Dear Families,

Each year, our amazing Dual Language 4th grade teachers Ms. Carissa and Ms. Vicky have their students enter an essay in the statewide “Proud to be Bilingual” essay contest. Foster has had several winners before, but this is the first time in our history that our students place 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in this important competition. We are very proud to share the winners are:

1st Place: America Gonzalez
2nd Place: Santana Pena
3rd Place: Luis Arody Rodriguez Flores

Thank you to Dr. Kathy Escamilla and Dr. Manuel Escamilla for sponsoring this great event this year. There were over 130 entries and we are incredibly proud of our winners! Please take some time to read America’s essay below, which is printed as written for the contest.

In Peace, Leigh
Accountability Committee

We hope you will join us for our next Accountability meeting which will be on Thursday, March 7th at 3:00 in Leigh’s office. We will continue to discuss the proposal of Foster becoming a Dual Language PK-8 school. We will be forming parent committees and would love for you Foster Families, Please take some time to complete the attached survey regarding professional development time for staff.

English
Spanish
America Gonzalez
Proud to be bilingual

Ser bilingüe es algo que de lo que estoy orgullosa. It is part of my identity. My brain works in two languages. It’s fascinating how fast I can switch sometimes from Spanish to English or vice versa. In some occasions, it can be very confusing, because both language are very different from each other. Al final no me importa porque yo prefiero hablar y escribir en dos idiomas. The fact that I can speak English and Spanish does not make me less than any other U.S or American citizen. I do not understand why I have to choose. By knowing another language I can immerse in the culture of other countries. Within the culture of a country, I can find movies television programs and well-known books. To know the language opens doors to many opportunities to access other ways of understanding and to become an educated and cultured person.

Apart from the professional benefits, there’s also personal benefits. For example, research has shown that when someone speaks more than a language, It helps to communicate and to better process the languages. English is also very useful because it’s the language most used for businesses and other professional careers. It is important to learn English, we live in a globalized world and if we know the language, we have a better employment opportunity.

Una persona bilingüe es alguien que domina completamente dos lenguajes a la vez, pero estos idiomas deben encontrarse al mismo nivel de conocimiento. Nowadays, it is very important to be bilingual because it opens many doors to communicate with other people and understand when people are speaking in other languages. Society has also place much value in the fact of being bilingual, because the more languages you can speak, understand, read and write, the more experiences you can have in other cultures. Furthermore, we now the internet which facilitates world communication, and if we know more than one language, we can be more successful and have a better life. In other words, to be bilingual in modern times, with all the communication technology can open more doors to be successful in life. Es decir, el ser bilingües tiene muchas ventajas para las personas que lo son.

With the technology advances and the internet, the entire world is intercommunicated. It’s like if we could visit all the cultures of the world, because we can talk to the people and we can see how they live, what they eat and how they celebrate without having to leave our own city. Hence, to be bilingual, or even better, multilingual, has become a necessity for the people of this time. In this manner, we can freely interact using technology. The main advantages of bilingualism in today’s society are seen in all aspects of life; one can have a better job, better quality of life, and for that reason a better future. También se puede tener la satisfacción personal de poder comunicarse con cualquier persona sin importar qué idioma hable y así poder disfrutar culturas diferentes.

If we talk about the field of education, we need to mention that not just by being bilingual the doors to success will be open. One must have the desire and the hope to move forward, and that can be accomplish with education in general. By being bilingual, we can have more opportunities to enter good colleges, universities and institutions who can offer scholarships. When a bilingual person complements their knowledge with education, they obtain new skills, which makes it easier to succeed than a person who is not bilingual. All this knowledge helps them to become active members of today’s global society. This way, they can help improve the society in which they live and other people’s as well. Once, a person become bilingual, it's easier to learn other languages. In conclusion, a bilingual person who completely masters two languages has more advantages than the ones who are not.

