



Douglass Elementary

Sept. 23, 2011

From the principal's desk...

Dear families:

I'm devoting my letter this week to safety. I'll discuss our regular safety drills, but I'd like to begin with internet safety.

Please look in your Friday Folders this week for a publication called "Net Cetera". This booklet is provided to us from the federal government, and I requested them because of some on-line incidents that I became aware of since the beginning of the school year involving students at another school.

Please take the time to review this booklet at home, and consider implementing some of those recommendations. In general, have your computers at home in a common area, not in your kids' rooms. You need to know what your kids are doing and experiencing while on the internet.

As a part of our ongoing commitment to the safety of our students and staff at Douglass Elementary School, I'd like to make sure that you all are aware of a series of practice exercises we will complete next week as required by school district policy. The drills are fire drills, lockdown, and shelter-in-place. Each type of drill is explained below.

Fire Drills. The school will conduct a "fire drill" each month that school is in session. This is a Fire Code requirement as well as a requirement by the Boulder Valley School District. We want each student to understand and be aware of the importance of this drill and not be afraid when the fire alarm is sounded. By practicing they will know what to do and how to do it. This drill practice also ensures that our evacuation routes are clear and safe in the unlikely event of the need to clear the building.

Lockdown. The school will conduct one "Lockdown Drill" each semester of the school year. This type of drill will secure the school building and safely shelter all students, staff and visitors inside the building. The purpose of this drill is to keep the students safe from any danger outside or inside the building. During a "lockdown drill" all of the perimeter doors to the school building will be locked and will remain locked until the danger or issue outside or inside the building is removed. To enable everyone to remain safe, no one will be allowed to enter the building or leave the building until the authorities authorize such a release.

Shelter-in-Place. The "Shelter-in-Place" drill will be conducted 1 time a semester each school year. The purpose of this drill is to be prepared to move to a safe location within the building in case of severe weather or tornados.

Please remember that these safety practice drills are done to help maintain our schools as a safe place to learn and work. If you have any questions regarding any of these Safety Drills or other safety concerns, please contact me directly.

Another safety concern I'd like to address with you involves parking. Many families have begun dropping their children off and picking them up on Columbia Drive, the street on the east side of our campus. If you drop students off here, please be aware that there are zones where cars should not park or idle while you wait for your kids, and u-turns are extremely dangerous on such a narrow street with children crossing. We also do not supervise this area as we need to devote our attention to the main parking area. Thank you for helping us maintain safety before and after school as well.

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer

School Calendar

October Count - Please Do Not Miss School

September 23rd - October 7th

School funding is based on attendance figures during this period.
Please try very hard to be at school each and every day during this time.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Tues. Sept. 27th | Choir - 7:25 am Junior Great Books Leader Training @ Crestview 5:30 pm |
| Wed. Sept. 28th | Beach Ball Volleyball begins for 4th & 5th Graders 2:30 pm |
| Thurs. Sept. 29th | Choir - 7:25 am |
| Tues. Oct. 4th | Choir - 7:25 am |
| Wed. Oct. 5th | International Walk to School Day - 7:45 am Pictures Retakes Beach Ball Volleyball - 2:30 pm PTO Meeting - 6:00 pm |
| Thurs. Oct. 6th | Choir - 7:25 am Pictures Retakes for T/Th Kdg. 5th Grade to Denver Zoo - 9:00 am |
| Fri. Oct. 7th | |
| Tues. Oct. 11th | Choir - 7:25 am |
| Wed. Oct. 12th | Beach Ball Volleyball - 2:30 pm Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Thurs. Oct. 13th | Choir - 7:25 am |
| Fri. Oct. 14th | Professional Development Day - No School |
| Tues. Oct. 18th | Choir - 7:25 am |
| Wed. Oct. 19th | Beach Ball Volleyball - 2:30 pm Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Thurs. Oct. 20th | Choir - 7:25 am Parent/Teacher Conferences |
| Tues. Oct. 25th | Choir - 7:25 am |
| Wed. Oct. 26th | Beach Ball Volleyball - 2:30 pm Fall Family Folk Dancing Festival - 6:30 - 8:00 pm |
| Thurs. Oct. 27th | Choir - 7:25 am |
| Fri. Oct. 28th | Halloween Parties |
| Tues. Nov. 1st | Choir - 7:25 am |
| Wed. Nov. 2nd | Beach Ball Volleyball - 2:30 pm PTO Meeting - 2:45 pm |
| Thurs. Nov. 3rd | Choir - 7:25 am |

