



# ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

October  
2018

**Foster Elementary**  
Jefferson County Public Schools

Office 303 982 1680

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## *Principal's Page*

*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

*Keep a look out for information and a survey that will be emailed in regards to the future of Foster Elementary. Your input is vital in shaping the future of our school, so please make sure you participate in the survey. Your voice matters.*

*Thank you.*

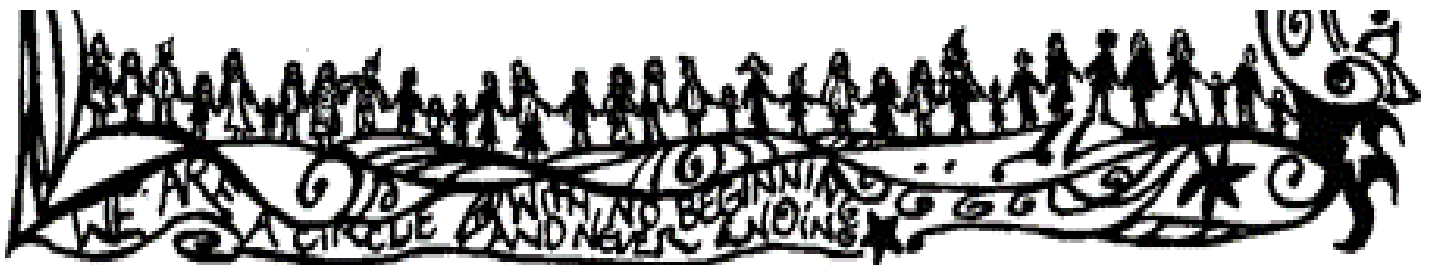
In Peace, Leigh

## November 2018

- 1 . . . Picture Retakes
- 2 . . . NO SCHOOL
- 8 . . Vision & Hearing  
Screenings / 5th G  
Progr 6PM
- 9 . . PTA Mtg 9-10:00 AM
- 12 . . PTA Mtg. 6-7PM
- 19-23 . NO SCHOOL  
Thanksgiving Break
- 29 . . Holiday Market

## Accountability Committee

The Accountability Committee met last month and discussed the proposal of Foster becoming a Dual Language PK-8 school. We hope you will join us for our next Accountability meeting which will be on Thursday, November 8th at 3:00 in Leigh's office. Please join us!



Dear Families,

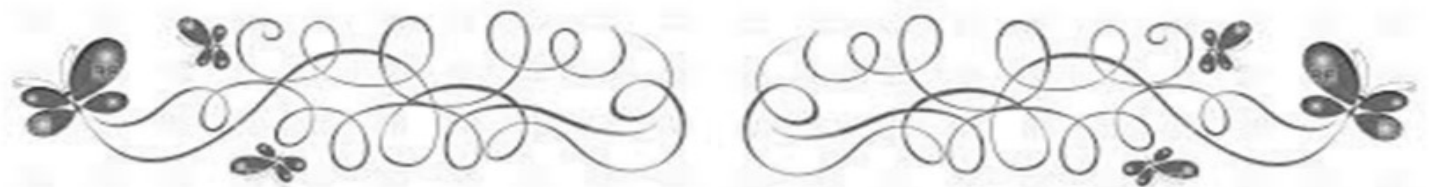
October was a long, hard month for many of us as we grieved the loss of our dear friend and colleague Debbie Shirley. Debbie had been the director of Project Prepare for 13 years where she took all that she knew about programing, kids loves, talents we had on our staff, her love and experiences in theater and put it all together to create an unbelievable program. From Circus Arts to Improv to Dance Classes and empty bowls, Debbie stretched herself to create opportunities in areas she loved, and areas new to her. If someone had an idea, she would pull them in and help them create their dream. Whether that was Garden club, Chess club, Soccer club, Peace Jam club, or even a club to plan a Halloween party for the school, she helped to nourish the idea, figured out how to make it work, and executed the plan.

She would build new leaders in staff members, parents, and in students. Many people have shared with me how Debbie would listen to their dreams and push them, ever so gently but with intentionality, towards making those dreams a reality. You see, she always believed in us more than we could ever believe in ourselves.

