

Foothill Flyer

Foothill Elementary 1001 Hawthorn Ave. Boulder, CO 80304 Tel. 303.443.1847 Fax 303.443.1848

September 2, 2005

DATES TO REMEMBER

9/5	NO SCHOOL, Labor Day
9/12	Parent/Teacher Conference Sign-up sheets posted
9/13	Instrumental Music Fair, 4:00-7:00pm, Centennial Middle School (for 5th Graders only)
9/13	PTO Meeting, 6:30-8:00pm, Library
9/14	Walking Wednesday
9/14-16	P.E. Fall Fun Days
9/16	Bingo (sponsored by 4th Grade), 5:30-8:00pm, Small Gym
9/19	NO SCHOOL, District Professional Development Day
9/21	Walking Wednesday
9/21	SIT Meeting, 6:00 - 7:30, Library
9/23	October Count window begins
9/26 - 10/7	Parent/Teacher Conferences
9/26	Check Lost & Found
9/28	Walking Wednesday
9/30	October Count Day

A Note from the Principal...

Dear Foothill Families,

Welcome back! What a great start to another year. The positive energy in the school this last week has been so high we can barely keep the roof on. I would like to thank all of you for the warm welcome I received at the Ice Cream Social in July and during the opening week of the school year. It was nice to see parents turn out for the "Coffee with the Principal" the first two mornings. I look forward to doing several more of these throughout the year if there continues to be an interest from parents.

We have several new additions to our fantastic staff. Please welcome Lisa Kennedy in 4th grade, Cara Mentzel in 3rd grade, Aimee Newfield - Johnson in 5th grade, and Elizabeth Martin in Literacy. We also are welcoming back Rae Studholme in 2nd grade after a year abroad and Nikki Zubiante in 4th grade who is also returning to Foothill.

In addition to getting settled in for the new school year, the staff has begun to look at the CSAP and literacy data we have available to us. We will be spending our first Teacher In-Service Day focusing on our results to determine where our celebrations and challenges lie. CSAP scores are published in the newspaper every summer and parents receive individual copies of their child's results. I have been made aware that parents have not seen the results of the School Climate Survey given to parents, staff and students in grades 3-5. These results are attached to this newsletter. The staff and SIT team will be looking closer at these results along with CSAP data to determine our school goals for the 2005-06 school year.

I am looking forward to working together this year with students, parents and staff to create a positive and safe school environment where learning is engaging and exciting. Remember that even though school is back in session, summer is not quite over. Enjoy the last few weekends of warm weather.

Melisa Zahn

Traffic

It is no secret that it is quite congested around the school at the beginning and end of the day. For the safety of our Foothill families...a few reminders:

- There is no parking in the cone zone which is for bus drop off and pick up.
- The drop off zone in front of the playground and on 9th Street are No Parking areas so that it is accessible for parents to safely drop students off.
- Our large staff needs all of the parking spaces in the parking lot.
- The staff parking lot is not a safe drop off location for students. Cars dropping students off prevent access for our special education busses to drop off special needs students.
- If you need to park, the best options are to go further west on Hawthorn Ave. or south on 9th Street.
- Be sure to have your children cross at designated cross walks and not in front of the school.
- Complete all cell phone calls prior to entering the school zone.

Reminder

Please be sure to **WALK** not **RIDE** all bikes, scooters, etc. on the school grounds.

Contact Information

If any of your family information has changed recently, including work and cell phone numbers or emergency contact information, please notify the office.

Recess Before Lunch

The staff at Foothill has been researching the positive effects of having recess before lunch for students. In the coming weeks the staff and district will work out a schedule to implement this plan for students.

Yearbook Club (Coming Soon)

This year Foothill is hoping to engage students in the creation of the yearbook. Check out the next Flyer for more information about how to sign up to be part of the yearbook club. Parents interested in volunteering please contact Kate Gardner at 720.406.0540.

Attendance/Tardies

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is an essential part of a student's education. We urge you to stress the importance of regular, prompt attendance. Habits of a lifetime are formed in elementary school and can only benefit your child in future years of education and employment.

However, there are times when students must be away from school. Parents or guardians must contact the school office to provide notification of an excused absence or tardy before 8:30am. Promptly contacting the office will prevent us from disturbing your home or work place with a call requesting the nature of your child's absence.

