Governor's Ranch ELEMENTARY

NEWSLETTER

The Latest Updates from Governor's Ranch Elementary
Nov 2026

November

Panda Express Community Night	November 3
GRE Skate City Night 6-8 pm	November 4
School Accountability Meeting (SAC) 5:30-6:30 pm	November 9
PTA Meeting 6:15-7:15pm	November 9
Can Food Drive	November 9-13
Veterans Day Assembly (8:15-9:00am)	November 11
Creed Assembly	November 13
Kindergarten Performance Families (6pm)	November 18
T1 Report Cards Go Home	November 20
Thanksgiving Break—No School	November 23-27

Newsletter Best Practices

Welcome to the second edition of our 2026–2027 school newsletter.

Our goal with this publication is to bring together the most vital school information in one place. While it should take less than 30 minutes to read, it contains important updates that require careful reading rather than a quick skim. Please take a few minutes to sit down and review the content in full.

You will find all event flyers and additional resources attached at the bottom of the newsletter. Thank you for staying connected with Governor's Ranch Elementary!

School Updates

Raccoon Run Results:

October was an incredible month at GRE! Thanks to your generous support, this year's Raccoon Run was a remarkable success, raising over $42,000 for our school.

We are already putting those funds to work. We have secured our upcoming author visit and ordered new equipment for the obstacle course. In addition, we will soon be purchasing updated technology for our classrooms.

We cannot thank our wonderful community enough for your overwhelming generosity, involvement, and support!






GRE's Use of ParentSquare

Our goal is to set the standard for strong, reliable communication with our families, and our transition to ParentSquare supports this effort. ParentSquare offers several communication tools, and we want to share how we plan to use each one:

- **Alerts**: We will send Alerts for critical, time-sensitive information, including school-wide events, newsletter releases, important meetings, and schedule changes (such as snow days or late starts). These will be delivered via both email and text message.
- **Posts**: We will use Posts to share information about smaller events, helpful resources, and minor school updates. Email notifications are typically sent whenever a new post is published.

Next Steps for Parents & Guardians:

1. All families are **automatically** enrolled into ParentSquare based on communication preferences indicated in Infinite Campus.
2. ParentSquare can be accessed via a free mobile app for **iOS** or **Android**, or through the desktop version at **www.parentsquare.com**
3. Go to your Account Settings and adjust your notification preferences to best suit your needs.
4. There is more information located on the Jeffco Schools website: https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/services/communications/parentsquare

Instructional Updates

Schoolwide Instructional Goals:

At Governor's Ranch, one of our goals for the 2026–2027 school year is for students to become stronger, more confident writers who can clearly communicate their thinking across all content areas.

We have introduced two acronyms to help students monitor their learning and develop independence: POWeR and TIDE. Students use POWerR help them work through the steps of the writing process. TIDE is the way that we help students organize their thinking, especially when they are writing informational text.

POWeR	TIDE (K)	TIDE (1st-2nd)	TIDE (3rd-5th
P- Plan **O**- Organize (TIDE) **W**- Write and tell more **E**- Edit **R**- Revise	➔ **T**opic ➔ **I**mportant **D**etails ➔ **E**nd	➔ **T**opic ➔ **I**nformation ➔ **D**etails ➔ **E**nd	➔ **T**opic ➔ **I**mportant evidence ➔ **D**etailed examination ➔ **E**nd

November Writing Challenge Prompts

Attendance Updates

Friendly Attendance Reminders

Early Release & Student Check-Out Policy

For the safety and security of all students, a parent, guardian, or authorized adult must physically come into the building to check out a student. If possible, please call the main office 15 minutes before the planned pick up and we will have your student waiting for you.

- Important reminder: Please remember to bring a valid government-issued photo ID with you every time you enter the school to check out your student. We are required to verify ID before releasing your child.

Reporting Absences

Per Jeffco School policy, please remember to notify the school to excuse your student's absence. You can quickly let us know by calling our attendance line by 8:00 A.M. or by logging into your child's Infinite Campus Account. To ensure the absence is properly excused, please reach out within 24 hours; otherwise, it will be marked as unexcused.

Excused Absences

Per Jeffco Public Schools policy, student absences are categorized as excused for the following reasons:

1. A student who is temporarily ill or injured
2. A student who is absent for an extended period due to physical, mental, or emotional disability.
3. A student attending a funeral, religious observation, legal proceeding, medical procedures or extenuating circumstances determined by the principal.
4. A student attending a school sponsored activity or receiving Jeffco educational services.
5. A student attending a school sponsored activity or receiving Jeffco educational services.
6. A student who is suspended or expelled.