When Debbie was diagnosed with cancer 8 years ago, she rose to this new challenge, determined to live well and long. She was a constant reminder to stay awake to life, to embrace each new day, to keep on keeping on. She did this with such grace that many would forget or did not know that she lived with this diagnosis for so long. One of her secrets to this was an immense amount of hope. Hope and loving each other. Even when she would get frustrated or angry, she would move right through those feelings and start thinking about a plan. She was a dreamer who made dreams come to life and that sustained her.

Debbie's work will continue to live on in the murals from Summer Arts Camp, the continuation of Project Prepare, our Foster Folklorico and Mariachi groups, the Tamale throwdown, affordable before and after school care for our students, and the beautiful garden she nurtured, loved for so many years. She turned a grant funded venture into a sustainable program that we will continue to celebrate and keep going for years to come.

We will work together to continue Debbie's work and passion as we continue to help Project Prepare flourish.



# Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten Families!

October came and went in a blink of an eye! Thank you all for coming to parent teacher conferences. We enjoyed being able to sit down with each of you. Also, the students did an awesome job at the Fun Run!

Kindergarteners are settled into their routines and continue to find new things to get excited about. We have shared many of our timeline projects and are close to wrapping up our Social Studies Unit: Comparing My Story To Yours. We will then begin our next Science Unit: Roll, Bounce, Spin, Slide.

Thanksgiving Break is only a few weeks away. Please continue to read, write and count with your child every day while you are away. Focus on the first sounds in words, the correct formation of lowercase letters and basic addition and subtraction using common household items.

Looking forward to seeing you at the school parade and our class parties on Wed., Oct. 31!

Ms. Alma, Ms. Shannon and Ms. Melissa





Happy Fall!

We have had quite an exciting month with the Fun Run, conferences, and our Children's Museum field trip.

We want to thank all our volunteers for the Fun Run and the field trip! They were great days and we had tons of fun. Thanks to everyone who signed up on Class Dojo. If you haven't done so already, please sign up on Dojo as it is our main communication between parents and teachers.

In reading, we have been working on comprehension strategies and reading groups have started. Please check Showbie for books at your student's level to read at home.

In writing, we are continuing our work writing personal stories and going through the writing process.

In math, we are working on different math strategies including counting on and counting back.

Our PBL on safety on the playground was a great success. We were able to present our solutions to judges and were very proud of ourselves. We observed kindergarten recess, 6<sup>th</sup> grade recess, interviewed people, and spoke to experts. We can't wait for our next PBL in the spring.

Thank you,

Ms. Stephanie Hultine, Mrs. Rosa, and Miss Brie



# 2ND GRADE

Hello 2nd grade families!

Wow! Can you believe October is already gone? What a wonderful time we are having this fall with your kids. They have shown growth in respecting their peace promises, and their commitment to learning in the classroom.

In writing, they started to explore many different kinds of poetry, and continue working on personal narrations.

In reading, they are using comprehension strategies such as predicting, visualizing, questioning, and inferring using text evidence to support their thoughts.

In math, students finished unit 1 solving addition and subtraction word problems showing their work with visualizations, equations, strategies, and justifying their thinking.

Last month we decided to continue our work in Social Studies with Geography in October. We learned about maps and globes and the different terms and tools we use to understand people and places.

This coming month, during science, we will have our first “Project Based Learning” experience. We will explore different habitats, and we will answer the question “How do environments help plants and animals meet their basic needs for survival?”

Report cards will be sent home on November 16th. As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns. We thank you for coming to conferences and our Halloween celebration.

2nd grade team  
Ms. Marcela, Ms. Hollie, Ms. Heidi





Hello third grade families,

Thank you very much for attending conferences and taking time to strengthen our partnership in supporting your students! If you were unable to attend a conference, please contact us so we can schedule a meeting. Also, thank you so much to the friends, families, and community members who contributed their time and money to the Fun Run! We so appreciate all of the support!

In Reading, the class became experts on characters and fictional story structure. In our next unit, we are exploring nonfiction texts and their “nuts and bolts.” Students will be using their knowledge of nonfiction text features to understand how they impact the way we interpret texts as readers.

Writing is transitioning from narrative storytelling into writing to explain. Our connection between reading and writing is strong as we can use our nonfiction texts to explain new concepts!

