Welcome to the spring and warmer weather! We are looking forward to the final quarter of the 2014-2015 school year and hoping that all students are realizing another year of growth (both as a scholar and as a human being)! I would like to format this month’s message by answering some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that we encounter in our office. If you have other questions, please let us know what they are, and I will do my best to address them.

What exactly are the dress expectations for our students (especially in the spring)? We want students to understand that different environments require different attention to how we are dressed and present ourselves. School is a learning environment and as such, we ask that students refrain from wearing clothing that distracts from this environment. We want them to model age-appropriate discretion for this environment. At the middle school level, some of the things we do NOT want to see are: bare stomachs, undergarments, excessively torn clothing, excessively short or revealing clothing, and clothing that supports/propagates gang, drug, alcohol, or violence affiliations. In a nutshell, please ensure that your child comes to school with: shorts and skirts that extend to (or beyond) the extended fingertips when hands are held at their side; tank tops that have straps of 2 inches or greater and cover the chest area, stomach and undergarments; jeans that do not have tears or rips above the knees; and if they choose to wear open toe shoes, this should not be done on a day when their science class is conducting labs. We clearly understand that clothing is an expression of individualism; therefore, we do allow students to be creative and fun during spirit weeks where individualism is encouraged and celebrated.

When is the best time to get service in the office? As our school continues to grow in size, we have maintained the same staffing in our front office. This may cause backlogs and lines as parents wait for office staff to help them with questions and issues. There are times in the day when a large number of students are also seeking assistance. In general, the best times for faster service is between 8:30am and 2:30pm. It is also a good idea to avoid the lunchtime rush if possible. Don’t forget that our office is open until 4:00pm daily.

What function do the state tests (PARCC and CMAS) have for our school? Every year, we make school level goals that pertain to student and school performance. We use the state testing data to set those goals and to measure our growth (both individually and by groups) based on the state standards. We decide on programs that we offer and curriculum supplements that must be added to support students in their growth. We place students into both accelerated and supported classes based upon this information. We use the information as a portion of teacher evaluation and to measure our success as a school in terms of academic achievement. Additionally, it gives us a basis for comparison to the performance level across the state and helps us to calibrate our programs to the expected norm. Overall, it is very valuable information and functions as one source of data in our decision making process.

Why are my child’s teachers’ videotaping themselves in the classroom? Teachers routinely video their teaching as a method to self assess their instructional strengths and weaknesses. The purpose is to identify areas of growth and address these through staff development, coaching and administrative support. These videos are viewed solely by the teacher, administrator, and instructional coach and are destroyed when they have finished using them. Although students may be visible in the videos, it is not intended to monitor student action. This practice is widespread in the educational community and has been endorsed as a best practice for teacher growth by our district leadership and educational practitioners. Although student permission is not mandatory, there is an element of courtesy of information. I ask all of our teachers and student teachers to inform parents and students that this practice will be taking place. We are careful to avoid any student who has a specific denial of media.
Why is there no 8th grade graduation?
It is an important milestone for a middle school student to transition to the high school level. Students are full of excitement, perhaps a bit pensive at the unknown, but often ready to move on to the next steps in their school careers. Because we do not hold our middle school students accountable for earning credits, nor do we support a state mandated middle school diploma, we do not have an official “Graduation” at this level. But we do provide some very important celebrations that are a positive ending to our 8th graders’ time at Skyview. The 8th grade team of teachers will be providing the following activities in May; 8th grade Academic Awards Night, 8th grade only Spring Dance, our traditional field trip to Elitches Amusement Park, and the last day of school 8th grade Celebration day. The 8th grade Academic Awards Night on May 18th (revised date) is a celebration of Academic Excellence. Students are chosen by their teachers to be recognized for outstanding performance and efforts in the classroom. Families can expect to receive an invitation to this night in early May. The Spring Dance on May 15th is for 8th graders only and provides an opportunity for students to socialize and gather to enjoy each other’s company complete with music, dance, and refreshments. The 8th grade field trip to Elitches on May 14th is the final opportunity for 8th grade students and their teachers to spend the day in Denver, playing and enjoying each other’s company before they go the many different directions over the summer. This is a chaperoned trip for the day. The deadline for having money and permission slips in to teachers is April 8th. And finally, the Last Day Celebration may expect Yearbook signing, Wacky Awards and perhaps some games and friendly competitions. This day will take place on May 22nd. Students have a 3-hour early release this year (dismissal at 11:55 AM). Please be sure to keep up to date by reading the 8th grade newsletters, as well as the School web page for dates, times and other important information.

I hope that this format is informative and helpful to you. Again, if you have questions that did not get covered here, please do not hesitate to contact our office or your grade level administrator. I am looking forward to the many end of year activities and celebrations and a final chance to interact with you and your children before the summer months!

