



"Touching the Future"



KELLER KANGAROO NEWSLETTER

September, 2009

**Bryan K. Relich
Principal**

Helen Keller School
3730 E. Montebello Drive West
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918
Phone: 719-328-5900
Fax: 719-260-8819
E-mail: relicbk@d11.org

SEPTEMBER HOLIDAYS, TESTING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

LITERACY TESTING DAY: Friday, August 28, is Fall Literacy Assessment Day. Most students will not attend school. Teachers will notify you of the scheduled time if your child is to come to school for testing for a short time-period on this day.

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: Monday, September 7, is Labor Day. There is no school.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY: Friday, September 18, is a Professional Development Day. There is no school for students.

HOLIDAYS, CONFERENCES, WORK AND TRAINING DAYS: Please take a few minutes and mark the following days on your calendar. Students will not attend school on days listed.

FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER
Friday, August 28 - Assessment Day—No school for most students.	Monday, January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Monday, September 7 - Labor Day Holiday	Monday, February 15 - Presidents' Day Holiday
Friday, September 18 - Staff Development Day	
Friday, October 16 – Teacher Work Day	Monday, March 22 through Friday, March 26 - Spring Break
Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30 - Parent/Teacher Conferences	Friday, April 23 - No school for most students.
Wednesday, November 11 - Veteran's Day Holiday	Friday, May 21 - Last day for Keller students.
Wednesday, November 25 through Friday, November 27 - Thanksgiving Break	
Monday, December 21 through Tuesday, January 5 - Winter Break (Staff works Monday, January 4.)	

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Hello and WELCOME BACK to another great school year at Keller School. We are off to a great start and excited that you all have chosen to continue your children's educational experience at Keller in Colorado Springs School District 11. At Keller, we will continue to dedicate our professional efforts as a team to meet the academic needs of our students. This includes a strong focus on the foundation academic skills need to continue to become outstanding young men and women while providing a well-rounded academic approach through the arts, music and physical education programs, while embedding technology into our students learning experiences.

Our outstanding and highly professional educational staff is willing and excited to work with you and your students. Please feel free to contact them directly for help and questions. Please contact me at 328-5900 or relicbk@d11.org.

D11 Board of Education and Dr. Gledich, new D11 Superintendent, Vision, Mission and School Goals

Vision: Every student prepared for a world yet to be imagined.

Mission: Provide excellent, distinctive educational experiences that equip students for success today and in the future.

Goals: Colorado Springs School District 11 will:

1. Demonstrate improvement of student achievement
2. Demonstrate a high-performing team
3. Embrace a culture of constant innovation
4. Communicate and engage frequently with our customers
5. Provide a safe learning a working environment
6. Demonstrate operational efficiencies
7. Demonstrate fiscal prudence and financial responsibility

Action Steps to Prevent the Spread of Flu

These steps should be followed ALL the time and not only during a flu pandemic.

- **Educate and encourage students and staff to cover their mouth and nose** with a tissue when they cough or sneeze. Cover coughs or sneezes using their elbow instead of their hand when a tissue is not available. All D11 employees should model this behavior for students.
- **Remind teacher, staff, and students to practice good hand hygiene.**
- **Send sick students, teachers, and staff home** and advise them and their families that sick people should stay at home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).
- **Clean surfaces and items** that are more likely to have frequent hand contact such as desks, door knobs, keyboards, or pens, with cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas.
- **Move students, teachers, and staff to a separate room** if they become sick at school until they can be sent home.
- **Encourage early medical evaluation for sick students and staff** at higher risks of complications from flu. People at high risk of flu complications who get sick will benefit from early treatment with antiviral medicines.

We will continue to utilize the Keller newsletter to provide our parents, guardians, and community members with valuable information about student and school events that will be held through-out the school year. The newsletter is provided on a monthly basis and please don't hesitate to contact the school with any questions about the information within the newsletter. Please also check our website at www.d11.org/Keller.

