Dear Foster Families,

There are some big changes going on in the Foster community that I would like to bring to your attention.

Dual Language PK-8:
Next year we will be having one section of Preschool taught in Spanish. This section will be for native Spanish speakers who will be learning to read in Spanish through our Dual Language program. We will also be adding a 7th grade next year, then an 8th grade the following year for our Dual Language program. This is a huge step for us and we are extremely honored and excited to be the first Dual Language Middle School in Jeffco.

Task Forces:
We currently have 3 separate task forces meeting to navigate next steps for our school.

-One task force is the student task force where students in the dual language 5th and 6th grades who will be returning to Foster for 6th and 7th grades are planning what they want their middle school to be like. They have planning groups for everything from lockers to school dances and it is so fun to hear them talking about it! We will be having two electives for our students in middle school next year and one will be band/orchestra/mariachi for all. Sammy Chumacero has agreed to lead a trip to Peru in early 2021 for our future 7th and 8th graders. So many exciting things to think about!

-Another task force is planning what this transition will look like for our whole school. How will we honor each other as we move into this change? How can we involve the whole community in looking at what changes need to be made? We will be working on another proposal to take to the school board this spring in order to work towards a decision on next steps by November. This is a very important committee that will be holding community meetings and would love for you to attend to express your views.

-The last task force is one of staff members who are getting ready for teaching in middle school next year. This one is focused on resources, how the flow of the day will work, and what is needed to help them feel ready professional development wise for this shift.

Rarely do we get the opportunity in life to create something from the ground up and it is so amazing to see our ideas come to life!

Number of Traditional Classrooms decreasing next year:
The number of students attending our traditional program has been steadily decreasing for the last four years. We will be going from 7 classrooms, a class for each grade level, to 5 classrooms and combining some grade levels. Next year we will have a K/1, a 2nd, 3/4, 5th and 6th classrooms.
• **Building Construction and remodel:**
  
  Beginning in January 2020, our school will begin construction and an extensive remodel thanks to the bond that passed last November. We will be getting an additional 6-10 classrooms which we hope to turn into our middle school wing with a true science lab, makerspace room, and band/mariachi room. This will take place over several years, but we are so excited for the opportunity to improve our facility. It should look like a brand new school when construction concludes and we can not wait!

Many things going on and many changes as well. I will do my best to keep you up to date. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

In Peace,
Leigh

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**Accountability Committee**

We hope you will join us for our next Accountability meeting which will be on Thursday, April 4th at 3:00 in Leigh’s office. We will continue to discuss the proposal of Foster becoming a Dual Language PK-8 school. Please join us!
Spring has arrived! We only have a couple months left of school, yet there is still much to be done!

We have turned our focus toward nonfiction and kindergarteners love it. Students are also learning to use various graphic organizers to help them with story structure. We are creating stories in math as well. Practice creating and solving simple addition and subtraction stories at home to build language. Use simple household objects like food and toys to act out the stories.

Make learning sight words fun by building the words with clay or rocks or using sidewalk chalk. Nightly reading practice can include alphabet practice, sight word practice, reading books - paper ones or digital (Epic), as well as being read to.

Our year end literacy assessments will be given at the very beginning of May. Thus, it’s really important that every kindergartner continues to work on strengthening these critical literacy skills during Spring Break and the month of April. We are all a team in the education of your child so thanks again for your support!

**Important Dates in April:**

- April 4 Kindergarten Individual Graduation Photos in a.m.
- April 5 Regular Individual and Class Pictures
- April 26th - No School for students
- May 1st Foster Spring Carnival 5:30-7
- May 2nd and 3rd Assessment days for student

We wish everyone a safe and fun Spring Break! See you in April.

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Shannon, & Ms. Alma
We are very excited to have started our PBL this year on solving human problems using animals’ external features as our guide. We will be having experts come to the class to help us understand what we need to know for this project!

In Math, we are working on data. At home, please continue to work on addition/subtractions facts and adding 10 to any number.

In writing, we are working on non-fiction and how to stories.

In reading, we have been building our comprehension skills by asking questions about the text and retelling the stories we read.

Thank you so much to everyone that volunteered on our last field trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science!

We have one last field trip this year if you want to volunteer at the Majestic View Nature Center.

