



STEELE STARS!

Steele Elementary School
 1720 N. Weber Street
 Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Attendance: 328-4703
 Main Office: 328-4700
 Fax Number: 630-0232

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2 Choice Permit Window Opens	3 Election Day After School Enrichment - 2:45-3:45 pm	4 Daisies, Art Room - 2:45- 3:30 pm	5 Brownies, Art Room 2:45-4:00 pm	6 Picture Retakes PTA Ice Cream Celebration, Gym - 2:30- 3:00 pm	7 
8	9	10 Health Rescreening USW/PTA Mtg. 2:45-3:45 pm, Community Ctr. After School Enrichment, 2:45-3:45 pm	11 NO SCHOOL Veteran's Day	12 Fire Drill, 9:30 am Cub Scouts , Art Room, - 2:45 - 4:15 pm	13	14
15	16	17 After School Enrichment 2:45-3:45 pm BAAC Mtg., Community Ctr. - 7:00-8:00 pm	18 Daisies, Art Room - 2:45- 3:30 pm	19 Shakespeare Mtg., Library, 2:45-3:15 pm Brownies, 2:45-4 pm Skate City Night 6- 8:00 pm 	20	21
22	23	24 After School Enrichment, 2:45-3:45 pm	25 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL	26 Thanksgiving NO SCHOOL	27 Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL	28
29 	30					

Principal's Corner

Parent-Teacher Conferences were a huge success and thank you for coming; we appreciate your support! School surveys were handed out at conferences, and if you have more than one child at Steele you received one from each teacher. The staff and I hope you took the time to fill them out! If you did not have time to fill out the survey on your conference day, you can still fill it out and drop in the box by the office. The results will be compiled by District 11 and posted on our website. The staff and I take your comments very seriously, and appreciate the feedback from each of you!

I have been looking at our first quarter data regarding the number of students that are late everyday to school! The average number of tardy students on any day in October was TWELVE, which represents about 4% of our students and that is way too high! On several days there were TWENTY tardy students! This impacts teachers and those students who are on time greatly! Being on time affords boys and girls time to interact with their friends on the playground, greet their teacher, and be ready at their desks when instruction begins. Being late to school means starting the day in a hurry, interrupting class, missing important classroom opening procedures, and sometimes coming into class and finding the rest of the class are gone to PE, Music, Art class, in the library or even on a field trip! An occasional tardy is understandable, but habitual tardiness can be avoided and is disrespectful to teachers, staff, and those here on time, eager and ready to start the day! It might take a new alarm clock, making lunches & laying out clothes the night before, or just going to bed earlier, but whatever it takes, **please make sure your child/children are at Steele on time each day!** You will be laying the groundwork for success, as well as building life-long good habits!

Hope everyone remembered to turn back their clocks and that is a sure sign that winter is around the corner and snow on the way! Remember, dress your children warmly in layers, because they will go outside for recess most days unless the wind chill measures 15 degrees or less. Just a few minutes break outside makes a significant difference in attitude, productivity, and keeps us healthy, too!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Georganne Barnes
Principal



Please check the Lost & Found whenever you are in the building for items that may belong to your children. By checking on a regular basis we may be able to keep our Lost & Found closet from overflowing.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

If you have questions about your child's lunch account, please call the lunchroom manager, Mrs. Alirez-Mimm, at 328-4732 and leave a message. She will return your call as soon as she can. District 11 Food and Nutrition Services has a website containing healthy recipes, nutrition tidbits, fun food facts and healthy lifestyle web sites that may be interesting for both students and parents. Visit this web site at www.cssd11.k12.co.us/fns/nutrition_tidbits.htm.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please continue to clip and send in your Box Tops for Education. Box tops can be found on hundreds of products. Visit www.boxtops4education.com for a complete list of participating products. Collecting box tops is an easy way to earn cash for our school at no additional cost to you. A collection bag is located in the hallway next to the office.

