Dear Acres Green Families,

This week has been a busy one! We have been settling into a classroom routine, learning more about our teachers, and making friends! We had our first assembly and introduced our first school WIG (Wildly Important Goal). We are asking all students to set and meet a personal kindness goal to kick off the year. We will be tracking our progress on our giant goal board near the front entrance, in the classroom and in personal leadership notebooks. This type of goal sets the tone and reminds everyone to take time to care for each other. We meet our goal each year and are positive that we will have a repeat of our efforts.

Please remember that our staff duty day begins at 8:20 am each day. We have many students on the playground before this supervised time and it is a safety issue. Please stay with your child until this time or you can sign-up for our before school care. Contact Alex Endres at ahendres@dcsdk12.org if interested.

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! She will also be in the library for Back to School Night. Stop by and learn more about how you can help!

Have a great week! See you at Back to School Night this Wednesday from 5:30-7:00 pm, details are below. Kona Ice will have their truck there and return a portion of the proceeds to our PTO. The Little India Food Truck will also be on-site for those who want a quick dinner on a busy school night!

Louise Wacaser, Assistant Principal
lywacaser@dcsdk12.org

Gina Smith, Principal
grsmith@dcsdk12.org
WHAT IS A BUDDY BENCH?

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!

Look how some of our students and families practiced Habit 7 and sharpened the saw this summer. Our first all-school 7 Habits family homework is showcasing how our phenomenal families spend time together to renew mind, body and soul! Homework will be displayed on bulletin boards at back to school night! Check it out!
Teach your parents about Habit 7. What does it mean to Sharpen the Saw?

As a family, write how this is an example of Sharpening the Saw.

Over the summer break, we entered the DL reading challenge and completed a total of 857 minutes of reading. This was a great activity to Sharpen my Brain. We also went on a few trips to NYC and SFO, Yosemite NP that made Hearts and Souls happy.
Acres Green
Elementary School
FALL PICTURE DAY WILL BE:
Wednesday, August 22, 2018
& Thursday, August 23, 2018

Dear Parents,

This year your school is sponsoring an online picture program with Van Gogh School Photographers. All students will be photographed individually. Approximately two weeks after picture day, a proof will be sent home with your student that will include information on how to view their picture(s) as well as how to place your order online.

All orders placed, will ship directly to the students home.

What to Wear?
Solid colors are suggested.
Please avoid wearing green
IMPORTANT CogAT REFERRAL TESTING INFORMATION!

The week of September 12th “referral” students in grades one, two, four, or five will take the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT 7) to determine areas of strength and possible identification for gifted programming. The referrals for CogAT testing may come from the parent and/or the classroom teacher. The CogAT is an assessment that indicates the level and pattern of cognitive reasoning abilities of a student in comparison to grade and age peers. Please connect with your child’s teacher if you have questions regarding the testing. All students participating in the referral testing process must have the below documents signed and turned into the Gifted Education Facilitator.

- CogAT Consent to Test Form (This form is required and will remain in the student’s cumulative file)
- Gifted Education Referral Form (By requesting that your child take the CogAT, you are formally initiating the gifted identification process)
- Gifted Identification Parent Observation Form (This form is part of the body of evidence collected for gifted identification purposes)

All three forms are available from the school’s Gifted Education Facilitator, Kirsten Braun, at klbraun@dcsdk12.org and/or Emmalee Owens, at eeowens@dcsdk12.org.

*If you would like your child to take the CogAT test, you MUST request the referral form by Friday, August 24, 2018.*

The CogAT is comprised of three subsections:

- Verbal: Measures a child’s ability to remember and transform sequences of English words, to understand them and to make inferences and judgments about them.
• Quantitative: Measures the child’s understanding of basic quantitative concepts and relationships that are essential for learning mathematics.

• Non-Verbal: Measures reasoning using pictures and geometric shapes. This reduces the impact of language on the student’s score.

This is not “the test” for gifted identification; rather, the results from the CogAT will be used as one component of the body of evidence to determine areas of strength and possible identification for gifted programming. The scores will guide efforts to adapt instructional methods and learning opportunities to the needs and abilities of the students.

We appreciate your ongoing support. If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter please feel free to contact Kirsten Braun or Emmalee Owens.

Sincerely,

Gina Smith, Principal

Notes from PTO

Thank you to all the families who attended the PTO meeting on Tuesday night—braving the rain to join us in the library and hear about the fundraising and community events for the coming year! Highlights of
the meeting include approving the budget requests made by the school and discussion of the various fundraisers we have planned for the year. The PTO is very excited to be making a big investment into the beauty and pride of our school. Many years ago, the PTO supported the purchase of the current marquee sign we have in front of our school. Our principal, Mrs. Smith, asked us to fundraise for a new and improved electric readerboard sign and we are very excited to say “Yes!” to this request! We believe it will greatly add to the curb appeal of our school and better reflect the modern and valuable work that goes on inside our school!

Other updates:

**Store cards:** We will have store cards available for purchase at the Back to School Night on August 22nd. If you have not used your card for more than 90 days, you will need to purchase a new one. Safeway has also stopped the old “tomato” gift cards from being able to be reloaded. Everyone with those cards will need to get a new “apple” card. The store did this to improve the security of the cards. If you have questions please email Brittney Lupo: blupo473@comcast.net

Box tops: Did you know there is an app for that? [Here is a list of products with box tops](#). There are many ways to maximize this “passive” fundraiser!

Restaurant Nights: Kona Ice will be at our Back to School Night and donating a portion of their profits to our school! This is our first “Restaurant Night” of the year. Cindy Newton is an amazing organizer for this monthly fundraising and community event. She would love to teach someone new how to support our school in this way. Please feel free to contact Cindy or the PTO if you would like to learn more about this.

Spiral wear: One of fun projects organized by the PTO is Spirit wear. Each year we offer you an opportunity to purchase gear such as T-shirts and sweatshirts with AGE logos on them. We know that many of you may have some outgrown spirit wear at your house. We invite you to drop off those outgrown items at school. We have a collection box right under the PTO table. If you are need of some new-to-you spirit wear--please feel free to grab an item from this box as well! You can also bring your outgrown items to the Back-to-School night on August 22nd!

**UPCOMING DATES**

- August 22-Back to School Night, 5:30-7:00 pm
• August 22-6th Grade Outdoor Ed Informational Meeting starts at 6:30 pm in the gym
• 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://age.dcsdk12.org