Dear Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready for the holiday season. It can be a difficult time for people.

Thank you for participating in our survey in late October. It was very helpful in taking next steps toward our possible transition in the coming school year. Currently the proposal is with the superintendent and school board who will be deciding what comes next. It has been a rollercoaster for the past few months and I am thankful to the many parents who wrote letters, answered the survey, created the survey, and who have let their desires known. Thank you for your patience as we wait for next steps.

Please remember during this month what a gift you are to all who know you and, to take care of yourself. This is a busy month where we are pushed to think much about others and do not always think of ourselves. I hope you will all take some time to appreciate the simple things we have: family, health, community, and good times.

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, December 6th at 3:00 in Leigh’s office. Please join us!
Hello Families! We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. The school year continues to go by very quickly as we enjoy learning and growing with your child.

This month we especially enjoyed exploring motion (speed and direction) for people, animals and objects during our science unit, Roll, Bounce, Spin or Slide. Students conducted various investigations in order to make and compare predictions. We also had several guest experts come visit and share their knowledge.

In December we will embark on several new Units: in Reading, Tools for Building Meaning, in Writing, Informational – How-To-Do, and in Math, Teen Numbers as Tens and Ones.

Please look in today’s Friday Folder for the form regarding our upcoming Flex Testing Day on Friday, December 14. And remember our field trip to the Arvada Center will take place on Thurs., Dec. 14!

Just a reminder to please help your child ensure his/her iPad is charged and brought to school every day along with its cover.
As always, thank you so much for supporting your child’s education!

Kindergarten Team
Ms. Melissa, Ms. Alma and Ms.
Shannon
Halloween was so much fun! Thank you for your help with the costumes and class party!

We just finished our reading unit on problem and solution. We are also working with each of your children in small reading groups. Please keep reading at home.

In writing we are continuing to write our personal narratives. Encourage your students to write at home.

In Math we are continuing to add and subtract numbers fluently and solve word problems using different strategies.

In Social Studies we have been working hard learning how to be a leader and who some leaders are.

Please remind your children that they need to behave well for not only us but our guest teachers too.

We hope you have a wonderful Winter Break!

Thanks,
Ms. Stephanie, Miss Brie and Mrs. Rosa
Dear Second Grade Families,

We are doing great in second grade and have enjoyed hearing about all of your Thanksgiving adventures! Your students are growing and learning and continuing to practice their Peace Promises! These promises are such an important part of our day and help your children understand that their actions affect our whole community. We are growing each day and continue to develop an understanding of responsibility, respectfulness, kindness, focus and safety in your children!

- In reading we are working on comparing and contrasting books and characters. We have been using thinking maps to do this work!
- In writing we have finished writing poetry and will work on personal narratives a bit more before moving into non-fiction writing and research.
- In Math we are developing our knowledge of two digit addition. We have been working on writing numbers to 1000, understanding greater than and less than, and place value. Remember by the end of second grade we need to be able to add and subtract 3 digit numbers!
- In social studies we have wrapped up a quick geography unit but will continue to incorporate maps in all of our units. We have begun a problem based learning unit around habitats. Students will be inquiring into different habitats in the world, critiquing the Denver Zoo, and designing an ideal animal habitat. We will be heading to the Denver Zoo on December 6th!

Please make sure you have turned in your child’s permission slip and we look forward to you joining us! We ordered two small buses, and there will be space for you and your students on the bus, so there is no need of carpooling.

Thank you for sharing your children with us and we look forward to the next month in second grade!

-Ms. Hollie, Ms. Marcela and Ms. Heidi
Hello families,

Thank you very much for your support as we have settled into our new classes following our time of transition.

In Writing, we are writing about research. We will be using our prior knowledge of “how to” writing to craft explanatory paragraphs about processes or topics of interest. Reading brings us to nonfiction texts. This learning requires us to use nonfiction text features to dig into what the author is trying to teach us through their writing.

Math is all about multiplication and division! We are applying our understanding of strategies such as equal groups, arrays, and area models to real world situations and word problems. Please continue to memorize facts at home (multiplication and division of 0-10).

In Science, we are studying A Recipe for Earth’s materials. We will explore different types of rock cycles and what ends up with these rocks in the real world.

Thank you for all of your support!

Happy Holidays

The Third Grade Team
We hope you all had a relaxing Thanksgiving break! The next three weeks will be filled with a lot of learning in 4th grade.

**Testing**
As we approach the middle of the school year we will be having a few important tests.
- On Friday, December 14th we will have our mid-year Flex Day. Students will come in by appointment to take their reading test(s) (DRA/EDL)
- We will be giving the mid-year MAP Language Arts and Math tests the weeks of the 10th and 17th (students will take one Language Arts and one Math test).
  We will share the results of these tests as soon as possible.

**What We’re Learning**
**Reading:** Main Idea and Theme
**Writing:** Persuasive writing (our first time writing 5-paragraph essays!)
**Math:** Division
**Social Studies:** The Impact of Place on People

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR DECEMBER**
Friday, December 14th: Flex Day (by appointment)
Monday, December 24th - Tuesday, January 8th: Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)

Sincerely,
Mrs. Tiffany       Mrs. Vicky       Mrs. Carissa
Fall is here! Please remember that students should dress appropriately for the weather. Jackets should be worn for recess on cold days.

As always, we have been learning about a wide variety of topics and content areas and have been participating in lots of engaging activities and authentic tasks! Ask your student about what they’re learning and taking away from these lessons.

Don’t forget that Outdoor lab is coming up for 6th graders just before the Winter Holiday break. If you have questions, please reach out to your classroom teachers.