In Math, students are developing fluency with 2’s, 5’s, 9’s, and 10’s. We also have been working on strategies for multiplication, the properties, and word problems. Next, we will be working on all of the other facts along with division of these same facts. Please study for at least ten minutes at home nightly to learn multiplication facts by heart. This is so important to prepare students for the rest of third grade and moving on into fourth and beyond.

In Science, we got to see our caterpillars grow into butterflies and see them fly away while studying Life Cycles of plants and animals. Our next content unit will be discovering the Big City and all of its components in Social Studies. This unit will include a PBL using current events, such as Arvada’s growth with the arrival of the Light Rail.

Please be on the lookout for more information about opportunities to bring our learning to life (personal connections, field trips, etc)!

Thank you,

The Third Grade  
Team





# 4TH GRADE



Happy October! The students are finally settling in to 4<sup>th</sup> grade and working hard on our curriculum.

October will be a busy month in 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

In **reading**, we are working on comparing literary texts with a focus on character traits.

In **writing**, we are working our unit on writing fictional short stories.

In **math**, we are working on multi-digit multiplication. Please make sure your child is practicing their multiplication facts every night!

In **social studies**, we will be studying economic choices and opportunities.

Please remember to visit our classroom websites frequently for up-to-date information about what's going on during the week, field trips and important updates. You can access our websites through the school website.

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR NOVEMBER

Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>: Fun Run

Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Parent/Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: No School

Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: Teachers out for long term planning

Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>: Halloween (more information to come)

Sincerely,

-The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

Mrs. Tiffany

Mrs. Vicky

Mrs. Carissa



# This is 5th & 6th

Thank you to those who attended conferences. We really appreciate the support. We know that many things are changing and we appreciate the patience too!

In literacy please be sure your student is practicing on IXL and at their goal levels, I shared this on the conference data tracker.

In math please help students by studying all of their multiplication and division facts. They will benefit from knowing the connection between multiplication and division. Please also practice the IXL goals for math too. Goals were shared in conferences.

We are moving into winter; please make sure your student is dressed appropriately.

We have been enjoying watching your students grow!

Content will be beginning their unit for Outdoor lab and Ameritowne soon, please look out for any important information for that.

All the best,

5/ 6 Grade





# From the Library

Carla Coverdell, Digital Teacher Librarian and GT Building Liaison



All students now have access to their school iPads for learning at school. As devices begin or continue to come home, please help your child understand that their devices are for learning purposes. Please do not enter an Apple ID on the device as this causes issues for our device management system. Apps approved for student use can be found in Self-Service from the iPad. School devices should not have access to the Apple Store; if your child's device does allow access, please let us know. It is appreciated if you can avoid entering a passcode on the device as students often forget the secret code which creates access issues. Thank you for all you do to assist your child in using their school device in a safe and thoughtful manner.



If your child's device is not working for any reason (charging, sound, internet connection, etc.), please alert your child's teacher as a first step. Please make sure devices are returned to school each day fully charged with the full case in place. We ask students to ALWAYS have the hard cover in place to protect the glass screen whenever they are transporting their school iPads.

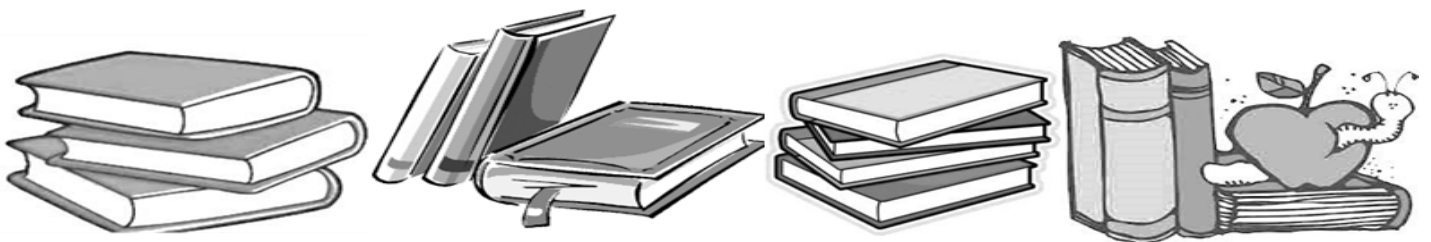


Students are now visiting the library on a weekly basis for checkout. Students may check out two books (grades 1-6) for two weeks. Kindergarteners check out one book per week. You will receive overdue notices for books that have been checked out for longer than two weeks. Please assist your child with returning books on time. Lost books may be paid for in the library.