SCHOOL CHOICE WINDOW

The choice window for enrollment in District 11 will begin on **Monday, November 2, 2009**, and close **Monday, February 1, 2010**. If your child is currently a student on permit at Steele, and will be attending Steele next school year, please stop by the office as soon as possible

This STEELE STAR of mine,
I'm going to make it SHINE!



Have you heard of
POSITIVE BEHAVIOR
SUPPORT (PBS)?

Do you recognize OUR
STAR poster?

Do you know about SECOND
STEPS, Steele's non-violence
curriculum?

Come find out all about these
Topics at the next BAAC
MEETING! Wednesday, Nov. 17!
7:00 – 8:00 PM in the Library

IMPORTANT PARENT REMINDERS

The parking lot between the mural wall and the alley is for District 11 staff parking only. Also, please do not park in the alley where the "No Parking" signs are posted or where you could be blocking our neighbors' access to their driveways or garages. Also, the medical building across the street on Weber has asked that parents not park in their parking lot as this space is limited and for patient parking only. We know that parking can be hard to find, especially before and after school, but perhaps by carpooling or arriving a few minutes earlier, some of the congestion can be alleviated.

on or after November 2 to fill out a permit for the 2010/2011 school year. All Steele neighborhood children are guaranteed enrollment at Steele. If you have friends who are interested in attending Steele, please tell them that they may come to the school office on or after November 2 to fill out a permit request and have their child's name put on a waiting list. We are proud of the fact that Steele Elementary is a great place for children to learn!

Las noticias de español

¡Muchas gracias! Thank you for sending in photos for our display of El día de los muertos. The display has been a beautiful way to remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. It has allowed students to see how people celebrate el día de los muertos. I will continue to display the photos through the first week of November. If you have not had to chance to see it, please come by the library.

Also in November, I will send home a Spanish Scholastic book order form if you are interested in getting books in Spanish for your child. The orders need to be returned to me by November 12. That way you can get your books by December.

Lori Eick



HARVEST OF LOVE

Did you ever think about not getting enough to eat for months? Some people have to deal with that. Fifteen Percent of the children in Colorado Springs are living in poverty!

Mrs. Graber's and Mrs. Nielsen-Drake's 4th grade classes are sponsoring the Harvest of Love Food Drive for Care and Share. It begins **Monday, November 2nd through November 20th**. All classes K-5 are collecting cans of food, non-perishable food items like dried milk, boxed macaroni and cheese, canned meats, and dried drinks like Gatorade. Also, if you give \$1.00, it can buy 10 pounds of food or provide 5 meals for one person. Wow, isn't that amazing? Can you help us by bringing in food or donating some money?

By Johanna Gilkes and other 4th graders

THANKSGIVING LUNCH

Parents, Grandparents, and friends are invited to come and eat Thanksgiving lunch with us on **Thursday, November 19**. The menu will include turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, rolls, cranberry sauce and

pumpkin cake. The cost is \$1.95 for children and \$2.75 for adults. Steele students may use their lunch cards; however, siblings and adults must pay as they go. **Please RSVP if you and your family will be attending by calling the lunchroom at 328-4732.**

Calling All Shakespearean Actors!



Hear ye, hear ye, Lords and Ladies of the Fifth-Grade Realm! This year's Shakespeare production will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This will be the 20th anniversary of Shakespeare at Steele School! **There will be a very important meeting for all interested fifth-graders and their parents on November 19th.** The meeting will be held in the royal book chamber (library) right after school. Please attend to receive information about the program, a synopsis of the play, some background information, and the all-important audition scene. So, mark thy calendar: information meeting on November 19th and audition on December 1st after school. Any questions? You may email Mrs. Montoya at montodt@d11.org.

Huzzah!

