



ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

Foster Elementary
Jefferson County Public Schools

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December
2019

Principal's Page

Dear Foster Families,

Over the last year the Foster community has held many conversations and community meetings, written newsletter articles and even conducted a survey around moving toward becoming a Dual Language K-8 option school. At the Jeffco Board of Education meeting on November 7th, the Board of Education voted unanimously for Foster to become a Dual Language Option school beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

Next year Foster will offer dual language programming for grades K-8 and traditional programming for grades 1-5. Starting with the 2021-2022 school year, Foster will offer only dual language programming establishing a dual language option school. Students living in the historic Foster boundary will have priority in the lottery for the Foster dual language program indefinitely, depending on abilities in Spanish and space available. We will work together as a community as we make this transition.

Enroll Jeffco, the district's choice enrollment system, opens and closes earlier this year. You can access the system and school finder through this link: <https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/schools/enrollment/enrolljeffco>

If you have a child going into PK, Kindergarten or 6th grade next year, you will need to access the Enroll Jeffco system and indicate what your school of choice is for your child. Students in the Dual 5th grade will be rolled into Dual 6th at Foster unless parents indicate otherwise in the Enroll Jeffco system. Students in our **Traditional 6th grade** will also need to utilize Enroll Jeffco to be able to select a middle school for your child for next year.

Here are the timelines:

December 10th - Round 1 Opens

January 15th - Round 1 Closes

Lottery Offers sent to families: January 28th

It is very important to meet these deadlines as Foster does not have any wiggle room around them. The school finder tool is great to use to find information about different schools and programs. Here is the link for that: <https://enrolljeffco.force.com/Find/s/>

See the attached flyer for opportunities to see the dual language program in action and also share it with friends you feel might like to join next year. It is a wonderful opportunity for others who are looking for a bilingual, biliterate opportunity for their child.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I hope you all have a wonderful holiday.

Leigh Hiester Principal
Accountability Committee

We hope you will join us for our Accountability meeting which will be on Thursday, January 16th at 3:00 in Leigh's office. We will continue to discuss Foster becoming a Dual Language PK-8 school and give you some updates on school growth and data. Please join us!

January
2020

6 . . Students Return to School

6-31 . . 1st Rnd Choice Enroll

6-31 . . Kg. Registration

10 . . PTA Mtg. 9-10AM

13 . . PTA Mtg. 6-7PM

20 . . NO SCHOOL MLK Day



Kindergarten

Wow, here we are at the end of 2019! 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, History: Comparing my story to yours, we'll begin our next Science unit, Roll, bounce, spin or slide.

Remember: Our Kindergarten Learning Night will be on Thurs., Jan. 16 from 5:30 - 6:30pm! We wish you and your family a wonderful winter break. See you on Monday, January 6!

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Shannon, and Ms. Alma





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,
- and practice their sight words.

Enjoy Winter Break!
Miss. Brie, Mrs. Rosa



2ND GRADE

Second graders have been very busy during this short month! In science, We have learned all about animal habitats, animal adaptations and created a new animal. 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 integrated 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 with 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. We moved on to unit 3 and covered geometry and measurement.

Happy Holidays and we look forward to an exciting new year!!

Ms. Elena and Ms. Hollie





MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) TestMAP Growth tests are unique, and it adapts to your child's responses to measure your child's skill level. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. These results will provide a more complete picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level.

Since MAP Growth tests provide immediate and accurate information about your child's learning, it's easy for teachers to identify students with similar scores that are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, and then plan instruction accordingly.

Your child's MAP Growth results are represented as RIT scores. A RIT score is the overall score for a subject based on a Rasch Unit (RIT), and you'll see it referenced in the Family Report that will be sent home with your student.

Hope this can give you some clarification on MAP testing. For more information about MAP Growth, visit NWEA.org/family_tool_kit.

Thank you to all the students who were able to make it to assessment day. The one-on-one time with your student is invaluable. The data that we collect during this time helps us to better plan for your student's success in the future.

What we are investigating in 3rd grade:

Math – We will write equations to solve word problems

Reading – We will identify significant ideas or messages, often implicit main ideas and supporting details, central message, moral, or lesson in a variety of texts

Writing – As writers we will research to gather information from multiple sources and synthesize what we have learned in written format to share our learning

Social Studies - Students will understand that communities of people (households, businesses and the government) are economically interdependent in the marketplace

Sincerely, Ms. Nikki, Ms. Paola & Ms. Whitaker





4TH GRADE

Fourth grade has had a very productive December. We finished all of our MAP testing and overall our students made great growth. We've worked very hard on our multiplication fluency facts and starting division.

