

Wheeling News and Views

Wheeling Elementary School

“Where Learning is a Family Affair”

472 South Wheeling Street

Aurora, Colorado 80012

Phone: 303-344-8670

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Jan Lotter, Principal

October 2007

Greetings from Wheeling Elementary!

Dear Parents,

Wheeling Elementary, as a Title 1 school, is offering opportunities to parents to learn ways to make reading fun for kids, how to help with homework, how to get the most information from teachers about parent-teacher conferences, and information about CSAP.

It is always invigorating to see so many members of our school community at Back to School Night. Thank you for taking the time to join us. At Wheeling we believe our parents are the students' most important teachers. The quality of the partnership we form throughout this year will benefit our students greatly.

We would like to encourage all our parents to become active in our school community. We have many opportunities for involvement including our Building or District Accountability Committees, Parent Teacher Association (PTA), volunteer opportunities such as helping in our classrooms, tutoring students, clerical work, crosswalk guards to maintain safety for our students, and attending field trips, etc.

We invite parents and students to join us for a very special evening at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, October 18 for “How to talk to your child's teacher during Parent Teacher Conference”. Dinner and childcare will be provided. I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,
Kaye Penn
Principal

Activities For The Month of October

Thursday, October 11

First Quarter Ends

Friday, October 12

Teacher Workday –
NO SCHOOL K-12!

Wednesday, October 17

Parent Teacher Conferences
Academic Awards Assembly
Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday, October 18

Literacy Night
FALL BREAK-
NO SCHOOL!

Wednesday, October 24

Monday, October 29 –
Friday, November 2nd

IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES:

2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

Friday, November 09

Picture Retake

Wednesday, November 21

Parent Conferences
Exchange Day
NO CLASSES K-12

Thursday, November 21

thru Friday, November 23

THANKSGIVING –
NO SCHOOL

Wednesday, November 28

PBS Assembly

School Nurse Notes:

Self-Care Tips for Cold/Flu in Children

COLDS

The common cold is caused by any one of 200 viruses. Symptoms can include sneezing, stuffy or runny nose, red eyes, hoarseness, dry cough, sore throat, body aches and tiredness. These symptoms may last several weeks as your child's body fights off the virus.

Because antibiotics kill bacteria, not viruses, they will not help to treat a cold. In fact, unnecessary use of antibiotics can be harmful! It increases your chance of being infected with bacteria that antibiotics cannot kill. There can also be side effects, like diarrhea.

In most cases, colds go away without causing complications. Sometimes a cold can lead to more serious complications such as ear infections, but home treatment can help prevent these. The average child has six colds a year.



FLU (INFLUENZA)

The flu is also caused by a virus which is common in the winter. It is similar to a cold but is usually more severe and comes on quite suddenly. With the flu, in addition to cold-like symptoms, your child may have a high fever, sore throat, chills, and feel very weak. Symptoms may last up to seven days.

The flu may cause your child to feel or look very sick, but it does not usually lead to more serious complications.

Delayed Start Time for Elementary Schools During Storms or Emergencies

In the event of storms or emergencies, all Aurora Public Schools late start schedule (one hour) will be implemented. Transportation, breakfast programs and all other services will begin one hour later than normally scheduled. The media will not make this distinction when they present information about a delay. Please remember, for Aurora Public Schools, ONLY elementary school students will be impacted by an announced delayed start. IT IS ALSO OUR DISTRICT POLICY THAT IF YOUR CHILD IS WELL ENOUGH TO BE IN SCHOOL THEN THEY ARE WELL ENOUGH TO BE OUT SIDE.

Tardies

In an effort to help you and your child get the most out of their time here at Wheeling Elementary School, it is important that your child get to school on time. We understand that on occasion a child may not arrive on time due to an appointment or a family emergency. However, students coming in late on a daily basis do pose a problem for the classroom teacher as well as for the other children in the classroom because of instructional interruptions. Often time's teachers have to repeat information every time a child comes in late, making it impossible for class to start on time.

