



# ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

**Foster Dual Language Pk-8**  
Jefferson County Public Schools

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**April  
2022**

## *Principal's Page*

Dear Foster Families,

Thank you to the many families who joined us for our fantastic STEM night, which would not have happened without many hours of hard work from 4th grade teacher Stephanie Hultine. It was a wonderful night with many exciting activities for our families. Thank you also to Cristin Lasser and Caitlin Fitzpatrick for a fabulous Silent Auction. We now have our Makerspace up and running and will be creating more opportunities for STEM in the last quarter of our school year.

Our next big family event is our 10th annual Foster Tamale Throwdown, which will be held on April 29th from 5:30-7:30 PM at Foster. This is an amazing community event that is also a fundraiser for our Project Prepare program. We will also be celebrating the official opening of our school building with a ribbon cutting on this night. The event is free with fun entertainment, a concession stand, and a silent auction.

Families are invited to enter the Tamale Throwdown by donating 3 dozen (or more if you can!) tamales and we will have event judges as well as a People's Choice award. Tickets will be sold ahead of time for the tamale tasting, which is an opportunity to try a bite of each of the tamales. We will also be holding a tamale making class taught by our amazing Vicky Ortiz. Stay tuned for more information on the incredibly fun Foster Tamale Throwdown and let me know if you are interested in volunteering!

I am pleased to announce our two finalists from our 3rd-8th Foster Spanish Spelling Bee. Vivi Bautista and Isa Burgos Van Woensel will be heading to the State Spanish Spelling Bee representing Foster. We are so proud of them and all of our contestants who did a fantastic job!

March 28 and April 22 have been added as non-student contact days and will be used by educators to work on planning, assessing student work, data collection and analysis, and other tasks relevant to their positions that benefit student learning. This additional planning time for our teachers and school-based educators is important because these opportunities have been severely limited during this school year. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to the positive impact of this planning time on our students' learning experiences.

### Construction update:

Our new doors and entryway should be completed over Spring Break. The current doors are our temporary doors, which are a big improvement from the wooden doors but not our final set. This will include our new cashier's window area.

Landscaping will finish up in the Spring with sod, some trees, and an addition of picnic tables and benches. There will probably also be some concrete work as well.

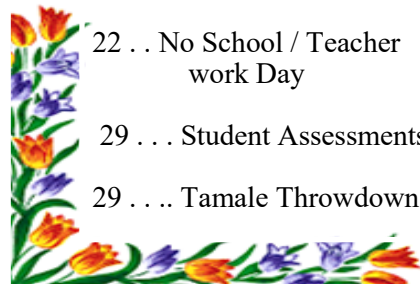
A new pathway is being created on the northside of our property to allow for community members to access the area west of our school without going through our property. The fenced area will have a rock surface, similar to our garden, that will not need much maintenance. We will also have a gate on our side of the fence that opens to that area that one can go out of, but locks when trying to enter from the other side.

The 1/2 playground is still waiting for some asphalt to create a four square area and more of a playpad. Asphalt has been delayed due to weather repeatedly. We will be having the blacktops re-covered as they were damaged by the big trucks and immense amount of dirt.

Thank you for being a part of the Foster Community! Leigh Hiester Principal

### **Foster School Accountability Committee**

Our Foster School Accountability Committee will be meeting on Monday, April 11th from 2:30-3:30. All are invited to attend!





## Preschool April Newsletter

Dear preschool families,

We cannot believe it is April. We are so close to the end this school year. It has been amazing to see the growth of our students and how much fun we've had while learning.

Summary of our new unit called: **Living and nonliving: How Do I know?** Over the next 5 weeks, children will learn how living things survive in their environments. From the driving question, *How do I know?*, students will investigate collections of living and nonliving things, gathering evidence that will lead to criteria that shows if something is living or nonliving. Connecting to prior learning, students will apply background knowledge from studying how they grew and changed, building a *bridge* from the big idea of "needs" to wondering about how *different* plants and animals' needs are met as they change. Through classifying, students will discover patterns of what plants and animals need to grow and reproduce. Throughout the classroom's plant and animal habitats (real and play) students will encounter multiple opportunities for investigation.



