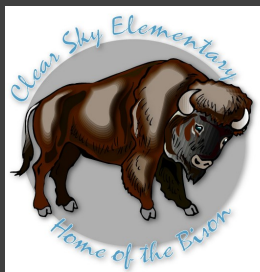


# Bison Bulletin

November 2025

Clear Sky Elementary

Page 1



**Michelle Howard**  
Principal

**Jonathan Johnson**  
Asst. Principal

**Attendance Line:**  
303-387-5902

**Office Phone:**  
303-387-5900

**School Day:**  
9:10am - 4:00pm  
**Office Hours:**  
8:30am-4:30pm

**Clear Sky PTO**



*Advertising in this  
newsletter does not imply  
endorsements by the  
school or district.*

## From the Principal

Hello Clear Sky Families!

The energy at Clear Sky has been amazing to see as we head toward the end of the semester! I wanted to share some exciting news and important information about our upcoming events and a special community effort.

### Science and Innovation Fair:

I am really looking forward to the upcoming Science and Innovation Fair! I had the pleasure of serving as one of the judges last school year, and I'm thrilled to be returning to the judging panel this year. I was so incredibly impressed by the creativity, hard work, and ingenuity demonstrated in all the project submissions we received last year, and I can't wait to see what our students will be submitting this school year. A huge thank you is in order for Mrs. Anderegg and Mrs. Jensen for all of their hard work in organizing this fantastic event!

### Honoring Our Heroes: Veterans' Day Breakfast and "Today I Honor"

At Clear Sky, we would like to honor our Veterans and any Active Duty Service Members. We are having a Veterans' Day Breakfast on Tuesday, November 11th, at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. We truly hope our Veterans and Active Duty Service Members will be able to join us for this event! Veterans/Active Duty members may attend with their Clear Sky student (s).

In addition to the breakfast, we are hoping that our students would take a moment to complete the **Today I Honor** document that was sent home in Thursday Folders. This is a special way for

our students to recognize a hero in their life.

### Here are the instructions for the document:

1. On the lines provided, please include any names of Veterans or Active Duty Service Members.
2. The student should then write their name after the word "From."
3. After the heart has been colored and filled out, the student can then cut the heart out.
4. Finally, have the student write their first and last name on the back of the heart along with their teacher's name.
5. If they would like to staple a photocopied picture of their Veteran or Active Duty Family Member, that is also welcomed. Photos should only be wallet sized.

Please have completed hearts turned back into school by **Friday, November 7th**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Main Office at 303-387-5900.

To make the breakfast a success, we are relying on the generosity of our school families for food and other donations. We've set up two separate links below for you to sign up:

- [Veterans' Day Breakfast RSVP](#)
- [Veterans' Day Breakfast Donations](#)

We kindly ask that all donated items be brought to the school no later than **4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 10th**, so we have plenty of time to set up the cafeteria. Thank you in advance for your support in honoring our heroes!

continued...

## From the Principal, continued...

### Supporting Our Community Through Food Donations:

With the ongoing government shutdown, some families in our community may be experiencing interruptions in their food assistance. To help those who may be struggling, our school is collecting **non-perishable food items** to donate to the **Help & Hope Center**.

If you're able to contribute, please bring donations to the **front office during school hours**. Items such as **canned goods, pasta, rice, cereal, peanut butter, and other shelf-stable foods** are especially appreciated.

Thank you for showing care and compassion for others during this uncertain time. Your generosity truly makes a difference in our community!

### Thanksgiving Break:

Just a friendly reminder that Thanksgiving Break will be taking place the week of November 24th. This is a wonderful opportunity to recharge and connect with loved ones. I truly hope that you all are able to spend quality time with family and friends during that time.

Thank you for your continued support!

Educationally yours,

Michelle Howard  
Clear Sky Elementary Principal  
[mhoward1@dcsdk12.org](mailto:mhoward1@dcsdk12.org)



### Earn cash for your school! Save Longmont Dairy Milk Caps.

Longmont Dairy Farm will donate 5¢ per LDF produced product bottle cap. Schools are free to spend these funds as they wish to benefit students.



To sign up, use this QR code or go to [LongmontDairy.com/mooola.html](http://LongmontDairy.com/mooola.html)

### Third Grade

Third grade students are learning about local government. They enjoyed a visit from Castle Rock’s Mayor, Jason Gray, and the Town Manager, Dave Corliss. The students learned about the responsibilities of the mayor and town manager as well as some interesting facts about the town and the services the town provides such as the police and fire departments, public works, and parks and recreation.

We also enjoyed a visit from the municipal court judge, the Honorable Judge David Thrower. We learned what a day in court is like and how the judge makes decisions when he hears cases and assigns consequences.



