

## CHALLENGE SCHOOL



This Week's News

March 5, 2021

### Message From the Principal



We definitely have some exciting news to share with you this week. I ask that you read the weekly update from CCSD Superintendent, Dr. Scott Siegfried that was sent out earlier today. In his letter he begins to discuss our district plan to return to full in-person learning for middle and high school students in April. This letter has answers to many of the questions we've been asking. Please stay tuned for more details in weeks to come.

State assessments continue to be a big part of internal planning conversations. We are scheduling middle school to complete CMAS tests during the last week of March while still in our hybrid model. Elementary students will test during the month of April. If you want to proactively excuse your student from state testing this year, please fill out the opt-out form located on the State Assessment Exemption tile at [my.cherrycreek.org](http://my.cherrycreek.org). You can view [instructions for filling out the exemption here](#). All absences will be excused if you choose to keep your child at home during testing.

This week our annual WOLF DRIVE went live on March 1. This is one of our main fundraisers for the PTCO throughout the year. Your generous support is greatly appreciated! Our PTCO is also hosting the SLEEP CHALLENGE running now until spring break. Both events are featured later on in the newsletter.

Challenge School will also participate in Cherry Creek Reads 2021 next week. This year's book is "Alma and How She Got Her Name" by Juana Martinez-Neal. If you aren't familiar with it, we encourage you to view it [here](#). It's a heartfelt story about a little girl who deepens her understanding of her own identity and her own story by learning about the power behind her name. Our hope is that all who read it can connect with its message and bring us together through the power of a book!

Take care of yourselves as we head into spring break!

Principal Strohfus

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## Invest In Success CCSF Gala



For 27 years, the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation has been dedicated to impacting ALL of our students by Investing in innovation in the classrooms and providing opportunities for EVERY student to achieve their best. Since our inception, CCSF has raised more than \$9 million for groundbreaking educational programs that have touched all of our schools and students.

[Register now](#) to attend the “Invest In Success” Virtual Gala scheduled for March 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

## Wolf Drive 2021



The PTCO Executive Board is happy to announce that our annual spring fundraiser, the Wolf Drive, went live at 8am MST on Monday March 1 just as we had announced in the email blast. This is a fantastic way to help us raise money to support our Teaching Assistants. The Wolf Drive includes the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for chances to win fun prizes including gift cards to several stores, restaurants, and recreational venues around the Denver area. You can also purchase reserved parking spaces and carpool lot passes. Please go to [wolf drive](#) to check out all the opportunities! Thank you for your support! If you have questions, please contact us at [ptcochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:ptcochallenge@gmail.com).

## CCSD District Accountability Executive Committee



Parents and Guardians - Would you like the opportunity to have a greater voice within the Cherry Creek School District? If so, please consider an application for the 2021-2022 District Accountability Executive Committee. The application for this dynamic committee can be found [here](#).

## PTCO General Meeting



Our PTCO General Meeting will take place on March 9 at 6:30pm via zoom. Our featured speaker is Karen Herbst, former Challenge parent and independent college consultant. She will speak about the college admissions process. Please click [here](#) to view the agenda. We hope you can join us! (added bonus - attending this meeting counts towards your volunteer hours target!) The link to connect is <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/98119528914>.

## Wolf Watch

Leaders of the PACK

## Upcoming School Events

Wolf Drive Begins  
March 1

Healthy Sleep Habits  
Challenge  
March 1-12

PTCO General Meeting  
March 9  
6:30 p.m.

Spring Break  
March 15-19  
NO SCHOOL

## Upcoming District Events

Cherry Creek Reads  
March 8-12

Board of Education  
Meeting  
March 8  
7:00 p.m.

SEAC Virtual Meeting  
March 11  
9:30-11:30 a.m.

CCSF “Invest In  
Success” Virtual Gala  
March 11  
6:30 p.m.

CCSD Food & Nutrition  
Services Job Fair  
March 13  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## News from the Clinic



To help decrease the spread of COVID-19, we continue to ask that you and your student/s practice good hand washing habits, appropriate distancing, wearing a mask that covers both the nose and mouth and not sending students to school if they are sick.

## Eighth Grade Student Information



**8th-grade students and parents/guardians:**  
Please join this Schoology group for updates, resources, and information regarding the high school transition process.

### Access Code

**X5X9-4VFR-DMX5X**

A link to important dates, including Incoming Freshman Nights, can be found [here](#). These are updated regularly so please check back often.

Interested in attending an Historically Black College or University, Hispanic Serving Institution, or Native American Serving Institution? Please click [here](#) for details on a college fair.

Please contact our school counselor with any questions at [ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:ethomas@cherrycreekschools.org).

## SEAC Meeting



Please join the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on Inclusive Higher Education on March 11 via Microsoft Teams. For details, please click [here](#).

## STREAM-A-Palooza



Cherry Creek School District is hosting STREAM-A-Palooza! Participate in STEAM activities from the comfort of your home. Please click [here](#) or go to [www.steamapaloozaccsd.com](http://www.steamapaloozaccsd.com) for details on how to register for this April 10 event.

**STREAM-A-PALOOZA**  
April 10  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## Important Links:

[Challenge Middle School REVISED HYBRID Calendar](#)

[Challenge School Tech Support](#)

[Planning Forward 2020-2021](#)

[Challenge School Website](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

[CCSD Parent Resources](#)

[Schoology Troubleshooting Guide for Students](#)

[2020-2021 Challenge School Calendar](#)

## NJHS Office Hours



The National Junior Honor Society is offering “office hours” to help Team D students with any assignments or concepts they would like help on. The opportunities below are available each week as long as it is not a holiday or non-contact day for students. Students may click on the [link](#) for the office hours they want to attend, and an NJHS member will be there to help them virtually.