5th graders will have a field trip experience to Young AmeriTowne to look forward to in the new year. This is a great opportunity to learn about financial literacy, jobs, and other community-focused skills.

Have a wonderful fall!

5th & 6th grade teachers
Hour of Code activities will be occurring with all Foster students during the week of December 3-9. MiTech, a local software/engineering/manufacturing corporation, will be adding their expertise to student experiences as well. The purpose of Hour of Code is to expose students throughout the world to computer science. Each classroom will integrate coding into the week in various ways using digital resources including web tools, iPad apps, robotics, and unwired simulations to assist students in understanding the application of logic and programming. Many of our students love to create apps of their own using multiple tools available to them. We hope families will be hearing enthusiastic reports from their kids and maybe see some coding occurring at home!

Our new library circulation system allows for emailing overdue notices to families using the email provided through Jeffco Connect. If you receive an overdue notice either through email or a paper copy from school, please assist your child in locating the book(s) and returning them to Foster LMC as soon as possible. If you are unable to locate the items at home, they might be in the classroom or sometimes even in the library. Please help kids follow through by helping in the search for lost library books. If books are not found, you may pay for them in the library. When students actively participate in the return of their books, they learn valuable responsibility skills which they continue to access and develop throughout their school years. We appreciate your help with this effort to keep our library books available to all students.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) was administered to all second graders. This assessment measures students’ abilities in reasoning and problem solving. Scores will be released to parents of second graders on November 30. To learn more about what the results of this assessment mean, please consider attending a parent seminar, Understanding the CogAT 7 Assessment for Parents and Students, on Wednesday, December 12 at the Jeffco Ed Center Boardroom from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please contact the Jeffco Gifted and Talented office as soon as possible if you will be attending the December 12th meeting and would like a translator to be at the meeting with you by calling the GT office at 303-982-6650.
Welcome to the Band Family!

I’m Keith Harms and I am your new Elementary Band Instructor for the Arvada Articulation Area. I am very excited to meet and get to know all of you throughout this school year. I have over 35 years of teaching experience. In addition to my teaching skills, my professional performance experience includes; studio work, concert performances, clinician work and music composition.

I teach at nine schools and meet with the Beginning Band twice a week and the 6th Grade Advanced Band Every Day. Each class is for 40 minutes then I rush off to the next school!

For the past few weeks, the beginning band 5th 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.

Please Note:
**Clarinet and Sax Students are required to have extra reeds at all times.** Reeds break easily, especially with beginning students. Reed Strength is NO. 2. Without a reed they can’t play the instrument.

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

As you know; this is a very big decision and commitment by both the child and the rest of the household is very important. Enforcing plenty of practice time (around 15 minutes a day) and giving ample encouragement to your child, especially when obstacles arise, can be a golden opportunity for all involved to draw even closer to one another.

In the next few weeks I will be sending home a Band Handout with additional Band Information including Performance Dates for both Bands.

If you have not done so already: **Make sure you have registered your child on our website.**

Any additional information can be found on the Band and Orchestra website [www.mrswoodley@.com/registration](http://www.mrswoodley@.com/registration)

Please don’t hesitate to email me at: keith.harms@jeffco.k12.co.us

**Our Musical Journey Has Begun!**

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
303-982-0605

Orchestra Website
https://sites.google.com/a/jeffcoschools.us/arvada-elementary-band-and-orchestra/home
Fit Bits: News from the Foster P.E. Department!

The end of first trimester is approaching and students have been busy in the gym continuing their study of fitness concepts including fitness assessment, goal setting and understanding the importance of an active lifestyle. Students will continue their health focus as we enter our nutrition units in second trimester.

Check out the myplate.org website for a preview of the nutrition information we will be covering during class and I encourage you to practice identifying food groups and looking at nutrition labels with your student.

Finally, I am still looking for more pictures of Foster students, families and staff doing physical activities on their free time for the “Roadrunners in Action!” bulletin board. You can drop a hard copy in my box in the lounge or feel free to email them to me at schumace@jeffcoschools.us.

Stay healthy, stay happy!
Ms. Sammy Chumacero
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)
Intervention Team Update

FUN WAYS TO PRACTICE SIGHT WORDS AT HOME

Sight words are one of the essential skills your child will need for reading success. While practicing sight words with your child at home will make a big difference, it should also be a fun experience!

**Paper Plate Toss:** Write sight words on paper plates. Use them like frisbees to throw after reading the word. Add in some additional fun by adding a target.

**Flashlight Words:** Turn off the lights. Tape words on the wall or ceiling. Use the flashlight to shine on the word and then have your child read it.

**Go Fish:** With a duplicate set of word cards, play “Go Fish.” You can easily make your own cards out of index cards.

**Stepping Stones:** Place the word cards on the floor, making a fun stream going across the room. Have your child walk over the stream. As they step onto the stepping-stone (word), have them say the word before they move on to get to the other side of the stream.

**Word Hunt:** Look for target words in books or in the newspaper. If using the newspaper your child can highlight or circle the words that she finds.

**Word Jump:** Write the sight words onto the driveway with chalk. Call out a word. Have your child jump their way to the sight word.

**Concentration:** Create two sets of word cards. Place the word cards face down. Have your child turn over two cards, trying to make a match. Continue until all of the words are matched.

**Chalk Writing:** Go outside and practice writing the sight words with chalk on the sidewalk.

**Salt Tray:** Grab a tray or baking sheet with edges. Pour in salt. Write the word in salt. When your child says it correctly, they get to erase the word.

*By blogger MommyEvolution.Com

Interventionists:

Stephanie Gilchrist   Amy Stadler