Currently, the policy for marking a student as tardy is: ALL students who enter the building after the bell rings at 8:45 am are to report to the clinic where a tardy pass is issued and the information is logged in the computer. ALSO, YOUR CHILD MUST BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL FOR A TARDY PASS BY THE PARENT OR PERSON DROPPING THE CHILD OFF. If the child does not come in for a tardy pass, the classroom teacher is required to send them back for one.

School hours for students are from 8:50 am – 3:20 pm.

Help us make time spent here at Wheeling Elementary School a priority for ALL students.

Sincerely,

Miss Pacheco
Health Para/Attendance Clerk
Wheeling Elementary

CENTRALIZED ADMISSION FORMS AND FLYERS

Centralized Admissions will be sending forms and flyers to your school within the next week. We have updated our forms and flyers so please destroy all old forms. Please distribute these forms to parents who show up at your school as this gives them an opportunity to have their paperwork filled out before they visit one of our sites. These forms cannot be available through print services. Please contact Mary Vickers via email for additional copies throughout the year.

Centralized Admissions

CHANGE OF ADDRESS PROCEDURES

Parents/guardians who have changed their address need to visit Centralized Admissions to verify their new address.

To verify your address please do one of the following:

IF YOU RENT, please bring ONE of the following:

- Signed Leased or Rental Agreement (current)
- Notarized letter from landlord if you don't have a rental agreement

IF YOU OWN YOUR HOME, please bring ONE of the following:

- Warranty Deed, Deed of Trust, or Bill of Sale
- Purchase contract with possession date (not closing date)
- Current Xcel Energy bill under your name (last or current month)
- Adams or Arapahoe County tax bill for current year

IF YOU ARE LIVING WITH ANOTHER FAMILY, all of the following are required:

- A notarized letter from the owner of the home with whom you live stating the length of time you will be staying.
- Proof of address from the OWNER OF THE HOUSE

(Proof is based on whether the person you live with owns or rents their home, see above requirements.)

Hours and Locations of Centralized Admissions:

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
690 Peoria Street, Suite F (southeast corner of Hoffman Heights Shopping Center)
1250 S. Buckley Rd, Suite L (southeast corner of Mississippi & Buckley)

Visiting School

Parents are encouraged to visit their child's classroom throughout the year. Arrangements are to be made in advance with the child's teacher. Short well-planned visits provide a better understanding of the child's school experience than long, unscheduled visits. All children not enrolled at the school must be accompanied by an adult at all times. All visitors are required to check in at the office upon entering the school.

Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

Wheeling Elementary is continuing a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program designed to reduce discipline referrals which will increase student achievement. It is a well known fact that discipline issues take time away from instruction, which effects student achievement. Given that students respond better to praise, the premise of the PBS program is to recognize and reward positive behavior demonstrated by students during the school day, which will increase "time on task" and thus, increase student achievement.

One of the components of the program is to decide on the behaviors to be recognized and develop an acronym for the program. The following are behaviors students will be rewarded for demonstrating, and is the acronym of Wheeling's PBS program:

Good behavior
Respect
On task
Work hard

Students that demonstrate either of these behaviors are given a "GROW Ticket" by any Wheeling staff member. Students then take their GROW ticket to the office, where they are praised for getting the ticket and receive a GROW sticker. They then put their ticket into an aquarium. These tickets are collected for two months.

Another component of the PBS program is to reward students for demonstrating positive behaviors at a school wide assembly. Therefore, Wheeling Elementary will have a PBS assembly, every other month, drawing GROW tickets out of the aquarium. Each time a GROW ticket is selected from the aquarium; the positive behavior is recognized and praised, encouraging an increase of that behavior. The students selected during the assembly will receive various prizes which may include basketballs, footballs, stuffed animals, toys, books, etc. Four of the grand prizes will be bicycles.