March 25-29  Spring Break
April 5th- Picture Day
April 25th- First Grade Garden Presentations
April 12th - Field Trip to Majestic View Nature Center

We appreciate your support!

Ms. Stephanie, Miss Brie and Mrs. Rosa
Dear 2nd grade families,

Though March is a short month, we have packed it FULL of learning.

In math, second graders became fluent in reading and creating graphs. Students also worked on being able to tell time to the nearest 5 minutes for analog and digital clocks. Our next math unit will begin adding and subtracting with 3 digit numbers. Please practice with your students at home!

On March 14th, we celebrated the ending of our weather unit by showcasing our learning with music, art, dancing, and academics. Special thanks to our amazing AMP team for supporting our learning!

After Spring break we will begin our new social studies unit where we study how communities change over time. This unit will include a field trip to Four Mile House on April 11, 2019. This is a great opportunity to compare how our own community used to live with how we live today.

In literacy, all of March included reading and writing about weather. Students learned how to read to learn, and determine important information. Now that we have mastered researching, we will move into the art of persuasive writing. Students will learn craft and structure of persuasive writing.

Reading will focus of experiencing other cultures through literature and fairy-tales/fables.

We can’t believe we are over half way through the year!

Thank you for being so supportive of your student’s education!

Sincerely,
Ms. Hollie, Ms. Marcela, Ms. Heidi
Dear families,

Spring is upon us and we are at the exciting point of the year where all of our learning is synergizing! We previously learned about the states of matter and energy in science and are now working on a project about the states of matter and alternative energy solutions in our Foster community. Our program, which will align with our PBL, will take place the evening of Thursday, April 25. Please be on the lookout for more information!

In Math, we are currently focusing on fractions. This is a great opportunity to apply what we learn in school to the real world, as fractions are all around us!

Writing brings us to our opinion unit in which students write essays that make their voices heard, supporting them with logical reasoning and details. Mentor texts will expose students to a variety of opinions and how authors use details and examples to persuade their audience.

In Reading, we have reached our fiction unit in which students will be studying mentor texts, then authoring their own story with a lesson or moral built in to the plot. Students will have multiple avenues for publishing in digital or print form.

Lastly, we are in the midst of our state assessments (CMAS). Third graders took Language Arts on March 19, 20, and 21 and will take Math on April 2, 3, and 4 from 12:05-1:55.

Please ensure that your student is getting lots of rest during this time, and please encourage them to do their best!

Thank you,

The third grade team
Happy spring!! We hope you all have a wonderful spring break and are able to relax and have some fun outdoors! We are moving into test season when we come back from break. Since our tests will be in the morning, it is extremely important that your child arrives to school on time! If they arrive late, they will not be able to enter the testing session and will have to complete make-ups for the remainder of the tests.

Tuesday, April 9th: English or Spanish Language Arts Session 1 - 9:10-11:00am
Wednesday, April 10th: English or Spanish Language Arts Session 2 - 9:10-11:00am
Thursday, April 11th: English or Spanish Language Arts Session 3 - 9:10-11:00am
Wednesday, April 17th: Mathematics Session 1 - 9:10-10:35am
Thursday, April 18th: Mathematics Session 2 - 9:10-10:35am
Friday, April 19th: Mathematics Session 3 – 9:10-10:35am

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4th Grade PBL
The 4th grade students have been working super hard on their Colorado History PBL. They've researched and designed their museum exhibit and presented their ideas to our museum experts. When we get back from break the 4th graders will begin to build their exhibits which they will share with families on Thursday, April 18th at 5:30pm. Stay tuned for more information!

What are we learning?

Math: Geometry: In this unit, students will be able to explain concepts of angle measurements and identify/solve for angles using estimation, benchmarks, and protractors and explore properties of plane/2D geometric figures and use key vocabulary to describe and classify based on their attributes.

Social Studies: Regions of the United States. In this unit, students are exposed to our entire nation and engage in learning where they acquire and use content about each region to think critically and compare regions.

Writing: We will be moving into our last writing unit of the year, Writing Across All Genres. The focus of this unit is for students to revise previous texts and/or write new pieces; applying their knowledge of previously studied genres, narrative, informational, opinion/persuasive, using all parts of the writing process to write for a specific purpose and audience.

