

GRE NEWS

FEBRUARY, 2012

<http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/elem/govsranch>



PEEK AT THE WEEKS

January	30	Columbine Area Orchestra Festival, 7:00 pm at Columbine HS
	31	
February	1	
	2	2 nd Grade Music Performance, 6:30 pm
	3	
	6	Columbine Area Band Festival, 7:00 pm at Columbine HS
	7	
	8	PTA Talent Show Dress Rehearsal, 3:00 pm in the Gym Columbine Area Spelling Bee, 5:00 pm at Leawood Elementary
	9	All-Pro Dad's Breakfast, 7:00 am in the Cafeteria
	10	PTA Talent Show, 7:00 pm in the Gym
	11	Share The Love, Share the Food Drive, 9:00 am – Noon at Columbine HS
	13	Advisory Team (5:30 pm) and PTA (7:00 pm) Meetings in the Library
	14	
	15	
	16	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:00 – 8:00 pm by appointment
	17	Staff Development Day, no school for students
	20	President's Day, no school for students or staff
	21	
	22	TCAP testing, 3 rd Grade Reading session 1
	23	TCAP testing, 3 rd Grade Reading session 2
	24	
	27	
	28	
	29	Early Release, Students released from school at 12:10 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 1:00 – 6:00 pm by appointment PTA Science Fair set-up, 1:00 pm
	1	PTA Science Fair, all day in the Gym PTA Science Fair Dinner, 5:00 pm in the Cafeteria
	2	PTA Science Fair, all day in the Gym. All science fair projects must be taken home at the end of the school day.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

Our Annual PTA Giving Campaign to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Foundation "Pennies for Patients" is starting this week. Each student receives a mini-bank to collect their pennies, other coins, and bills. Each Friday, beginning on February 10th and continuing through February 24th, students will be able to bring in the donations they have collected through the week to turn in. We have children right here at GRE who have benefited from the services of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation, so we are very proud to be able to participate in this fundraising event.

WATCH D.O.G.S. NEEDED IN FEBRUARY

Thank you to all of the fathers and father-figures that have already donated a day to GRE this year by serving in our Watch D.O.G.S. program.

We have a number of open dates still available in February for volunteers. Those dates are **February 2nd, 6th, 13th, 15th, 23rd, 27th, and 28th**. If you are able to be a Watchdog on one of those dates, please contact our Top Dog, Dan Morris at golfdm@comcast.net, or stop by the office to sign up.



In addition, we have a LOT of open dates throughout the month of March. Thank you for your support, and your service to our students!!

ALL-PRO DAD'S BREAKFAST

The February All-Pro Dad's Breakfast is coming up on Thursday, February 9. Look for the flyer later in this newsletter. To attend this event, please RSVP by returning the information strip from the bottom of the flyer to your child's teacher, or contacting the office (303-982-4625), by February 8. **We are looking for a volunteer to facilitate this month's event.** If you are interested in doing this, please contact Dr. Morton at wmorton@jeffco.k12.co.us. Thank you!

2010-2011 DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

Each year, state and federal law requires school districts to publish an annual report on how well they performed. The report is mailed to schools and public libraries and is made available on the district's website. The document talks about student achievement, how the taxpayer's money is spent for education and highlights of the year's activities. The federal "No Child Left Behind" law and the Colorado Department of Education specify that certain information must be included in the annual report including Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) scores, SAT and ACT scores and information about the qualification of the district's teachers. In addition, Jeffco Public Schools Strategic Planning and Advisory Council, an advisory group composed of board of education members, cabinet members, representatives from the district's employee associations, parent representatives as well as citizen and parent leaders, provides details about its activities for the year.

A copy of the *2010-2011 Jeffco Public Schools Annual Report* can be obtained at any school or viewed online at: http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/publications/annual_reports/index.html

The Colorado Department of Education also provides information for parents about school performance online at: <http://www.schoolview.org>.

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

During registration this school year, parents completed contact information for their students in Jeffco Connect, the school district's online student information system. The contact information allows the school to contact parents, guardians and care-givers about emergencies and other important school-related issues. In preparation for next year, parents should now log on to Jeffco Connect to review this information and make any necessary updates so the school will have up-to-date contact information. Parents can log on to Jeffco Connect at: http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/jeffco_connect/index.html. Parents should also ensure that the school can contact them through SchoolMessenger, the emergency contact system. Please log on to SchoolMessenger and review the account settings to ensure that the message settings have not been blocked. Log on at: <http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/schoolmessenger/index.html>. If you have questions, please contact our school at 303-982-4625.