Just A Reminder!

The Wheeling Elementary main office and hours are 7:30a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The school hours are 8:50 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. We ask that parents please pick your child up at no later than 3:20 p.m.



Bicycles

The Aurora Public School District supports the Aurora Police Department Guidelines on children riding bikes. Bike riding is permitted for students in grades 4 and 5. Bikes are to be locked in the racks provided. Please note that the security of bicycles are not the responsibility of the school. Supervision of each child's conduct on bicycles are the responsibility of the parent. No other student-driven wheeled vehicles (scooters, skateboards, etc.) are allowed at school.



Be Alert to Parking Regulations

The Aurora Police Department has received numerous complaints from Wheeling neighbors about illegally parked cars and inconsiderate drivers, especially during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. Since it is important for us to be good neighbors to those who live in this neighborhood and for our students to learn from the good example of their parents, please observe the following rules:

- DO NOT park in or block driveways. The law states there is no parking within 5' of either a public or private driveway.
- DO NOT double park or otherwise block traffic. This is an obvious safety issue for everyone.
- DO park on Wheeling Street in front of Wheeling or around the corner on Alaska Avenue if you need to come into the school.
- DO NOT drive through the driveway or parking lots when buses are arriving at (8:35-8:50 a.m.) or during dismissal at (3:15-3:20 p.m.).

Lost an Item

Then check out Wheeling Elementary lost and found. Students tend to misplace items and belongings and we ask you to please remind your students to check the lost and found located near the gym.

Is your child a victim of cyber bullying?

With the increase in technology in our children's lives, we want to inform you of an increased type of bullying. Cyber bullying is defined as "the use of information and communication technologies such as email, cell phones, text messages, instant messaging and personal websites to support hostile behavior by one individual with the intent to harm others."

If your child makes reference to being bullied by any of these methods, please know that we consider this no different than harassment in person. Please encourage your student to contact a staff member at school to report this type of contact. If your student is not comfortable with reporting to an APS staff member, please let them know that Safe2Tell is an anonymous hotline where they can report bullying outside of the school site. The toll free number for Safe2Tell is 1.877.542.safe.

One of our goals is to provide a safe and secure learning environment for every APS student. We believe this shared information will help achieve this goal.



Partners in Safety

Parents view school safety as a key concern. Ensuring that our school is safe is also a top priority for Wheel Elementary School staff. We want to partner with parents and students to foster a climate where students feel safe, welcome and comfortable. It is our belief that a safe learning environment is essential if students are to succeed.

At Wheel Elementary School we have a zero tolerance policy for unsafe behavior; including bullying and bringing any type of weapon—even toys—to our school. Students who violate our safety expectations will receive disciplinary consequences. Our students learn positive behavior in schools, including conflict resolution and anti-bullying skills. We also regularly practice evacuation and lockdown drills to ensure that students and staff can effectively respond to emergencies. As part of the Aurora Public Schools, we have formed partnerships with local law enforcement, fire and rescue agencies as well as mental health, crisis and social service organizations to ensure prompt responses should an emergency arise.

Our goal is to partner with students, parents and community members to keep our school a safe place. Here are some ways that you can help.

- Please talk with your child about safety and appropriate school behavior.
- Remind them that Wheel Elementary School staff members are committed to keeping our schools safe.
- Please encourage your child to talk with you or a staff member if they feel unsafe at school or if they are concerned that another student's actions are unsafe.

If a safety issue arises at our school, I am committed to keeping you informed. I will provide information as quickly as possible via a letter and/or by using an automated telephone system that will provide a recorded message. We are using this telephone system to reach parents as quickly as possible. If your telephone number has changed this year, please provide our office staff with your current telephone number.

Together we can provide your children the best learning experience possible. Please contact me directly if you have any safety concerns or if you have ideas for ensuring that our school remains a safe place.

