

Scenic Elementary

451 West Scenic Drive, GJ, 81507 Phone: (970) 254 - 6370 Fax: (970) 245 - 8605

Website: <http://scenic.mesa.k12.co.us/> Twitter: @scenic_whbn

Facebook: www.facebook.com/scenicelementary

Work Hard, Be Nice!

October, 2017



Social Emotional Learning

A foundational part of our District's personalized learning model is Social Emotional Learning (SEL). According to the Collaborative for Academic and Social Emotional Learning, SEL is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. These skills meet the desires that parents voiced during District listening sessions conducted several years ago. This Fall semester our theme is self-awareness and in the Spring semester our theme is self-management. Each month we will have a specific focus. This month our SEL focus is "External Supports." We are teaching students to be able to identify an adult they can trust and explain situations in which they need to seek adult help for both big and small problems. Also, we want students to understand how and where to get help in an emergency situation. Below is a link about SEL and what you can do as a parent to support your child <https://goo.gl/6AATBa>

October Calendar & Upcoming Events

Mon. Oct 9th - Picture Day envelopes sent home.

Tues. Oct. 10th- Picture Day

Wed. Oct. 11th - Scenic Walk A Thon 9 am - 11pm, Connected Lakes

Mon. Oct 16th - **NO SCHOOL** Teacher work day

Wed. Oct 25th - Parent Teacher Conferences 4 - 8

Thurs. Oct 26th - Parent Teacher Conferences 8 - 8 **NO SCHOOL**

Fri. Oct. 27th - **NO SCHOOL**

Mon. Oct 30th - Grandparents/Special Guest day reservation slips go home

Mon. Oct 30th - 2nd T-Shirt Order goes home

Tues. Oct 31st - Halloween Parties 3 - 3:40

NO COSTUMES OR FACE PAINT/HAIR DYE ETC.

A or B Week?

Week of:

Oct. 2nd: B Week

Oct 9th: A Week

Oct 16th: B Week

Oct 23rd: A Week

Oct 30: B week



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PTO Walkathon

The Walkathon is on Oct. 11th at Connected Lakes State Park. This fundraiser is one of our primary fundraising events for our school and helps support our reading aides in the classroom. This year we raised \$15,000. If you would like to join us, please meet us behind Safeway by Chow Down. Students will walk from that parking lot to Connected Lakes State Park. The school busses will pick up students at the Ranger Station, but parents will have to walk back to the Safeway parking lot. Unfortunately, we do not have enough room on the busses for parents. Parents are welcome to park at the State Park, but they will have to pay an entrance fee.

GoFundMe for iPads

We have set up a GoFundMe Crowdfunding site to raise money specifically for purchasing 6 iPads for our Kindergarten classroom. We have currently raised \$750 dollars. One donation came from Springfield, Virginia. The link to the GoFundMe site is <https://goo.gl/r4QST2>

Chess & Board Game Club

We are starting a new chess and board game club. If you have any old board games or chess boards laying around not being used, we would love to have them.

Art Club

On Wednesdays during lunch recess, we will have an informal art club in the library. Students will be able to draw, color and do other activities. If you have an art background and would like to help please let our school secretary know. As you know due to funding issues, we do not have an Art teacher at Scenic or does any other elementary school in the District.

Colorado School Finance 101

Colorado ranks 42nd out of 50 states in per-pupil spending adjusted for regional cost differences (Ed Week, 2016 Quality Counts, 2013 [data](#)). Colorado spends \$1,397 less per pupil than the national average. In 1980 Colorado spent \$230 more per student than the national average. So how are we now below the national average? It started in 1982 with the Gallagher Amendment. Then in 1992 the Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) was passed. Finally in 2000 Amendment 23 went into effect. These laws have caused the conundrum that we are in. To learn more go <https://goo.gl/vs9zk3>

Register to Vote

There are two ballot measures this November that will affect our school. If you have not registered to vote use the following URL to register to vote: <https://goo.gl/s44Pzt>

DreamBox

At the beginning of this month, our school was fortunate to receive a large anonymous donation which enabled us to purchase 38 Chromebooks for our school. We have

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combined these 38 Chromebooks with our existing 40 laptops so that each classroom will have about enough computers for about a third of the students to use a computer at one time (except for our kindergarten classes).

These computers will enable our teachers to teach your child in a targeted small group and differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of every child. The teachers will use the data collected from the computer programs to adjust which students are in each group and the skills they need to learn.

Now that we have the computers our only problem is that we need the software. **We are asking each family to give \$20 per student to purchase DreamBox licenses** this year for math. Students will work on DreamBox during the school day, and teachers will be able to use the data to target their teaching to your child's specific needs. If your family can not afford to pay for a license, I will ask our Parent Teacher Organization to help.

It pains me having to ask families to pay for curricular materials like DreamBox. Out of 178 districts, D51 is 6th from the bottom in per pupil funding (Colorado School Finance Project, 2016-2017 [data](#)). Colorado ranks 42nd out of 50 states in per-pupil spending adjusted for regional cost differences (Ed Week, 2016 Quality Counts, 2013 [data](#)). This November there is a Mill Levy Override (MLO) for our School District on the ballot. Part of the MLO is earmarked to provide two million dollars per year for curricular materials for students, which includes textbooks and software.

Also, we are still trying to raise money to purchase six iPads for our kindergarten classroom. If you can help us, please go to our Go Fund Me site at <https://goo.gl/r4QST2>

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#) or
[Follow us on Facebook or Twitter](#)