MUSIC NOTES FROM MS. VANESSA STAUFFER, Music Education Specialist

Steele Bands

The Steele Band students have been working very hard and are preparing for their first concert which will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 15th at 7:00 pm in the gym for parents, family & friends. Band students should arrive at 6:30 in the music room, in concert dress (black & white), for attendance & warming up. We hope to be joined by bands from Palmer H.S. & their new director, Mr. Dale Crockett. There will be a school assembly for Steele students & staff that morning from 8:15-9:15 featuring the bands, orchestras & "Rising Stars" Choir. This will be our only dress rehearsal so everyone is needed in order to make the evening concerts successful. Be looking for the concert selections hand-out your child received the first week of November to know what to practice for the concert. We look forward to sharing our progress with you at our first concert!

4th Grade Saxophones, Brass & Percussion students switched class time to 7:15-7:50 am on October 19th for the 2nd Quarter. We still have some students not attending or coming very late which is affecting their learning progress. If some families wanted to carpool to help make sure all students attend & are on time, let me know or tell your child to talk to classmates, and we'll all work together to help each other. We were off to a great start & we need to continue the progress despite the scheduling sacrifices. Thank you for your help & support! The schedule will change back January 7th for the 3rd Quarter.

All band students were required to start tracking & recording their practice time on the practice cards distributed during 1st Quarter. Many are demonstrating their dedication to practicing & the efforts show during class instruction. Some are not following through and their grade will be affected for 2nd Quarter by not recording their time, having a parent validate with their signature/initials, and then forgetting to turn the cards in on Tuesdays to be recorded in the grade book. Please help your child develop a schedule to practice and be responsible for completing their practice cards and turning them in on Tuesdays. Everyone should begin to see increased success quickly. Thank you for your help with this responsibility.

"Rising Stars" Choir

Our school choir has approximately 40 members so far this year with about 28 attending regularly. I am thrilled with their enthusiasm, music reading & harmonizing skills, and willingness to try just about anything I challenge them with! We have almost learned three songs so far, two with choreography, and have two or three more to try and polish before their first concert in December. Their first school concert is Wednesday, Dec. 16th at 7:00 pm, and will be shared with our Steele orchestras. The choir will also perform in the All School Assembly on Tuesday, Dec. 15th from 8:15-9:15 in the gym with the bands & orchestras. This will be their only dress rehearsal so everyone will be needed in order for their concert to be successful.

Order forms for choir uniform shirts will be sent home at the November 5th rehearsal & should be returned no later than November 19th. Please read order forms carefully to complete & return with a check payment by Nov. 19th. We will use our shirts with black pants/jeans/skirts in all concerts throughout the rest of the year.

"Rising Stars" Choir has been invited to lead the caroling for the Old North End Association's annual gathering which is on Saturday, Dec. 12th from 1:00-3:00 pm in Steele's Gazebo. Choir members will need to meet in the

music room at 1:30 pm for attendance, vocal warm-ups, & review of songs they will lead out in the gazebo beginning at 2:00 pm. The association will provide hot cocoa & goodies as well as visiting with Santa Claus. Please look for the RSVP form your child will receive at the November 19th rehearsal so that I know how many singers, soloists, etc., & the number of family members attending to help with preparing enough beverages & goodies for all to enjoy! This will be our only caroling event this year - let's hope for warmer weather than last year! ☺

I'm truly enjoying working with all Steele Star students exploring music fine arts this year! I thank you for the opportunity to share my love of music with your child & look forward to seeing you at our concerts & community events. Please feel free to call anytime if you have questions or need more information - 328-4755. When we return from Thanksgiving Break my name will have changed to Mrs. Leiker as I'm getting married Nov. 28th. The Steele Stars are divided in what they want to call me, but I told them it won't matter this year as long as it wasn't "Hey you...." when they can't remember! I hope you all have a very safe & Happy Thanksgiving with your families & friends!



SKATE CITY

Please join us at Skate City on **Thursday, November 19**, for an evening of recreation and fun from **6:00 to 8:00 pm**. Watch for flyers to come home in your student's backpack.

OFFERS FROM CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Throughout the year, a number of charitable organizations (Operation School Bell, Holy Apostles, Brown Bag, and Giving Tree Social Ministries, our own USW, and others) make offers to support families facing hardship. The schools are occasionally contacted regarding offerings such as children's clothing, school supplies, holiday gifts &/or food, and more.