### Key Vocabulary:

living, nonliving, life cycle, compare, environment, habitat, shelter, survive

### Literacy

During literacy, we are focusing our instruction on developing phonological awareness and phonemic awareness. Phonological awareness is a broad skill that includes identifying and manipulating units of oral language – parts such as words, syllables, and onsets and rimes. Children who have phonological awareness are able to identify and make oral rhymes, can clap out the number of syllables in a word, and can recognize words with the same initial sounds. Phonemic awareness is the understanding that spoken words are made up of individual sounds, which are called phonemes. A child with phonemic awareness can isolate sounds, manipulate sounds, blend sounds, and segment sounds into spoken and written words.

In Spanish we work more with phonological awareness and syllabic awareness, where children can do all the skills mentioned, but with syllables. However, it is important that children develop not only phonological and syllabic awareness, but also phonemic awareness. If you're learning how to read in two languages, like English and Spanish, you're going to have to make the connection between phonological awareness and phonemic awareness.



### Math

In math, students will be adding and subtracting using a ten frame. They will be working on number recognition, identifying and completing patterns, and continue to solve simple number stories. Finally, students will compare and measure various living and nonliving things.

### Important Dates:

April 7th	PTA meeting 6pm-7pm
April TBD	Field Trip to the Butterfly Pavilion
April 22	No School-Teacher PD
April 29	No School-Assessment Day
April 29	Tamale Throwdown @ 5:00 pm

. Anilu and Ms. Mari





# KINDERGARTEN NEWS



Spring has arrived! We only have a couple months left of school, yet there is still much to be done!

In reading and writing, we will begin our 6<sup>th</sup> module "Home of the Free and the Brave" in this unit students meet some of our greatest leaders, from Washington to King. They explore our different landscapes and diverse people, learning that we all contribute to making the USA special. The first two weeks of reading will be in Spanish with Ms. Alma and writing in English with Ms. Shannon. Then we will switch and do writing in Spanish and reading in English. Do not forget to look at the parent letter for the module, it provides lots of helpful information about our module as well as the words we are learning for the month.

We continue with our 4<sup>th</sup> math unit, "Partners, Problem Solving and Teens". We are focusing on breaking apart numbers equal to or less than 10. Composing, and decomposing numbers from 11-19.

- There are still a couple of weeks of our science unit "Forces and Interactions: Pushes and Pulls". Then we will begin our last social studies unit "Geography: Different places, Different ways we live" Throughout this unit, students will understand that maps and globes are ways to show where people live.
- Students will understand that people live in different settings and interact with their environment based on location. People living in colder climates wear specific clothes and people in areas where there are floods live on higher houses on stilts.

## Important Dates in April:

April 22<sup>nd</sup> - No school for students  
April 29<sup>th</sup> - No school for students, **flex** day  
April 29<sup>th</sup> - Tamale Throw Down 5 p.m.



Ms. Shannon, & Ms. Alma





Hello parents!

We wanted to thank you for all your help with our Field trip to the Zoo, for the end of our Science Unit!

Our students are wonderful! They have learned that all organisms have external parts and that they use them to perform daily functions. Young organisms are very much, but not exactly, like their parents, and also resemble other organisms of the same kind and determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.

We are very excited to start our new Science unit about Space Systems: Patterns and Cycles.

In Into Reading / Arriba la Lectura we are working on Module 7. Reading will be in Spanish and writing will be in English.

In Math, students will be working on sorting, classifying, describing, organizing, and representing data. In this unit students will build on what they know about comparing numbers to develop comparison statements about a set of data describing "how many more than" or "how many fewer than." more fun activities to come!

We hope you all had a restful spring break, and always feel free to contact us if you have any questions on Dojo and thank you for all your support!

**Brie Montoya**  
**1st Grade Dual Language-English**  
**Foster Dual Language PK-8**





Hello 2nd grade families! We hope you all had a restful spring break! Below you will see a list of our current learning objectives as they are presented to students. We will also continue to work on community building and strengthening communication skills in both languages. As always, feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns. We are excited to get back to learning!

### **Reading/Writing:**

I can describe the major sections of a specific text.

I can identify the main topic and summarize the text using relevant and significant details.

I can write about a sequence of events using words that show the order of events.

### **Math:**

I can use concrete models and drawings to add and subtract within 1000.

I can use what I know about hundreds, tens, and ones to add and subtract within 1000.

### **Science:**

I can compare and identify evidence of reversible and irreversible changes.

