4th grade fee. This funding goes directly toward the students' learning via incoming speakers, hands-on presentations, materials for Colonial Day and Math Investigations, spelling and math workbooks, Time for Kids magazine, and planners, etc. Please submit your fee promptly, or contact your teacher with any questions.



Does it Fit?

"I Pick" books are books that the students personally choose to read. Either they are brought from home or they are found in our classroom library. "I Pick" is an acronym which stands for:

I choose a book
Purpose – Why do I want to read it?
Interest – Does it interest me?
Comprehend – Do I understand it?
Know – I know most of the words.

How do the students know if the book is too easy or too hard? Another simple tool that we have given our students is called the "**5 Finger Rule**." The 5 Finger rule gives students a tangible and easily accessible tool for assessing if a book is too easy or too difficult.

Literacy Café

This is our second year using "Literacy Café" as a structure for Language Arts. It was introduced last year. The Literacy Café creates a simple way to integrate assessment and conferencing into daily reading and writing. The students have a menu of options from which they work depending on their individual goals.

Café is an acronym for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanded Vocabulary. Teachers assess and coach students about using the various strategies that fall under each of the four headings.

Each week, students use "The Daily 5": Guided reading and writing, word work, Reading Counts, Self-selected reading, and Writer's Workshop to accomplish their individual literacy goals.

The student simply finds a book in which they are interested based on the "I Pick" strategy. Then they open the book up to the middle and start reading silently keeping track of how many words they do not understand:

- 1 Finger** = This book is too easy.
- 2 Fingers** = This book may be too easy, so find another page and do another 5 Finger count.
- 3 Fingers** = This book is a perfect fit!
- 4 Fingers** = This book may be too difficult, so find another page and do another 5 Finger count.
- 5 Fingers** = This book is too difficult right now, so wave "good-bye" and find another book.

Be Aware; Be Prepared!

In Colorado we know that the weather can be unpredictable and changeable. Please help your child to select clothing and outerwear that will keep him warm and dry. We will plan to go outside each recess, even if the weather is less than perfect. Thank you for your help with this.

We recommend checking the Coal Creek lost and found boxes as they are beginning to look rather full.

Finally, healthy snacks are those that include brain food such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, crackers. Foods with empty calories are not a good choice for a school snack.

Upcoming Events

October 5	Walk to School Day
October 8	Pupil Count Ends
October 14	No school
October 19	Sombrero Marsh (McCarthy/Hall)
October 20	Sombrero Marsh (Mrs. Myers)
October 28	Vision and Hearing Screening
October 31	Halloween Party 1:30-2:30
November 4	End of Trimester
November 10	Bake Sale
November 11	No School Veteran's Day
November 14	Report Cards go home
November 21	Thanksgiving Break begins
November 28	School resumes
November 29	Evening of Sharing

Social Studies, Science, and Health

4th graders have been studying explorers in social studies. They will be learning about the early colonies of North America including New France, New Spain, and the British Colonies.

Water has been the focus in science class. Listen for terms such as surface tension, condensation, and evaporation.

Students have been learning about the food pyramid, the necessity for physical activity, and "bullying behaviors" and strategies to keep in one's "Bully Resistance Tool Belt".

We have focused on "Ideas" in our writing, and learned that once an idea is selected it should be focused, then developed through elaboration and supported with details.



Communication is Key!

The 4th Grade Gazette will be updated and sent out to parents once a month. We encourage you to check in with your child every day to hear what we've been up to! Ask your students to show you their planners and share what they've been working on during the week. Their Friday Folder is another important means of communication. Please sign the Friday Folder sheet each week!