Pre-Arranged Absences

If your child will be absent for half a day or longer for any reason outside of the 5 approved categories listed above (such as family travel or personal events), please complete a Pre-Arranged Absence Form, which is available in the main office or on our school website. Please submit the completed form to the main office not later than a week prior to the scheduled absence so it can be reviewed and approved.

Unexcused Absences

Any reason not listed as excusable, unless approved by administration.

Tardies & Late Arrivals

Students arriving after the start bell are considered tardy. Tardies can be excused for the same reasons as full-day absences.

Signing Students In & Out

It is helpful to have as complete details as possible on the Student Sign In & Out Sheet so we can record the reason for your student's departure or arrival.

Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in keeping our school safe and our attendance records accurate. If you have any questions, please contact the main office.

Main Office: 303-982-4625 **Attendance line:** 303-982-4623



SEL Updates

See information about our November Spark Skills and community resources like holiday gift opportunities, food and clothing resources, and more in our GRE SELS Family Newsletter.

If your family could use a helping hand or give a helping hand this holiday season please check out our

Investing Deeply Winter Flyer.



Raccoon Run Spirit Day Photos:

Crazy Hair day:





Beach Day:




Dear Elementary School Families-

During your child's 6th grade year, they will attend Outdoor Lab: a week-long, overnight camp hosted at one of two Jeffco Public School sites (Mt. Blue Sky and Windy Peak). Since 1957, Jeffco students have participated in this program and it has become a rite of passage for generations of families in our community.

There is a tuition fee for attending Outdoor Lab. The 2026-27 Outdoor Lab tuition fee is $335. To offset (or eliminate) this cost, the Outdoor Lab Foundation has established the Lab Card Program in partnership with King Soopers and Safeway where donations generated from your normal shopping are directed to your child's Outdoor Lab fees! Get started fundraising early to ensure as much of or all the fees are covered. Visit their website to begin fundraising today!

https://www.outdoorlabfoundation.org/labcards/

Veterans Day Program

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 • 8:15 a.m. • School Gym

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Presentation of Colors

National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance

Fifth-Grade Essay Speech #1

Second-Grade Choir • "Thank You, Soldiers"

Fifth-Grade Essay Speeches #2 + #3

Armed Forces Medley and Recognition of Veterans

Closing Remarks

Veterans Breakfast Reception

Invited veterans and their family members are welcome to remain for the Veterans Breakfast Reception with their students in [CAFETERIA].

Thank you to all veterans for your service.

All orders are placed online and shipped directly to you. You will need your student's ID # to access his/her picture gallery. To find this number, login to the Infinite Campus parent portal and click on their Student Profile.

Don’t forget to view and purchase fall portraits here:

Parent & Care Taker Picture Day Dashboard

RETAKES are Ready Too!

Halloween Parade and Parties







Thanksgiving Food Drive

Happy November! Our annual food drive for the Open Arms Food Bank will run from November 2-13. This year schools from the Columbine Area will engage in a friendly competition with the winning school earning bragging rights and a treat. In addition, the leadership team has decided that we will again run a contest for each grade level at GRE. Everyone is encouraged to donate whatever food they are generously offering. There are not specific items per grade. Each item will count as 1 point with the following exceptions:

Grocery Store gift cards are a bonus 5 pts
Turkeys are a bonus 10 points

If students are bringing food to the office area, please encourage them to label the bag with the grade level it corresponds with. The winning grade will earn popsicles.

Fuel the Fire at Governor's Ranch — Join the PTA!

At Governor's Ranch Elementary, amazing things are happening every single day. GRE is built on a proud history of "growing the fire" for our school community. But that fire only stays strong with your support! Our students are the sparks, but our parents are part of the fuel that keeps everything burning bright.

Right now, our parent volunteer numbers are dipping, and we need you back in the mix!

Joining the PTA isn't just about donating time. It's about bringing your unique personality, energy, and fresh ideas to the table. Whether you have 30 minutes a month or want to lead a major event, every bit of support helps us create unforgettable experiences for our kids.

Together, let's keep the fire growing, one spark at a time.

Join the GRE PTA Today!

Family/Couple Membership ($20)

Single/Individual Membership ($15)

https://grepta.org/

JOIN OUR SCHOOL'S
ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE



NO Dues

NO Fundraising Obligation

JUST Join our Conversation!

Help us continue to improve our school community by having a say in school spending, school improvement, and other school decisions.

Please visit the front office for more information about our School Accountability Committee.