Sincerely,
Virgil Medina
Assistant Principal
Wheeling Elementary School

NEWSLETTER RELEASE --- SEXUAL PREDATOR INFORMATION

In an effort to increase awareness of external forces which may impact the safety and security of our students and staff in Aurora Public Schools, we wanted to provide you this information on sexual predators.

By state and federal laws, sexual predators are free to live in any residential area without restriction. Local law enforcement agencies maintain a database on where registered predators live. This data base is free and available to anyone who has internet access. Local law agencies are required to provide community notification only when a sexually violent predator moves into their community.

If you are interested in researching sexual offenders in your neighborhood, the following internet links will provide you this information:

<http://gis.auroragov.org/so/viewer.asp>
<http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Apps/SexOffender/Default.aspx>
<http://www.sor.state.co.us>



We hope you find this information helpful. Additional information on this subject can be obtained from your local law enforcement agency or through the Aurora Public Risk Management and Security Department at 303.365.7816.

From the Truancy Office!

Welcome Back!

My name is Joanne Geiss, the Truancy Specialist for Wheeling Elementary School. During this year I will have the opportunity to work with many students and their families. My job is to work with truant students. Truant students are those who have excessive absences and tardies. We will be working together, as a team, to help your child attend school on time everyday. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 303-344-8670. I will be happy to call you or meet with you regarding your child.

Did you know? It is a Colorado State Law that children between the ages of 7 and seventeen must attend school regularly. State Law also requires that we monitor the attendance of all students and report those who are truant to the District Court. Remember that truant students are those who have excessive absences and tardies. Is your child attending school everyday and on time?

Joanne Geiss
Truancy Specialist

Joanne Geiss
Elementary Truancy Specialist
Side Creek - Home School
303-755-1785
jpgeiss@aps.k12.co.us

APS SAFETY DRILLS

Your student's safety is a top priority for Aurora Public Schools. On an annual basis, the district requires all school sites to practice emergency response drills. This includes fire, lockdown and tornado drills. District standards will have school sites drilling an emergency response at least monthly. We believe that by practicing, our students and staff will be better prepared in an emergency situation.

As parents, you can help us with this very important training by:

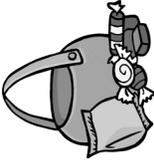
If you arrive at your school site and it is in the process of a fire drill or lockdown drill, please wait outside until the drill is complete. When the drill is complete, you will be allowed inside the building for regular school business. For the security of the students and staff, no person can enter or exit an APS building during a lockdown.

If you arrive at your school site and you find that the school is responding to an actual emergency, please follow instructions as provided by the Aurora Police Department or district staff. We will communicate the status of the situation as quickly as information becomes available.

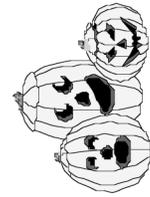
If we evacuate your school site to another APS location due to an emergency, you will be notified of the location of that site. When you arrive at that site to reunite with your student, please be prepared to present photo identification. We will only release students to individuals that are on the student's emergency information card so it is very important to keep that information current.

AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS OCTOBER 2007 BREAKFAST MENU



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Pancake w/Syrup Chilled Peaches Cereal	2 Angel Biscuits w/Honey Applesauce Cereal	3 Breakfast Sandwich Fruit Mix Cereal	4 Applesauce Bread Green Grapes Cereal	5 Scrambled Eggs w/Ham & Cheese Chilled Pineapple Cereal
8 Breakfast on a Stick w/Syrup Fruit Cup Cereal	9 Pumpkin Bread Chilled Pears Cereal	10 Cinnamon Tortilla Chilled Peaches Cereal	11 Yogurt Chilled Pears Cereal	12 No School Teacher Workday
15 Bagel & Cream Cheese Orange Cereal	16 Graham Cracker Treat Fruit Mix Cereal	17 Breakfast Burrito Chilled Peaches Cereal	18 Cinnamon Date Bread Kiwi Smiles Cereal	19 Breakfast Omelet Applesauce Cereal
22 Toast w/Jelly Chilled Pears Cereal	23 Sausage Patties Fruit Mix Cereal	24 Cheesy Potato Wedge Green Grapes Cereal	25 Banana Bread Orange Cereal	26 Scrambled Eggs w/Ham & Cheese Chilled Pears Cereal
29 FALL	30 	31 BREAK	Nov 1 	Nov 2 WEEK