## Cherry Creek Reads



Get Ready for Cherry Creek Reads! To see how Challenge is celebrating, please click [here](#). For more information, please click [here](#). Save the date to drop everything and read for March 8-12.

## Kid's Heart Challenge



THANK YOU!

Over the last few weeks we have been participating in The American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge. Your support and hard work has been more than we could have ever imagined – THANK YOU!

This year, we helped raise \$1,641.80 for The American Heart Association's lifesaving mission to end heart disease and stroke! We set a goal to raise \$1,500 and we absolutely blew past it, congrats!

Our P.E. department will also receive at least \$150 back to help us purchase new equipment to better teach you here at school.

Thank you so much for your dedication to helping others!

## PTCO Board Nominations



The PTCO is accepting nominations for Board positions for the 2021-22 school year. Self-nominations are encouraged. The Board meets monthly to plan and organize community building events and fundraisers to support our staff, students and families. Open positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications and Volunteer Coordinator. All positions can be filled by two people, so find a friend to do it with you or make a new friend! Contact [ptcochallenge@gmail.com](mailto:ptcochallenge@gmail.com) for more information or to make a nomination. The nominations are due by April 10th 11:59pm MT.

### Little Libraries



Did you know we have two Free Little Libraries near the garden/pavilion? These are boxes that house books for Challenge students to borrow. The boxes have recently been repaired (thank you to Matt Gordon) and are in need of books. Earn a volunteer hour by making a donation; just drop your books in the boxes. And remind your kids that there are books available for them in the libraries.

### Sleep Challenge



Healthy Sleep Habits = Happy Kids! The Sleep Challenge Tic-Tac-Toe boards were provided to students on Monday this week. Please encourage your child's participation in this fun challenge! Students have the opportunity to "play" Tic-Tac-Toe and earn prizes for completing activities that promote good sleep habits. The Sleep Challenge will run from March 1-12. Boards must be submitted before spring break and prizes will be awarded after break. Middle Schoolers can also access their boards digitally [here](#). For more information on how your child can get better and longer sleep, click [here](#).

### PTCO Reserved Parking Spots



As part of our fundraising efforts to support our Teaching Assistants, whose actions benefit ALL students, the PTCO sells reserved parking spots in the main and circle parking lot. We have had numerous reports of people using these spots when they have not paid for them. The PTCO Board would like to request that we all be respectful and not park in one of these reserved spots. These spots are clearly labelled with the name of the family that purchased them. If you would like to have your own reserved spot, there is one currently unsold in the main lot - contact the Board at [PTCOChallenge@gmail.com](mailto:PTCOChallenge@gmail.com) for details. In addition, the launch of the Wolf Drive will provide opportunities for families to purchase these spots for the 21-22 school year. If you have any questions about these parking spots, please contact the PTCO Board at [PTCOChallenge@gmail.com](mailto:PTCOChallenge@gmail.com).



## Volunteer Update



Given the extraordinary circumstances we are in right now, the 25 hour volunteer requirement is being changed from a requirement to a target for this school year. We need parents help and involvement (see Volunteer Opportunities under Important Links in the sidebar), and are grateful for any time that you are able to donate.

## Food and Nutrition Services News



Breakfast and lunch for ALL Cherry Creek School District students will continue to be free until the end of the school year. Meal pick up information for middle school is now available. Please click here for the flyer in [English](#) and here for [Spanish](#).

For Spring Break breakfast and lunch pick up information, please click [here](#).

Food & Nutrition Services will be hosting a Job Fair on Saturday, March 13 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For details, click [here](#).

Even though breakfast and lunch are free for all students this year, did you know that there are additional benefits if you qualify for free and reduced lunch? Please click [here](#) for more information.

## Challenge Family Facebook Page



Did you know our PTCO has a Facebook group for the parents and caregivers of our students? It's a great place to ask questions and learn from other parents. Please go to [www.facebook.com/groups/challengeparents/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/challengeparents/) to join.

## No Cost Fundraising



Please remember to help us raise money through the no-cost fundraisers, especially AmazonSmile and King Soopers. Visit the [PTCO's website](#) for more information regarding the programs.

## Parent's Council Board



Parents Council is the umbrella organization that keeps our non-profit status so schools can fundraise, host fun school events and give back to the community and school. We have many board positions opened and would love to chat with anyone who is looking to volunteer in this capacity! You can visit our website at <https://www.ccparentscouncil.org> to learn more about the board and open positions.

## Wolf Watch



CCSD will be offering Summer Camp Day Care this summer. We are excited to provide care for all our families through the summer months. Please see this [Flyer](#) for information. More details to come as we near the end of the school year.

## Leaders of the PACK



Week of March 1

Ayaansh Aggarwal	Hannah Davis	Chester Boberschmidt
Ben Donald	Joshua Liu	Alessa Mazzella
Lilly Mesfin	Grace Marmorstein	Peter Rasmussen
Daniel Safiulla	Natan Tefera	Everest Tuley
Nobel Woldu	Ethan Do	Eliana Kahsai
Ellie Parsons	Ersel Serdar	Shriya Sriram
	Jason Weber	

## Feedback

We hope that you are getting all of the information that you need from this update. If you have ideas on how we could better keep you informed, please email [dbustamante@cherrycreekschools.org](mailto:dbustamante@cherrycreekschools.org).