Respectfully,
Catherine Tinucci, Principal
Skyview Middle School

Skyview Middle School
School Accountability Committee (SAC) Meeting
April 7, 2015
6:00pm

Presentation: School Budget Report by Cathy Tinucci, Principal

Everyone is welcome to attend!
Events

4/6-10  Spirit Week

4/7    SAC Meeting—6:00 PM

4/10   Skate City Night—6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

4/13   Track Meet @ TCA—3:30 PM

4/14   Softball @ Falcon—3:30 PM
       PTSA Board Meeting—5:00 PM

4/16   Softball vs. BLRA @ SMS—3:30 PM

4/21   Softball vs. CCCT @ SMS—3:30 PM
       PTSA General Membership Mtg.—6:00 PM

4/23   Softball @ Carson—3:30 PM

4/24   Track Meet @ VRHS
       Talent Show—6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

4/28   Softball vs. CMJH @ SMS—3:30 PM
       Track Meet @ Woodland Park—3:30 PM
       5th Grade Orientation/Parent Night—6:00 PM

4/30   Softball @ TCA (El Pomar) - 4:00 PM
       Noodles & Co. Fundraiser

5/1    Spring Play—7:00 PM

5/2    Spring Play - 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM
American Red Cross:
Babysitting Class

Place: Falcon Middle School
Date: April 3, 2015 (Friday)
Time: 7:30 to 3:00
30 minutes—bring your own lunch
Deadline to sign up: 3-20-15

Fee for class ($20 cash) is due by above deadlines. Sign-up sheet and fee (covers books and CD-rom of which student gets to keep) must arrive at the school student is registering for the course by above deadlines (submit sign-up sheet and fee to FMS or SVMS health rooms). Limited to 20 students per class.

Instructor: Amy B. Dreher RN, BSN, MPH (D-49 school nurse) 491-3441.

The course is:

Designed for 11 to 15 year olds, the 7-hour Babysitter's Training gives babysitters the skills and confidence to safely and responsibly care for children and infants. Through hands-on activities, interactive video and lively discussions, the course teaches young people how to:

- Care for children and infants
- Be a good leader and role model
- Make good decisions and solve problems
- Keep the children you babysit and yourself safe
- Handle emergencies such as injuries, illnesses and household accidents
- Write resumes and interview for jobs
- And much more!
American Red Cross: Babysitting Class

Student: ____________________________________________

First Name                      Last Name

Age: ___________      School: ________________

Address: ________________________________

City: ___________      State: CO      Zip code: ______

Student health concerns (including dietary allergies):

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Parent Permission & Contact information

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Parent Printed Name                      Parent Signature

Home Phone #                      Work Phone #                      Cell Phone #

Submit application and $20 fee (cash only) to:

Skyview Middle School
6350 Windom Peak Blvd.
COS, CO 80923

Falcon Middle School
9755 Towner Ave
Peyton, CO 80133
What: 5th Grade Orientation at Skyview Middle School

Who: 5th Grade Students Attending Skyview Middle School

When: Tuesday, April 28th from 6:00—7:30 PM

**Presentation starts at 6:00 PM in the large gym**

Skyview Middle School Welcomes You!

- Learn about SMS
- Tour of Building
- Meet 6th Grade Core and Enrichment Teachers, Counselors and Administration
- Informational Video Presentation

Parent Volunteers Needed!!

We need Parent Volunteers to help run the Skyview Track Meet on Friday, April 24th, beginning at 3:30 PM at Vista Ridge High School. Please contact Don Moore, co-Athletic Director at dmoore@d49.org or 495-1149, ext. 4277. Thank you!!
April 6th—April 10th

- Be cozy on Monday and wear your pajamas.
- On Tuesday, rally up your spirit and cheer on your favorite teams for Sports day.
- On Wednesday, be ready for a magical Disney Day. Wear all your Disney attire.
- Thursday is when you support the Humane Society and pay a dollar to wear a hat.
- To end this spectacular week, on Friday, be spirited and wear Skyview gear and colors.

Friday, April 10th
6:00—10 PM
Discount coupons will be available in the office.

Yearbooks are still on sale!!
Only $35.00
Please pick up an order form in the office.
PTSA Fundraiser
Thursday, April 30th
5:00–9:00 PM

Just mention you are from Skyview Middle School and PTSA will receive a portion of the sales!

Congratulations to Skyview Wrestlers!!

We finished 2nd this weekend at the League Tournament, including 13 wrestlers that finished in the top 4.

