Dear Families,

We are entering the time for choice enrollment in Jeffco. This is a great time to let our friends and colleagues know about our fantastic school! Please use the fliers we have included in this month’s newsletter to share with friends about the opportunities we have here and to invite them to choice enroll if they would like to become a part of our Foster Community.

For our Dual Language 6th grade parents, we will be allowed to continue on to 7th grade dual language next year! We are so excited for this opportunity.

Thank you to Nora and Jackie Caskey and to Nayeli and Evelyn Andazola for representing the 6th grade dual language students and parents at the Board of Education meeting in December. You did a wonderful job!

I would also like to send a big thank you to Jack and Kim Brinkman who went above and beyond to be sure that the students at Foster had items for Christmas this year. From asking businesses for donations and gift cards to challenging the Arvada Fire Department to bring in more toys than Arvada PD, Jack and Kim were creative in how to motivate our community to help our students and families. Thank you Jack and Kim for always coming through for the Foster community!

I hope you all have a wonderful winter break and return ready for 5 more months of deep learning and engagement.

In Peace, Leigh

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, January 10th at 3:00 in Leigh’s office. Please join us!
Wow, here we are at the end of 2018! December was a great month. It was especially nice to meet with students individually for assessments. The data will help us set new learning goals for our return in January.

In Reading, our unit “Tools for Building Meaning,” will continue with students practicing strategies for self-monitoring for voice-print match as well as for predicting, sequencing, and retelling. Students will respond to text by comparing characters' experiences and sharing their opinions about the text.

In Writing, our new unit, “Non-Fiction: How To” has begun. Our focus will be for students to explore writing for the purpose of teaching “how-to”. Students will increase their use of capital letters at the beginning of sentences and in names and begin to use spaces between words.

In Math, our third unit, “Teen Numbers as Tens and Ones” will continue. Students will work on counting to 60, automatically representing and recognizing number combinations to 5, creating sets up to 20 items with objects and drawings using 5-group and 10-group structures, and identifying teen numbers and explaining their structure as ten ones and some more ones.

And finally, after wrapping up our Social Studies unit, Economics: Yours, Mine and Ours, we’ll begin our next Science unit, You are My Sunshine. Students will investigate the effects of sunlight on Earth (temperature and light).

**Remember: Our Kindergarten Learning Night will be on Thurs., Jan. 17 from 6:00 - 7:00pm!** Our next Long Term Planning date will be Fri., Jan. 18. We wish you and your family a wonderful winter break. See you on Wed., January 9!

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Alma and Ms. Shannon
First graders are working really hard in all of the units.

Just a reminder: the dual classrooms walk outside during the day, so make sure your child has a warm coat.

Please make sure your students bring their charged iPads every day.

We encourage your students to read at home, explore their iPads, practice counting to 120, write stories with pencil and paper to improve their handwriting, code on Scratch Jr, and practice their sight words.

Enjoy Winter Break.

First Grade
Second graders have been very busy during this short month!

In science, We have learned all about animal habitats, animal adaptations, designed a new animal, AND given recommendations to the Denver Zoo about how they could make their habitats better. We ended our unit with designing and building our own habitats. The Zoo field trip was a huge success, and we could not have done it without our amazing parent volunteers!

Science has bled over into Reading, where we learned text features of non fiction texts and how to determine the most important information. We spent some time reading about animals and their habitats. Students continued their reading routines and are working hard on meeting their reading goals.

In writing, we wrote “how to” texts, and they picked an animal or habitat to research and write about. Students learned how to write a topic and concluding sentence, as well as how to structure an informative paragraph.

For math, the second graders worked on representing numbers up to 100 in multiple ways. We also learned multi-digit addition and subtraction. Students made number scrolls, studied how a number representation changes when we add one, ten, or 100 to a number.

Happy Holidays!
Ms. Hollie, Ms. Marcela, Ms. Heidi
Hello third grade families!

Happy end of the year! We are looking forward to the second half of the year once when we get back! We are very busy learning and using our iPads almost every day, and we rely on Google Classroom to get our work done! Please remind your child to bring their iPads charged daily. If they come without their iPads, they are unprepared for the day. Also, please take time to check your student’s Google Classroom assignments - their assignments and grades are updated throughout the week and it is a great way to stay connected with their learning!

Math is all about Measurement, Time, and Graphs! We are using all of the hard work we have done with multiplication and division to help us understand the aforementioned concepts. Please continue to memorize facts at home (multiplication and addition).

In reading are working to identify significant ideas or messages, often implicit main ideas and supporting details, central message, moral, or lesson in a variety of texts. Students will spend time inferring character traits and feelings, the problem and solution, and central message that are not obviously laid out through story elements or key details.

During writing students will investigate and begin to understand that writers research to gather information, summarize it, and share their learning in written format. Students will research a topic of interest and incorporate their research into a written report, as well as, a model to present the information to their classmates.

