



NOVEMBER 2009  
ISSUE 3: 2009-2010

What can you do to help at  
Little Elementary?

**November 6<sup>th</sup> – Silent**

**Auction** – We need your help! Please help the PTSA prepare and supervise the silent auction. We could use help with dinner, pictures and the actual auction. If you can help, please notify Cyndy McKee at [littleptsa@comcast.net](mailto:littleptsa@comcast.net)  
Thank you for your support.

**November 20<sup>th</sup> – Turkey**

**Trot** We need help with paroling the streets during the run and helping with the hand out of pies and turkeys to the winners of the run and the drawings. Contact Lissa Heaviland if you think you could help on this day.

**November 20<sup>th</sup> – Turkey**

**Trot** We also need donations of pies and turkeys for the event. Please bring your pies and turkeys to the office before 1:45 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**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. A special thanks to Kathy Ruscio, who has taken time out of her day to help! Thank you so very much!



## Mission Possible:

Dear Parents,

Thank you for attending conferences last month. We had over 90% of our Little Elementary parents participate in conferences! Research proves that children whose parents are actively involved in their school do better in school and in life. As you are involved in your child's education you will notice fewer disciplinary problems, higher grades, better attendance and motivational levels in your children. This will, in turn, strengthen your children's self-esteem, making them a happier part of the family and participant in school. We know that you, the parent, are your child's first and most influential teacher. On behalf of the Little Elementary Staff, thank you for your trust and support as we strive each day to provide a quality education for our children.

October 24<sup>th</sup> was National Make a Difference Day. We decided to support the non-profit organization, *Remembering the Brave*. [Rememberingthebrave.org](http://Rememberingthebrave.org) is an organization focused on honoring our fallen soldiers as heroes. Our school is focusing on being heroes in a small way by volunteering in our community and collecting aluminum cans for recycling and using those recycling proceeds towards *Remember the Brave*. We hope to have your support collecting and sending cans to school for collection.

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, I hope you, along with family and friends, will spend some time appreciating each other. We are so fortunate for the many gifts we have in our lives. These are a few of the many things I am thankful for: The wonderful Little Elementary staff, all of our 381 beautiful students, and you as our supportive community of parents.

Thankfully Yours,

*Esther G. Valdez*  
Principal

# Letter from the PTSA President

Dear Little Families:

Whew, October was a busy month wasn't it? We had the Trunk or Treat (still tentative upon the writing of this newsletter), Halloween Parades, Halloween class parties, and Reflection projects turned in...and that was all in the last week. Our sixth graders seemed to make it through the adventure of Outdoor Lab. They beat the cold and should be congratulated on their survival skills. Word has it that even though it was cold, the experiences had by all on the mountain were pretty amazing. I guess we should be grateful it wasn't this week.

November is going to be even busier. We start out with The "Big Holiday Bash" on November 6<sup>th</sup>. We will have holiday portraits, a spaghetti dinner and a pretty incredible silent auction. Check out the bid item brochure on the [www.LittlePTSA.com](http://www.LittlePTSA.com) website. I was amazed at the really neat items that are going up for bid. You will be able to snag some fantastic holiday deals. And items are still coming in. We just received a \$150 gift certificate from American Furniture Warehouse to add to the mix! We received so many business donations there really is something for everyone to bid on. Thank you to everyone who sent in donations for the classroom baskets. The kids are really excited to see their items go up for bid!

Then we have the Science Fair on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't gotten your application in, get it in as soon as possible. After that is the Canned Food Drive and then the Turkey Trot. Finally we can end November with a breather with Thanksgiving week off of school and hopefully a rest for everyone.

On the down side of all of the excitement, we had to cancel the flu shot clinic. There wasn't any guarantee we would be able to get the vaccine and during the already tight economy, it seemed unreasonable to ask people to prepay for something we couldn't guarantee. It is kind of ironic that in a season of flu epidemic when a shot clinic is really needed, it is so hard to pull off. The clinic was really a good idea in theory...practice turned out to be another matter.