Our second graders recently completed the Cognitive Abilities Test as a part of our universal screening. The results of this assessment are used to understand students' learning strengths and weaknesses and plan for appropriate instruction. Families will receive results of this assessment later this year.



Thanks to all who participated in our Book Fair. We appreciated the parent and student volunteers who gave of their time to make this a successful fundraising event. Proceeds are used for school needs such as technology, curriculum support, and Battle of the Books titles for students.





For the past few weeks, the beginning band 5<sup>th</sup> graders have begun the journey of learning to play a band instrument. During this time, they have been discovering how to hold, put together and get a sound on their particular instrument. Your child may at times feel discouraged, but reassure them that they will get better. Just keep working ! The Advanced Band will be receiving band folders with music very soon.

**(A list of music stores is on the Orchestra-Band Website)**

Please don't hesitate to email me at: [keith.harms@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:keith.harms@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Best Wishes  
Keith Harms





### **5th Grade Beginning Orchestra Announcements**

Orchestra has begun and is off to a great start!

Please make sure your student owns a book - Measures of Success Book 1 - for their instrument as well as a folding music stand for our concerts and practice at home. We have class during the school day on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Students who wish to play a song at La Posada in December will have that opportunity.

Our first concert will be  
December 13th, 2018 at 6:00pm at Arvada High School.

Please refer to our website below for many resources.

### **6th Grade Advanced Orchestra Announcements**

Advanced Orchestra meets daily during the school day. We have had a great start this year. Students who wish to play a song at La Posada in December will have that opportunity.

Our first combined concert will be  
December 12th, 2018 at 7:00pm at Arvada K-8 with Orchestra, Choir, and Band.

Please refer to our website below for many resources.

Musically,  
**Ruth Ann Coy**  
**[ruth.coy@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:ruth.coy@jeffco.k12.co.us)**  
**303-982-0605**

**Orchestra Website**  
**<https://sites.google.com/a/jeffcoschools.us/arvada-elementary-band-and-orchestra/home>**





Hello wonderful Foster families!

Now that the cold weather is upon us I wanted to share some general guidelines to keep in mind to help our community stay healthy throughout the winter.

The CDC recommends taking just 3 simple actions to fight the flu:

1. Take time to get a flu vaccine. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every year before flu activity begins in their community. Vaccination of high risk persons (young children, pregnant women, people over age 65 and those with chronic health conditions like asthma) is extremely important.
2. Take everyday preventative actions to stop the spread of germs. Avoid contact with sick people. While sick limit your contact with others and always cover your cough! Wash your hands often with soap and water. Stay home if you are sick, if you have a fever please stay home until you are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing drugs. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, as germs spread easily this way.
3. Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Antiviral drugs can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick; they may also prevent serious complications.

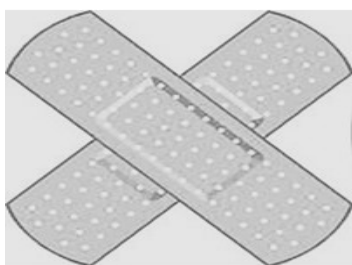
Flu symptoms include: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people may also have vomiting and diarrhea.

Visit the CDC's website to find out what to do if you get sick with the flu. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Also, Hearing and Vision screenings are coming up on November 8<sup>th</sup> ! We need volunteers to make this wonderful resource for our community run smoothly! If you are interested please call, email or come by and see me! [hmulholl@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:hmulholl@jeffcoschools.us) (303)982-1680

Health Aide

Holli Mulholland





**Addy Bethe**

**Foster's Social Emotional Learning Specialist**

## Why is Social Emotional Learning Important?

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) helps youth:

- acquire and 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
- make responsible decisions.

Social and emotional skill building can have a positive impact on school climate, help students become good learners, and prevent or reduce many risky behaviors, including drug use, violence, bullying and dropping out.