SAVE THE DATE – KNIGHTS & PRINCESSES DANCE

GRE Girls....Save the Date!

The PTA Knights and Princesses Dance will be Friday, April 13th at 7:00 pm.

JANUARY ADVISORY TEAM MINUTES

Principal's Report:

Governor's Award – GRE received the 2011 Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award from the Colorado Department of Education. The award is given to schools that demonstrate exceptional student growth on CSAP testing scores. GRE is one of the 162 schools in the state and one of the 19 schools in the District to earn this award. It was suggested that the Advisory Team somehow treat the staff for achieving this award. Several ideas were considered which were suggested to Principal Morton that he ask the PTA to consider since Advisory has no funding. Mr. Schaef volunteered to bring muffins in for the staff on behalf of the Advisory Team on Friday, January 13, 2012.

PBIS Expectations in Student Behavior – The PBIS team developed procedures on tracking student behavior problems. The system will be implemented starting January 17, 2011. Discussion of the procedures and goals sought by implementing this new tracking program, along with concerns and potential issues followed.

GRE Staff Committee Reports: None.

Open Forum:

Volunteer Coordinator – A position description has yet to be drafted. Discussion of the new position continued from last month. Ideas included making the coordinator a multi-person position, have the coordinator in charge of classroom parents who can communicate with the teaching staff on staff needs, and using SignUpGenius.com to identify and organize volunteer openings.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

PTA SCIENCE FAIR IS COMING!

Start thinking of cool science fair projects. The science fair will be held Wednesday February 29th through Friday March 2nd. On February 29th we will be setting up projects after school (remember, this is an early release day). March 1st is judging during the day and the science fair dinner at night. Awards will be given out on March 2nd. You can download the science fair manual and registration form by going to the GRE website, to helpful documents then go to science fair manual. The manual will tell you rules for science fair, ideas on projects and how to set up your science fair board. This year we will be rewarding the class who has the most science fair participants with a pizza party. Registration forms have been sent out and are also available later in this newsletter. Please call Kristie Peterson with any questions at 303-904-4201.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTS (PBIS) UPDATE

As was published in our January parent newsletter, our staff has begun to implement a new student behavior tracking protocol over the past couple of weeks. We are working through a couple of details and making some minor adjustments as needed. So far, we feel that the new protocol has made a positive impact on our school as we try to create a more consistent and systemic set of behavior expectations and consequences for all students.

To re-iterate some of the information that was published in January, the purpose of the new behavior tracking protocol is three-fold. First of all, we wanted to create a systemic set of expectations for our students in all areas of the school, and when working with all staff members. Second, we wanted to ensure that our behavior expectations and processes are aligned with the behavior codes on the Jeffco Student Report Card. Finally, we want to help our students understand that behavior is connected, not necessarily just a series of random events. For example, if a student is unprepared for class on Monday, and then they are off task on Tuesday, and then they are talking and disrupting class on Wednesday, even though all of those are separate situations, they are all connected in terms of undermining the student's overall school success. This new protocol is to establish consistent and high expectations for all student behavior using the idea that a rising tide raises all ships.

Here's how it works: We are tracking all of our students on a weekly basis, and have developed an escalation of minor consequences throughout the week. Each Monday students have a fresh start. If they have some type of minor behavior incident, they will receive a warning (basically a conversation with their teacher or staff member about what the behavior was and how they can correct it). This warning is recorded on the teacher's record-keeping sheet, but is not communicated to parents and no discipline is assigned. If the student has a second incident during the week, again the teacher will have a conversation with the child, but this time the child receives the minor consequence of missing 5 minutes of recess and the first red-slip gets sent home. If the child has a third incident during the week, they again have a conversation with the teacher, but this time the consequence is escalated to them missing all of recess and lunch (spending recess and eating their lunch in the office), the child makes a phone call to their parents, and a second red slip is sent home. A fourth incident during the week will again result in the loss of recess/lunch, but this time instead of a red slip being sent home, the teacher will call the parent to discuss the child's behavior. The fourth incident is the first time that the child's behavior is "officially" communicated to the office (we'll be tracking the number of students that reach that point each week so that we can gauge the success of the program over time). The fifth incident in any given week will result in an office referral, and that is when I will be meeting with the student to assign a disciplinary consequence. The next week, the slate is wiped clean and every student has the chance to start over.

Red Slips and Green Slips: Every student who does not receive a red slip during the week, will receive a green slip on Friday. The green slip is to let you know that your child had either zero behavior reminders, or just the initial warning during the week. The red slips and this system as a whole are for those very minor incidents that, in the past, would not necessarily be communicated to parents (things like disrupting learning by being too talkative, being unprepared for class or missing work, being noisy in the halls, etc.) This system does not replace our other discipline policies or processes for major incidents. If students engage in

major incidents such as fighting, bullying, theft, damage to property, etc. those will still be referred directly to me for discipline just as they always have been.

