January 2020

Kyffin Elementary is a collaborative community that uses innovative teaching and learning opportunities to maximize student growth and individual success.

Kyffin School Website
Kyffin School Calendar
Jeffco Breakfast & Lunch Menus

Cougar Tracks

Kyffin Elementary
205 Flora Way Golden, Colorado 80401
Main Office: 303-982-5760 Attendance: 303-982-5759

Message from the Principal...

Dear Kyffin Families,

Welcome back, and Happy New Year! It’s hard to believe that we are already half way through the school year. Although we haven’t had any new snow yet this year, our early season snow was the cause of many slips and falls. Please take a few extra moments on your way to school, in our parking lot, and on our stairs to move cautiously these next few months. Our warm days and cold nights can often produce challenges getting to and from school as well as potential slippery areas.

As we move through this trimester, we will continue to focus on our school goals and on continual improvement. We believe that this happens through collaboration, data collection and analysis, and changes of instructional practice based on student results. It is this intense focus on student learning that we utilize to improve outcomes for all students. Currently 55% of students have met their end of year math goals, and 60% of students have met their reading goals in MAP. You should have received your child’s specific MAP data recently in Friday Folders. This compares how your child is growing compared to our district and to students across the nation. Although this information is utilized to make adjustments for individuals, small groups, whole class, and throughout the school, it is important to understand that this is just one way we measure success.

continued...
Message from the Principal, continued...

We believe in the utilization of multiple data points to make instructional decisions, and we believe that a body of evidence best measures student growth and individual success. This allows for innovative approaches to ensuring we are supporting the skills defined in our Jeffco Generations document.

Now that the New Year is upon us, we have begun our initial budget planning for the 2020-2021 school year. The School Accountability Committee provided input on 1/13/20 on ideas for what to consider for budget priorities for next year. Stay tuned for more specific information following our first round of Choice Enrollment. This information supports the development of our preliminary budget including staffing and the allocation of resources.

Other important information:

- Spring Conferences: February 11 and 12 by appointment only. All families are welcome to attend whether teachers indicate a meeting is necessary or not. Please check in your child(ren)’s teacher with any questions you might have.

- Report Cards: The second trimester ends on February 21. Therefore, report cards will come home on February 28 (Not February 21 as previously communicated)

- Dogs on school property: For the safety of all students including those with allergies and various comfort levels, we ask that you please make other arrangements and do not bring your pets on school property. Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

- Talent Show: Please come support this great showcase of our student’s multi-faceted abilities on January 23.

Thank you for all that you do to support our learning community. It is a privilege and an honor to serve as your principal. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Jim Havens
Principal
Important Dates

FEBRUARY

4  PTA Meeting 5:30-6:30pm
7  Class Pictures
2/10-2/13  Book Fair
11-12  Spring Conferences 3:30-7:00
13  Coffee with the Principal 8:15am
13  Valentine’s Parties 2:00pm
14  Teacher Work Day-NO SCHOOL
17  President’s Day-NO SCHOOL
21  2nd Trimester Ends
26  Restaurant Night Fundraiser Teriyaki Madness 4:00 – 9:00
27  Oral Interpretation Ceremony - family presentation 5:30-7:30
28  Kid’s Heart Challenge
     2nd Trimester Report Cards Go Home

MARCH

2  Read Across America Observed Day
3  PTA Meeting 5:30-6:30pm
9  SAC Meeting 5:30
13  ELF Training #5, 8:15 – 9:15
23-27  Spring Break-NO SCHOOL

* Please see page 12 for the 2020-2021 school year calendar. We hope this will help for planning vacations during school breaks.

* Flex testing days have not been decided as of now.

2nd Round Choice Enrollment period is 1/21 until August 2020.
Kyffin Super Spellers

Congratulations to Norah Sutton for winning the Kyffin Spelling Bee! Norah and Emiko Mukai were our top two spellers and will represent Kyffin at the Golden Spelling Bee on January 30. Way to go super spellers!

Art Room

Parents of Kyffin Artists:

I'm here to talk about something I'm sure you've encountered since your student artist has been at Kyffin: STAINS. Kyffin artists are always welcome to wear a paint shirt in the art room and they know where to find them, but I don't always make them mandatory. The majority of materials used in the art room are non-permanent and will release from fabrics with care. Anytime permanent materials are present (very rarely) I make the paint shirts mandatory. I have some recommendations for some powerful stain removers I've used in the past in my own clothing (you can imagine I have many stains as well):

[Insert images of stain removers]

https://tinyurl.com/wbuu8cr  
https://tinyurl.com/qmduqp8

As always let me know if you have questions or concerns!