Safety Process Up-Date

In an effort to continue to keep our students, staff, and visitors/guests safe during the school day, all of the exterior doors will be locked during the school day. All visitors/guests are expected and welcome to visit and volunteer at Keller by coming through our main front doors, which will remain unlocked through-out the school day. We appreciate your support in advance as we work to continue to maintain a safe and welcoming Keller School environment.

Bus Unloading and Loading Zones

The safety expectation for our buses is to allow them to utilize the second parking lot along the curb for exiting and entering the buses during the school day. We are expected to not park or leave our cars unattended along that sidewalk curb.

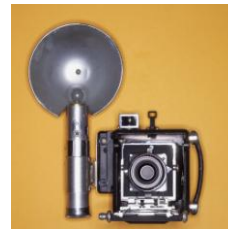
- If parents are uncertain about eligibility for transportation services they can call up school boundary, transportation eligibility and school bus stop information on the D-11 website (School Finder 09/10) at <http://webquery.d11.org/edulog2/webquery/> . Bus stop information will be available starting July 31st.
- Parents of students eligible for district provided transportation services will receive a post card in the mail during the week of August 3 – 7, 2009. The student's bus route, bus stop location, time of departure in the morning and estimated time of return in the afternoon will be provided.
- Drivers will be distributing school bus safety rules and regulations on Monday, Aug 24th. Please review the safety rules with your child, sign and date it and have your child return the form to the bus driver.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK SALE: Is the high cost of gasoline beginning to keep you at home? The annual Entertainment Book sale will kick-off on Monday, August 31. Purchasing an Entertainment Book benefits you and the school. A \$30.00 investment in one of these books can easily save you hundreds of dollars on things like gas, groceries, movies, restaurants, skiing and more. Plan to help support our school by participating in this year's Entertainment Book sale.

PROJECT SCHOOL BELL & STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE: Parents who are in need of health insurance, clothes and/or winter coats for their children can call Mrs. Gloria Peluso at 328-5906. She has information on School Bell for new clothing. CHP+ is a low cost health insurance for children who have no other means of health care coverage and do not qualify for Medicaid. Please call as soon as possible as appointments for School Bell are limited.

SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Children should plan to dress their best for School Picture Day on Wednesday, October 7.



BEGINNING BAND AND STRINGS PROGRAM



Band instrument instruction is offered for interested 5th grade students. Mr. Mark Rose is the Band Instructor. String instrument (orchestra) instruction is available for interested students in the 4th and 5th grade. Mr. John Michael is the Orchestra Instructor.

Students may participate in the Band or Strings program, not both. Information has been distributed in all 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Fees are \$45.00 per year. Reduced rates are available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunches. Feel free to contact Mr. Michael or Mr. Rose through the school office if you have any questions.



KELLER SPIRIT SHIRTS

Keller Spirit Day is the last Friday of each month. Catch the Keller spirit by wearing our school's colors and logo. If you would like a shirt, complete the form that is attached to this newsletter and send it, with payment, back to school. The office has extra forms, if needed. We should be able to fit most sizes immediately. Additionally, shirts will be sold during the Keller Open House.

IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

If your children are new to Helen Keller School and you have not completed the immunization information required by the state of Colorado, please see that we receive this information as soon as possible.

PTA INFORMATION

TICKETS FOR TIME AND VOLUNTEERS: There is always a need for volunteers. Be sure to complete your Tickets for Time volunteer forms will be sent home soon. Tickets for Time should be returned to the school office as soon as possible. We appreciate all our Keller volunteers!

2009 - 10 PTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Back to school means it is time for our PTA Membership Drive. Keller has one of the most active PTA's in the city of Colorado Springs helping make Keller a special school. Be watching for additional membership information that will be sent home, soon. Please support Keller's PTA through your membership.

MONTHLY PTA MEETING: The September PTA meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th due to the Labor Day holiday, at 6:30 p.m. in the library. This is an important meeting as we will be finalizing our proposed budget and planning the fall schedule. During the school year, PTA Meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 - 8:00 p. m. (except December), in the Library. All interested parents are always welcome.

