



DECEMBER 2009
ISSUE 4: 2009-2010

What can you do to help at
Little Elementary?

Ongoing - Crossing Guards

Do you have 15 minutes in the morning or in the afternoon to ensure that the Little students stay safe? Have you always wanted to wear an orange vest or hold a stop sign? Well, does the school have a job for you! Please call the school office and say you can help. Again, a special thanks to Kathy Ruscio, who has taken time out of her day to help! Thank you so very much!

CHECK THESE OUT!



Little Elementary Holiday Choir Concert

Wednesday, December 16th
1:30 pm (school event)
7:00 pm (community event)



The Annual Little Elementary Geography Bee

Tuesday, December 15th
2:00 pm (school event)



Mission Possible:

Dear Parents,

As we look forward to the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, our thoughts turn to the gifts we can give our children that will last a lifetime.

- A solid strong education
- Empathy: the capacity to care for others
- Joy in living and laughing
- Hope for the future
- Freedom
- Peace
- Love

These are only but a few of the lifelong gifts we strive to provide for our children. We are fortunate to have our basic needs of food, shelter, and warm clothes met; however there are those less fortunate than us and they find themselves in need and struggle to provide for their family. As a school community, we would like to reach out and provide a helping hand during the holiday season. Our community outreach efforts will continue this year with our "Giving Tree". A holiday tree will be set up in the front hallway and we are asking students to contribute **SOCKS as decorations for our "Giving Tree"**. We have learned that socks are the #1 requested item from families in need with children. Warm feet lead to a warm heart! Donations can be sent to school from **Nov. 30th – Dec. 18th**. Our sock donations will go to children and families in our area and will be distributed through the Kid's Pages organization.

Another outreach project of our own is to reach out to families in our school community who may be in need of help this holiday season. We are in need of help for this project. We are accepting financial donations, volunteers to organize gifts, and also donations of a specific item for a child. PLEASE, call 303-982-0310 and let Patty know how you can help.

Of course, your participation in these community outreach events is totally voluntary.

Thank you for teaching and modeling for your children the values of generosity and unselfish giving this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Esther G. Valdez
Principal

Letter from the PTSA President

Dear Little Families:

Yay, it's almost the holiday season! If you are anything like me, you look on this time with both excitement and trepidation. There is so much to do but there is so much to be truly joyful for too! There are holiday smells, lights and songs everywhere you look now. I know my daughter is starting to squeal with excitement just thinking of all of the holiday fun ahead and I squeal a little inside too. It's embarrassing, I know.

Looking back on November, there was much to be thankful for. Our first silent auction was a bigger success than we had hoped for. Even our defeats turned to successes. When our original dinner plans fell through we contracted with a local restaurant to provide dinner and it turned out to be fantastic. Jennifer Strong worked with so many of our local businesses to gather donations that we had triple the bid items than we had originally hoped for. (She really is truly gifted in this area.) Proceeds came in about \$6,500 for the entire event. We did so well, that we don't believe that we will have to have an additional spring fundraiser to make up the deficit from the fall fundraiser. Now that really is something to be thankful for! In addition to Jen, a special thanks goes out to John and Michelle DiTirro who took the holiday portraits. John worked hard to overcome some lighting issues and gave up some bidding opportunities that he was eager for in order to make sure everyone got their portraits. How's that for dedication? Thanks to all of the PTSA members who show up tirelessly to all of the meetings and every event. You are a staple at Little. Also, thank you so much to the staff and parents who helped out serving food and watching tables at the silent auction. This was a really big undertaking this first year and we really couldn't have done it without you. You really supported the PTSA and me personally and I thank you very much.

This is my last month as the PTSA president. Anna Topkoff will be taking over for the last part of the year as I sadly head into another tax season. Anna has some great ideas for the spring events (read-a-thon, movie night, field day, etc.) but she will need your support and help. So as the days start getting longer, keep the PTSA and Little in mind for your help and assistance. I thank you all for all of your support during the first part of the year and I hope to see you at many of the PTSA meetings coming up. Have a great winter break and I wish you a warm home, warm family love and lots of warm apple cider. See you next year!