Para los bilingües es más fácil: aprender un nuevo idioma, conseguir becas para la universidad, conseguir empleo en cualquier país, comunicarse con personas de otras culturas de manera personal o usando la tecnología como el Internet, también tienen la oportunidad de ayudar a mejorar la sociedad de hoy.
Wow, February sure raced by! It was filled with fun ~ celebrating the 100th Day with all the creative projects, and sharing cards and treats on Valentine’s Day. Also; we really appreciated seeing everyone at our Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Two March reminders: report cards will go home on March 1. Please remember to return the envelope signed and empty. Spring Break begins March 25 with students returning Monday, April 1st.

During March, we will continue our Reading Unit, “Readers Relate to Characters,” where we are focusing on making personal connections to text and learning about making inferences in our reading. Our Writing Unit, “Writing - Informational: All About Books” will help students learn to ask questions and gather information about a topic and then present those facts as an interesting product using text and pictures. In Math, our current Unit, “Partners, Problem Drawings, and Tens” will continue with students learning to:

- extend the counting sequence to 100
- instantly recognize and represent numbers 6-10 as being composed of a 5-group and more ones (conceptual subitizing)
- use concrete materials and drawings to compose and decompose numbers 11-19 into ten ones and some more and quantities 2-10 into partner numbers
- identify which of two groups has more than (or fewer than or the same amount as) the other using matching, counting, and knowledge of number sequence
- act out addition and subtraction situations, including when both addends are unknown, by representing quantities with math drawings and equations
- explore attributes of 3D shapes

Thank you for your support!

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Shannon, and Ms. Alma
Our students are worked very hard on their economics unit. They used the classroom money they earned to buy student made crafts.

Our next science/PBL unit will be on using features of plants and animals to solve human problems. We will be showcasing this at our First Grade program April 25th. We had an amazing time at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Thank you to all the parents that came to chaperone.

In math, we worked very hard on adding tens and practicing our word problems. Our next unit of math is on data, graphing, and then on to telling time to the hour and half hour.

In writing, we have been working on our How-To stories and onto other nonfiction topics. Students love researching their topic of choice.

Don't forget to make sure your students bring their iPads charged all the time.

Thanks again for coming out for conferences, it's always a pleasure to see you and discuss your students.

Ms. Rosa, Ms. Brie, Ms. Stephanie
Dear Second Grade Families,

What a busy month we have had! Thank you to all of our volunteers that were able to come on our Arvada Center Field Trip! We had so much fun and now our students have some background knowledge for when they study fairytales later in the school year. Thank you for your help at our Valentine’s Day Celebration!

Finally, thank you for coming to parent/teacher conferences. We always appreciate sharing the hard work we do with your children and we couldn’t do it all without your support.

Our biggest news is that we have started our next Project Based Learning Unit on the Weather! Students are investigating the question: How do we as meteorologists analyze and report the cause of weather and how it affects living organisms and the world around them? All students have picked a weather topic to learn about, investigate and they have become an expert meteorologist! Please join us on Thursday, March 14th for our Second Grade Weather Presentations! The weather theme has been on-going throughout all of our content areas this month.

In literacy we are asking questions, reading for information and writing a research report about the weather.

In math we will be graphing the weather and we have been working on two and three digit subtraction.

In science we have learned about weather tools, the clouds, the seasons, and weather patterns.

In Spanish and English language development classes students have been digging into the season of winter.

It has been a busy month! Please don’t forget to read at home with your child and practice adding and subtracting numbers to 100!

For those of you that like to plan ahead, our next field trip is to the Four Mile House April 11, 2019. We will need many volunteers for this trip!

Thank you again for sharing your wonderful children with us!

Sincerely, Ms. Hollie, Ms. Marcela, and Ms. Heidi
Dear third grade families,

We hope this note finds you well in the new year!

We HEAVILY rely on iPads to get our work done! Please remind your child to bring their iPad charged daily. It is an extreme interruption to student learning when their iPad is inaccessible, either because it is not at school or not charged. Please also make sure that your student is bringing the hard cover for their iPad, which is expected in order to keep the iPad safe when in transit.