4th place: Brennan Verdi and Dylan Mildbrandt
3rd place: Tanner Brouse, Elijah Trujillo, Carter Bussone, Brennan Purfield, Rowan Neal, and Santiago Ramirez
2nd place: Chase Mestas
1st place: Lane Wilfong, Tony Llamido (2-time champion), and Ronnie Salazar (2-time champion), and Dominique Johnson

Mr. Newberg & Mr. Sturm
Wrestling Coaches
March has always been a hectic month for NJHS, what with planning our yearly induction and organizing a way to blend the new members with the old. On March 19, NJHS celebrated the much-looked-forward to National Junior Honor Society Induction. We welcomed our new members with a sophisticated ceremony that truly represented the subtle elegance of NJHS, while keeping the upbeat fun nature of all of our meetings. After the ceremony, led by our amazing President, Shemar Mitchell, we enjoyed delicious snacks while listening to the soft tunes of some of the Skyview Band members.

Earlier this month, some of us also took a trip to the Ronald McDonald House, where we baked all kinds of treats for the families with children in the hospital that stay there, and sorted pop-tabs (which the House recycles to help pay for needed items). It was fulfilling, and fun!

We look forward to all the additional fun times we will have with our new members, and all the good we hope to do.

- Sierra Huff
Now begins the final push to our CHSAA Choir Competition and onto 4th quarter! The Honor Choir is going to face many challenges that will test their skills as top-notch performers! I’m going to spend a lot of time on our sight-reading skills. I also have all rehearsal vocal parts on my website. Please make sure that your students are practicing weekly. Practicing will not only hone their vocal skills but will put in place a disciplined regiment. Remember, practicing is not always singing, but breathing exercises, rhythm counting, and warm-ups! Practice logs will be worth 120 points this semester. I cannot stress enough how important it is for ALL honor choir students to turn in their logs. I keep hard copies in my room as well as on my website that can be downloaded.

Please visit my website for helping your student prepare for competition the day before the event!

http://www.smschoirnews.wikispaces.com
Field Trips

April 13th CHSAA Large Ensemble Competition - Mitchell High School
GIRLS will be required to wear concert gowns and black shoes. BOYS will
be required to wear a white (oxford) long sleeve shirt, black slacks, black
shoes. If you have turned in your registration fee of $10, it is due no
later thank April 20th!!!

April 15th Sky Sox National Anthem Performance

7th Grade Honor Choir Students will be required to wear Skyview Choir polo's and blue jeans. The cost is
$7 for all parents and students wishing to stay for the game and is due no later than April 10th NO
EXCEPTIONS!
*Children two and under are free.
Reserved Seat Tickets $8.00
Additional advanced purchase options include:
Parking Pass- $4.00 (Pass is good for one car/truck, game day price is $5.00)
Meal Voucher—$6.00 (Good for a Hot Dog, Chips and Soda)
Fun Zone Pass—$4.00 (Good for unlimited access to all fun zone activities)

April 22nd - 8th grade Honor Choir will be visiting Skyline Retirement Home
We are once again partnering with Mello Memories, Peanut and the Gang, to perform for our Senior
Citizens. Our last visit to a local nursing home was a heart-warming event that left no dry eyes in
the building! If you would like to chaperone, please contact me as soon as possible. Students must
turn in their permission slips as soon as possible. You can find a downloadable form on my website.
Please visit my website for detailed information: www.smschoirnews.wikispaces.com
These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Falcon School District 49, the administration or this school.
Talk with Your Teen about Healthy Relationships

You can help your teen build strong, respectful relationships. Start by teaching your son or daughter about healthy relationships. Unfortunately, many teens have relationships that are unhealthy. More than 1 in 10 teens that have been on a date have also been:
- Physically abused (hit, pushed, or slapped) by someone they’ve gone out with
- Sexually abused (kissed, touched, or forced to have sex without wanting to) by someone they’ve dated.

You can help your kids:
- Develop skills for healthy and safe relationships
- Set expectations for how they want to be treated
- Recognize when a relationship doesn’t feel good
- Talking about healthy relationships is a great way to show you are available to listen and answer questions – so make sure to check in often with your teen. Together, you can agree on clear rules about dating to help keep your teen safe.

When should I start talking with my child about relationships?
It’s never too early to teach your child about healthy relationships. You’ve probably been doing it all along. When you taught your child to say “please” and “thank you” as a toddler, you were teaching respect and kindness. Your own relationships also teach your kids how to treat others. When you treat your kids, partner, and friends in healthy, supportive ways, your kids learn from your choices. Kids learn from unhealthy experiences, too. When kids experience violence at home or in the community, they are more likely to be in unhealthy relationships later on.

When should I start talking about dating?
The best time to start talking about healthy dating relationships is before your child starts dating. Start conversations about what to look for in a romantic partner. For example, you could ask your child:
- How do you want to be treated?
- How do you want to feel about yourself when you are with that person?
- What makes a relationship healthy?