FALL BOOK FAIR: The PTA is sponsoring our annual Fall Book Fair beginning Monday, September 21, through the Open House on Thursday evening, September 24.

All classes will have a scheduled time to view the books during the school day. Times will be established so children may purchase books before and after school. The Book Fair will be open during Open House for adult viewing. All proceeds are donated to the school Library for the purchase of new books. This is a great way to help out the school as well as get a head start on Christmas shopping.

Book Fair



KELLER FALL OPEN HOUSE AND PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: On Thursday, September 24, plan to attend the Fall PTA General Membership Meeting from 6:30 - 7:00 p. m. in the Gym. The Keller Staff and PTA officers will be introduced. PTA activities will be outlined and the 2009 - 10 budget will be submitted for approval. From 7:00 - 8:00 p. m., all Keller families, Preschool through Fifth Grade, are invited to see the classrooms, visit teachers and view student work. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the school and to meet your child's teacher. The Book Fair will be open throughout Keller's Open House.

FALL PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: The following people have been elected to serve as PTA Officers for 2009 - 10:

- President—Valerie Gallegos and Rich Houde
- First Vice President — Tabatha Chesire and Dannette Houde (co-Officers)
- Second Vice President — Sylvie Cimino and Melanie Flowers (co-Officers)
- Third Vice President — Bryan K. Relich
- Treasurer — Liz Clement and Stephanie Weisburg (co-Officers)
- Secretary — Stacy Eller and Megan Smith (co-Officers)

KELLER FAMILY SKATE NIGHT: All Keller families are invited to join us for the first family skating party of the new school year on Monday, October 5. Family skate nights are held from 6:00 - 8:00 p. m. at Skate City, 4575 Austin Bluffs Parkway. Cost is \$4.00 per skater, which includes skate rental. Parents as well as children are invited to skate. Attending Keller Family Skate Nights are a fun tradition and a great recreational activity for the entire family. Plan, now, to join us.

PARENTING WITH LOVE AND LOGIC CLASS: The Keller PTA will be sponsoring a "Parenting With Love & Logic" parenting class to be held on Tuesday, October 20, 23 (Monday due to Thanksgiving break), 27 and November 3, 10, 17 and December 1 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Be watching for more information on this program which will be sent home soon. Daycare will be provided. We will also be offering another class in the spring; January 12, 19, 26 and February 2, 9, 16 and 23.

JOIN THE KELLER BAAC COMMITTEE

If you have ever wondered how school goals are set, programs adopted, test scores assessed, a School Improvement Plan developed and what the expectations are of all staff and students at Helen Keller School, then the Keller Building Advisory Accountability Committee is the perfect spot for you to volunteer one hour per month! Please call Mrs. Sara Miller, Assistant Principal or Mr. Bryan K. Relich, Principal at 328-5903 if you are interested!

CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Mrs. Jenny Rice, PE teacher, is excited to announce that intramurals will be starting. We will be starting the year off with cross country. Practice will begin on September 8th, and will be held on Monday's and Wednesday's before school at 7:25 a.m. There will be a fee of \$10.00 for all participants. Any student from Kindergarten through 5th grade is welcome to participate in intramurals. Parents are responsible for providing or arranging transportation to and from all events, including practice. The last practice will be on Wednesday, October 12th and the last meet will be on October 13th. If you have any additional questions please call Mrs. Rice at 328-5925 or email at courtjl@d11.org.



SAFETY



SAFETY IN SCHOOL ZONES AND PARKING LOTS: In our hurry to get our children to and from school and get ourselves to work we need to remember to be safe in school zones. When we speed in a school zone we run the risk of seriously injuring a child. When we leave our cars parked and unattended in a fire zone we impede emergency personnel's access to our children and our school in the event of an emergency. When we park in crosswalks we create a barrier for our children to cross streets and parking lots in a safe manner. Please help out:

- ✓ Do use "extra" caution in any school zone.
- ✓ Do park in designated parking spaces. Don't park in the school's crosswalks or alongside the curb.
- ✓ Do take your time, don't be in a hurry, **be patient and drop your child at the curb.**
- ✓ Do set a good example for our children by following all traffic laws.
- ✓ Do use front lanes as a "drop off & pick up zone."
- ✓ Do stop parallel with the curb.
- ✓ Principal/Principal designee may ask everyone to adhere to safety rules and expectations.
- ✓ Do use the crosswalk when moving through parking lot.