In Reading, we will be diving deep into making connections between fiction texts. We will be comparing and contrasting characters’ actions, thoughts, and feelings and connecting them to the central message or theme of the text with text evidence to support our thinking. Writing will have students sharing opinions by thinking about the purpose, subject, audience, and form for writing about an opinion so we can link them to reasons that further explain and support our opinion.

In Math we continue to work hard on solving word problems, including those with multiple operations required. We will also be exploring area and perimeter and the connection to a shape’s attributes and utilizing visual representations to describe and analyze different shapes. Students are encouraged to practice Xtra Math, Front Row or Khan Academy to stay sharp on their math skills when at home.

Science will have third grade exploring how matter changes states in the world around us. They will conduct investigations to discover the unique properties of each state of matter and the role energy (heat) plays in changing substances from one state to the next.

Upcoming Events (More information coming soon!):

Wednesday, March 13 or Thursday, March 14: Field Trip to Rocky Mountain National Park

Friday, March 15: No School -- Teacher Professional Learning Day

Monday, March 25—Friday, March 30: No School -- Spring Break

Thank you,
The third grade team
Wow! It’s hard to believe that it’s already March and Spring Break is just around the corner! March and April are busy testing months for 4th grade. Please keep up-to-date on our testing dates and times via Class Dojo and Friday Folders so you can help your 4th grader be successful on these important tests.

**What are we learning??**

**Reading:** We will begin our unit on Finding Connections Across Texts. The focus of this unit is for students to independently apply multiple strategies at the same time in literary and informational texts.

**Writing:** Colorado History PBL (Research writing); continuation from February.

**Math:** Fractions and decimals: In this unit, students will be able to use drawings and models to explain equivalent fractions. Read, write, and model decimal numbers and compare and order decimals using landmark numbers.

**Social Studies:** Colorado History PBL

**Science:** A Special Breed: Past and Present Living Systems. Students will be comparing fossils to each other or to living organisms reveals features of prehistoric environments and provides information about organisms today.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Friday, March 1st: 2nd Trimester Report Cards go home!
Friday, March 15th: No School for Students
Monday, March 25th-Friday, March 29th: Spring Break!
CMAS will be given the second and third week of April. We will send information about the specific dates in next month’s newsletter!

-The 4th Grade Team
As we begin testing this Spring, please make sure your students are sleeping well, eating well, exercising, and practicing test-taking strategies at home. There are also some stress reducing strategies. Some of the strategies are, taking a deep breath or taking a break or using your growth mindset and utilizing all the skills and concepts you already know to persevere through tough problems.

Please remember that headphones, pencil case (with a few pencils) and stylus is on the supply list. Please check with your student to make sure they have these items. We would rather the student have earbuds or headphones instead of Bluetooth headphones.

iPads are used in every classroom for daily instruction, please be sure to charge them and keep the lid on them as they are being transported to and from school.

Thank you in advance,

5/6 Grade Team
Fit Bits: News from the Foster P.E. Department!

Our annual Jump Rope for Heart health day and fundraiser (now known as the Kids Heart Challenge) is coming the entire month of March!

Students will begin this fun event with a kick-off assembly on Friday, March 8th. From the 8th until Spring Break, students have the opportunity to raise funds for the American Heart Association by collecting donations from friends and family (this is totally voluntary and all students will get to participate in our fun activities either way). Students who raise funds will receive thank you gifts from the AHA, and our school has a chance to earn extra money for PE equipment.

This year we will also be hosting our first annual fifth grade nutrition art contest and displaying the winner’s work during our Kids Heart Challenge Day on March 22nd. For more information, contact Ms. Sammy or visit www.heart.org.

