The spring of the year always evokes images of warm weather, Spring Break, longer days and class celebrations. I would like to take an opportunity to share with you my philosophy on some of those items. We will start with 8th grade celebrations. 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, therefore, we do not have an official “Graduation” at this level. But we do provide some very important celebrations that the administration and teachers feel are a positive ending to three years 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 Elitch Gardens Amusement Park, and the last day of school 8th grade Celebration day. The 8th grade Academic Awards Night 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 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 Elitch Gardens 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 4th. And finally, the Last Day Celebration can expect Yearbook signing, Class Barbeque, Wacky Awards and the long awaited 8th grade photo Slide Show. This day will take place on May 25th. Students have a full day of school this year. Please be sure to keep up to date by reading the 8th grade and Split team newsletters, as well as the School web page and Facebook page.

As for spring, another burning issue is that of dress code. Please do not forget that in Colorado, March is often the snowiest month of the winter. It is helpful for you to remind your student to dress for unpredictable weather. Additionally, we do not allow bare midriffs, tank tops with straps less than 2” thick, or shorts/skirts that are shorter than the extended fingertips hanging at the side. We want to teach students that there is appropriate attire that goes along with school performance and minimizing distractions. Please help us by checking with your child before they head out the door for school in the morning.

These next two weeks are big weeks for us here at Skyview as we take the State Assessment, TCAP. Please put March 6, 7, 8, and 13 on your calendar as days to NOT schedule appointments or take your child out of school if it can be helped. It is helpful to send your student to school well rested, having had breakfast and ready to face the rigor of testing. If you have any questions regarding TCAP, please contact our counseling office or refer to the grade level team newsletters.

Have a restful Spring Break!

Respectfully,

Cathy Tinucci, Principal
Skyview Middle School
495-5566
3/5  Wrestling @ FMS

3/6  TCAP Testing
    Wrestling at Elizabeth
    SAC Meeting—6:00 PM

3/7  TCAP Testing

3/8  TCAP Testing

3/9  Student/Teacher Basketball Game

3/12  Chick-Fil-A

3/12-3/16  Book Fair

3/13  TCAP (8th Grade only)
    Wrestling vs. Carson

3/14  Jazz Night—6:00 PM

3/15  NJHS Induction—6:30 PM

3/17  League Wrestling at SCHS

3/19—

3/30  Spring Break
SAC Meeting
(School Accountability Committee)

Tuesday, March 6th
6:00 PM
Skyview Library

TCAP Testing

March 6 - 8
March 13 (8th Grade only)

TCAP (formally known as CSAP) begins next week. Please mark your calendar with these important dates. In order for all testing to be completed in a timely manner, tests are administered during the entire school day and all grades are on a modified schedule.

It is imperative that your student be at school and on time on these dates. Please do not schedule routine appointments on these dates. If you need to schedule appointments for your child, please avoid this week if possible. Make-up testing will take place during the remainder of the testing window, but the fewer the make-ups, the better.

As a reminder, please follow these simple tips (as always):

Encourage your student to get a good night of sleep
Eat a nutritious breakfast
Come to school prepared to perform to the best of their ability

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation!

Respectfully,
SMS Staff
School Violence

Fact: In the United States, more than 50 percent of all students know of someone who has brought a weapon to school. From: The Speak Up Campaign

School violence isn’t new. But major events and the media give this issue a lot more attention now. The contributing factors to school violence are many. Negative peer pressure, gangs, cliques, isolation, alienation, crowding in schools, easy access to guns, violence in the home, effects of alcohol and other drugs, violence in the media – these can all play a role.

Fears about safety in school affect young people in various ways. It certainly affects their ability to concentrate on schoolwork and to learn. They may skip school to avoid what frightens them, or they may bring their own weapons to school for protection. And teachers are affected, too. Instead of their focus being on helping students learn, they may end up spending a lot time and energy on discipline or on trying to maintain a safe environment in their classroom and the rest of the school. The developmental assets are positive qualities, experiences, and skills that children need to grow up healthy and responsible. Parents, grandparents, stepparents, and any other guardian of a child can use these assets as a framework to help them think through the new experiences they’re encountering with their children.