Pictured are Town Manager David Corliss, Principal Michell Howard, Third Grade Teacher Mrs. Heimel, and Mayor Jason Gray with student ambassadors from each class. Caleb from Mrs. Heimel’s class, Sawyer from Mrs. Yoshioka’s class, Jameson from Mrs. Patel’s class, Ella from Mrs. Heimel’s class, and Grayson from Mrs. Lumley’s class



Pictured are Judge David Thrower and student ambassadors from each class. Caleb from Mrs. Heimel’s class, Sawyer from Mrs. Lumley’s class, Icelyn from Ms. Yoshioka’s class, and Emily from Mrs. Patel’s class

### From the Bison Den

Last month, we worked on “Name it to tame it”  
This month, we are learning how focusing on thankfulness can shift our mindset.  
Try it at home: At dinner or bedtime, share one thing you’re grateful for.





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## 5th & 6th Grade Universal Screen

Dear Parents/Guardians,

DCSD is committed to implementing equitable practices to increase access to advanced/gifted learning opportunities. Based on state and national recommendations and requirements, we implement Universal Screening for students in 2nd grade (February) and 5th or 6th grade—a student's final year of elementary school (November).

**Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, we will be testing only 5th graders in Douglas County in November. In preparation for this, we will be testing all 5th & 6th graders this November so as to not miss any students in the transition process.**

### 5th & 6th Grade Universal Screen

As part of this process, **ALL** students in 5th & 6th grade not identified for gifted programming will take the **Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)** the week of November 3rd and 10th. This assessment indicates the level and pattern of cognitive development of a student in comparison to grade and age mates. These general reasoning abilities, which start developing at birth and continue through early adulthood, are influenced by experiences gained both in and out of school.

**In alignment with DCSD's Strategic Plan, starting in the 2026-2027 school year, we will be testing only 5th graders in Douglas County in November. In preparation for this, we will be testing all 5th & 6th graders this November so as to not miss any students in the transition process.**

### Gifted Identification Referral Testing

- If your child is in grades 3 and 4, [and you believe they need evaluation for Gifted Identification and Services](#), you may refer your child for testing by initiating the Gifted Identification Process.
- **NOTE: Requesting this assessment automatically initiates the process to evaluate for Gifted Identification.**
- Please request CogAT testing for your child by completing the **Referral for Gifted Identification** linked [HERE](#)
- *Upon receipt of this form the Gifted Education Facilitator will connect with you to discuss next steps in the gifted identification process*

## Why Rereading is Powerful

When your child rereads a familiar book, they're doing more than revisiting a favorite story—they're strengthening their reading muscles! Rereading helps develop **fluency**, which means reading smoothly, accurately, and with expression. As words and phrases become more automatic, your child can shift their focus from sounding out words to truly **understanding the story**.

Encourage rereading at home by letting your child return to beloved books, practice class texts, or read aloud favorite bedtime stories. Each reread builds confidence, comprehension, and a sense of joy in reading!

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### **Supporting Writing to Strengthen Reading**

Writing and reading grow hand in hand! When children write, they practice using the same skills they need to be strong readers—like spelling patterns, sentence structure, and vocabulary. Activities such as **journaling, storytelling, or drawing and labeling pictures** help kids connect sounds to letters and organize their thoughts.

Encourage your child to write freely—lists, letters, comics, or short stories all count! Every time they put their ideas into words, they're building confidence and strengthening the literacy skills that make reading more meaningful.

## News from the Innovation Lab

Hello CSE families! October has brought the end to our Circuit and Digital Safety Unit. Each grade level completed circuit activities and challenges, along with a [Common Sense Media](#) digital safety lesson. Here is a link to the “[Family Tech Planners](#),” in both English and Spanish. These are resources you can use at home to help your family discuss its use of technology. Below, I have outlined the specific grade-level activities that we completed.

	<b>CIRCUIT WORK/CHALLENGE</b>	<b>DIGITAL SAFETY LESSON</b>	<b>PICTURE BOOK</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	The basic elements of a circuit, different types of circuits, and static electricity.	Safety In My Online Neighborhood	<a href="#">Unplugged</a>
<b>1st Grade</b>	Reviewing the basic elements of a circuit, different types of circuits, static electricity, and snap circuits.	Pause & Think Online	<a href="#">Chicken Clicking</a>
<b>2nd Grade</b>	Paper circuits added to a 3D model of their favorite “device-free” activity.	Device-Free Moments	<a href="#">Old Macdonald had a Phone</a>
<b>3rd Grade</b>	Construct an interactive word using recycled materials and the MakeyMakey	When Words Hurt Online	<a href="#">Once Upon a Time Online</a>
<b>4th Grade</b>	Using littleBits, design a billboard or structure promoting digital footprint awareness.	Online Tracks: What Do We Control?	<a href="#">#Goldilocks</a>
<b>5th Grade</b>	Using Scrappy Circuits, create an interactive item promoting positive digital behavior.	Dealing with Cyberbullying	<a href="#">Troll Stinks</a>
<b>6th Grade</b>	Utilize any of our classroom circuit resources to create an item promoting positive digital behavior.	De-escalating Online Harm	<a href="#">Nerdy Birdy Tweets</a>

## News from the Innovation Lab, continued...

A few more photos of our recent work.