DON'T FORGET



Wed. Sept. 28th

Beach Ball Volleyball begins for
4th & 5th Graders



Wed. Oct. 5th

International Walk to School
Day - 7:45 am
PTO Meeting - 6:00 pm



Wed. Oct. 12th

Parent/Teacher Conferences



Fri. Oct. 14th

Professional Development Day -
No School



President Obama's Back to School Address

President Obama will deliver his third annual Back to School Speech on Wednesday, September 28, at 11:30 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time, at Benjamin Banneker Academic High School in Washington, D.C.

In speaking directly to students in past years, the President has encouraged them to study hard and take responsibility for their education, urging them to set goals, to believe in themselves, and to be the authors of their own destinies.

Douglass Elementary School classrooms will present President Obama's Back to School speech either live or when it fits in to the teaching schedule that day. All parents or guardians have the opportunity to opt their student out of viewing the speech; please notify your child's teacher if you choose to have your child in a different activity at that time.

Thank you!

Dedication to Education

We are entering the final week of Dedication to Education, THE major fundraiser at Douglass. If you have already donated, we thank you for your support! If you are considering a donation, please know that ANY amount is appreciated--and the suggested donation is \$180 per child. This money is already being used in your child's classroom--so your participation is important! Please send your donation to school in the little green envelope (extras are available in the main office) or donate online now at <http://www.douglass elementarypto.org/categories/pto-fundraising/dedication-to-education-1.html>. Thank you!



Vision & Hearing Screening

The vision & hearing screening was a great success. We screened 337 children. We identified 32 children with vision concerns and 12 children with hearing concerns. This screening

could not be done without the help of our volunteers. Thanks to Pam Stormo, Lisa Thomas, Yan Good, Jennifer Varra, Sari Ghiselli, Becca Thoreson, Bonnie Chaim, Jen Abram, Danielle Stoller, Beth Denninger, Teri King, Priscilla Madden, Jacque Prescott, Jenn Dennis, Lori Jaffe, Ree Ditrinco, Cecilee Rogers, Stephanie Hein, Mariam Meghjee.

Douglass PTO and the Parent Engagement Network Present: The Girls Leadership Institute at Douglass Elementary!!

Grade 2 & 3 Workshops:

Tuesdays--November 1, 8,15 and 29. 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Grades 4 & 5 Workshops:

Wednesdays--November 2,9,16 and 30. 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**All girls will attend the workshop with a parent. Please see the website [www/girlsleadershipinstitute.org/programs/Colorado](http://www.girlsleadershipinstitute.org/programs/Colorado) for program information and registration!

Mission: *The Girls leadership Institute inspires girls to be true to themselves. We teach the practices of emotional intelligence, assertive self-expression and healthy relationships, giving girls the skills and confidence to live as leaders.*

Douglass Parent Engagement Network (PEN) Presentation: "Raising the Heart of Boys" by Michael Vladeck

Monday, October 26th 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

@ Douglass Elementary

Michael Vladeck is an inspirational coach and counselor who has been working with families in Boulder since 2004. He will talk about the unique emotional and psychological needs of boys and present specific strategies parents can use to help their boys become more communicative and to strengthen parent-son connections.

From BVSD Food Services

Having trouble keeping track of when to add money to your student's meal account?

Tired of getting negative balance reminder phone calls and emails?

With payforit.net you can set up a low-balance email reminder for when your student's account gets below a level you choose. This is a free service, with no obligation to use Payforit to add money to your student's account. Best yet, there is no transaction fee if you choose the convenience of online payments.

Visit PayForIt.net and set up your account today!



Fall Parent Teacher Conferences

Wednesday, October 12th, 3-8 pm

Tuesday, October 18th, 3-8 pm

&

Thursday, October 20th, 3-8 pm

To sign up for a conference click on the logo above.

For instructions or a refresher please click here.

The Nutcracker

Douglass Elementary School would like to congratulate both Mahri Hereid and Rachel Lee-Smith who have been selected, by audition, to dance in the Boulder Ballet/ Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra 2011 production of the Nutcracker.