Cyndy McKee
Co-President, Little PTSA



COLLECT BOX TOPS

Two great ways to make \$money\$ for your school...THAT DON'T COST YOU A DIME! Clip the "Box Tops for Education" from participating General Mills products, put them in a baggy, with the name of your child's teacher, and return them to the school. General Mills will donate .10 for each current box top. You can also log onto www.boxtopsforeducation.com and select "Bonus Offers" for more chances to earn money for Little



We also participate in Campbell's Labels for Education. Go to <http://www.labelsforeducation.com> to view the program. Your child will soon bring home details and fun formats to help collect the UPC symbols that will help Little earn extra money for our children.

Due to the Snow Days

June 2, 2010 will be the last day of school instead of **May 28, 2010**



The Turkey trot was a great event again this year.

Thank you to all of the parents who donated pies and turkeys to our fastest runners and also supplying prizes for the food drive raffle winners. **Thank you** to all of the parents and staff who were able to stand on corners, drive around looking for tired runners, and run with our students. Your efforts kept everyone safe. We also want to thank **Lissa Heaviland** for organizing our Turkey Trot and the food drive.



A Big Thank You to all of the families for supporting our school's food drive last month. Your donation will be given to those who need it. In a still tight economy, many families just need a little extra help this season. May your generosity come back to you many times over during this holiday season.

Winter weather is here and the school district has announced its emergency school closure procedures for the year. The safety of the students and staff is the greatest concern



- When poor weather conditions are expected, the district's emergency weather team goes on alert.
- A private weather forecasting service is consulted as well as the local forecasters.
- Road conditions are checked through the CDOT, the Highway Patrol and the district bus drivers.
- Principals, teachers and school facility managers provide information about the conditions of the buildings, parking lots and surrounding areas.
- The district makes every effort to announce school closures before 6a.m. but sometimes weather conditions change rapidly and a late decision must be made.
- Once a decision is made, a phone, e-mail and text message will be sent to Jeffco families via School Messenger, and local media will be notified.
- The districts telephone **hotline 303-982-6600** and their webpage www.jeffcopublicschools.org are also updated.

Should schools need to be closed during the day, every attempt will be made to notify parents. Students will not be transported home without parent notification and contact. Since parents are the primary protectors, they will need to decide what is right for their children.

The option to keep children home when weather conditions are extreme is always at the parent's discretion and the school understands and respects that decision. For More information regarding school closures and **SchoolMessenger** alerts see: www.jeffcopublicschools.org

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION & CHOICE ENROLLMENT

The kindergarten registration window has been extended through Friday, Feb. 26 in order to provide time to accommodate possible Board of Education decisions regarding facility usage and to align with the revised choice enrollment window for K-8. The following dates will apply for both Kindergarten registration and Choice Enrollment:

- K-8 First Round Choice Enrollment is open Wed., Jan. 6 through Mon., March 1.
- K-8 Parent Notification of First Round Choice Enrollment Status is Mon., Mar. 15.
- **Kindergarten Registration begins Tuesday, January 19 and extends through Friday, February 26.**
- K-8 Second Round Choice Enrollment is open Tuesday, March 16 through Monday, August 30.

Choice enrollment windows for grades 9-12 remain as indicated in Board Policy (First round Wednesday, Jan. 6 - Monday, Jan. 25 with parent notification by Monday, Feb. 15. Second round is Tuesday, Feb. 16 - Monday, Aug. 30).



Congratulations to our Reflections winners! A celebration was held for all of the contestants in November. The artists and writers were able to give an explanation of their project and enjoy some celebratory treats. Their creativity was inspiring.

Our winners' projects will go on to the state finals.

Our thanks and gratitude go out to **Gabrielle Sherry and Julia Jaeke** who have done another bang up job organizing the projects, the judging and the entire event for another year. Our students are lucky to have both of you!



Please make sure that your child is prepared for outdoor recess. The guideline for indoor recess is 20 degrees including wind chill. Whenever possible, students are allowed to participate in outdoor recess in order to get some much needed exercise and fresh air. Even if it is 20 degrees in the morning, it can often warm up before recess, so please make sure your child has the appropriate boots, coat, hat, mittens and other items that will keep them warm during their lunch playtime. Thank you.