I can explain that some things can be disassembled and made into something new.





Hello third grade families!

Below you will find information about upcoming curriculum as well as a variety of announcements.

Take care,  
Ms. Paola ([pamoore@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:pamoore@jeffcoschools.us)) & Ms. Kristen  
([kplonsky@jeffcoschools.us](mailto:kplonsky@jeffcoschools.us))

## Literacy (Reading: Spanish/ Writing: English)

In Module 8, “our class will build their knowledge about inventors and inventions, with a focus on the nonfiction genre. We will read texts about what it takes to make a successful invention. Children will also write an opinion essay about an inventor’s key qualities.”

## Math (English and Spanish)

## Content (Science & Social Studies)

## Miscellaneous announcements:

- On Fridays we often have tinker/makerspace time. If you would like to donate clean recycled materials any week, we would greatly appreciate it!

### BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

#### Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child’s knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

#### Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is nonfiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child’s curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Provide interesting facts and details about inventors and inventions.
- Reveal the true successes—and failures—behind an invention.

#### Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

**The Big Idea** Reinforce the topic words *invention*, *brilliant*, *productive*, and *original* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: When are you most **productive**, and why? Describe a **brilliant** idea.

**What Does It Mean?** Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

**Word Hunt** Look for words with the roots *graph*, *vis*, and *mem*, the suffix *-logy* and the prefix *ex-* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.







# 4TH GRADE

We just finished our reading in English unit about folktales and fables. Our next reading unit in Spanish will be about nutrition.

In Spanish writing, we published our own folktales. Our next writing unit will be an opinion essay about why people should try that food. They will use persuasive language and issue a call to action.

In math, we finished our beginning fractions and operations unit. We will continue learning more about fractions and decimals in our next unit.

In social studies, we will continue learning about Colorado history as we get closer to our present day.

Please continue to make sure students bring a charged Chromebook and headphones to school .

At home, we encourage you to continue practicing with measurement and fractions with cooking at home.





Our STEM night on March 10<sup>th</sup> was a great success. We have raised \$2,600 to continue supporting STEM at our school.

We want to give thanks to the amazing companies that volunteered their time to create fun and engaging STEM activities for the kids: MiTek, Ball Aerospace, Anderson Mason Dale Architecture, WOW Children's Museum, and Children's Museum of Denver. We also want to give thanks to Tracie Mayes, our amazing Project Prepare leader for helping demonstrate our VEX robotics club. In addition, we are so lucky to have amazing staff who volunteered to help us run stations. If you are looking for gifts or more STEM products, please consider buying from the companies below. They donated products for our silent auction.

