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## *From Principal Francis*

Dear Cottonwood Families,

In a season of gratitude, I wanted to share how much I appreciate what we have created together at Cottonwood. When I share with others what allows us to have such low turnover and such great growth and achievement, the very first thing I share is the fact that we have amazing people and an incredibly supportive community.

We have the privilege of seeing so many positive interactions with students and adults all over the building. These day to day conversations that take place in classrooms, small groups, lunch, recess, hallways, or the office are what make Cottonwood so special.

I would like to again remind you of the CCSD 2024-2025 Educator of the Year. If you are interested in nominating an exceptional educator from Cottonwood Creek, please look for the link below for nominating instructions.

We are excited to honor all of our outstanding educators and we hope that you will participate in the nomination process. I want you to know that in education, the affirmations that come through nominations are a huge boost and mean a lot to our entire staff.

I continue to be so proud to be your Principal at Cottonwood Creek Elementary.



Sincerely, Mr. Drew A Francis

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## December at a Glance...



12/02-12/11 Star Testing K-5th

12/10 Book fair 2.45pm - 4pm

12/12 Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

12/23-1/06 Winter Break

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## 2nd Grade Market





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## District Information

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### Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Date: Thursday, December 12th 2024

Time: 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.

Where: SARC (14188 E Briarwood Ave, Centennial, CO 80112)

Topic: *Transition Program Presentation*

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### [Upcoming SEAC meetings](#)

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### Golden Heart Awards

It is that time of year again to nominate incredible individuals for the 2024-2025 Golden Heart Awards!

This prestigious award is for any individual who has "opened their heart" to touch the life of a Cherry Creek School District student with special needs. This includes, but is not limited to, bus drivers, teachers, cafeteria workers, paraprofessionals, specials teachers (media, art, P.E., music), those in support positions, students, and community employers.

Attached is a letter detailing this award and a link to submit nominations. It is also available via the following link: [2024-2025 Golden Heart Nominations](#)

Nominations are open now and will close on December 13th at 4 PM. We cannot accept late entries.

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Thank you, Alissa & the SEAC Parent Steering Committee

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## Educator of the year nominations

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Cherry Creek School District has many wonderful teachers. We also like to recognize our outstanding educators who strive every day to help students be inspired to think, to learn, to achieve and to care. Deadline is 1/17 for nominations.

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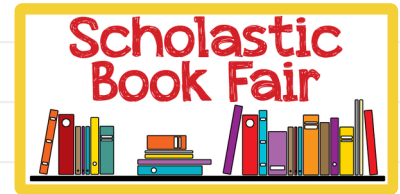
[Nomination Form](#)

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## School Information

### Book Fair is coming!

As the holidays approach it is almost time for our annual Scholastic Book Fair! Our new librarian Miss Elle has been hard at work planning for a great Holiday Book Fair. It will be a wonderful opportunity for your child to explore the joy of reading and a great way to support our Cottonwood Library! There will be everything from thrilling adventures to heartwarming stories that will inspire imagination and curiosity. It's a great chance for children to discover new books that will keep them engaged and excited to read at home. **We invite you to visit the fair with your child December 10th after school till 2:45-4pm**, and help them pick out books they'll enjoy for the holiday break. Your child will also be given a wishlist to fill out that they can bring home to have you review. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



### Upcoming STAR Testing ★★ ★

The mid-year STAR assessments will be given to students K - 5 in the areas of reading and math. Testing will begin today, Monday December 2nd and will continue through Wednesday, December 11th.

Make-up testing will be scheduled from December 11th through December 18th.

### Food Drive Update

Thanks to you and your generosity, Cottonwood Creek sent hundreds of pounds of food and personal items to stock our district food pantries. This event also provided an opportunity for our Student Leadership members to speak in public and have hands on community service experience, all while developing leadership skills. Thank you again!



### Helping Hands

For the past many years, Cottonwood has partnered with a sister school in our district to help families in need by providing gifts for children in addition to supporting families in our own Cottonwood community. Please join together as family, friends, neighbors, scout troops, sports teams, etc., and buy holiday gifts for a family. It's a magical way to reach out and share this holiday season. Please use the sign up genius link below to adopt one child, a whole family, or send gift cards, wrapping paper or tape. We appreciate any support you can give. If you have questions call Kori Shaiman at 720-554-3215.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044EAAAA2CA02-46192172-giving#/>

## helping hands flyer.jpg

[drive.google.com](#)

## From the Clinic

### Important Health Reminder from the School Nurse

If your child sustains an injury, such as a bone fracture (wearing a cast, splint or brace) or other condition that may require accommodations at school, please notify the school nurse as soon as possible. In order to ensure your child receives the appropriate support, we ask that you provide a doctor's note detailing the nature of the injury, any physical limitations, and recommended accommodations. This will help us coordinate with teachers and staff to ensure your child's safety and comfort while they recover.



Health & Wellness Reminders: [A note from the Health Clinic](#)

### Library Volunteers Needed

The Cottonwood Creek library needs volunteers to help with: checking out books for students during their weekly class visits, checking books back into the computer system, and re-shelving. You are welcome to sign up for as many shifts as you'd like each day/week/month through the end of the school year.

**You can Sign Up [here](#).** If you'd like to volunteer during your child's allotted time, please read the sign up description for a schedule of each class' weekly visit.



Please contact Rachael Holsted, PTO Library Coordinator, with any questions at: [rachael.holsted@gmail.com](mailto:rachael.holsted@gmail.com)

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## Don't forget! 🙌

### Birthday Treats:

We love to celebrate birthdays at COT, but please remember that if you plan to bring birthday treats for the class:

1. Let your child's teacher know ahead of time!
2. Treats need to be STORE bought - no exceptions!
3. Ingredients must be listed on the packaging!
4. Drop off in lobby *before* 9.30am!

Thank you for your understanding as we monitor food allergies for our students.



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