If you would like to raise money for our school and support your fellow classmates, you can see them dance on November 25, 26, or 27 at Macky, on CU Campus. Order your tickets today using the Douglass Elementary School Form and our school will receive 20% of all school ticket sales as a donation from Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra/Boulder Ballet. ALL forms must be completed and returned to the Douglass office by October 28th, as they must be received by Boulder Philharmonic by October 29th. No Acceptations! Our ticket representative, Kelly McGahan, will be turning in order forms every Tuesday and Friday. Forms will be picked up at Douglass by 3:00pm. Tickets will be available for distribution beginning Sunday, November 13th.

Cast A is performing Friday, November 25th at 4pm and Saturday, November 26th at 2pm.

Cast B is performing Saturday, November 26th at 7pm and Sunday, November 27th at 2pm.

Douglass Parking Lot

Please do not triple park in the parking lot. We have several cars that tripled parked in the lot on Friday and many volunteers and staff members who were unable to get their cars out. Please use the overflow gravel parking lot when the lot is full.

FOOD DRIVE: Oct 3 to Oct 11

The 4th Grade Douglass Girl Scout Troop #3545 will be conducting a food drive at Douglass from Monday, October 3- Tuesday October 11. If you would like to donate a non-perishable food item send the item(s) in with your child or stop by on your way to your child's classroom. The girl scouts will place a box outside each classroom door in the hallway for students to place their donations. At the end of the school day on Tuesday October 11, our troop will collect the boxes and go to the Sister Carmen Community Center Food Bank and help stock and shelve the food. Non-perishable food items such as canned soups, chilis, tuna, rice, beans, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, canned meat, even toothpaste are needed. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call Terri Lee at 303-898-2410. Thanks so much for supporting our local food bank!

SUPPORT YOUR GREEN STAR SCHOOL

PARTY WITH THE PLANET!

**Eco-inspired Birthday Parties
for kids ages 4-12**

Choose a theme (adapted for each age group):

- **ECO-ART:** crafts with reused materials
- **GREEN THUMBS GARDEN PARTY**
- **JUNGLE JAM:** music, games & face painting
- **PAPERMAKING WITH PIZZAZZ**
- **GREEN TEAMS:** X-games for the Earth



\$50 OFF

All parties include interactive and unique activities, games and take-home crafts. WE CAN HELP MAKE YOUR PARTY ZERO WASTE! Contact us for details.

Proceeds benefit Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools Program. (A portion of the cost is tax deductible.)



eco-cycle
Working to Build Zero Waste Communities

www.ecocycle.org/kids/parties
303-444-6634 x 103
schools2@ecocycle.org



Cell Phone Collection

There are an estimated 4 billion cell phone users worldwide and the average American cell phone user owns 3 or more expired cell phones. About 125 million cell phones are sent to landfills every year.

Douglass is hosting a collection drive in October to collect as many outdated, broken, and exhausted cell phones as we can. If we collect more than 100 cell phones, we can earn \$50.00 for our school but more importantly, we can reduce our carbon footprint for future generations.

There will be a clearly marked collection box in our office. We invite you to participate in this recycle program.



Exercise, Health, and Environment! That is what the International Walk to School Day and the EcoCycle shoe donation is all about. Douglass is participating and we want you to participate too!

International Walk to School Day:

On **Wednesday, October 5, at 7:45 am**, we will walk, ride, or bus/walk to increase awareness of the importance of walking and biking in our lives. We will meet at the edge of our parking lot and walk a course around the field (see route on the following page). The course will conclude with Cliff bar goodies, stretching, and starting our day off on the right foot.