**BLICK**  
art materials



**Blimey**  
Box



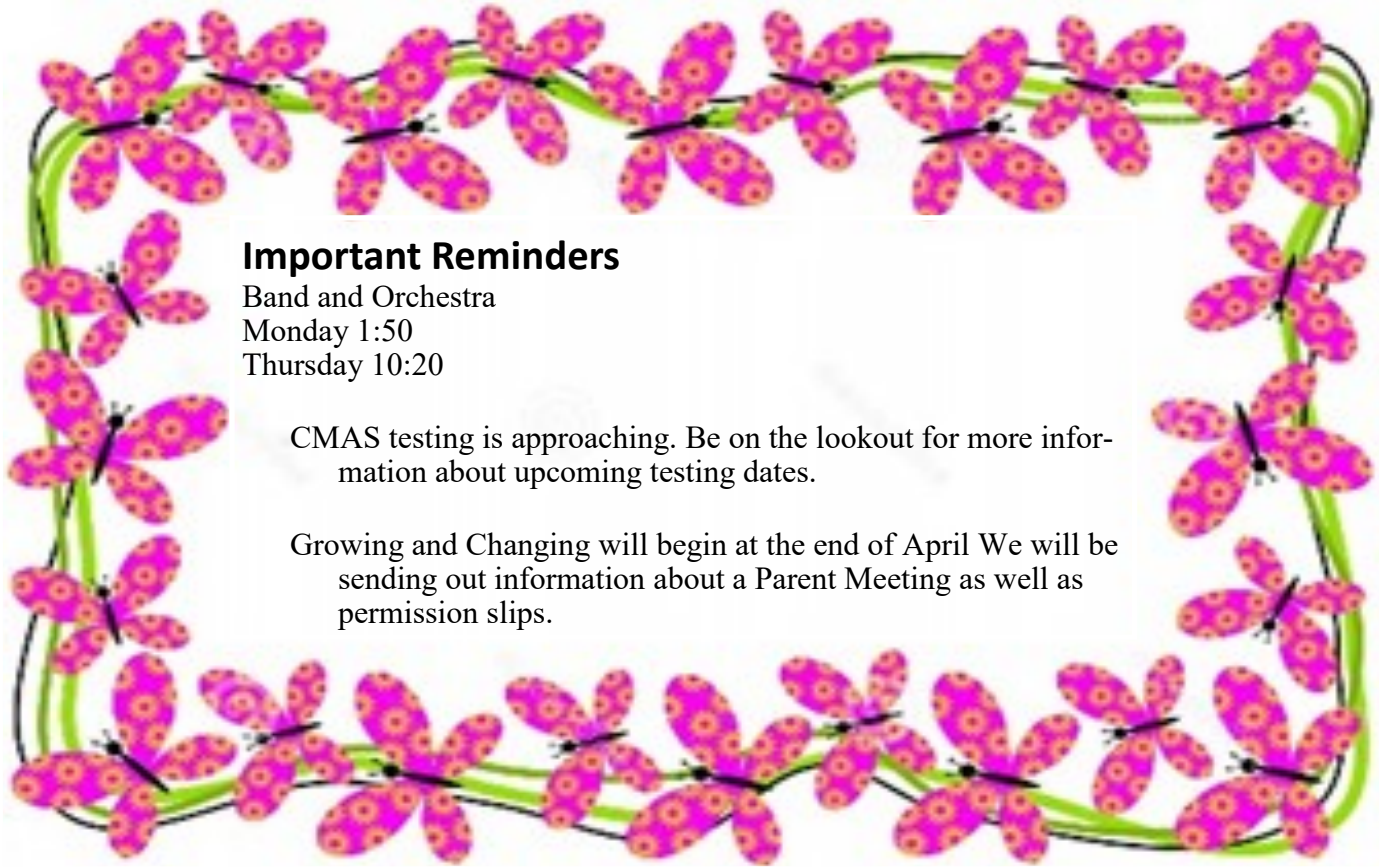




### Important Dates

Ameritowne Field Trip 4/21  
No Student Contact Day 4/22  
NO SCHOOL

# 5th Grade

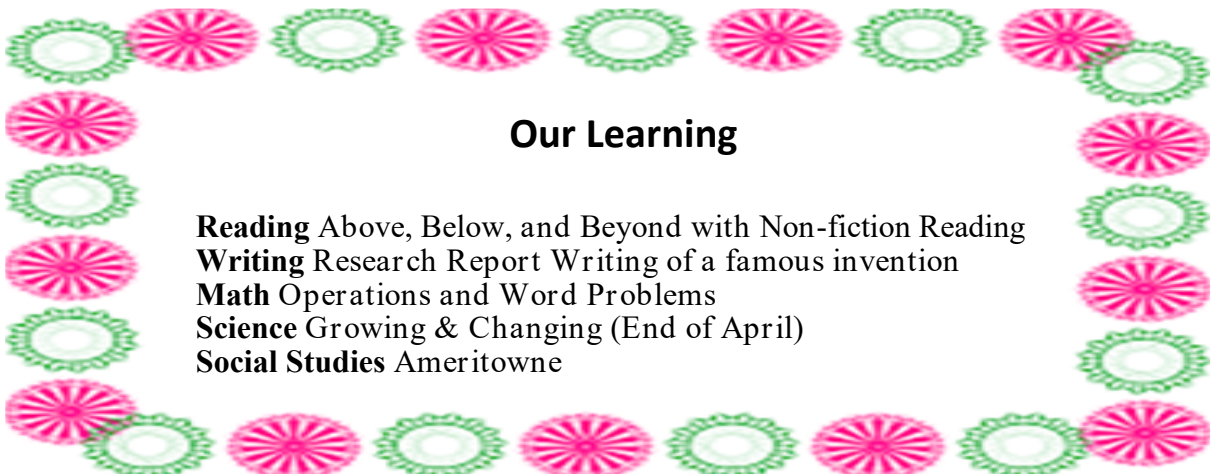


### Important Reminders

Band and Orchestra  
Monday 1:50  
Thursday 10:20

CMAS testing is approaching. Be on the lookout for more information about upcoming testing dates.