H1N1 Vaccination Clinics in Jefferson County



Jefferson County Public Health will hold a series of vaccination clinics in Jeffco Public Schools for high risk individuals who are unable to access H1N1 vaccine through a healthcare provider or who don't have a healthcare provider. The clinics are held at the following area high schools in December for people who fall in the following priority groups:

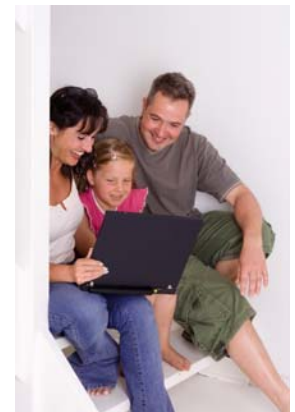
- People 6 months through 24 years of age
 - People 25 through 64 years of age who have medical conditions that put them at higher risk for influenza related complications
 - Pregnant women
 - People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
 - Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel with direct patient contact
- **Alameda High School:** 1255 South Wadsworth Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80232
December 12 & December 19 (9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.)
 - **Arvada High School:** 7951 W. 65th Ave., Arvada CO 80004
December 12 *Only* (9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.)
 - **Chatfield High School:** 7227 S. Simms St., Littleton, CO 80127
December 12 & December 19 (9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.)
 - **Evergreen High School:** 29300 Buffalo Park Rd., Evergreen, CO 80437
December 12 & December 19 (10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.)
 - **West Jefferson Middle School:** 9449 S. Barnes Ave., Conifer, CO 80433
December 12 & December 19 (10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Go to http://www.co.jefferson.co.us/health/health_T111_R246.htm for more information and for registration forms.

Would you like to learn Photostory or PowerPoint? Our beloved librarian, Lisa Polacsek, has offered to teach some classes in February for those of you who would like to update your computer skills. Wouldn't you like to WOW your neighbors and co-workers?

Classes are a mere \$9 and will benefit your child through the PTSA.

Contact Lisa Polacsek at lpolacsek@jeffco.k12.co.us for more information.





This Month's "Little Night Out" is at Cici's Pizza

Thursday, December 10th.

A portion of the purchase price of your meal will go to benefit Little Elementary.

Check out their website: www.cicispizza.com

When the Bus is late!!!

Jeffco buses and their drivers are very reliable, but sometimes there may be circumstances beyond the driver's control which may cause the bus to be late. Parents should have a contingency plan in case a bus is running extremely late or breaks down. If you have left for work, your child needs to be able to get back into your home and call you or the school. Have an alternative safe refuge or home where your child can go in case you are not home and they need assistance.

Lost and Found Bin

There are many coats, jackets, gloves, hats, boots and other items in the Lost and Found Bin located outside the cafeteria.

Please come check in the lost and found if you are missing and of these items!



to the students who participated in this year's science fair. I could tell how hard you all worked on your projects this year. I had many parents say that they thought you were the best behaved group of scientists that they had ever seen at a science fair and the judges said that you were a delightful group of students to work with. Your exhibits were really exceptional this year!

I would also like to thank all of the parents who helped support the science fair by encouraging your children to participate and who stayed to help keep the pandemonium to a minimum. I hope that science will continue to be an exciting endeavor for all of your children throughout their education and beyond. Results will come home in this week's Friday folder. ~ Cyndy McKee



Notice:

The December 16th PTSA meeting has been cancelled (as is the annual tradition) to allow parents more time to spend with their families and for the full enjoyment of the holiday season. Have a great Holiday Break!

The Little Elementary PTSA wishes all of you a stress free and accident free Happy Holiday this year!



We hope to see you all at the January 20th PTSA meeting!

Yearbook Preorders



Through the month of December, we will be pre-selling the 2009-2010 Little Elementary Yearbooks.

