Greetings Skyview Families,

This issue of our newsletter is looking toward May and the end of the school year. We only have 8 weeks of school left and there are a couple of school reminders that will assist you and your student to finish this school year on a positive note.

State Testing:
We are 50% finished with our PARCC and CMAS testing. So far, it has been a very positive and well-orchestrated process. Our 8th graders have completed their PARCC testing and will do two more days for the CMAS Science on April 18th and 20th. Our 7th graders test this past week on the PARCC Math and Language Arts and will join their 8th grade counterparts for the CMAS social studies on April 18th and 20th. 6th grade will be testing the same on April 11th, 12th and 13th. Please make sure that your student has had plenty of rest and a good breakfast these days. I have included multiple entries about state testing in previous parent newsletters. Please let us know if you would like access to those articles and we will be happy to pass them forward to you.

Spring Activities:
Track and Softball seasons are here and with them comes the anticipation of warm weather and spring rains (or maybe some late snow storms!). Please send your child to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment (no tops with straps less than 2” wide, and shorts/skirts shorter than extended fingertips). Keep your eyes on our school web page and team newsletters for the dates of Awards events, concerts, dances, the final play of the year, field trip and end of the year activities. The spring tends to be a whirlwind of activity and we will do our very best to keep you informed and updated.

Grades and Student Performance:
By this time in the year, we find that performance habits have been well established and there is a mad rush to try to remediate grades. I encourage you to be well informed about your child’s grades by checking Infinite Campus frequently. Now is NOT the time to back off of watching grades! Keep in mind that we offer Homework Help every Tuesday and Thursday and there will be three more Saturday School dates to support missing work make up. Again this year, we will be hosting a summer school but with a different focus. We will not be using summer school as a consequence for failing grades, rather it will be focused on supporting struggling reading and math skills. Information about summer school should be out to our families later in the month of April.

Spring Safety:
Please be ever conscience of our students walking to and from school. As we approach the spring, this number increases and diligence in safety are called for. Often, students will try to “jay walk” to approach a waiting ride home that is not parked near a crosswalk. Please talk to your student about how dangerous this can be and encourage them to cross the street at an official marked crosswalk. As always, we ask you to be patient with our student drop off lanes and pay attention to the exit directional arrows at the exit to our parking lot. Finally, keep in mind that there is NO PARKING in the bus lot before school any time or after school until 3:15pm daily. If you are looking for parking for Softball games, please do not park in this lot until after 3:15pm. We have added a street side entrance to the softball field so that parents can park along the street on Poudre Way and Cabana Circle. A final reminder; please exercise a courteous approach to other drivers. We have had several very inappropriate adult encounters that are not only poor examples for students on how to treat each other, but it creates a dangerous situation.

Thank you all for supporting your middle level child. As always, if there is anything you need from us, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, counselor or grade level administrator.

Respectfully,
Cathy Tinucci, Principal
tinucci@d49.org
719-495-5565
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>4/5-7</td>
<td>PARCC Testing—7th grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Track &amp; Vista Ridge (Cancelled)</td>
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<td>Freddy's Night Fundraiser (3—10 PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/11-13</td>
<td>PARCC Testing—6th grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/11</td>
<td>Softball @ Fountain—4:15 PM</td>
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<td>4/13</td>
<td>Softball vs. TCA @ El Pomar—4:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Track @ Carson</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/18</td>
<td><strong>No Homework Help</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>CMAS Science—8th grade</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CMAS Social Studies—7th grade</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Softball vs. BLRA @ Skyview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PTSA—4:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/19</td>
<td>Track @ Canon City HS</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>CMAS Science—8th grade</td>
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<td>CMAS Social Studies—7th grade</td>
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<td>Softball vs. Horizon @ Skyview</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SAC Meeting—5:30 PM</td>
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<td>4/21</td>
<td>Spring Play—7:00 PM</td>
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<td>4/22</td>
<td>Spring Play—2:00 PM &amp; 7:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>Softball vs. CMJH @ Skyview</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Softball @ Carson—3:45 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/28</td>
<td>Track @ TCA</td>
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**Reminder for Parents/Guardians**

Please view your Parent Portal account to check if your student owes any outstanding class fees, fines, etc. You may pay through Portal with a credit or debit card, or send in cash or check payable to Skyview Middle School. If you have any questions about fees or fines, please call Ms. Tammy at 495-5570.

Thank you for settling your student’s account prior to the end of the year!

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**Library Books due May 4th**

The end of the school year is a month and a half away! With that said, I want to remind parents and students that all books are due back to the library by **May 4th**. Any lost books will be marked on the student's district record and will need to be paid for prior to next book check out.

Thanks for a great first year!