The Colorado Springs Police Department **does** patrol school zones and has issued tickets to patrons of Keller. If you are caught speeding in a school zone, the fine is doubled. If you park in a fire zone, the fine is sizeable. Please set the example for our children in how **YOU** behave in the school zone. You are their first teacher and your children are watching! Thank you for setting the right example.

SEGURIDAD EN LA ZONA ESCOLAR Y LOS ESTACIONAMIENTOS DE LA ESCUELA: En nuestro apuro por dejar y recoger a nuestros niños e ir a nuestros lugares de trabajos debemos recordar las normas de seguridad en la zona escolar. Cuando manejamos a una velocidad alta en la zona escolar corremos el riesgo de herir gravemente a un niño. Cuando dejamos nuestros vehículos estacionados en lugares de emergencia, impedimos el acceso a los servicios y personal de emergencia a nuestros niños y a la escuela en caso de emergencia. Cuando estacionamos sobre los cruces para peatones, creamos una barrera que impide a nuestros niños cruzar las calles y estacionamientos sin riesgos. Haga el favor de ayudarnos: Preste más atención a todas las zonas escolares.

- Estacione solamente en los lugares designados para estacionar. No estacione en los cruces para peatones o a lo largo de los cordones (curb).
- Tómese el tiempo, no se apure, **tenga paciencia y deje su niño en la vereda.**
- Sea un buen ejemplo para su niño siguiendo las normas de tránsito.
- Use los lugares adecuados para dejar y recoger a su niño.
- Estacione paralelo al cordón de la calle.
- El Director o Personal que el haya asignado tienen autoridad para reforzar las normas de seguridad.
- Solamente use los cruces para peatones (crosswalk) cuando camine por los estacionamientos.

La Policía de Colorado Springs patrulla la escuela y da multas a los que no obedecen las normas de tránsito en la zona escolar. La multa es doble para los que manejan a una velocidad mayor que la permitida en las zonas escolares. Si se lo multa por estacionar en las zonas para servicio de emergencia la multa es MUCHO MAYOR. Qué su comportamiento en las zonas escolares sea un buen ejemplo para nuestros niños. ¡Ustedes son los primeros maestros y sus niños los están observando! Les agradecemos por dar un buen ejemplo.

HELEN KELLER SCHOOL

T-SHIRT & SWEAT SHIRT ORDER FORM

Join the Keller Spirit. Keller T-shirts are now available. The last Friday school is in session each month is Keller Spirit Day. Many of our students and staff members will wear our school's shirt on this and on other days.

Please attach a check payable to "Keller School" for each shirt ordered. The shirts are a 50/50 cotton blend so buy larger than normal for longer-wear.

See Mrs. Boyle in the Library if you would like to view a shirt and for more information on sizing. Also, a supply of shirts will be available during Keller's Open House on Thursday, September 24.

STUDENT NAME 1: _____

HOMEROOM TEACHER: _____

STUDENT NAME 2: _____

HOMEROOM TEACHER: _____

CHILDREN'S SIZES

MEDIUM T-SHIRT, SIZE 10-12 @ \$8.00 each

QUANTITY

TOTAL

LARGE T-SHIRT, SIZE 14-16 @ \$8.00 each

ADULT SIZES

SMALL T-SHIRT, SIZE 34-36 @ \$8.00 each

MEDIUM T-SHIRT, SIZE 38-40 @ \$8.00 each

LARGE T-SHIRT, SIZE 42-44 @ \$8.00 each

XTRA LARGE T-SHIRT, SIZE 46-48 @ \$9.00 each

GRAND TOTAL

(CHECKS SHOULD BE PAYABLE TO "KELLER SCHOOL.")