Please keep in mind that the red slips are intended to give the parent a “head’s up” that there was a minor issue with your child’s behavior that day. You will not receive much information on the red slip – perhaps just a word or two with the basics of why your child received the red slip. For example, it may simply say “talking in the hall” or “disruptive in class” or “off-task behavior.” Those few words are there so that you can start a conversation with your child, so you can say “I see that you got a red slip for XXXXX today, what can you tell me about that?” Our ultimate goal with this system is to raise the bar in terms of overall expectations for student behavior, so that we can minimize the amount of instructional time that we lose due to re-directing student misbehavior. By focusing in and addressing the “little stuff”, we are anticipating that we will have less of the “big stuff” and more time for instruction and other “fun stuff.”

How you can help: As parents, you can help to support us in this effort by discussing any red slips that may come home, not necessarily in a punishment/punitive sort of way, but helping them to process their behavior and generate ideas about how to prevent it in the future. Also, we would encourage you to celebrate the green slips as they come home on Fridays. Perhaps you and your child could set a goal that after a certain number of green slips, they earn a reward such as additional computer or television time, a special dessert after dinner, or simply an extra half-hour of reading, playing sports, or games with you.

WELLNESS TIPS

FEBRUARY – Heart Month

Teach Everyone We ♥ The Warning Signs Of a Heart Attack

- ♥ Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back
- ♥ Pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach
- ♥ Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort
- ♥ Other signs such as breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness

Happy Valentines Day

- Fruit bouquets are great alternatives to candy
- Recheck your heart score at www.heart.org/mylifecheck
- Celebrate heart day with a heart healthy dinner
- National wear red day Feb. 4, 2011 so support the women we love by wearing red



Fun Facts about Jump Rope

- Chinese jump rope is a great activity to do with friends or family
- Jump Rope is a competitive sport in over 38 countries and jump roping organizations and clubs can be found almost anywhere.
- In fifteen minutes jumpers can burn the calories in a candy bar or 200 calories
- More than 550 Colorado schools participated in jump rope /hoops for heart

Risky Business Worksheet

Risk Factors for Heart Disease and Stroke
 Determine risk your friends and family have for heart disease factors they face. For each person, circle a risk factor or risk factors.

NAME _____ DATE _____

NAME OF PERSON	Which risk factor do they have?	How many risk factors do they have?
JANE SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/> Cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure <input type="checkbox"/> High Cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Inactivity <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes	3

Risky Business Activity

- Using the risky business worksheet and risk factors for heart disease sheet in the activities and resource section find out how many risk factors for heart disease people you interview have.

RISK FACTORS FOR HEART DISEASE

Some things about our bodies were passed on to us by our parents through genetics. We can't change our things, but a healthy family member will not do health problems caused by genetics can reduce your risk for having these conditions. But making healthy choices can decrease your chances of developing some diseases.

High blood pressure (hypertension) – People whose blood pressure is above a normal range are said to have high blood pressure, or hypertension. The reason the heart is pump harder than normal to push blood through the body. High blood pressure has no warning signs, so everyone should have their blood pressure checked regularly. High blood pressure can be reduced by increasing physical activity, eating healthy food choices and staying at a healthy weight.

High cholesterol – Too much cholesterol in the blood raises the risk for heart disease. Some cholesterol comes from the food we eat. By eating foods low in fat and cholesterol, we can reduce the amount of total cholesterol in our bodies.

Smoking – Cigarettes are very bad for your health. Smoking can cause cancer, lung disease and heart disease. Over time, cigarette smoke damages your lungs a without smoke, making it hard to breathe and deliver oxygen and nutrients to your organs.

Physical inactivity – Not getting enough regular physical activity is bad for the heart. Your heart needs exercise to work out to stay in shape, so regularly walks for at least 30 minutes every day that getting enough regular physical activity is linked to high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and being overweight.

Healthy and overweight – Being overweight is not how you look outside. It can lead to serious problems inside the body like high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes. Get right and be physically active to maintain a healthy weight.

Diabetes – Insulin is a hormone that helps the body use sugar. Diabetes is a disease that develops when your body either doesn't make enough insulin or can't use the insulin it does make to properly process the sugar you eat, making your blood sugar levels too high. Sometimes diabetes can be managed with diet and physical activity. Other times, prescription medicine is required to control the blood sugar level.