Social Studies brings us to our How People are Connected in the Marketplace unit. Students are understanding the value of money in the role of both a producer and consumer within our classroom Mini-Society. Be on the lookout for this day to see your students at work as a producer or consumer on our Market Day.

Thank you,

The third grade team
Can you believe that 2018 is almost over? We hope you all enjoy the extra time with your kiddos over the next few weeks. We would like to let you know what the 4th graders will be up to when we come back in 2019!

In **reading** we will continue our study of uncovering theme and main idea. In **writing** we will be completing our persuasive writing unit. In **math** we will study measurement. This would be a great time to teach your child how you use measurements in your daily lives. In **social studies** we will begin to study our great state of Colorado. This would be a great opportunity to plan spring break vacation to one of our wonderful national parks using your fourth grade national park pass!

**ACCESS Testing!!**
All second language learners with an ELL plan will be taking an English proficiency test in January. We will let you know the specific dates when we have them.

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR JANUARY**

Wednesday, January 9th: Students return to school
Monday, January 21st: No School: MLK Jr. Day

-The 4th Grade Team
Happy Holidays and Happy Winter

We hope you enjoy your extra time together this month. Please rest up, we have so much work to do when we return “next year”.

ENJOY and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*All - Please ask your student if they need a new journal for the second half of the year. (5 Subject preferred for each class in which they might need one)

** 5th grade- Ameritowne is Wednesday, January 9th. Please return to school prepared to go to "work".

*** 6th Grade- There is an opt out only form for Hatchet the movie. We will compare the movie to the book, so only sign if you do not want your 6th grader to watch the movie.

All the best,
5/6 Teachers
Fit Bits: News from the Foster P.E. Department!

Foster roadrunners had a busy and productive first semester, completing health units including physical fitness, collaboration and nutrition.

During the second half of our school year, students in grades 1-6 will focus more on how health affects athletic performance, physical skill development, skill application and game/sport strategies.

Also, students in grades 2-6 will have an opportunity to join circus arts club which begins in February.

Keep in eye out for registration fliers in Friday folders after winter break (students are chosen by lottery for this club), the days and times are still to be determined.

Look for our roadrunners in action bulletin board coming in January, if you’d like to contribute a photo of your student doing something active outside of PE class to help students make real world connections, please email me at school schumace@jeffcoschools.us.

Stay healthy, stay happy!
Ms. Sammy Chumacero
The Reading Corner

The reading support team would like to wish everyone a very merry holiday season!

Please remember to make some time for reading! Students commonly lose learning over breaks. Help to prevent winter break learning loss by encouraging your child to read and write while they are away.

One of our favorite places to find books is at arc Thrift Stores on Saturday mornings. You can find great deals there! Set a goal, make a schedule, and most importantly, have fun!

Sincerely,

Amy Stadler and Stephanie Gilchrist
Dual Language Program
In August 2004, Foster became the first two-way dual language program in Jefferson County. Our success continues as this program provides a unique opportunity that brings Spanish and English speaking students together to develop full bilingualism and biculturalism (without compromising their first language) by the 6th grade.

Why Dual Language?
*Research shows that learning two languages enhances cognitive skills.
*Students become more competitive yet collaborative in our multicultural society. They acquire empathy and understanding of the different cultures living in a diverse community.
*Learning a second language creates critical thinkers and problem solvers, who use a communication-rich approach in succeeding in the information and social age.

STEM Program
(Science Technology Engineering Mathematics)
Once again, Foster is one of the first elementary schools in Jefferson County to take this bold step toward educating our next generation. “STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics in context that make connections between school, community, work, and the global enterprise, enabling the development of STEM literacy and with it the ability to compete in the new economy.”

Why STEM?
*80% of the fastest growing occupations in the US depend upon competency in mathematics and science. “Even those who do not pursue work in STEM fields will need some literacy in these areas in order to navigate issues such as policy, climate, health and Technology.”
*Age-appropriate technology is integrated in teaching methods to engage students in new interactive ways.
*Foster has a 1:1 iPad ratio, kindergarten through 6th grades. This allows students to become comfortable with technology and teaches that technology is a tool for learning, not just a toy.

PBL (Project Based Learning)
“PBL is the act of learning through identifying a real-world problem and developing its solution. Kids show what they learn as they journey through the unit, not just at the end.”

Why PBL?
*When children have ownership in their learning, they are more committed and curious.
*Students are constantly encouraged to find their voices, strengths and improve their weaknesses.
*Students become teachers and the teachers become mentors, coaches and guides.
*A fair amount of engagement and collaboration with other students are necessary skills for the 21st century.

Foster Tours Schedule
November 14th, 9:30-10:30 am
December 12th, 9:30-10:30 am
January 12th, 9:30-10:30 am
Foster Elementary, 5300 Saulsbury Court, Arvada, Colorado

Deadlines
Applications will be accepted starting January 8th, 2018 for students entering Kindergarten-3rd for the 2018-2019 school year.