One of the most important aspects of heading off school violence is for young people to feel they have adults they can go to for completely confidential communication. When your children want to talk, be available and ready to listen. Help your children come up with solutions that fit the circumstances. If your child is threatened, report it to the school immediately. Spending time with your children gives them a feeling of importance and self-worth. Children who truly feel good about themselves are less likely to act out in violent ways. Young people learn by watching adults around them. Show your children positive ways to manage conflict. When in disagreements, communicate calmly and act peacefully. Limit the amount of TV and violent videogames your children play. Encourage them to get involved in music, theater, or other arts. Help them find sports, clubs, or organizations in the community that they enjoy.
Super Saturday

Do you have gifted students who are looking for additional courses that are fun and enriching?

UCCS College of Education is again hosting its Super Saturday for Gifted Students program this spring. Classes are designed to challenge students and capture their creativity. We have courses for grades 1st through 7th. Content ranges from chess to Engineering and Math to Kites and Chinese Culture. Please find attached a flyer about the program and share with anyone you think might be interested in the programs.

Super Saturday Flyer
Track and Field sign-ups are posted outside the gym and library. Please sign-up if you are interested. You must have a current physical on file to participate. The first practices will be held over Spring Break on March 28th, 29th, and 30th from 9:00am-11:00am at Skyview. If you have any questions, please contact Tony Marino.

amarino@d49.org
719-495-1149 x4272
The new jazz choir: VocalEze will be singing March 14th for Jazz Night.

Parents please remember to have your students submit their practice logs every Friday.

*****JAZZ NIGHT REMINDER*****
7th & 8th Grade Jazz Bands

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14th 2012

7th Grade Jazz – 6:00pm (call time is 5:40)
7th/8th Jazz Choir – 6:15pm (call time is 5:50 to watch)
8th Grade Jazz – 6:30pm (call time is 5:50 to watch)

LOCATION: SKYVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**NOTE: Because this is a short concert, all groups are required to stay for the duration of the concert!!**

ATTIRE: (SOLID) BLACK TOP & BLUE JEANS!
NO T-SHIRTS OF ANY KIND PLEASE

**CONCERT ATTIRE SHOULD BE WORN TO SCHOOL ON THE DAY OF THE CONCERT!!**
Lost & Found

If your student has lost a clothing item or lunch box, please have them check the lost & found bin as soon as possible. Due to the large volume, these items will be donated to charity over Spring Break.

Smaller items, like jewelry, glasses and keys, are kept in the office until the end of the year.

Monday, March 12th
All day

Visit the restaurant on N. Carefree, place your receipt in Skyview's box and we’ll earn a portion of the proceeds.
In the Spotlight

Look there! Up in the sky! It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s a... vacuum cleaner?!?!? That’s just ONE of the unusual sights you’ll witness in the wacky world of The Wicked Witch Project (brooms are, like, so 16 seconds ago) set to roar into a theatre near you this May. So mark your calendars for Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5 – with three scheduled shows, and a price that’s cheaper than a gallon of gas, you won’t have to miss out on this raucous romp! More details to come in the April Newsletter.

March 12—16
First, the newest news...

Welcome New Inductees!!!!
New members will be inducted March 15!!! The ceremony will start at 6:30 (doors will open at 6:00 – please try not to arrive any earlier than that, as we will still be setting up). Students who have applied for membership will be notified if they are to be inducted very soon!!! (They will actually find out the week of March 5.)

Now, for some less new, but still newsworthy news!

Last month, several “veteran” members participated in the “Dog Bowl”. What’s that? It’s when people go bowling to raise money for the National Mill Dog Rescue. Participants also competed for prizes, and one of our members won the top prize in her category. Congratulations, Alexis! Everyone did a good deed, and had a blast doing it.

We also baked cookies again for the Ronald McDonald House (we are scheduled to do that once a month, except for March) and the volunteers, medical staff, and families involved with that organization were very grateful for the sweet treats.

On Leap Day, we used our extra day to help raise money for TESSA, by organizing a Hat Day. We raised over $200, and will be using that to create gift bags for the people who seek the services of TESSA.

An ongoing fundraiser that we are in the middle of is Pennies for Patients. We are raising money to donate to the Colorado Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help with finding a cure for cancer, as well as raise awareness of the disease, the people who have it, and how important it is to help. There are donation containers set out for each grade level at lunch (remember, it’s a competition, and the grade that raises the most money will win prizes!) and another one in the office. Anyone is welcome to donate, and we will be happy to take more than just pennies! This event runs through the end of April; during that month we will also be selling paper pennies for $1.00 or more. Those pennies will go on the “penny wall”, and the money donated will also count towards helping your grade win.

Thank you!

Reported by Alex Stallings
(with additional info from Ms. B)