The yearbooks will come out in Mid-May this year. We have cut out the middleman so this year's yearbook is being produced all in house through the effort of the staff and students. The yearbook is in full color and features your child's class as well as the many activities that take place throughout the year. We often sell out by the year end when everyone sees how great they come out! Order your now to make sure you get your yearbook!

During the month of December the price is still \$12. After the fifteenth of January, the price will rise to \$14. Get your order in now!

Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Telephone Number _____

Please submit this form before January 15th along with your payment of \$12.

Little Elementary - December 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Geo Bee – 2:00pm	16 Choir Concert 1:30pm & 7:00pm	17	18 Pride assembly	19
20	21 No school	22 No school	23 No School	24 No school	25 No school	26
27	28 No school	29 No school	30 No school	31 No school		

Employment Opportunity
 Looking for the perfect
 PT/job?
 2 -6 hours/day
 \$9.05/hour
 Advancement Opportunity
 Call 303.982.6747

Jeffco Schools
Food & Nutrition Services
Elementary Lunch Menu Condensed Menu Version
December 2009



Prices:
 Breakfast: Full Price \$1.00
 Breakfast: Reduced Price K-6 at No Charge
 Lunch: Full Price \$1.85
 Reduced Price K - 2 at
 No Charge
 Reduced Price 3 - 6 at
 \$0.40
 Adult Meals: \$2.75

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	December 1 Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Tomato Soup or Cheeseburger/Hamburger on a Bun or "Snack Lunch" (Egg Salad Sandwich) Bagel Stick Egg Omelet	2 Country Style Steak Strips or Deli Turkey Wrap or Chef Salad w/ Roll or Saltines Pop Tart Or Ginger Kidz w/String Cheese Breakfast Burrito	3 Chicken Nuggets or Cuban Pork  over Baked Potato or Mandarin Chicken Salad w/ Muffin or Saltines Super Bun Breakfast Sandwich	4 Cheese Stuffed Bread Sticks or Fish Snadwich or Chicken Caesar Salad w/ Roll or Saltines Bagel Stick or French Tst or Waffles or Pancakes w/Sausage 
	7 Chicken Teriyaki w/Brown Rice or Hamburger or Taco Salad w/ Tortilla Chips Yogurt & Muffin or Grahams Breakfast Pizza	8 Corn Dog or Variety Burrito or "Snack Lunch" (Seeds, Cheese, Muffin) Bagel Stick Egg Omelet	9 Baked Pasta w/Meat Sauce or BBQ Chicken Sandwich or Chef Salad w/ Bread Stick or Saltines Pop Tart Or Ginger Kidz w/String Cheese Breakfast Burrito	10 Baked Chicken or Soft Tacos or Mandarin Chicken Salad w/ Biscuit or Saltines Super Bun Breakfast Sandwich
14 Chicken Sandwich or Pork & Veg Egg Roll w/ Brown Rice  or Taco Salad w/ Tortilla Chips Yogurt & Muffin or Grahams Breakfast Pizza	15 Chicken Quesadilla or Deli Ham & Cheese or "Snack Lunch" (Yogurt, Cheese, Muffin) Bagel Stick Egg Omelet	16 Cheese Enchiladas or Sweet & Sour Chicken w/Brown Rice or Chef Salad w/ Roll or Saltines Pop Tart Or Ginger Kidz w/String Cheese Breakfast Burrito	17 Turkey & Gravy or Hot Dog On a Bun or Mandarin Chicken Salad w/ Biscuit or Saltines Super Bun Breakfast Sandwich	18 Italian Dunkers w/Stromboli Sauce or Ravioli or Chicken Caesar Salad w/ Roll or Saltines Bagel Stick or French Tst or Waffles or Pancakes w/Sausage 

Lunch includes an entrée and a choice of sides. Milk is offered daily at Breakfast & Lunch. Menus are nutritionally balanced with a wide variety of healthy selections including fruits and vegetables. Menu is subject to change without notice due to price and product availability.

Breakfast Entrée, check with your school for availability. Cereal & Toast are offered daily at Breakfast

Full menu selection is available at the school site or on line @jeffcopublicschools.org

Look for the menus on the left side and click on Lunch Menus & Food Services .