Email: Kelly.Ahlers@jeffco.k12.co.us

Instagram: @ms.ahlersartroom
PE Shorts

- **What are we working on in PE?**
  - **5th grade:** We’ve finished up game creation in 5th grade, and gotten to play all of our games! Super fun!!
  - **All grades:** For the months of January and February, we’ll be learning and practicing Basketball and Jump Rope skills as we support the American Heart Association through the Kids Heart Challenge!

- **Mindful Moments**
  - In PE, we’ve been spending a few minutes during each lesson learning about ways to increase our general mindfulness. We’ve been applying this practice to our PE learning, and making connections to how we can use these skills outside the gym.
    - This past month our focus has been on Kindness and Gratitude. We’ve been working on specific mental focus towards these two positive traits!

**Kids Heart Challenge!!**

- As I’m sure a lot of you remember, Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart officially changed it’s name to **KIDS HEART CHALLENGE** last year. This program supports the American Heart Association and Kyffin has a LONG tradition of support for this great organization! This year, our school goal is to raise $10,000 for the AHA. Last year we raised an amazing $8,800! Our Kickoff assembly is at the end of January, and we will raise money all throughout the month of February. Help Kyffin make a difference!

**OH! Bonus**- Do you remember the challenge that Mr. Havens and Mr. Kinner did at the completion of our fundraising last year??? There’s going to be something equally funny this year! Stay tuned for the amazing details :) 

Stay Fit!
PRRS:

Kindness & Empathy

Kindness and Empathy are skills that we can grow and develop. At Kyffin, we recognize and work on these skill areas in a number of ways including with our PRRS, our classroom Circles, our classroom communities, and with our Social Emotional Learning activities. This week, Kyffin joined in No Name Calling Week and reviewed being kind and using nice words. We encouraged students to sign the "I pledge to use kind words" pledge, we learned about kindness through story, we shared compliment cards, and we encouraged wearing the color yellow to support kindness. At home, you can encourage kindness and empathy when you model helping others, when you have your kids help donate unused items, by talking about when you notice them being kind and thoughtful, and by talking about how different situations could make others feel. Reading books related to these topics is also a fun way. Kyffin’s library and the local libraries are good resources. Some books on kindness and empathy are: *Kindness is Cooler*, *Mrs. Ruler* By Margery Cuyler; *The Kindness Quilt* By Nancy Elizabeth Wallace; *A Chair for My Mother* By Vera B Williams; *Those Shoes* By Maribeth Boelts; *The Invisible Boy* By Trudy Ludwig; *The Bicycle Man* By Allen Say; *Do Unto Otters* By Laurie Keller; *Stand In My Shoes* By Bob Somson; *Zen Ties* By Jon J Mut.

Recently, our PRRS program added “tickets” which are given to students showing their PRRS at lunch, recess, and other times they are outside the classroom. These tickets are turned in and each week one name per grade level is drawn to join in the activity for that month. January’s activity is “slime and selfies”. We are off to a great start as students have been very excited to earn these tickets.
PTA Info - What's Coming Up Next…

PTA Registration in Membership Toolkit - Support Our School and Students by Becoming a PTA Member Today!

Join the Kyffin PTA for exclusive access to our secure online directory and also receive our weekly E-Blast filled with helpful reminders, updates, and volunteer opportunities. Please visit kyffinpta.org for more info!

PTA Meeting - Tuesday February 4 @ 5:30pm - Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please join us for the next PTA meeting. Attending these meetings is a great way to learn information about what is happening at Kyffin, discuss what areas need our help, find out how you can get involved, meet other parents and make connections. Everyone is welcome to attend and we hope to see you there.

The February 4th PTA meeting will Include a special guest presentation by Executive Director of Security and Emergency Management for Jeffco Public Schools, John McDonald, discusses school safety.

John is recognized internationally as the architect of the post Columbine High School tragedy security and emergency management plan. John has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the White House as an expert on active shooter preparedness and emergency planning, and has managed several school-based crisis. He is the founder of ERCM Consultants, LLC that provides threat management, emergency response and physical security assessment services for educational institutions and law enforcement agencies. In 2015, John was named a Community Game Changer by CBS News for his work protecting kids.