Finally, but nowhere near lastly in importance, thank you to all of the volunteers that helped assemble baskets for the silent auction. It is always amazing to me how much work goes into the events that the PTSA puts on and how hard people work to make them go smoothly. The women that came to my house to put order to the auction put their head down and produced an amazing amount of work in 3 hours. Thanks to Kim Judson, Susan Stearns, Jennifer Strong, Dawn Kelly, Alex Roybal, Robin Kriss Anna Topkoff and Tiffany Jones. These women really are the backbone of the PTSA and really create a lot of magic that make things run seamlessly.

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](http://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.



It's daylight savings time!  
Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday November 1<sup>st</sup>.



## Sick Kids? 303-982-0280

Remember to call the school attendance line when your child going to be absent from school. If the absence is illness related and you leave a message on the answering machine, please be as detailed as possible about the symptoms that your child is experiencing. The state is tracking swine flu cases and suspected cases to keep the school informed on how fast the virus is spreading throughout our state. Suspected swine flu cases will receive follow up inquiries regarding diagnosis and outcome of the illness.



Not receiving the school district's new online parent newsletter Chalk Talk? Then you are missing out on vital district information. Sign up today by filling out the online subscription form at: [http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/publications/parent\\_new\\_subscription\\_form.html](http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/publications/parent_new_subscription_form.html).

Topics in the newsletter include information from the district as well as parenting tips and important dates-to-remember. Chalk Talk is a must-read for every Jeffco parent.



## PARENTS, PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FREE AND FABULOUS PLAY RIGHT HERE AT LITTLE!

Is it possible to teach your child positive conflict resolution skills in a fun, relatable and utterly engaging way? Imagination Makers Theater Company's play, "The Trouble With Jesse", does just that and ties into the school curriculum! By encouraging your child to think about and take responsibility for his or her actions, this play helps your child figure out the best resolution for a positive outcome. Performed by 4 adult professional actors and one musician, the play is based on a story penned by children. As your child recognizes their own lives in other students' writing, they will realize that others are experiencing the same challenges, heartache, and triumphs that they are experiencing in their own worlds. "The Trouble With Jesse" can be a powerful catalyst for illuminating discussions between you and your child.

Exposing your child to cultural events can be expensive. Thanks to funds from Little Elementary PTSA and grants from Jefferson County Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), Imagination Makers is performing "The Trouble With Jesse" at Little on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 2:00 PM, at no cost to you.

Imagination Makers' "The Trouble With Jesse" evokes laughter, tears and more from children and adults alike. If you are unable to come, feel free to visit us on our website: [www.imaginationmakers.org](http://www.imaginationmakers.org) or see a clip of the play on You Tube: [www.youtube.com/user/imaginationmakers](http://www.youtube.com/user/imaginationmakers) parent of a Little Elementary School student!



The State of Colorado passed a law in 2003 requiring public schools to provide parents and guardians with a statement about how they can access information regarding registered sex offenders in their law enforcement jurisdiction.

The sex offender registry provides the public with certain information on the whereabouts of sex offenders so that members of local communities may better protect themselves and their children from these known sex offenders.

In Jefferson County, parents and guardians can request the sex offender registry by contacting your local law enforcement agency. Registry information is released to any person 18 years or older residing or doing business in the law enforcement agency's jurisdiction. You can also check the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) website – <http://sor.state.co.us> – that contains a statewide list of certain *high-risk* registered sex offenders.

In addition, the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board publishes the School Resource Guide to Sex Offender Registration, including information about the list itself and facts about sex offenders. Access this link for a copy of the resource guide: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/ChildAbuse-SchResGU.pdf>

A copy of the School Resource Guide is also available for review in the Communications Services Office, Jeffco Public Schools, 1829 Denver West Drive, Building #27, Golden, CO 80401. We hope this information is helpful to you.



Remember, the Science Fair is on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Come see the great displays made by our Little Scientists!



Would you like to volunteer but can't make it into the school? Would you love to help but don't really want to work with a group of children? Do you love to make things look nice?

Have I got the volunteer job for you! We have lots of paperback books that are waiting to go out on the shelf. They just need to be covered with contact paper. The library would love your help getting this done so they can be in kid's hands faster.

We will supply the contact paper and send some books home, or you could come into the library to help us get these books completed and ready for checkout!

We'd appreciate your help!