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS #BetterTogether

[SAC page on GRE Webpage]

[Additional SAC Information]



Calling All GRE Dads, Grandfathers, and Father Figures! We need a team of great role models to help us continue our program.

Watch D.O.G.S. play and patrol during lunch and recess, watch the school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow during morning arrival or afternoon dismissal, etc. The program's goals:

1. To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
2. To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

Watch D.O.G.S. Sign Up Here:

Trimester 1 SignUp

Trimester 2 SignUp

Trimester 3 SignUp

Superintendent Search: Your Voice Matters

The Jeffco Board of Education is moving forward with the search for the district's next superintendent, and your voice matters in shaping what comes next. We want to hear what you believe our next superintendent should bring to this important role.

Here's how you can share your voice:

- **Attend a community forum in November.** Beginning **Thursday, November 12**, multiple forums will be offered, both in person and virtually, so you can choose the session that works best for you. All public community forums are open to everyone, and no registration is required.
- **Take the online survey beginning November 13.** Share what you believe is most important in Jeffco's next superintendent. You can take the survey regardless if you attend a community forum or not.

Visit the Superintendent Search webpage for the complete schedule of community forums, including which sessions are in person or virtual. The online survey will also be available on this page beginning November 13.

Governor's Ranch
ELEMENTARY

CREED

Today is a new day at GRE.
Everyone is welcome here.
As Raccoons we will:
Grow, Relate and Engage.

EVERY DAY WE:

- Persevere in all that we do
- Invest deeply in ourselves and others
- Are leaders of our own learning

We honor each other and are thankful for our GRE Family.

GRE is GREat!

GREAT Family Handbook

Quick Reference Calendar

District Family Calendar

Student Benefit Application

School Cafe

Personal Account Manager (go here to reset your parent portal password)

Band and Orchestra Website

Flyers and Additional Information:

2026 MILL LEVY OVERRIDE AND SPECIAL MILL

WHAT JEFFCO VOTERS NEED TO KNOW

Ballot Issues 5A & 5B

FACTUAL INFORMATION

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ONE TEAM. ONE COMMUNITY. ALL KiDS

$73M General Purpose Mill Levy Override (MLO) 5A

WHAT IS A MILL LEVY OVERRIDE?

A mill levy funds ongoing operational needs such as teachers, software, enrichment, and social-emotional supports.

MILL LEVY OVERRIDE USES FROM BALLOT QUESTION 5A

- **Teacher and staff compensation** and benefits
- Expanding **Career & Technical Education (CTE)** programming

$60M Special Purpose Mill Levy 5B

WHAT IS A SPECIAL PURPOSE MILL LEVY?

A special purpose mill levy funds ongoing capital, construction, technology, and maintenance needs.

SPECIAL MILL LEVY USES FROM BALLOT QUESTION 5B

- Critical upgrades and maintenance of schools such as plumbing improvements, parking lot repairs, and replacing **faulty, dangerous and leaking roofs**
- Providing and repairing **failing or outdated cooling, heating, and ventilation systems** for a better learning environment
- Replacing and updating **aging infrastructure and technology**
- **Safety and security investments** such as secure access and monitoring



TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- A board-appointed Jeffco citizens committee will provide oversight of funds. Jeffco will provide annual reports to the public.
- Jeffco will provide a public website with information about how tax payer dollars are being used.

What's the Cost to Taxpayers?

$3.50 PER MONTH PER $100K OF ACTUAL HOME VALUE

EXAMPLE: For a home value of $650K, the taxpayer will pay $22.75 per month.

NOTE: A proportional share of a MLO and special purpose mill would be allocated to Jeffco's charter schools.

Arguments For and Against Mill Levies Passing

FOR MILL LEVIES PASSING

- Our students thrive when they're learning from highly effective teachers, but Jeffco Public Schools ranks near the bottom (9 out of 10) in midpoint teacher salaries compared to nearby districts, putting Jeffco at a competitive disadvantage in attracting and keeping top-tier staff.
- Approximately 1,500 students are on the waitlist for Warren Tech for the 2026-27 school year. Additional funding would expand career and technical education (CTE) opportunities for more students to take advantage of.
- Additional funding would allow Jeffco Public Schools to address urgent repairs, maintain facilities and technology, and strengthen safety and security—thereby protecting instructional time and creating safer, warmer, and more efficient learning environments.
- Due to the lack of adequate funding, Jeffco Public Schools had to cut $40 million for the 2026-27 school year, leading to larger class sizes and fewer class offerings or electives for students to choose from.