Stay healthy, Stay happy!
Ms. Sammy Chumacero
Music Notes

In music classes, we will continue to develop student musicianship using the Jefferson County Public Schools guaranteed and viable curriculum for music. Here are a few of the highlights:

Kinder- steady beat, rhythm, ensemble work, head voice, explore musical ideas.

1st grade: beat/rhythm, 4 beat melodic/rhythmic patterns, conducting cues, exploring musical ideas, changing tempo, introduction, pitched/non-pitched instruments, phrase.

2nd grade: 1 chord accompaniments, 4/8 beat patterns, solfege, follow dynamics and tempo changes, verse/refrain, theory of music and explore musical ideas.

3rd grade: Solfege, theory, dynamics/tempo/meter, largo and allegro, treble clef, rondo form, vocal/instrumental techniques.

4th grade: 3 part canons, Accelerando/ritardando, solfege, D.C.al fine/D.S., theory, dynamics/tempo/meter, major/minor, Mezzo piano/mezzo forte, recorder, vocal/instrumental techniques.

5th grade: accidentals, diatonic scale patterns, conductor cues, Improvisation, recorders, slur, vocal/instrumental techniques.

6th grade: chordal harmony, cut time, diatonic scales, conductor cues, improvisation, meter/modulation changes, sight reading, theory, suite, vocal/instrumental techniques.

Ms. Allison Bequette
Battle of the Books is a nationally known reading incentive program. Participants read specific titles and then participate in team competitions around the content of the titles they read. Foster fifth and sixth grade students who chose to participate will compete in our school battle during the first week of March. Our top two teams (six students) will go on to compete at the district level. Jeffco’s district competition will begin at 4:30 p.m on March 11 at Rooney Ranch Elementary. Additional details will be provided to our competitors once all is set in place.

Fugitive, abolition diabolical, garbanzo were just a few of the words students were asked to spell at the Arvada Area Spelling Bee. Foster students Miriam Sanchez, Trevor Seale, Gianna Rizzo and Fidel Flores Gaytan competed in the bee after winning our school spelling bee competition in January. We are so proud of the work they did to prepare and their performance at the bee. Congratulations on a job well done!

Sphero Bolt! 3Doodler Pens! Lego WeDo! Cubelets! 3D Printing! Blogging! Dash/Cue Robots! iPads! Foster teachers and faculty continue to build capacity to embed and use various tech tools to support student learning and provide opportunities for kids to explore engineering related ideas and concepts. Jeffco’s emphasis on transforming student task includes embedding innovative technology to change tasks in ways that are only possible with technology. One of the roles of library programming is to provide tools and support learning of new skills as we continue to consider ways to make learning engaging, interesting, and innovative in ways that prepare students to be flexible learners.

If you are receiving overdue notices for books checked out of Foster’s library, please assist your child in locating and returning those books as soon as possible. This allows other students to enjoy them too. Sometimes books are returned and not checked in; if your child indicates the book has been returned, let our library staff know so we can check our shelves. Sometimes, books are returned to school but don’t get back to the library. Lost books can be paid for in the library which allows students to resume checking out. If a lost book is paid for and then found, your money will be refunded. Thanks for helping us keep our collection intact and available to all of our young patrons.
Hello Parents,

When working with our young readers you will often see them look to you for assurance that they have named the word correctly when reading. Instead of just giving them the correct answer, and to encourage your student to become more confident and independent, you might try asking them the following questions.

**Have them look to themselves for an answer by asking these questions:**

What can you try?
What do you know?
Wow! How did you do that?
How can you check?
Can you explain more about…?

**When it sounds like something they can get from the text try these questions:**

What can you use?
What do you know from the text?
Where is the tricky part?
What can you figure out?
Show me where…

**There is nothing wrong with the following questions. However, they do lead to students looking to the adult as the expert and do not enable our students to be self thinkers:**

Get your mouth ready.
Does that make sense?
Does that sound right?
Look at the picture.
Reread that sentence.

Studies are showing that we have to be more thoughtful about the questions we ask our students to help them be more independent in their own educational learnings.