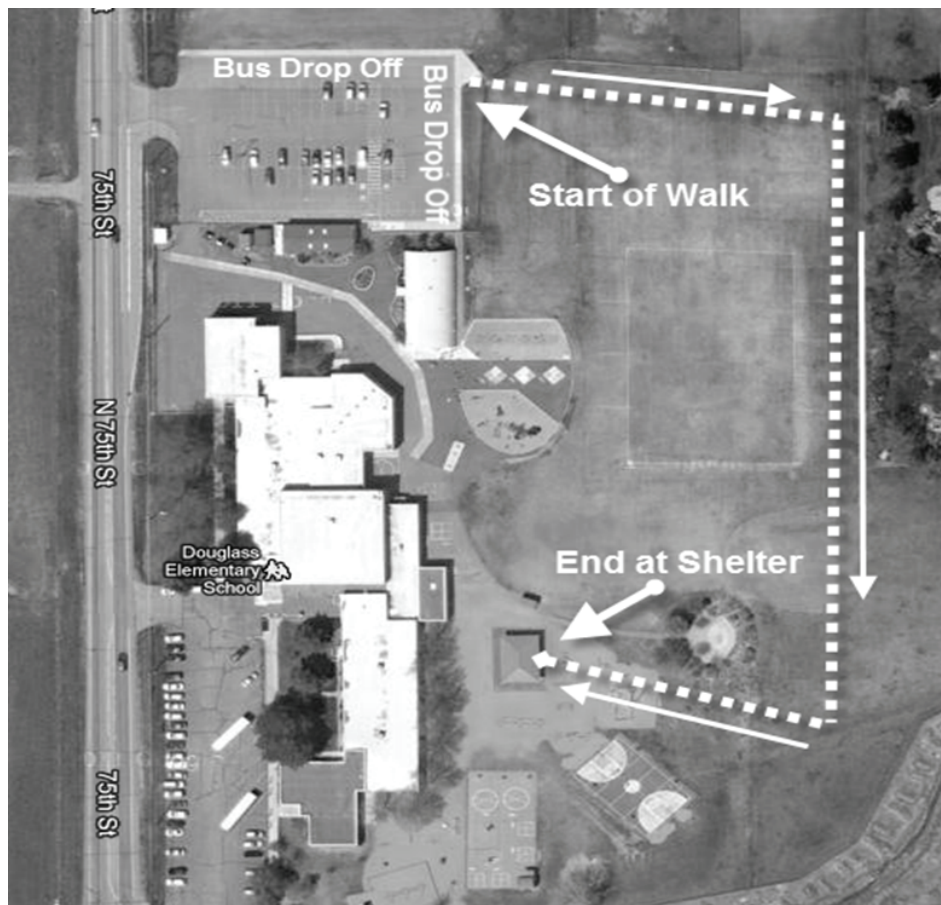
We encourage those of you who can walk or bike to do so, but we are aware of the challenges that Douglass' location has with this endeavor. So participate any way that you can! Parents, please join us if you can, but it is not required. We will have plenty of volunteers to keep our kids safe and focused on the goal.

Ecocycle Shoe Drive

During the **week of October 3-7** we will be collecting old shoes for Ecocycle to be reused for people all over the world. There will be two cardboard boxes for the collection. One will be located inside the Quonset hut at the office and the other will be at the entrance to the school next to the parking lot. Please rubber band or tie the shoelaces together so the pair of shoes are together. This is a wonderful cause and we are happy to be a part of this event.



Our walking route...



Questions? Please contact Chris Zwolfer at chriszwolfer@comcast.net.



DenverDA

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Mitch Morrissey
Denver District Attorney

Consumer Advisory

Protect Children from Internet Scams and Exploitation

Recent studies indicate that parents are doing a good job of keeping their children safe while online. As parents know, children are especially vulnerable to exposure through chat rooms and social networking sites. By taking advantage of filters and monitoring systems, parents are better able to control their children's access to unsuitable internet sites. Parents have also gained more confidence at identifying trustworthy sites for downloading age-appropriate music and games. However, without proper education and instruction, children can also fall victim to internet scams and identity theft. Likewise, they run the risk of introducing viruses to the home computer. For adults who spend only a limited amount of time around children - grandparents come to mind, the following are some safeguards to consider:

- Become knowledgeable of the filters and monitoring software that restricts children's access to inappropriate internet sites.
- Educate children on ways in which viruses and scams can be introduced online.
- Demand that permission be granted first, before allowing children to download anything over the internet.

Set ground rules regarding the use of social networking sites. Vigilance is especially important when it comes to protecting the identity of children and other family members. Children should be instructed to never post their personal information such as complete name, birthdate, pictures or address; or that of their friends or family members.

While parents seem to be fairly knowledgeable about ways to keep their children safe when accessing the internet via the computer, they are much less so about controls that are offered for different technologies such as wireless, smartphones and other mobile devices. For more information on these resources, go to: www.connectsafely.org or www.safekids.com

Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179

 **Follow us on Twitter @DenverScamAlert**

September, 2011