Over break, we hope you enjoy your family and continue reading and practicing reading comprehension in both languages

Be aware that we have 2 field trips in the upcoming months:

- January 9th is our trip and tour of the Colorado History Museum.
- On February 21st, we will have a field trip to the Tesoro Cultural Center to learn about the Fort's history and the fur trade.

Save the date: April 16th, we will be having our Colorado Fourth grade program at 6:00.

Mrs. Vicky eortiz@jeffco.k12.co.us
Ms. Stephanie shultine@jeffco.k12.co.us



5th Grade

Hello 5th Grade Families,

Your students did a great job on their middle-of-the-year MAP assessments! We are very proud of their hard work and growth.

Please note that Winter Break is on December 23rd-January 3rd. Students will return to school on Monday, January 6, 2020. WOW! 2020!

When students return in January, we will continue with the following units:

- Reading: text structures in non-fiction text
- Writing: persuasive writing
- Social Studies: continue with American History
- Math: dividing whole numbers and decimals

Also in January, students will begin taking the ACCESS assessment. This assessment is only for those students identified as English language learners. ACCESS will assess their progress in English. Please look for further information in January.

We hope all of our 5th grade families have a very happy and relaxing Winter Break!

As always, please let us know if you have any questions for us.

Tiffany Alvarez (Traditional) - tiffany.alvarez@jeffco.k12.co.us

Kristin Steele (Dual - English) - kristin.steele@jeffco.k12.co.us

Julie Cole (Dual - Spanish) - julie.cole@jeffco.k12.co.us





English Language Arts Mrs. Vanessa Gonzalez vagonzal@jeffco.k12.co.us

Thank you for working hard in the 2nd quarter. When we return we will finish our argument writing unit when we return and begin unit 5 in reading. There are so many changes coming, so be sure to check Campus in January! I am ready for a fresh start and I already miss you! Have a great break!

Remember what Ms. Johnson would say?

"Ladies and gentlemen this is your life! Be careful of the choices you make and the people you choose to associate with. Remember who you are and what you want to do with your life. Do what's right and do your best!"

Let's Rock 2020! Love, Mrs. Vanessa

Spanish Language Arts Ms. Valentina Lowitsch vlowitsc@jeffco.k12.co.us

I would like to thank all the parents who are investing time in your student's bilingual education. It is not easy but remember that we are a team and we want our students to succeed in life. For any grade update, check Campus. You can easily find out grades or missing assignments.

6th grade: We will finish our tradition unit.

7th grade : Technology Innovation. In this unit students will understand that technology is a TOOL that facilitates easy access to information to research relevant material.

Math Michael Chavez michael.chavez@jeffco.k12.co.us

I think I have an exceptional team to work with. There will be a lot of changes coming up for next semester. We are starting a new unit with Geometry in 6th grade and Proportions for 7th graders. We will be learning a lot to be prepared to take the CMAS in March.

Let's all work well and get ready for the new year.

Thanks a lot for all your help Mr. C:)

Science Ms. Nidya Caviedes nidya.caviedes@jeffco.k12.co.us

It has been a great semester where we have learned a lot, especially to give value to nature and understand that we must avoid contamination through our daily actions. After this deserved break we will work on:

6th grade: for this third quarter we will continue working on ecosystems and the relationships between their organisms. We will start food chains and food webs.

7th: In this next quarter we will learn about the organs and systems of the human body, from its anatomy to its physiology and the importance of keeping us healthy.

Have a happy winter break and a prosperous 2020, see you soon.





Social Studies Mrs. Carissa Soto Rodriguez carissa.sotorodriguez@jeffco.k12co.us
<https://tinyurl.com/MsCarissa> (Quick link to my website)

It's crazy to believe that we're already halfway through the school year! Thank you for joining us on this amazing adventure. When we come back in January we will begin our 3rd quarter which will go from 1/6/20-3/11/20.

What are we learning in Social Studies?

6th Grade: We will be continuing our second unit of the year, ***Economic Success and Political Change***. In this unit we will be focusing on the purpose of government, policy and opportunity cost.
7th Grade: We will continue our 2nd unit, ***Resources, Trade, and Profit***. In this unit students will become economic thinkers and study the effects of local and global supply and demand on local economies.

We will continue with our Current Event Homework assignments in the New Year. Check IC and your student's planner for due dates.

Have a wonderful Winter Break and Happy New Year! See you in 2020!