TARGET STORES "TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION" PROGRAM

[Reprinted from January, 2012]

Did you know that you could make a donation to Governor's Ranch Elementary School each time you shop at Target stores? Simply designate/link our school (our Target school ID is 37889) to your Target REDcard credit or debit card and we will receive a donation from Target for up to 1% of your eligible purchases. I have included the full program rules below. Also, by using your Target REDcard credit or debit card, you automatically receive a 5% discount on your purchases (some purchases such as gift cards, mobile solutions, etc. are not eligible, you'll need to read the fine print). This is a great way to earn a discount on your purchases and make a donation to our school simply by shopping the same way you already are!

PROGRAM RULES

Enroll for free and Target® will donate up to 1% of your REDcard® purchases to the eligible K-12 school of your choice.

Qualifying Schools

The Take Charge of Education program is intended to benefit K-12 schools located in the U.S. having a 501(c) (3) or 509 (a) (1) tax-exempt status.

How the Program Works

Target Credit Card® and Target® Visa® Credit Card account holders can sign up for the Take Charge of Education program by calling 1-800-316-6142 or by visiting Target.com/tcoe or an in-store kiosk. The primary cardholder of a Target Debit Card™ can sign up for the Take Charge of Education program by calling 1-800-316-6142.

Designate an eligible K-12 school, and Target donates an amount equal to one percent (1%) of your Target Credit Card, Target Visa Credit Card or Target Debit Card purchases (minus returns and sales tax) at any Target store and Target.com, and one-half percent (1/2%) of your Target Visa Credit Card purchases made (not including cash advances, balance transfers and purchases of other cash equivalents, and minus returns and sales tax) everywhere else Visa credit cards are accepted. Target will track purchases made on participating Target Credit Cards, Target Visa Credit Cards, and Target Debit Cards, and will distribute the accumulated donations to schools in September.

General Conditions

Only one school may be designated for each Target Credit Card account, Target Visa Credit Card account, and Target Debit Card. For the Target Debit Card, only the primary cardholder can designate the K-12 school, and that designation will apply to any authorized users.

Schools must meet the eligibility requirements described above.

Donation amounts begin to accrue when the school designation is processed. The school donation will only be made for Target Credit Card accounts and Target Visa Credit Card accounts that are open and in good standing at the time donations are distributed to eligible schools. The school donation will only be made for Target Debit Cards that are open and have no unpaid electronic transfers at the time the donation is distributed to eligible schools.

School donations through Take Charge of Education are not tax deductible.

Checks will not be mailed to schools if the payout is less than \$25. (Payouts under \$25 will carry over to the next payment period). Checks must be cashed before the expiration on the check. Checks are considered rejected if not cashed by expiration.

Target reserves the right to discontinue or alter the terms of this program at any time.

SOUTH JEFFCO FREE SOFTBALL CLINIC

[Note: Not associated with Governor's Ranch Elementary School or Jeffco Schools]

South Jeffco Free Softball Clinic

**South Jeffco will be hosting a free clinic
for ages 5-10.**

**Providing girls an opportunity to learn about
and play softball.**

Sunday February 12, 2010

**Please visit website to get more information
and to register**

**You can also register to be placed
on a team for the spring 2012 season**



www.southjeffsoftball.org

JEFFCO SCHOOLS/JEFFERSON FOUNDATION COMMUNITY NIGHT

- Schools with the most sales will received the best seat locations, starting with the lower bowl of the Pepsi Center.
- All tickets purchased by March 2 will be seated by school.
- Anyone can purchase tickets through The Jefferson Foundation's website.
- The four schools with the most tickets sold will have open court time before or after the game.

Jeffco Public Schools

2011-12 DENVER NUGGETS COMMUNITY NIGHT



Sponsored by The Jefferson Foundation



DENVER NUGGETS
— vs. —
NEW ORLEANS HORNETS

**MARCH 9, 2012
FRIDAY AT 7PM**

Order tickets online at:
www.jeffersonfoundation.org

No additional fees.

Click on the Denver Nuggets Night link on the home page to proceed to the ticket purchase page.

Tickets \$17

Seating will be throughout Pepsi Center, a value ranging from \$28-\$120, plus there are no additional ticket service fees!

The four schools with the most tickets sold will have open court time at Pepsi Center before or after the Nuggets game.

IMPORTANT TICKET INFORMATION

Schools with the most tickets sold will receive the best seat locations, starting in the lower bowl of Pepsi Center!

Orders will be taken online only and tickets will be delivered electronically via Flash Seats.

Order tickets by March 2 to guarantee seating with your school and receive electronic delivery by March 7.