PTA Needs You!! - PTA Executive Board Positions Are Up For Election This Spring

The PTA Executive Board positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary are all up for election this Spring. Each position is a two year term. Please see the Kyffin PTA Executive Board Expectations document for more details regarding each positions commitments. Nominees will be announced at the March 3rd PTA meeting and formal voting will be held at the April 7th meeting. Serving on the PTA board is a VERY rewarding way to get involved and give back to our Kyffin community. Please contact Tina Galterio at tgalterio@gmail.com if you are interested in more information or would like to be considered for a position.

Get your Safeway Reloadable gift cards and help support Kyffin!

Use Smile.Amazon.com when you shop at Amazon to help raise funds for Kyffin!

Check out the PTA Activities & Programs and the After School Activities Pages for extracurricular opportunities at Kyffin!

Cougar Fridays
Show your school pride every Friday by wearing Kyffin spiritwear or school colors (black & gold)
PTA Info, continued...

PTA Advocacy Update

Behavior Analyst in Public Schools: Read about the bill [here](#)

Town Hall Event

Join Jeffco PTA for an educational town hall event regarding the DeAngelis Center, Jeffco DeAngelis Center Foundation, and the PTA Crisis Response Team with Executive Director of the Jeffco DeAngelis Center Foundation, Kevin Carroll, and Executive Director of the Department of School Safety, John McDonald. This event will be held Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at the DeAngelis Center for Community Safety. All community members are encouraged to attend and registration is required. Register [here](#)

GRUB CLUB 2020

Jeffco PTA, in collaboration with Support Jeffco Kids, JCEA, JESPA, JCEA-R, JCAA, and Jeffco Schools are announcing Grub Club 2020, a project with the Action Center serving our homeless and emancipated youth! Extensive research shows the positive correlation between proper nutrition and school success. When a child goes to school hungry, his or her capacity to learn is diminished and that impact extends well beyond one moment in a classroom. Learn how you can support our efforts [here](#)

Suicide Prevention Training: February 8, 2020

Colorado ranks #1 in youth suicide, it's time for us all to take steps to proactive prevention. If this class fills up, we'll schedule another. There is a $3 fee for the materials provided - we will try to find sponsors to cover this fee but donations are appreciated as well and can be made at the training. This training is for everyone in Jeffco but please register in advance so we can prepare and provide materials. Thanks to Westerra Credit Union for sponsoring this training for Jeffco PTA! Register [here](#)
Oral Interpretation

Oral Interpretation practices have begun. If your student has not signed up but would like to, please sign them up now. They may participate as long as they make it to this Tuesday’s practice with a copy of their poem. After Tuesday, the sign-up for in-school practices will be closed. However, kids always have the option to practice at home. In that case, they need to be signed up under “practice at home” so we can plan for them to be at the final performance. Here is the link to the sign-up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044aa5a728a20-oral4

*Third grade sign-ups are now closed since they meet on Fridays and have already had two practices.

Staff Appreciation

Thank you to all of the Kyffin staff who work so hard every day on behalf of our children! Each month, Kyffin PTA does something to recognize this hard work. In January, we supplied a welcome back breakfast for the staff after winter break. In February, we will provide dinners during the evenings of the parent-teacher conferences, in addition to treats and valentines on Valentine’s Day. Our annual potluck luncheon for Kyffin’s staff will be held in April, and we will need lots of community support, so please stay tuned for more information on that! Also, PTA will need a chair(s) for the staff appreciation committee beginning next year; if you want to shadow us in the meantime, or find out more about the committee's inner workings, please contact Amy Masching at amasching@gmail.com.

Last Few Chances to Add Photos to the Yearbook!

Did you know you can upload photos to be added to the Yearbook? Go to www.treering.com/validate Enter Kyffin’s Passcode. 1014732882523462. Add your photos to the shared folders. There are shared folders for each classroom. Alternatively, you can also email your photos to kyffinyearbook@gmail.com and we can add them to the folders for you! Thanks for helping make the yearbook a snapshot of the entire school community!
Restaurant Night Fundraiser

Please join us for our next Restaurant Night on February 26 @ Teriyaki Madness, 3500 Youngfield St., Wheat Ridge 4-9pm. $1.00 from each bowl will be donated to Kyffin PTA!
GRUB CLUB FOOD DRIVE

JANUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 7

HELP JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS COLLECT FOOD FOR THE ACTION CENTER’S GRUB CLUB & HELP KEEP BELLIES FULL!

We Need:
Packet of Tuna

Drop your donations off at Kyffin Elementary

WHAT IS GRUB CLUB?

Grub Club is a bi-weekly program in which homeless and emancipated Jefferson County students receive boxes filled with three days worth of food, as well as personal hygiene products. We need YOUR help in donating food to fill the 1,600+ boxes needed for 2020.