Note: 1/2 pint of milk is included with each meal. Choices Include – 1% Strawberry, 1% Chocolate Milk, 1% Lowfat Milk, & Skim Milk
Looking for part-time work while your children are in school? If interested in working for Nutrition Services, apply at 1085 Peoria, Aurora (\$9.57/hr).



AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY CHOICE LUNCH MENU OCTOBER 2007



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Red Baron Fresh Baked Pizza 1 Pepperoni Pizza 1 Cheese Pizza Sides: Mixed Vegetables Applesauce	2 Trout Treasures w/Salsa Sesame Chicken Sides: Hot Green Beans Rice Fruit Cup	3 Chili Cheese Pretzel Corn Dog Sides: Mixed Vegetables Green Grapes	4 Roast Turkey Hot Roast Beef & Cheese Sandwich Sides: Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Chilled Pineapple Angel Biscuits w/Honey Monster Bar	5 Hot & Spicy Chicken on a Bun Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Sides: Celery Sticks w/Ranch Dressing Carrot Sticks w/Ranch Dressing Banana
8 Chicken Buffalo Tenders w/Ranch Dressing Cheeseburger on a Bun Sides: Pickles & Onions Seasoned Corn Chilled Pears Applesauce Bread	9 Stuffed Pepperoni Sandwich Soft Beef Taco w/Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa & Sour Cream Sides: Mixed Vegetables Chilled Peaches Cookie	10 Stuffed Cheese Sticks w/Marinara Sauce Hot Turkey & Cheese Sandwich Sides: Broccoli Cauliflower Chilled Pears	11 Chicken Chili Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich Sides: Tossed Salad w/Dressing Kiwi Smiles Dinner Roll	12 NO SCHOOL
15 Chicken Nuggets w/BBQ Sauce & Honey Smothered Nachos Sides: Refried Beans Fruit Mix Angel Biscuits w/Honey	16 Sloppy Joe on a Bun ***Egg Roll w/Chicken Fried Rice Sides: Hot Green Beans Chilled Peaches	17 French Dip w/Au Jus Fish Sandwich w/Tartar Sauce Sides: Potato Rounds Kiwi Smiles Chocolate Pudding	18 Hoagie Sandwich Chicken Fajita w/Salsa & Sour Cream Sides: Seasoned Corn Applesauce	19 Cheeseburger on a Bun Chicken Hip Dipper w/Ranch Dressing Tomato Soup w/Gold Fish Pasta Sides: Pickles/Onions Seasoned Peas Red Grapes Dinner Roll
22 Chicken Fried Steak Spicy Oven Baked Chicken Sides: Baked Potato w/Sour Cream Hot Green Beans Dinner Roll	23 Beef Chili w/Crackers Chicken Patty on a Bun Sides: Mixed Vegetables Chilled Peaches	24 Hot Dog on a Bun Chilled Dog Sides: Seasoned Corn Cucumber Slices Green Bell Pepper Slices Yogurt	25**Sausage Pizza Macaroni & Cheese w/Garlic Bread Sides: Seasoned Peas Apple	26 BBQ Chicken on a Bun Waffles w/Syrup Sausage Patties Sides: Tri Tator Orange
29 Fall	30	31 Break	Nov 1	Nov 2 Week

*Note: 1/2 pint of milk is included with each meal. Choices Include – 1% Strawberry, 1% Chocolate Milk, 1% Lowfat Milk, & Skim Milk
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**** Contains Pork**