In a healthy relationship:
- Both people feel respected, supported, and valued
- Decisions are made together
- Both people have friends and interests outside of the relationship
- Disagreements are settled with open and honest communication
- There are more good times than bad
- What makes a relationship unhealthy?

In an unhealthy relationship:
- One person tries to change the other
- One person makes most or all of the decisions
- One or both people drop friends and interests outside of the relationship
- One or both people yell, threaten, hit, or throw things during arguments
- One person makes fun of the other’s opinions or interests
- One person keeps track of the other all the time by calling, texting, or checking in with friends.
- There are more bad times than good
- People in unhealthy relationships may make many excuses to try to explain away the hurtful parts of the relationship. If you see any of these signs, talk to your teen.

What is dating violence?
Dating violence is when one person in a romantic relationship is abusive to the other person. This includes:
- Stalking
- Emotional, physical, and sexual abuse
- Abuse can happen in person, online, or with cell phones. And it can happen in opposite-sex (straight) and same-sex relationships.
Both boys and girls can be unhealthy or unsafe in a relationship. Sometimes, both partners act in unhealthy or un-safe ways. It’s important to talk to all kids about how to have respectful, healthy relationships.

**Who is at risk for dating violence?**

Dating violence can happen to anyone. Teens may be more at risk of being in unhealthy relationships if they:

- Use alcohol or drugs
- Are depressed
- Hang out with friends who are violent
- Have trouble controlling their anger
- Struggle with learning in school
- Have sex with more than one person
- Have experienced violence at home or in the community

**What are the warning signs of dating violence?**

It’s common for teens to have mood swings or try out different behaviors. But sudden changes in your teen’s attitude or behavior could mean that something more serious is going on. If you are worried, talk to your teen to find out more.

**Watch for signs that your teen’s partner may be violent.**

If your teen is in a relationship with someone who uses violence, your teen may:

- Avoid friends, family, and school activities
- Make excuses for a partner’s behavior
- Look uncomfortable or fearful around a partner
- Lose interest in favorite activities
- Get lower grades in school
- Have unexplained injuries, like bruises or scratches

**Watch for signs that your teen may be violent.**

Teens who use physical, emotional, or sexual violence to control their partners need help to stop.

**Start a conversation if your teen:**

- Is jealous and possessive
- Blames other people for anything that goes wrong
- Damages or ruins a partner’s things
- Wants to control someone else’s decisions
- Constantly texts or calls a partner
- Posts embarrassing information about a partner on websites like Facebook (including sexual information or pictures)
- Help your teen stay healthy.
- Dating violence can have long-term effects for both partners – even after the relationship ends.

By helping your teen develop the skills for healthy relationships, you can also help prevent the long-term effects of dating violence.

Someone who has experienced dating violence may struggle with:

- Depression
- Low self-confidence
- Eating disorders
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Other violent relationships
A partner who has been violent may experience:
- Loss of respect from others
- Suspension or expulsion from school
- Loneliness
- Trouble with the law
- Watch for signs of dating violence and help your teen stay healthy now and in the future.

**Talk with your kids to help them develop realistic and healthy expectations for relationships.**
- Help your teen develop problem-solving skills.
- Help your teen think about healthy relationships by asking how he’d handle different situations. You might ask, “What would you do if:
  - ... you think your friend’s partner isn’t treating him right?”
  - ... your partner calls you to come over whenever you try to hang out with your friends?”
  - ... your friend yells at his girlfriend in front of everyone at a party?”
- It may help to use examples from TV shows, movies, or songs on the radio to start the conversation.

Be sure to listen respectfully to your teen’s answer, even if you don’t agree. Then you can offer your opinion and explore other options together. Try these tips to start a conversation with your teen.
- Set rules for dating.
  - As kids get older, they gain more independence and freedom. But teens still need parents to set boundaries and expectations for behavior.

Here are some things to talk about with your teen:
- Are friends allowed to come over when you aren’t home?
- Can your son go on a date with someone you haven’t met?
- How can your daughter reach you if she needs a ride home?

**Be a role model.**

You can teach your kids a lot by treating them and others with respect. As you talk with your teen about healthy relationships, think about your own behavior. Does it match the values you are talking about? Treating your kids with respect also helps you build stronger relationships with them. This can make it easier to communicate with your teen about important issues like staying safe.

**If you are worried, talk to your teen.**

**If you think your teen’s relationship might be violent, you can:**
- Write down the reasons you are worried.
- Tell your teen why you are concerned. Point out specific things that don’t seem right to you.
- Listen to your teen calmly, and thank her or him for opening up.
- Get help if you need it.
- If you are worried about your teen’s safety, there are people who can help.

Contact the National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline, describe your situation, and get advice about what to do next. To reach the helpline:
- Call 1-866-331-9474
- Call 1-866-331-8453 for TTY if you have trouble hearing or speaking
- Text “loveis” to 22522