After March 2, tickets will still be available online but will be subject to availability and will be first come, first served.



Contact Brady McIntyre at bmcintyre@pepsicenter.com or 303.405.7635 with any questions.

SHARE THE LOVE, SHARE THE FOOD DRIVE

The 4th Annual Share the Love, Share the Food drive is coming up on Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 am until noon in the upper parking lot at Columbine High School. Grocery bags for youngest and only students will be provided on Friday, February 3rd along with a flyer to take home to their families explaining the details of this food drive. Area food banks have exhausted the donations from the holiday season, but still need to feed the hungry. Unfortunately, the demand for assistance is still increasing and this drive is instrumental in restocking their shelves. The food will be donated to St. Frances Cabrini cupboard and Inter-faith community food bank. All of these food banks support our southwest community and distribute to those who need assistance regardless of denomination. GRE is proud to join with the other Columbine area schools in support of this effort. The current need is peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, and personal care items. Grocery gift cards will also be accepted.

In addition, this year we have added a new event. Chik-Fil-A and Roberts Deli have offered to donate a portion of sales to the food drive. Cash donations enable the food banks to purchase food in bulk thus making the money go farther. We will have the Chik-Fil-A cow mascot visiting GRE after school on Monday, February 6th to help promote this event.

Share Your Love

COMMUNITY SHARE NIGHT

Cash donations enable the food bank to buy staples in bulk at deep discounts and thus your donation goes further. These restaurants are joining in the effort to fill the food banks.

Chick-Fil-A

Feb 6, 4pm to 8pm

Bellevue & Wadsworth

Chatfield & Kipling

Robert's Deli

Feb 9, 4pm to 8:30pm

Pierce & Ken Caryl

Mention the Share Your Love Food Drive and these restaurants will donate a portion of their sales to the Food Drive.

Share Your Food

ALL-PRO DAD'S BREAKFAST FLYER

Hey dads and kids...
join us for the
Governor's Ranch Elementary

ALL PRO DAD.
Dad's Day

Thursday, February 9, 2012
7:00 to 8:00 am
GRE Cafeteria

**A little breakfast, a little
bonding, a lot of fun!**

CAN'T MAKE IT?
Join us next time
on April 17!

Team up with other Governor's Ranch dads and kids for a quick, before-school breakfast and a 45-minute program of fatherhood and family topics. You'll take away some great tips and resources to help you be the best Dad you can be, and you'll strengthen your relationship with your kids at the same time. It's fun, and it's free! See you there...

Email **Debbi Thompson** at dthompso@jeffco.k12.co.us
for more information.

This event is free, however if you'd like to see these breakfasts continue, a \$5 donation at the door is GREATLY appreciated.

All Pro Dad is the fatherhood program of FAMILY FIRST.

AllProDad.com

RSVP: We make every effort to ensure that we have enough food for everyone, however for us to plan accurately, we are asking all dads planning to attend to submit your information to the office (303-982-4625) or your child's teacher by **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8**. Thank you!

Dad's name and email

Total number of guests (dads and kids)

PTA SCIENCE FAIR REGISTRATION FORM

2012 SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT REGISTRATION FORM

Please finalize the title/subject of your project, and return this form to your teacher by Friday February 24th 2011

Print Student Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Project Title: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Will you need an electrical connection? Yes _____ No _____

Type of project: Individual _____ Group _____ Family _____

If you are doing a group or family project, please list the other students working with you:

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kristie Peterson (303) 904-4201 krpeterson7@msn.com

The Governor's Ranch Science Fair is open to all grades kindergarten through sixth grade. Students may enter the Science Fair as an individual, as a family, or a group. The groups can be kindergarten through 3rd grade and 4th through 6th grade. If students elect to enter as a group, the maximum is four students.

The schedule for Science Fair:

February 24th last day for registrations to be turned in.

February 29 th	Bring projects in to be set up	12:30pm till 3:00pm	Gym
March 1 st	Judging of	8:30am to noon	Gym * students only
	Family viewing Spaghetti dinner	5:00pm-7:30PM	
March 2 nd	Classroom viewing	8:00am till 2:00pm	Gym
	Award Ceremony	2:00pm	
	Project Breakdown	2:40pm -3:30pm	Gym

**Any project not picked up will be thrown away

Let's make this the biggest and best Science Fair! Help you student select a topic and get their registration form turned in. If you have any questions, please e-mail me at Krpeteron7@msn.com or call me at 303-904-4201

Look at the Science Fair Manual for rules and project ideas. You can find the manual under helpful documents on the home page of GRE web page.



Remember your
Science Fair
project is due
February 29th
12:30-3:00pm