AGAINST MILL LEVIES PASSING

- These initiatives would raise taxes. In Jeffco Public Schools, the mill levy proposal is estimated to cost a homeowner about $3.50/month per $100,000 of actual home value.
- Some voters may be concerned about how the additional money will be spent and whether there will be enough accountability.
- Some voters may believe the district should live within its current budget rather than ask taxpayers for more money.
- Some voters believe the State should find a way to provide more funding for schools rather than asking the taxpayers for more.

DISTRICT FACILITIES' NEEDS

- More than half of Jeffco's school buildings are **50 years or older**, and building age is one of the clearest predictors of a building's condition.
- Building and repair **costs rise every year**, so delaying facility repairs can make them much more expensive.
- More than **$500 million in critical repairs and improvements** are needed across Jeffco schools.
- Visit **jeffcofacilitiesexplorer.org** to learn more about Jeffco facilities' needs.

Jeffco receives **$1,875 less funding** per student than neighboring districts, **a gap of approximately $140M dollars annually.**

Jeffco Public Schools has two funding measures on the November 2026 ballot. This fact sheet is intended to provide neutral, factual information about each measure, including its specified uses, estimated taxpayer impact, accountability provisions, and arguments for and against.

Learn More

Scan the QR code for full ballot language, taxpayer impacts, accountability information, complete arguments for/against, FAQs

Governors Ranch Elementary PTA

When:
Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Place your order for pickup or delivery on Tuesday, November 3!

Where:
Available at Panda Express locations nationwide
www.pandaexpress.com

How:
Online orders only
Apply code 9020281 in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at www.pandaexpress.com or via App

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28% of sales will be donated to: Governors Ranch Elementary PTA
Organizing community events and raising money in support of Governors Ranch Elementary

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Valid for online orders only. Panda Restaurant Group, Inc. ("PRG") reserves the right to cancel any and all fundraiser events at any time, if the Virtual Community Fundraising Terms and Conditions are not followed. If the organization is not in good standing with the IRS, Franchise Tax Board, or the State of California (for California organizations only), then donations may not be made to the organization. The organization must raise a minimum of $150 in total event sales pre-tax when purchased with designated code at check-out, in order to receive 28% of all event sales (pre-tax amount). PRG does not charge the organization fees related to the event. Purchase(s) of gift cards and meals from Panda's School Lunch program do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible. The donation from PRG to the organization is tax deductible. The organization receiving the donation must be a tax exempt organization. PRG will issue the donation check and provide an accounting statement to the organization within 45 days of the completion of the Event. Participants in the fundraiser may request the total dollar amount donated to the organization by emailing communityprograms@pandarg.com or by submitting the question at https://community.pandaexpress.com/faq.

HOW IT WORKS START A FUNDRAISER


Skate City
GLOW Party
$5 Meal Deals Available
Governor's Ranch
Elementary
Bring your friends & family for the private skate party, event just for the students, staff, family, & friends from the school!
Beat the line & pre-purchase your admissions/rentals using the QR code below for an expedited entry!
Wednesday, November 4th
6-8pm
$7
Admission
$5
Skate Rental


Open Arms Food Bank
THANKS
FOOD DRIVE
GIVING
We would love your help in providing
Thanksgiving meals to families in need
We Are Collecting The Following Items:
Gravy, Pie
Canned corn
Stuffing, Rice
Cranberries Sauce
Corn Bread
Dessert Mix
Rolls/Biscuits
Mac and Cheese
Canned Yams
Mashed Potatoes
Turkey (10 pts)
Gift Cards (5 pts)
Items Will Be Collected
NOVEMBER
2-13
Drop Off Location
Governor's Ranch Elementary
5354 S Field Street
Littleton, CO 80123
This is a contest between
grades and area schools
FOR MORE
INFORMATIONS
303.982.4625
Thank you for Sharing & Caring

YOU BELONG AT KEN CARYL!

Spartan Interest Night December 1



Join us for an evening of community and find out more:

- Meet Our Teachers
- Discover Academic Programs
- Electives & Exploratories
- Gifted & Talented
- Music Performances



5:30-7:00 PM

Visit our classrooms and complete your stamp book!

@kencarylmiddleschoolspartans kencaryl.jeffcopublicschools.org

WHY IT MATTERS

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from one study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?



64%
of kids with good attendance in K and 1st
(missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43%
of kids with at-risk attendance
(missed more than 9 days both years)



41%
of kids chronically absent in K or 1st
(missed 18 or more days one year)



17%
of kids chronically absent in K and 1st
(missed 18 or more days both years)

WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO



Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required immunizations.

Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.

Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.



Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety or another problem.

Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.



Keep track of your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your family about what you see.

Develop a back-up plan for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.



Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.