Growing and Changing will begin at the end of April We will be sending out information about a Parent Meeting as well as permission slips.



### Our Learning

**Reading** Above, Below, and Beyond with Non-fiction Reading  
**Writing** Research Report Writing of a famous invention  
**Math** Operations and Word Problems  
**Science** Growing & Changing (End of April)  
**Social Studies** Ameritowne

# Foster MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hello Foster Middle School families!

Happy spring! We just started taking our year's CMAS tests and so far the middle schoolers are doing an amazing job! Please make sure your child arrives at school on time, with a full belly and well rested. This will help them be successful with their testing. Here is our schedule for testing for the next few weeks:

March 30th-April 1st: 6th-8th Grade English Language Arts: 9:00-11:00am

April 5th-7th: 6th-8th Grade Mathematics: 9:00-10:15am

April 12th-14th: 8th Grade Science: 9:00-10:30am

Thank you for your support!

## *Social Studies*

6th & 7th grade: We are very excited to finally be able to participate in Young Ameritowne this year. We just began studying the curriculum and will be attending Young Ameritowne on Thursday, April 21st. Stay tuned for more information!

8th grade: We are still in our unit about the American Civil War. We are using this as a backdrop to examine various facets of conflict

## *English Language Arts*

6th grade: We have been enjoying reading a book titled "The Dreamer" by Pam Munoz Ryan and & Peter Sis. The genre of this book is magical realism and it has been fun to compare and contrast various literary elements and examples of figurative language with other texts we have read.

After Spring Break, we will move into an informational writing unit.

7th grade: We have enjoyed an interesting book titled "The Giver" by Lois Lowry. It is a dystopian novel about a fictional community with strong character and setting development. We have been analyzing plot, theme, and a variety of literary elements.

After Spring Break, we will move into an informational writing unit.

8th grade: One of our classes is just wrapping up a reading unit focused on short stories. We have analyzed several different writing styles, discussed the literary elements and figurative language the authors selected and have compared and contrasted these texts to one another.

Another class is just wrapping up a reading unit where we read a great book titled "We Could Be Brothers" by Derrick Barnes. We examined many of the literary elements and the author's style and structure. We had some lively discussions!



## *Spanish Language Arts*

6th grade: We are beginning our final unit of the year, where we will read and write about the joys and challenges of middle school. We are finishing up reading “Wonder” by RJ Palacios and making connections between the challenges and joys the characters in the book face with our day-to-day lives.

7th grade: Students have been working hard on interviewing the staff at Foster and writing feature articles on them for our class newspaper. In addition, students are creating their own human interest, personality features, “The best of” articles, news feature, the “how to” feature, or informational feature.

8th grade: We have just begun our final unit of the year, The Story of the Americas. We will be reading “Enrique's Journey” by Sonia Nazario. This beautiful book tells the story of Enrique, a 17-year-old boy from Honduras who travels to the United States in search of his mother.

All grades: GRAMMAR!

Students are working on conjugating verbs in the imperfect tense. The imperfect tense is used to refer to actions in the past that occurred repeatedly

## *Electives: Art -Pe -Music -Technology -Diversity*

Diversity: We’re wrapping up presentations and they’ve been amazing to participate in. Now, we’re exploring representation and why it’s important. Over the next few weeks, ask your student what they’re creating!

Physical Education: Great job to our third quarter recreational sports class for completing a productive and fun quarter of learning! Fourth quarter’s elective will focus on outdoor recreation, specifically connecting to Colorado and our amazing natural environment. We have guest speakers from the Colorado Mountaineering Club set up to come teach us lessons in slacklining and wilderness safety and some more fun and exciting ways to stay active in the outdoors. If you have expertise or a passion for an outdoor Colorado activity and you’d like to share it with our middle school students, get in touch with Ms. Sammy to be a guest speaker or instructor ASAP!

## *Counselor’s Corner*

7th and 8th grade are wrapping up ICAP (Individual, Career and Academic Planning) lessons. 7th and 8th graders are building resumes and practicing interviewing skills and 8th graders are learning about career clusters. We’re headed to Warren Tech on April 28th, so watch for that permission slip!





Did somebody say art shows?!

