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Upcoming Events

HALLOWEEN HULLabaloo
October 28, Saturday
Centerra Mall, Fall River Drive, Loveland
This free festival includes face painting, a petting zoo, games, treats, a costume contest, and more! It benefits Thompson Education Foundation which supports Thompson School District and their many families.

READ ALOUD DAY
November 14, Tuesday
Thompson School District will celebrate Read Aloud Day again on Tuesday, November 14. This is a day when community members volunteer to read books to students in elementary schools. This year all signups are being done online. If interested in volunteering, please click HERE.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR HOLIDAY PARTY
November 30, Thursday, 11:00 AM - 10:00PM
Thompson School District Administration Building, 800 S. Taft Ave., Loveland
We want to thank coordinators for their time helping schools by providing a fun break to de-stress during the holidays. This includes a free chair massage. Take time out for yourself. A sign up for massages will be emailed.

THANKSGIVING BREAK
November 20, Monday – November 24, Friday
No school. District offices will be open Monday and Tuesday, November 20 & 21.

WINTER BREAK
December 5, Monday – January 3, Wednesday
No school. Students return Thursday, January 4. Staff will return Tuesday, January 2.

Helpful Hints

- The “Add Volunteer” button on the top left of the screen on the volunteer module allows you to look for volunteers who are not registered at your school, but are registered at other schools. Pop-ups must be allowed on your computer for the VITAL website to do this. When you click “Add Volunteer,” it will open a pop-up window where you can enter a last name. If they are registered as a volunteer, their name will come up. Do not add any volunteer yourself. If they need to have your school added, please contact Lisa Wegener.

- Volunteers who you know were previously registered, but are no longer anywhere in VITAL Online when you look for them have likely been deleted. This is due to no response to emails about the required follow-up background check requirement. Contact Lisa Wegener if they need reactivated.

Murder and Mental Health

I have been reading The Innocent Man by John Grisham, his only non-fiction book which details the true account of a series of murders in Oklahoma and the wrongful conviction of Mr. McVeigh for those. One of the men, Ron Williamson, had a lot of mental health issues throughout his life, which made him a natural target for false assumptions about him. I wondered about signs that were likely unnoticed when he was a child in the ’60s. It made me think about mental health issues, specifically in children.

According to research by the National Alliance on Medical Illness:

- 50% of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin at age 14.
- The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention is 8-10 years.
- 37% of students age 14 and up with a mental health condition drop out of school (the highest dropout rate of any disability group).
- 70% of youth in state and local juvenile justice systems have a mental illness.

A few years ago, Colorado was one of the worst states for prevalence of mental health issues and access to treatment, ranking 43rd.

I think that Thompson School District has really stepped up to address this issue with the social and emotional learning program. TSD has developed strategies to meet the social, emotional, mental, and behavioral health needs of students. These kinds of programs and services weren’t around when I was in school. It has been an adjustment to understand the changes in schools. I have heard arguments about why school resources should not be spent on this issue, but how can teachers teach and students learn when there are so many other obstacles interfering with that process? The amount of free resources that are available to help students and places for parents to turn to seek support have created more opportunities to address mental health issues, especially for low-income families and students who were afraid to ask for help. While it is an ongoing process and there is room for much improvement, I hope that what TSD is doing will help students to avoid the path that Ron Williamson took.

For more information go to: tsd.org/departments/learning-services/student-success