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**Congrats to Skyview Choir Students!**

Selections for the 2017 Middle School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall have been announced! Even more so than in the past, this year’s Selection Board was very impressed by the number and quality of applicants, and the selection process was extremely competitive. After a difficult review process, our Selection Board has chosen over 400 Junior Finalists representing 43 U.S. States, several provinces of Canada, Australia and Taiwan.

- Carson Bourne - Accepted - Honors Junior Choir
- Junior Brown - Accepted - Honors Junior Choir
- Markell Betsayda - Accepted - Honors Junior Choir
- Kya Boyd - Accepted - Honors Junior Choir
- Hannah Cash - Accepted - Honors Junior Choir
Looking for a quick getaway this spring? Look no further than our very own Skyview stage, where you can visit the Shady Acres Hotel (in 1920’s England, no less!) ~ a cozy little destination; perfect for getting away from it all...especially if you’re needing to make a break for it! Join us then, for Skyview Eagles Theatre’s audience-participation production of ~

MYSTERY at Shady Acres

We would truly appreciate your patronage.

REASONABLE RATES:
$2.00 if you are a student or a senior citizen or
$3.00 for all other guests

DATES & TIMES OF AVAILABILITY:
Friday, April 21
At 7:00 PM
(doors open at 6:30)
and
Saturday, April 22
At 2:00 PM &
7:00 PM
(doors open at 1:30 and 6:30, respectively)

(Informant Tip) Sheets provided...for your assistance with solving the case
Complimentary Gift...if your solution is selected (one per winning guest, please)

(Payment per each stay is required, please; toddlers & infants will be accommodated at no extra charge, as long as they take up very little space.)

Tickets will be available via actors & crew after Spring Break—
Or contact Kat Brundage at either 495-1149 x4265 or kbrundage@d49.org
(Admittance may also be purchased through the SMS front office, or directly at the door.)
Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Team (Health Team)  
Success Stories

**Hydration Station:**

Check out the new hydration system installed in the commons area! Great for hydrating students and staff at SMS! The Elkay Hydration System was purchased through a Medicaid grant written by the Health Team at Skyview. The goal is to get another one installed down by the 6th grade bathrooms in the future, as this is the only other fountain that can support a refrigerated system.

**Cooking Club:**

Over the past two school years, Skyview has successfully implemented a Cooking Club led by students who participate in Fuel Up to Play60. The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Team supported the cooking club by applying for and receiving a Medicaid Grant of $500. The monies received gave students the opportunity to learn about healthy eating and cook healthy meals. Up to thirty students have participated in the sessions that take place once a month.

**Health Class:**

Skyview successfully implemented a Health curriculum from The Great Body Shop to all 7th graders this school year. The content in Health class was age appropriate for all 7th graders, touching on topics such as: nutrition, disease/illness prevention, substance abuse, and social/emotional health. The Health Team purchased visual aides to support the class through a Healthy School's Grant.
Yearbooks are still on sale!!
Online Order Deadline is April 8th.
Ybpay.lifetouch.com
ID code: 6420517

PTSA MEETING
Tuesday, April 18th—4:30 pm
Elections will be held at our next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 18 (we would love any parent and staff to be a part of next years PTSA!!)

CONGRATS WRESTLERS!!

Congratulations to our Skyview students on their success at the League Championships that took place the first Saturday during Spring Break.

1st Place: Neven Fuller, Keyon Burris, and Ethan Buck: Neven and Keyon. (Both beat an opponent that they lost to earlier in the season).
2nd Place: Chase Greenup and Josh Rowe
3rd Place: Ashton Surita
4th Place: Hayden Fuller
Ahh! The wonderful weather of spring has arrived! Spring brings new beginnings as we see flowers bloom and trees bud. Spring's fresh air breathes new life into all we see. Spring can also be a time to begin changing ourselves as well. We can focus on treating others differently, focus on new goals for ourselves (goals are not just for New Year’s Day), and focus on changing the lives of others.

Empathy is to walk in another’s shoes to experience how they live, feel and be. To put yourself in another person’s shoes to experience their daily life challenges, struggles, and gain a better understanding and acceptance.

Empathy, in today’s American society, seems to be a lost characteristic. Our society is socializing our students to make them more individualistic, thinking of themselves and how they can get ahead on their own. It seems as if we are creating a society of self-serving young adults, but is empathy really that far from reach? Researchers have found that empathy can be taught and nurtured regardless of age. They found we all have “mirroring neurons” which tend to respond positively to “repeat or mirror” positive empathetic behaviors experienced or seen. For example: If you smile at someone, they smile back. This research is pretty interesting!

Empathetic teens seek to help others, are more caring, and thus more successful in school. They are also more successful in their communities and among their peer groups, as well as become more successful in the workplace as adults.

On the other hand, non-empathetic teens tend to be self-absorbed, focused on self, and are not typically seen as leaders in their schools, communities or peer groups. Non-empathetic teens become adults who are self-serving. This does not serve them well in the workplace or social circles. In order to be successful, teens need to learn how to be part of something greater than themselves.