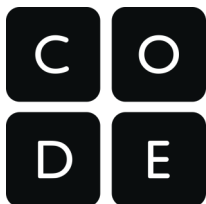


*Using our Snap Circuits!*

*Students working on their "Scrappy Circuit" project.*



### COMING IN NOVEMBER!



I am excited for our new unit...Computer Science...including programming - AKA coding! This unit will have students, at all grade levels, using various computational thinking tools while focusing on the following standards: computational thinking, computing systems and networks, computer programming, and artificial intelligence (AI).

**Unplugged Learning:** All students will be completing various "unplugged" activities which are hands-on activities that teach computer science concepts without using computers. They will use picture books, physical objects, games, and puzzles to help students understand complex topics like algorithms, binary code, and problem-solving.

**Programming (Coding):** For this portion of their work, students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade will utilize the free app ScratchJr. ScratchJr as an introductory programming language that enables young children (ages 5-7) to create their own interactive stories and games. Children snap together graphical programming blocks to make characters move, jump, dance, and sing.

**code.org:** All students will once again be utilizing their personal [code.org](https://code.org) accounts and completing various lessons that focus on the Colorado Computer Science Standards for their specific grade level. Code.org® is an education innovation nonprofit dedicated to the vision that every student in every school has the opportunity to learn computer science and artificial intelligence as part of their core K-12 education. They provide a variety of interactive, skill-based lessons that help students understand various computer science skills. Keep an eye out for their individual logins. This website has some amazing resources and we will only be scratching the surface without work in the Innovation Lab.

continued...

## News from the Innovation Lab, continued...

### CSE is Hosting Camp Invention this Summer!

We have our dates set for this year's camp and that means an extra discount for registering early! Camp Invention: Spark will take place at CSE from June 8th - 12th.

In partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF), CSE is pleased to offer the nationally acclaimed Camp Invention program to children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. This exciting, weeklong summer adventure provides opportunities for open-ended, hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering and more! Rotating through a variety of exciting activities each day, children have fun collaborating with friends, thinking creatively and inventing their own solutions to real-world challenges.



### Introducing an All-New 2026 Camp Invention Experience!

Inspire your young innovator with a one-of-a-kind summer adventure! Exciting, hands-on challenges will spark curiosity and build their confidence as they dive into limitless STEM fun full of opportunities to imagine, experiment and create. You can get a glimpse at the SPARK modules in action from [this video](#). We are looking for former CSE students as well! Those students entering 7th-9th grades can serve as "Leaders in Training," while high school and college students can serve as "Leadership Interns." Please reach out to Mrs. Jensen for more information on these two opportunities. This can be a great way for students to get their volunteer hours. **Feel free to contact Mrs. Jensen with any questions.** We will once again have CSE staff members as camp instructors! :)

## Counselor's Corner: Zones of Regulation - Concept 4: My Signals, My Zones

This month in counseling, we've continued learning about the *Zones of Regulation*, a framework that helps students recognize and manage their feelings, energy, and focus. Each lesson builds on the last, helping students become more aware of what's happening inside their bodies and minds so they can make positive choices throughout the day.

Our current focus is *Concept 4: My Signals, My Zones*. We explored how our bodies give us clues about our feelings through body signals such as heart rate, breathing, energy level, and muscle tension. Recognizing these clues helps students understand which Zone they're in:

- **Blue Zone** – low energy, sad, tired
- **Green Zone** – calm, focused, ready to learn
- **Yellow Zone** – excited, worried, silly
- **Red Zone** – angry, frustrated, out of control

Students practiced identifying their own body signals through movement, reflection, and role-play. They learned that everyone experiences signals differently and that noticing these clues helps them make good choices to manage their emotions.

#### Try it at home:

- Ask your child: "What body signals do you notice when you're feeling calm or upset?"
- Share your own examples (e.g., "My shoulders feel tight when I'm stressed.").
- Talk about what helps you and your child return to the **Green Zone**.

By learning to tune in to their body's signals, students are strengthening self-awareness and self-regulation skills that support focus, confidence, and emotional well-being.