Reading: We will be moving into our final reading unit of the year, Exploring Deeper Connections. The focus of this unit is for students to compare and contrast multiple forms of texts. In order to do this, students need to independently select and apply reading strategies and continually monitor their thinking and understanding.

Important Dates to Remember!

Friday, April 5th: Teachers out for Long Term Planning
Friday, April 5th: Class Picture Day
Thursday, April 18th: 4th Grade Colorado History Museum PBL Presentation@5:30pm
Friday, April 26th: No School!

Thank you for your support!!

The 4th Grade Team
Hello Families!
Thank you to the families who contributed to the Valentine’s Day Party. We really enjoy celebrating as a community.

We will be taking state assessment. For your reference, here is the information from February again:

“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 that we use here at school, so please help reinforce those at home as well. 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.”

An assessment schedule went out in Friday Folders, please take note so your students are not having to miss class for make up sessions.

Enjoy Spring Break!!!

All the best,
5th and 6th Grade
Fit Bits: News from the Foster P.E. Department!

Third trimester is here and Foster Roadrunners are busy in the gym, finishing the Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser for the American Heart Association and completing skill and sport units that will continue through the rest of the school year (invasion games, net/wall games, field/diamond games, throwing/catching, striking skills).

Students in grades 5 and 6 will complete a second round of Fitnessgram testing in April and May, look for final test scores and goals with report cards at the end of the year.

Just as a reminder, fitness test scores are never used for grades, only for goal setting and fitness programming.

Finally, we have grade level programs coming up for grades 1-6, take a look at the school calendar and check your student’s classroom communication for dates and times.

If you have any pictures for the roadrunners in action bulletin board, please email them to me at samanta.chumacero@jeffco.k12.co.us

Stay healthy, stay happy!

Ms. Sammy Chumacero
Battle of the Books is a nationally known reading incentive program. Participants read specific titles and then participated in team competitions related to content of the titles they read. Six students went on to compete in Jeffco’s Battle of the Books where they went against teams from across the district. The following students represented Foster at the district contest: Thomas Thomas, Miriam Sanchez, Norah Caskey, Linda Hay, Isabel Rice, Gus Wood. We are so proud of our voracious readers!

Thanks to everyone who supported our Read Across Foster week! Guest readers shared with students in every grade level, DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) occurred daily across the school. One hundred twenty-four students turned in reading logs with most meeting or exceeding their grade level goal. Reading at home supports skill acquisition as well as building fluency and a love of reading. Visiting authors shared their experiences and processes for writing children’s books as well. Teachers also created additional opportunities for students to enjoy reading throughout the week. Overall, reading was the highlight of the week!

As we begin to plan for the end of the year, families will want to be aware of the following:

- Last day to return library books is May 9.
- Lost books will need to be paid for in the library. Replacement book fees will be posted to student accounts if they are not paid for by end of school year.

iPads and all components will be due back in mid-May in the same condition as when issued. This includes the device, all parts of the cover, the charger (box and cable). All components must be those originally issued to the student unless a replacement was purchased at the school. Chargers have an identifying strip attached which matches the number of the barcode on the back of the iPad.

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.
Greetings Foster Families!

As the warmer weather approaches, please be sure to dress your students appropriately for the changing temperatures. We have limited resources here at school to help with wardrobe changes throughout the day when students are over or under dressed for the weather.

If your student has been given a change of clothes during the school day, please be sure to wash and return them, we have limited donations of emergency clothes and they have dwindled to almost nothing throughout the school year.

Please communicate with the school if your student is ill and has been diagnosed with a specific illness (flu, strep throat etc). I need your help in keeping our community healthy and thriving!

The health room is running low on feminine hygiene products for our young women. We could use some generous donations of maxi pads, pantiliners, light and regular flow tampons.

We still have some families that are non-compliant on their vaccines, please make sure your students are vaccinated for the health of our community members that are unable to get vaccinated. Our school is currently at 89% compliance, we are aiming for 100%! We are so close! If you would like to opt out of vaccinations, we do have exemption forms available in the health room.

Did you know that any family that has a prescription for an EPI PEN can get one free from Auvi-Q? I have applications for free Epi Pens available in the health room if you are interested.

As always, if I can be of any assistance to anyone in our community, please feel free to reach out to me!

Happy Spring Foster Community!