Tardy Policy

The tone of each day is set during the first few minutes of class and an important portion of the daily lesson is presented during this same precious time. If a student is late to school and it is before 8:50 a.m. she/he should report directly to class and will be marked tardy by the teacher. If a

student is tardy and it is after 8:50 a.m. she/he should report to the office to get an admittance slip before reporting to class. We appreciate parent/guardian support in this matter, as all students benefit from a timely start.

Pre-Arranged Absences

The principal may excuse absences on a pre-arranged basis for special family activities. You must submit written notice to the attendance office one week in advance indicating the reason for the arranged absence(s). This gives teachers time to make the necessary arrangements for make-up work.

Bus Routes

Students are asked to remember their bus routes this year instead of the actual bus number. Occasionally a bus will be on a field trip or have mechanical difficulties and a substitute bus will take its place. By using route numbers students can still identify their bus by the sign in the window with the colored symbol and route number even though it is a different bus.

State Attendance Count

The student count period known as October Count begins September 23 with the actual Count Day being Wednesday, September 28th. Good attendance is always important, however, the state funding is determined by the number of students in actual attendance at school during this time. Please plan appointments around these dates and make every effort to have your child (ren) in school those two weeks.

Fall Fun Days

We will be having Fall Fun Days for 1st through 5th graders on September 14, 15 & 16. Fall Fun Days is a celebration of the beginning of the school year in which students participate in races, challenges, and fun activities. It's a great opportunity for new students and parents to get to know other classmates and families.

Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather. They should wear tennis shoes and comfortable clothes. Also, it would be a good idea to put sunscreen and insect repellent on your child. Students may bring a water bottle (make sure their name is on the water bottle). Parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to come and cheer the kids on!

Volunteers are needed to help set up for Fall Fun Days. I will need help from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. on all three days. If you can help please call me at school....Also, I need to borrow about 5 wagons for field days. Please let me know as soon as possible if you could lend me your wagon for a few days.

Fall Fun Days Schedule

Wed. 9/14 4th gr. 9-11:00

1st gr. 1-2:15

Thurs. 9/15 3rd gr. 9-10:30

2nd gr. 1-2:15

Fri. 9/16 5th gr. 9-11:00

Also, please welcome Kristin Jensen from the University of Northern Colorado who will be student teaching in Physical Education with me through October 14.

Hope to see you at Fall Fun Days!

Mrs. Brittenham, P.E. Teacher

Tips from Literacy

- Making a routine out of reading every day will help students develop good reading habits.
- When students are reading independently they should choose books that they can read with a high level of accuracy (95% or higher).
- When reading to your child stop sometimes and ask, "What do you think will happen next?"
- Accept your child's reading efforts with praise, concentrate on all the things he/she does right, not on the few errors.
- If your child makes a mistake when he/she reads aloud, allow time for self-correction. If the mistake makes sense, ignore it.
- Talk about the things you choose to read such as newspapers, magazines, books, notes, etc.
- Encourage your child to keep a journal of their experiences during the school year.

Para Positions Available

Are you spending your days at Foothill already? Do you have any special skills that would be helpful in the health clinic or classroom? Foothill is hiring for para positions. Please contact Melisa Zahn if you are interested.

Climate Surveys

Attached to the Flyer is the results of the Climate Surveys from last spring. Please note that questions with a # after them have been reversed for reporting the results. This is somewhat confusing but it helps to look at it as the higher the percent, the better the results.

PTO Reminders

Packets are due by September 9th.

The Foothill Feast will be at Eppie's Ices on September 12th from 3:00—10:00 pm. Eppie's donates 25% of their entire day's proceeds to Foothill so make it an Eppie's Monday.

Wrapping Paper Fundraiser

The fundraiser will run from 9/9—9/26. There will be a short presentation in each classroom about the fundraiser on Friday, September 9th. This is a prepaid fundraiser, so all money will be turned in with the orders. Besides wrapping paper, there will be children's gifts, greeting cards, chocolates and more.

Foothill Mission and Vision

To promote, support and reinforce healthy development, quality education, social competence and responsible world citizenship in lifelong learners through a true partnership among students, parents, staff and community.