#### Need Help or Have Questions?

Reach out to your school counselors anytime! **Becky Evans:** 3-6 - [rdevans@dcsdk12.org](mailto:rdevans@dcsdk12.org) **Mindy Sabby:** K-3 - [sabby1@dcsdk12.org](mailto:sabby1@dcsdk12.org)

## Science Corner: What We're Exploring Next

Get ready for an exciting rotation in science! Here's a peek at what each grade level will be investigating during their science special:

### **Kindergarten: What Do Living Things Need?**

Our youngest scientists will be observing and describing patterns in nature to figure out the basic needs of plants and animals (including humans). They'll be answering questions like: What do living things need to stay alive and grow?

### **1st Grade: Sound and Light Investigations**

First graders will become physicists, planning and conducting fun experiments! They'll explore how vibrations make sound and how sound can make things vibrate. They will also investigate light, making observations to prove that we can only see objects when they are lit up!

### **2nd Grade: Earth's Changing Surface**

Through hands-on investigations, second graders will be discovering how our Earth changes and the power of water. They'll explore the difference between events that happen very quickly (like a landslide) and those that happen very slowly (like the erosion of a mountain).

### **3rd Grade: Magnets and Electricity Mysteries**

Our third graders will be asking big questions to discover the cause-and-effect relationships of magnets and static electricity. They'll be investigating those mysterious forces that allow objects to push or pull each other without actually touching!

### **4th Grade: Collisions and Energy with Hot Wheels**

Fourth graders will be looking at what happens when objects crash! They'll be asking questions and making predictions about the changes in energy that occur during collisions. They will also use evidence to explain how an object's speed is related to its energy.

### **5th Grade: Scientific Argumentation and Experimentation**

Fifth graders will learn the essential components of a scientific argument (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) by analyzing product commercials. They will then apply these skills by planning and conducting an experiment to test a specific claim, such as investigating the relative strength of different tapes.

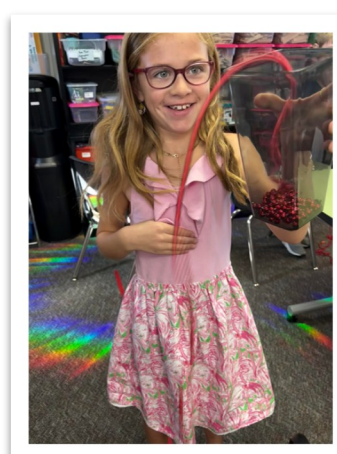
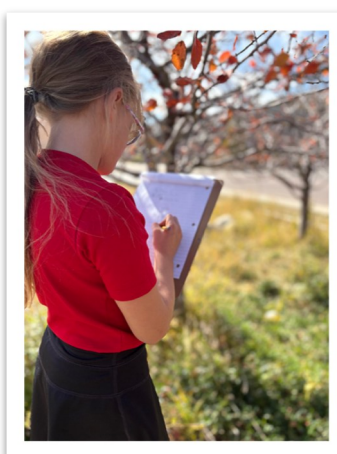
### **6th Grade: Earth Systems, Climate, and Weather**

Sixth graders will focus on two key cause-and-effect relationships that drive climate:

The relationship between latitude (distance from the equator) and average temperature.

The relationship between seasonal changes and the intensity of sunlight (e.g., the steeper angle of light in summer vs. the shallower angle in winter). Students will also develop models to explain how temperature variations in air and water create currents, which ultimately influence the weather and climate of specific regions.

### **Pictures from our 2nd rotation of science:**



### Clear Sky Choir News

Congratulations to the Clear Sky Choir for a fabulous job singing at the Castle View Feeder Festival on Oct. 21, 2025. They sang with three other elementary schools and then did a mass song with two middle schools and four of the six high school choirs totalling about five hundred singers total. WOW!

Annual Holiday Choir Concert will be on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 5:30pm for all Clear Sky families. We hope you will come and join us. Admission is one canned good or boxed food to help families in need. Thank you in advance for supporting our community.

**Air Force National Anthem and Clear Sky Nite:** Join the Clear Sky Choir as they sing the National Anthem on December 3, 2025 at 5pm at the Air Force Men’s basketball game. It is always a night of fun and a great way to help our music room get needed instruments. Look for the flier on DOJO and in Thursday folders.



### FUNDRAISE WITH THE FALCONS

Clear Sky Elementary School Music



AIR FORCE MEN'S BASKETBALL vs PACIFIC DEC 3

TICKETS START AT JUST

\$9

AND INCLUDE A \$3 FUNDRAISER BACK TO CLEAR SKY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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Rob Mangelson  
(720) 878-4107

[Rob@tscacolorado.com](mailto:Rob@tscacolorado.com)

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