Counseling Center Ms. Nicole nicole.head@jeffco.k12.co.us

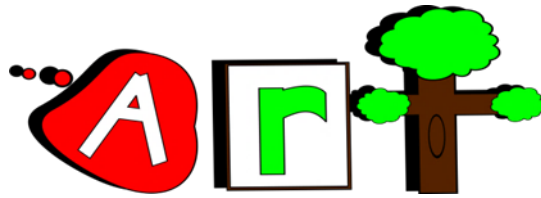
Hello Foster Family,

December was a fun month to watch the middle schoolers grow in their confidence. Our 5th graders had a wonderful experience shadowing 6th grade students and are feeling excited about joining our inspiring team.

In January, we will be working hard to make sure that our students are organized and ready to learn each day. Please ask your student to have their binder and planner with them at home and in every class.

Enjoy your break and I look forward to seeing all of you in the new year!





It's hard to believe we're already in December!

Our Foster art students are rolling right along with amazing creations and artistic explorations. The winter break is a great time to create and to go out and look at art. Some of the art museums around Denver offer a 1st Saturday free admission. The city and county building are all decked out in color; another great opportunity to go see some extremely colorful real like "coloring books"!

Needless to say, we are lucky to live in Colorado with beautiful artwork all around us. It's also a great time to just sit and make art!

Have a great break and remember to stop and smell the...ummm...
hot cocoa.



Music Notes

Every homeroom class is developing a community atmosphere in the music room environment. Being a close knit and welcoming family is crucial to our ensemble successes.

All classes are continuing to refine their ensemble skills, instrumental and vocal techniques. Students are reading and performing with music notation. They are also incorporating technology into their everyday learning with music creation and notation software as well as district pushed apps to aid in the implementation of the JeffCo music curriculum.

Feel free to stop by and chat with any questions or wonderings you may have about the music program at Foster!

Allison Bequette

Allison.bequette@jeffco.k12.co.us



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 1-5 will focus more on how health affects athletic performance, physical skill development, skill application and game/sport strategies. Students will have a chance to apply some of this knowledge in my upcoming after school basketball and before school circus arts clubs if you choose to register through Project Prepare. Keep in eye out for registration fliers in Friday folders after winter break (students are chosen by lottery for these clubs), the days and exact times are still to be determined.

Continue to look for our roadrunners in action bulletin board and feel free to contribute more pictures, 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





Meredith Nunnelly, LSW Foster School Social Worker

Here's a list of activities you can do with your kids over the Winter Break! These activities are meant to bond as a family and build even stronger relationships:

1. Be a Copycat

Kids love this game. You all gather together, and the first person does something wild and crazy with their body – like busting out 10 jumping jacks, doing a handstand against the wall, making a funny face or a funny noise, or something else. Then that person says, “Can you do that?” to the rest of the group, and everyone does their best copycat.

2. Make a Circle

For this one, you all sit in a circle facing each other. Then one person asks a question like, “What’s one thing you’re grateful for?” or “What would be the worst thing to eat in the whole world?” and everyone goes around the circle, taking turns answering the question. When that question is done, the next person gets to ask a question.

This encourages everyone to sit and listen to each other, and that goes a long way to healing bruised hearts.

3. Surprise Each Other

For this game, you start by holding out closed fists to one child and saying, “Pick one.”

Your child touches one fist, and you turn it over so they can open it. As they pry your fist open, you say, “It’s a...” and then pick something to surprise them with like a hug, a kiss, or something else fun.

For example, you might say, “It’s a...hug!” Then when your fist is open, pull your little one into a surprise hug. Guaranteed giggles.

Here are a few of our favorite surprises for this game:

- Hug
- Kiss
- Tickle
- Hair mess-up – Take your hand and mess up their hair
- Massage – Rub their shoulders
- Eskimo kiss
- Butterfly kiss
- Fist bump



High five

But feel free to be creative and invent your own! Your kids might surprise you, too.

January

Reading Challenge Due: January 31st

Turn in your checklist by the due date for a chance to win a prize!

- ◇ Read a book that is set in the snow.
- ◇ Read a book while enjoying your favorite hot drink.
- ◇ Read a book about Martin Luther King Jr. in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 20).
- ◇ Read a book about a character who does not look like you.
- ◇ Read a book published the year you were born.
- ◇ Build a pillow fort and read a book inside it.
- ◇ Warm up! Read a book set at the beach.

Student Name: _____

Grade/Teacher: _____

Parent Signature: _____