We need to begin by evaluating our feelings towards others and why we feel that way. From this, we can begin to see how our biases effect how we perceive and act toward others.

Would it make a difference in the lives of our teens if we taught empathy? Scientists believe so. Give it a try. The next time you are upset by or uncomfortable around someone, try putting yourself in that person’s shoes (or situation) to determine if you begin to change how you perceive that person. One person demonstrating empathy is just the beginning of a powerful change.

Sources:
http://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/do_mirror_neurons_give_empathy
https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/promoting-empathy-your-teen/201005/are-empathetic-teenagers-more-likely-be-intentionally
http://path2empathy.com/why-empathy/
The new Semester has begun and all of my classes are up and running!

Thanks again to all of you who helped with our Butter Braid fundraiser! We raised $770.00. The Boys’ tuxedo coats have finally come in and now their uniforms are complete! They will look so professional and handsome for our CHSAA Music Festival!

Piano students are now working on their Spring Recital pieces! Practice during this quarter is critical. Students are required to turn in a weekly practice log for a grade. Failure to do so will be marked unexcused and will result in a Zero! 6th Grade Quarter classes are preparing for their Spring Concerts. Please visit my website for detailed information.

**Upcoming Events**

**REGIONAL CHOIR COMPETITION**
Ralston Valley High School/Ellitches Gardens, Denver, Colorado
May 06, 2017

**HONOR CHOIR & FRIENDS (6th Grade) SPRING CONCERT**
Tuesday, May 16th – 6:00 pm in the Cafe

**ALL-SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT**
Wednesday, May 17th School Gym (see website for times)

**SPRING PIANO RECITAL**
Friday, May 19th – 6:00 pm in the Cafe
CHSAA Large Ensemble Choir Competition – April 11th

What is CHSAA Large Ensemble Choir Competition?

CHSAA is a State sponsored competitive activity just like sporting events such as football, basketball, track, wrestling and volleyball. Students from across the State of Colorado compete in all performing arts categories in Choir, Band and Orchestra in large ensemble or solos.

This year’s competition will be held at Doherty High School for Middle School choirs. For Skyview Honor Choir it will be an all day event as we have three performing entries: BelCanto Ladies Chorus, Eagle Men’s Ensemble, and Eagle Honor Choir. Schedules for each group is posted below. I will need several volunteers to help with this stressful but rewarding event. Please contact me ASAP if you want to go!

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:**

**Bel Canto Ladies**  
Warm-up: 1:00  
Performance: 1:25  
Sight-Reading Session: 1:50

**Eagle Men’s Ensemble**  
Warm-up: 2:15  
Performance: 2:40  
Sight-Reading Session: 3:05

**Eagle Honor Choir**  
Warm-up: 3:30  
Performance: 3:55  
Sight-Reading Session: 4:20
Cyber Boot Camp

Preparing Students for the Future

The SEMtech Cyber Boot Camp inspires students in grades 4 through 8 to pursue careers in cyber security, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), disciplines critical to our nation’s future. SEMtech Cyber Boot Camp is designed to teach students about cyber ethics, online safety, and the fundamental principles of cyber security. Students will have a hands-on experience working with basic electricity circuit, troubleshooting real operating systems, and fixing vulnerabilities in a computer lab environment.

June 5–9, 8am—12pm
Cost: $25, (For Food & T-Shirts)
Falcon High School

Thomas Russell 719-213-4610
Project Lead The Way
GATEWAY ACADEMY
SUMMER 2017
June 5-9, 2017 | 8:00am - noon

Engaging, hands-on, project-based STEM summer experience designed to inspire creativity and develop self-confidence in young students. These week-long workshops are taught by PLTW teachers and are ideal for students entering/exiting grades 5-8.

AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS
MEDICAL DETECTIVES

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS 5TH-8TH GRADE!

Registration Open
pltw.uccs.edu
$125 per workshop
limited seats

SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL
6350 Windom Peak Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO

University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

(719) 255-3498
pltw@uccs.edu

Colorado’s only asthma management Camp for kids with Asthma (ages 7-14)

For more information, contact Ashley Seder at ASeder@lungs.org or 303.847.0279

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

ChampCampColorado.org

Rock Climbing, Archery, Asthma Education, Canoeing, High Ropes Course
MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, April 22
1000-1400
Creekside Success Center
3850 Pony Tracks Dr. 80922

Ride in a hot air balloon tethered flight
Drive a robot lunar Mars vehicle
Fire off rockets
Jump in a bouncy house
Enjoy freebies

Thank you to all our military families for serving in Colorado Springs! Please join us for fun, food, and celebration.

Sponsored by the BRIGHT Initiative and your local Military Child Education Coalition.

For more information, visit D49.org/BRIGHT