Lisa Polacsek



The Little Elementary Annual Turkey Trot is On Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 p.m.!

The Turkey Trot is a voluntary fun run which begins at Little and continues through a designated route though the side streets around the school and ends back at Little. The streets will be safeguarded by adults throughout the mile long run. There will be prizes of pies to the first boy and the first girl finishing the run at each grade level.

Volunteers are needed to be street guards during the fun run. If you are available to help on this day contact the specials instructor, Lissa Heaviland.

Along with our annual Turkey Trot is the annual Canned Food Drive from 11/16 – 11/20. We will be collecting non perishable foods before school in the lunch room. All food collected will be donated to the Salvation Army. Items needed include breakfast cereals, broth, juice, soup, canned foods, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, pudding and stuffing. Your child will be placed into a drawing for pies and turkeys for every item donated to the drive (up to 5 items.)

We also need donations of Turkeys and Pies for this event to be donated on November 20<sup>th</sup>. We don't have refrigerator or storage space to store donated items before the event. Please bring in or send your pies and turkeys before 2:00 p.m. on November 20<sup>th</sup> so that the winning students get a chance to take them home.

Need more information? Go to [www.LittlePTSA.com](http://www.LittlePTSA.com) and check out the teachers pages in the specials section.

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## Thanksgiving Feast Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Come join your favorite student for a Thanksgiving feast during their regular lunch time on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Adult and children not enrolled in a Jeffco school meal price is \$5.00

Menu:     Roast Turkey with Gravy  
              Mashed Potatoes  
              Tossed Salad  
              Dinner Rolls  
              Fresh Fruit  
              Cranberry Sauce  
              Fruited Jello  
              Holiday Dessert  
              Milk or Coffee



Reservations encouraged. Place your reservation with Megan, our food service manager.



## Last Opportunity to Tell JeffCo Your Thoughts About District Facilities

Like many school districts in Colorado, Jeffco Public Schools is facing tough budget challenges. One of the ways the district hopes to save money is through a more efficient and effective use of all district facilities. This will mean the closing of schools, the merging of schools, moving all sixth grades to middle schools and other cost saving measures. The Facilities Usage Committee has been analyzing the use of school

facilities based on six criteria. The six criteria used to determine if a school will be closed or merged or otherwise effected are:

- Academic Achievement –information for each school to include performance (CSAP results and new growth model), attendance, and behavior issues, etc.
- Building Condition –information on the safety and security of the building along with general condition of the facility
- Capacity Utilization – optimum number of students the school can accommodate
- Choice –the percentage of students who are choice enrolled out of the school and the number that are choice enrolled in
- Current Enrollment and Enrollment Trends – includes past enrollment data, housing market data, county census data, etc.
- Operating Costs – includes instructional fixed and variable costs, utilities.

While it doesn't appear that Little has been selected for closure during this round, you should go to [LittlePTSA.com](http://LittlePTSA.com) to see the proposed schools effected. We have uploaded the proposal from Jeffco on the front page of our website for inspection. If you have concerns about the process or decisions made by the Jeffco Facilities Usage Committee, they would like to hear from you during November.

Community meetings to discuss the proposals are:

Wed, Nov 11th, 6-7:30 p.m.	Alameda HS Auditorium
Sat, Nov 14th, 9-10:30 p.m.	Manning School Auditorium
Mon, Nov 16 <sup>th</sup> , 6-7:30 p.m.	Summit Ridge Middle School Auditorium
Wed, Nov 18 <sup>th</sup> , 6-7:30 p.m.	Pomona HS Auditorium

Parents and community members are being asked to review the recommended options which are now available and to attend one of the four community forums listed above. After public input is received, the recommended options will be presented to the Board of Education for consideration.



# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Free skate party At US on Wheels 6:00-8:00	6 Silent Auction 5-8:30	7
8	9	10	11 Science Fair Picture retakes Kindergarten field trip-"Honk"	12	13	14
15	16 Canned Food Drive	17 Canned Food Drive	18 Cat & PTA Meeting Canned Food Drive	19 Canned Food Drive	20 Canned Food Drive Turkey Trot Pride Celebration Report Cards Go Home	21
22	23 No School	24 No School	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28
29	30 Newsletter home					