Acres Green Update-8/13/18
Dear Acres Green Families,

We had some special visitors on our first day of school. Our new superintendent, Dr. Thomas Tucker and board of education director, Anne-Marie LeMieux, stopped by to greet our staff and students, and welcome us back for a new school year. It was a wonderful surprise! There is one more Coffee Chat scheduled to stop by and meet Dr. Tucker in an informal setting. Details are provided above.

We had a great first two days of school and are excited to see where this year takes us! If you would like to be more involved at school, come to our first PTO meeting this Tuesday night at 6:30, in the Learning Commons. Our PTO organizes our fund raising efforts, partners with AGE to promote community events, and provides a way for families to support our school. If you are looking for a way to get more involved, come join us and see what PTO is all about.

Do you love books? Do you have time during the school day to help out our school? Mrs. Braun, our librarian, is looking for parent volunteers to help with organizing/shelving books in the library. Times and days are very flexible and can work with any schedule. Please contact her at kirsten.braun@dcsdk12.org to get more information on next steps!

Have a great week!

Louise Wacaser, Assistant Principal
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Gina Smith, Principal
grsmith@dcsdk12.org
The Buddy Bench is Here!

WHAT IS A BUDDY BENCH? The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. It is a positive tool on the playground to help students make connections with their peers. It is a designated bench, with a “Buddy Bench” sign on it that located in the playground where students feeling lonely or simply want someone to play with can seek playmates and make friends.

The Buddy Bench is helpful for students that are:

• New to the school
• Want to make new friends
• Primary playmates are absent
• Want to play something different than what their friends are playing
• Having a problem with their friends and want a break
• Are lonely and want a buddy

The Buddy Bench concept is aligned with the existing Acres Green school mission of ‘filling buckets’ and accomplishing “random acts of kindness’. If a student feels alone on the playground, or wants to make a new friend, they sit on the Buddy Bench. Any student that sees someone on the Buddy Bench, can go up to the student on the bench and ask them to play. It is as easy as that! We will be introducing the concept at our assembly on Friday with some student created videos that show the bench in action! A BIG thank you to the Lang Family, the Aarnio Family, the Newton Family and 3rd Grade Girl Scout Troop 65421, for organizing the efforts to get the bench installed on our playground. We appreciate you!
Dear Acres Green Families,

I want to make you all aware of an important change to our building policy being put into effect. For the 2018-2019 school year, **students will no longer be permitted to carry mobile phones or smart watches with them during the school day.** Between the hours of 8:35 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. student phones and smart watches are to be either stowed away in backpacks or collected by the classroom teacher. Both before school and after school, students are welcome to have and use their phones as they wish (in accordance with already established district and building policies, of course!)
Emergencies and important messages will continue to be handled as they are for students who do not have a cell phone. Please call the front office at 303-387-7125. Messages are written down and delivered to classrooms each day. Additionally, all of our classrooms have a phone. Students can use this phone with permission. Students are also allowed to use the front office phone to call parents or guardians regarding urgent needs.

Thank you in advance for your understanding as we implement this new policy. We have noticed over the last few years that cell phones distract from our learning environment. Because of the many apps, social media temptations, games, camera features and the ability to text friends/others, it is clear that we need to firm up our management of these devices and set some clear boundaries. We are aligning our policy to match what is in place at Cresthill Middle School and other elementary schools in the Highlands Ranch Feeder.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Gina Smith
Principal
grsmith@dcsdk12.org

School Accountability Committee

Open Position on the Acres Green Elementary School Accountability Committee (SAC) for the 18/19 school year.

What is SAC?

The purpose of the SAC is to inform, encourage and provide opportunities for parent and community members to be involved in the planning and evaluation of the school’s instructional program and quality improvement processes.

In 2009, the State of Colorado passed SB 09-163, the Education Accountability Act. This legislation mandates that every public school have a School Accountability Committee. SACs should be composed
of seven voting members the principal, one teacher, three parents or legal guardians of students enrolled in the school, a PTO adult, and one community member with no children attending the school.

What are the responsibilities?

● Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) – review and give feedback on the school’s UIP. This document defines the school’s academic goals and action plans.

● Budget priorities – make informed recommendations to the principal regarding spending priorities for budget expenditures of the building.

● Topical discussions –
  ○ Safety issues
  ○ The impact of school leadership, personnel, and infrastructure on the implementation of the public school’s accreditation contract with the BOE.
  ○ Community concerns
  ○ General community feedback

When are the meetings?

We meet a minimum of 4 times a school year. Our first meeting this school year is Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the library. At this meeting, we will schedule the rest of the meetings for this school year. All are welcome to attend.

We have an opening for the 18/19 school year for a parent voting member. If you are an interested Acres Green Elementary parent/guardian, please email Gina Smith at gina.smith@dcsdk12.org by Friday, August 17, 2018. Please include a brief bio; include your child(ren)’s grade level and how long your family has been at Acres Green Elementary School. Once we have the names of all interested parents, we will have a vote to determine the voting member to join our SAC for this school year.
Notes from PTO

What a busy week we had last week! The PTO was disappointed that our movie night did not include a movie on Monday. We noticed that every other evening of the week there was not a lightning storm. We hope that everyone made it home before the rain began to pour on Monday. While you can’t always count on good weather, you can count on excited families at Meet and Greet! We saw many new faces and hope that you are interested in contributing to the school through PTO efforts this year. We hope that each of you also had a great first two days of school and were able to follow them up with a restful weekend as we all get settled into routines.

We have two invitations for you this week:

Please come join us at the monthly PTO meeting. It will take place on Tuesday, August 14th from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Library at Acres Green Elementary School. If you are new to the PTO, please feel free to come in a little early and learn about what we do! If you can’t make it but would like to stay informed, please check out our google drive with meeting agendas and notes.

Please consider purchasing a King Soopers or Safeway “store card.” In your welcome letter from the school, you received a form to purchase grocery gift cards for $5 each. These are reloadable cards. You can load any amount on the card--just say to the cashier before they begin to ring up your groceries, “I’d like to load my card before I get started, please.” The cashier will then load the amount you request. You can pay for this transaction with a credit card, debit card, or cash. You then just swipe the card in the card reader when you are done ringing up your groceries. And then--the grocery store simply write a check to our school for 5% of your total purchase! This is a GREAT and easy way to support the school. It
does take a few moments to remember to load the cards, but after that it is smooth sailing! Ready to join? Fill out the form you received in your welcome letter and send it back to school on your child’s Friday Folder. The card will come home in the Friday Folder. If you don’t have the form, please download it here. You can also bring $5 cash or check to school on Back to School night, August 22nd to pick one up in person!

Fundraising with Coca-Cola Products

A new fundraiser this year is an opportunity though Coca-cola. Any Coca-Cola beverage that has a product code under its cap or printed on its paper packaging is eligible to be used for donation. You can go to https://us.coca-cola.com/give/schools/ , set up Acres Green as "your school" and enter in the codes on coke products. We earn money just like that! Or, if you would like to bring in bottle tops, codes from 12 packs, etc., We will have a collection box on our PTO table. A grandmother of two of our students has graciously offered to enter the codes for us! She has already been doing this over the summer, and with her co-workers, easily earned thirty dollars. What a quick and painless way to support Acres Green. Start collecting codes today!
UPCOMING DATES

- August 14-PTO Meeting, 6:30-7:30, Learning Commons
- August 22-Back to School Night, 5:30-7:00 pm
- August 22-6th Grade Outdoor Ed Information Meeting
- August 22 and 23-Picture Days
- September 3-Labor Day, NO SCHOOL
- September 5-PTO Restaurant Night at Garlic Knot
- September 11-School Accountability Committee, 5:30-6:30, Learning Commons
- September 11-PTO Meeting, 6:30-7:30, Learning Commons
- September 21-Professional Development Day, NO SCHOOL
- September 26, 27,28--6th Grade to Outdoor Ed at Stone Canyon

Need more information? See our website at https://www.dcsdk12.org/school/acres-green-elementary-school