Our magnificent Foster artists' have been busy creating some spectacular art! Some of our students currently have their artwork in one of 2 art shows:

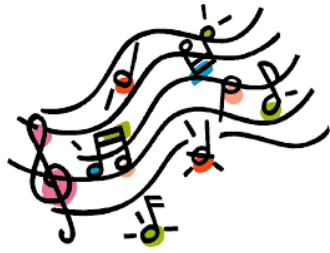
Golden art show

Red Rocks Community College art show

If you happen to be near any of these 2 places and you would like to see some amazing art created by our own students please stop by. If you cannot visit any of those places we have plenty of art in school in our art hallway.







# Music Notes

Katie Oaks - General Music, K-8  
[katie.oaks@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:katie.oaks@jeffco.k12.co.us)

Hello Foster families! Here is what to expect from music classes for the month of April:

For younger elementary students, music classes will focus on the “Spring” movement of Antonio Vivaldi’s *The Four Seasons*. Students will sing and play songs with a spring theme. We will even make our own rainstorm in the music room!

Older elementary students will continue their journey through recorder karate. Foster has plenty of recorders for each student; however, please contact Ms. Katie if you would like to purchase your own. All recorders will be assigned to a specific student and sanitized after each class.

Fifth grade students will continue playing the ukulele in music class. Students will begin to read tablature notation and pick out simple melodies. We will also continue to practice chords in the key of C Major and add chords in G Major, playing songs in both keys.

For Jazz Appreciation Month, middle school students will listen to and learn about famous jazz musicians. Once each week, we will welcome renowned Denver-area guitarist and music educator, David Ochoa, into our classes. Read more about David here: <https://davidchoamusic.com/>

The middle school Quarter 4 elective - “Musicals!” will begin the week before Spring Break. Students will learn what constitutes a musical and choose a children’s story to turn into our very own Foster musical. Stay tuned!





## FitBits: News from the Foster PE Department

Ms. Sammy Chumacero: K-8 PE Teacher

[samanta.chumacero@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:samanta.chumacero@jeffco.k12.co.us)



It's officially fourth quarter and elementary students at Foster are staying active and busy in the gym (and hopefully outside)! The focus for our last units of the year will be centered around sports and skill strategies for striking with implements (i.e. batting sports, racquets sports, paddle sports, hockey sticks, golf clubs etc.). Students did a great job completing their exploration units about the Winter Paralympic games and Olympic games and also improved their skills and strategies for throwing, catching and dribbling.

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser for the American Heart Association this year! We can be proud of the money collected for this great cause. If you earned any of the larger thank you gifts, Ms. Sammy will be receiving those in the mail soon and will deliver them to you at school. Just as a reminder, all donations needed to be turned in by March 18th.

Stay healthy, stay happy!  
Ms. Sammy Chumacero  
K-8 Physical Education



# From the Library

## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Each month, classes address a specific Digital Citizenship topic to ensure our students know and understand how to utilize digital tools in a safe and responsible manner. Families receive monthly resources to support various topics which we hope are helpful in extending this topic into the home setting. April's topic is digital footprint and online identity. Students consider the benefits and risks of online sharing and explore how a digital persona can affect one's sense of self, reputation, and relationships.

More information and family activities can be found on Jeffco's website;

[Digital Wellness Supports for Families](#)

[April Family Letter](#)



## CHROMEBOOKS ALL AROUND

Jeffco has received grant monies to support our one to one technology initiative for our younger students. First and second grade students have all received a Chromebook for school use. We are teaching Chromebook skills such as logging in, bookmarking and accessing websites, using devices in laptop and tablet mode. Currently, first and second graders have both an iPad and Chromebook; we will be making a decision with district guidance soon related to summer access to devices for our younger students. Stay tuned....

## LIBRARY BOOKS

As we near the end of the school year, please make certain your child is returning all library books. If a book is lost or damaged, please alert Foster's library staff. A lost/damaged book fine can be paid before the end of the year. If you are being notified of a lost book that you believe has been returned, please contact the library staff; we can take a look to see if it's back in the collection.

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION BOOKS

Title I recently provided funds to update our collection ensuring there are all types of books that students can relate to. Over 300 books will be added to our collection. Books recommended for middle school students are in a separate section of the library to help us manage checkout for all students. Checking in with your child about what they are reading and reading with them allows families to have those important discussions about what they are read-