If you are interested in getting information about these offers, please call Lori Sampson, School Psychologist, at 328-4738, or let the office staff know.. A confidential list will be kept and you will be contacted as opportunities arise.

TARGET'S "TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION PROGRAM"

Remember that when you use your Target® Visa® or Target® Card (REDcard), Steele will receive a percentage

of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation from Target through the Take Charge of Education® program. It's easy. Just visit target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. Our School ID# is **37273**. Don't have a REDcard? It's easy to apply. Just pop into any Target store to apply in person or go to Target.com/apply and apply instantly online. So if you're going to Target anyway, please consider using your Target® Visa® or Target® Card. Big thanks to those who are already doing their part to make a great school even better.

- Grandparents, alumni, neighbors and friends are all welcome to participate in this program.
- Check out Target.com/tcoe to find out how much money our school has already received.

HEALTH SCREENING

The vision and Hearing screening was held on Friday, October 23. Re-screening day will be held Tuesday, November 10, for students who failed or were absent on the first screening date. This is a state-mandated program which screens all students for vision and hearing problems. A letter will be sent home to notify parents if their child failed the vision or hearing screening. A special thank you goes to Kate D'Arcy for helping out as our "Health Screening Chairperson" this year.

USW/PTA CORNER

Another busy month... The PTA completed a record-breaking Used Book Sale raising \$577. All of this money has been given directly to the Steele Library. A big thank you goes out to Ann Dickey and Alicia Earls, along with all the other volunteers for making this event possible

The USW/PTA By-Laws have been revised thanks to Tasha Norman. The By-Laws are now available for review, and will be approved at our next meeting. The big change to be made aware of is the proposal to increase dues from \$5.75 to \$10.00. The proposal was made to add a local portion of \$4.25 which would be retained by the USW/PTA. Special thanks to Shauna Prince for getting our membership in order, and to Kate D'Arcy for coordinating the Health Screening along with Kat Seibert, Karen Gilkes, Bobby Grice, Jacquelyn Puett, and Ann Cintron, who assisted with the screenings.

Beauty is... is the theme for the Reflections program. All entries are due November 20th. I know we have a tremendous amount of talent here at Steele; so get your students interested in the theme and have them submit a photograph, picture, poem, story, dance, or musical piece. They will be so glad they did. Deb Mahan is doing a great job coordinating the Reflections program. Please contact Deb with any questions.

The PTA direct donation fundraiser continues until November 6th. Beverly Frisbie and Lila Wrubel have been spearheading this effort. It is a tough assignment and they have been so diligent to ensure that we collect the money necessary to fund our programs, Thank You! We still have a ways to go towards reaching our goal so please give to Spanish, the Library, PTA Focus Day, and teachers supplies. We will celebrate the end of the fundraiser with an Ice Cream Social in the gym after school on November 6th. This event will be open to All students and families. Please come and celebrate your support of our school.

Looking for someone to chair the PTA Focus Day, Cool Science, which will be January 29, 2010. Please let me know if you would like to or if you have any questions about this day at 633-4610. Hope to see you at the next PTA meeting, Tuesday, November 10 at 2:45!!

Debbie Van Orden
USW President

Coming in December 2009:

Dec. 1	Shakespeare Auditions	Dec. 15:	All School Assembly with 4 th /5 th Bands & Orchestras & "Rising Stars" Choir 8:15-9:15 am
Dec. 8:	PTA Meeting - 2:45 pm		
Dec. 15:	4 th /5 th Band Winter Concert 7:00-8:00 pm		
Dec. 16:	4 th /5 th Orchestras & "Rising Stars Choir" Winter Concerts 7:00-8:00 pm		
Dec. 18:	All School Winter Sing-a-Long - 1:30-2:15 pm		
Dec 21-Jan 5:	Winter Break - No School		