ParentSquare

Welcome to ParentSquare!

At the district level, our goal is to ensure every family, school and classroom stays deeply connected. We know that robust family engagement is a cornerstone of student success, but we also recognize that communication can easily become fragmented and our current systems have not kept up with advances in technology.

To create a more unified, equitable and streamlined experience for everyone, Jeffco has partnered with ParentSquare as our official, all-in-one communication platform.

By bringing all school-to-home interactions under one digital roof, we are eliminating the need for families to juggle multiple apps and platforms. For you, our staff, ParentSquare is designed to reduce administrative clutter so you can focus on what matters most: teaching and supporting our students.

To ensure a smooth launch across all schools, this toolkit contains all the ready-to-use communication assets you need to roll out ParentSquare effectively:

- **Template Letters:** Pre-written launch letters tailored for your school staff and customized announcements to introduce families to the new platform.
- **Social Media Copy & Graphics:** Copy-and-paste captions and graphics optimized for your school's Facebook, Instagram or X (Twitter) accounts to build community excitement.
- **Printable Posters & Flyers:** Labeled, downloadable posters to hang in front offices, hallways, and drop-off zones to encourage app downloads.

We are excited to roll this out districtwide to build a more collaborative community. Please use the resources in this toolkit to help get your school aligned and enthusiastic about the transition. You can also view on-demand training resources on ParentSquare's website.

Thank you for your dedication to keeping our community informed, connected and thriving!

Health Clinic Policies & Procedures

Dear Governor's Ranch Families,

We hope you and your students are having a wonderful school year! As your school clinic staff, our highest priority is ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of every child who walks through our doors.

We know how important it is to stay informed about your child's well-being throughout the school day. To help give you peace of mind and clarity, we wanted to share a quick guide on when you can expect a call or email from the clinic regarding your student.

When We Will Contact You (Call or Email)

We will always reach out to you in the following situations:

1. **Head Hits or Injuries to the Head:**
    - **Our Policy:** We strictly notify parents/guardians for *all* head bumps or hits, regardless of how minor they may seem at the time. You will receive a phone call or an email, so you are aware and can continue monitoring your child at home.

2. **"How Sick is Too Sick?" Symptoms (CDPHE Guidelines):**
    - **Our Policy:** Following the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) guidelines, we will contact you immediately if your child presents with symptoms that require them to be evaluated or sent home. These include, but are not limited to:
        - Fever (100.3°F or higher)
        - Vomiting or diarrhea
        - Uncontrolled or severe cough
        - Persistent abdominal pain
        - A new, unexplained rash
        - Symptoms that prevent your student from comfortably participating in classroom activities
3. **Significant Injuries or Distress:**
    - **Our Policy:** If a student experiences an injury that requires more than basic first aid (e.g., deep cuts, suspected sprains/fractures, severe swelling) or is in significant physical or emotional distress, we will call you right away.

When We Generally Do Not Contact You

During the school day, many students visit the clinic for routine, minor comfort care. To help keep our focus on student care and urgent needs, we generally do not make home contact for:

- Minor scrapes, small surface scratches, or paper cuts treated with a simple bandage.
- Minor bumps or bruises (unrelated to the head).
- Brief visits for rest, water, or mild discomfort where the student feels better quickly and returns to class.
- General hygiene needs or quick ice pack visits for minor playground bumps.

Please rest assured that if any minor symptom or issue persists or worsens while your child is in the clinic, we will contact you promptly.

How You Can Help Us

- **Keep Contact Details Updated:** Please make sure your primary contact phone numbers and emergency contacts are up to date in the parent portal.
- **Review CDPHE Guidelines:** If you're ever unsure whether to send your student to school when they aren't feeling 100%, please refer to the CDPHE *"How Sick is Too Sick?"* guidelines or give us a call!

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school a safe, healthy, and happy place to learn. Please feel free to reach out to the clinic anytime if you have questions or specific concerns about your child.

Warmly,

Governor's Ranch Elementary Clinic Staff

Kelsey LoMurray, District Nurse & Isaiah Garrett, GRE Health Technician



The early learning office can best assist families with questions about preschool enrollment and/or tuition. They can be reached at 303-982-1737.

Community Care and Concern

Ms. Walls Basket

Our wonderful GRE teacher Ms. Walls is navigating a health challenge. As we head into the cooler weather and holiday season, we thought it would be a great time to shower her with our love and thoughts. If you would like to contribute to the GRE family basket, it would be greatly appreciated. She would also love cards and words of encouragement that we can include in the basket. Thank you so much!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0848A8AB28ABF85-66979418-mswalls