



Tiger Tales

Tenth Edition

October 28th, 2022



Important Dates

Please visit the Colfax website at <http://colfax.dpsk12.org/> and you can find our events listed on the calendar section.

October Dates:

- **Oct 28** Lake Middle School Fright Knight Community Event 5-7 pm
- **Oct 29** Chess Tournament at West High School 9-1pm

November Dates:

- **Nov 1** Community Meeting about Consolidation proposal 5pm
- **Nov 3** CSC - 3:15pm in Library
- **Nov 9** Coffee with the Principal #2 8:00am-9:00am in Cafeteria
- **Nov 11** **No school for students** - Colfax Only PD Day #2
- **Nov 14** School Board Open Comment Session 4:30pm start time
- **Nov 16** 5th Grade Middle School Night @ Lake MS 5pm
- **Nov 18** End of Trimester - Report Cards sent home
- **Nov 21 - 25** Fall / Thanksgiving Break

Ms. Koyama's Message for the Moment

Late Tuesday evening, it was announced that Colfax is once again on "The List" for school consolidation. We received information that the potential future for Colfax is to turn our ECE-5th grade school into an ECE Center. While the Northwest region could use an ECE center, it is concerning that a two story building was named as a site for this type of service, while any other ECE center in DPS is a one level building. By licensing regulations, students would not be able to use the second floor. It is also concerning that parents did not have input into this proposal for the larger system to make this recommendation for such a center or use of the building.

Tuesday morning we also had twenty people present for a morning Coffee with the Principal. We shared questions and feelings about a potential closure of our current model, and established next steps for making our voices heard at the Board meeting on November 14th. This is an open public comment meeting that takes place before final decisions are made November 17th. More information is below about how you can contribute.

Even though the recommendation is to have Colfax turn into an ECE center, NO DECISION IS FINAL until the School Board vote on November 17th.

Inside our building, this is a challenging time. Our staff knew going into this year that based on the committee that established the criteria for closure/consolidation, there was a potential this current situation would happen. EVEN with that information, we had ONE teacher who CHOSE to leave at the end of last year. This CONSISTENCY in staff demonstrates the COMMITMENT of the individuals who come to school each day to educate our students. Educating students is not a walk in the park, and it's infuriating to me as the building principal to have this additional pressure on a staff to work through personally and professionally as we support students through this process. It's added trauma that may be unnecessary if we can get the Board to **not** vote in favor of the recommended consolidation. Much of our

school community already experiences significant trauma due to gentrification, homelessness, and a myriad of other circumstances, and the next 15 days are going to be another layer of adding to that trauma. Trauma impacts how the brain learns, and as an education system, it's ironic how that same system does this to children and then expects the school to 'make it all ok'.

But I have another concern. I am concerned that not all of our community is aware. I am concerned that people don't see texts, emails, Dojo messages, or read our Tiger Tales that go out each week. PLEASE ask your neighbors and other families you pass on the street to make sure they are aware, and if not, please tell them to come check in with us at the main office to get updated and to get involved. All voices are needed in this process!

And while we work together with our broader community during this uncertain time please contribute in the following ways:

1. Attend our community meeting on November 1st at 5pm.

Some people from DPS will be present at 5pm. Make your concerns known.

2. Attend our CSC meeting on November 3rd at 3:15 pm

This was an already scheduled meeting. We will strategize our approach for the November 14th Public Comment Board meeting.

3. Sign-up for Public Comment November 7th - 10th

This must happen in order to speak on November 14th

4. Attend our next Parent Coffee on November 9th at 8am

This can be a time for even more of our community to come together to continue to strengthen our strategy.

5. Save the date for November 14th for Public Comment at the next School Board Session

Attend as a large community to share the impact the decision will have if we are in fact selected to close.

THANK YOU for sharing your children with us each day. Please join us in this journey to get your voice heard.
In Partnership - Michelle Koyama

**Sign-Up Instructions for School Board Public Comment
November 14th @ 4:30pm**

Public Comment for DPS School Board Meeting at 1860 Lincoln Street

The window of time to Sign-Up for Public Comment to make your voice heard is
Monday, November 7th 9am - Thursday, November 10th by 5pm

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvgzFZ6GmYyLgKaYZrgmicYAhhNYDTA3CN8mFNm3BRMvS_A/closedform

- Residents, parents/guardians, staff and students who wish to address the Denver Public Schools Board of Education during a public meeting may sign up online, as well as by phone. The form is available on the agenda for public comment. Sign up is available online at 9:00 a.m. the Monday before the scheduled Public Comment & Progress Monitoring meeting. The public comment sign-up form can be found [here](#).
- Similar to phone sign ups, the online sign-up window closes the Thursday before the Public Comment & Progress Monitoring meeting at 5:00 p.m. A finalized list of speakers will be posted to the Public Comment agenda by noon the day of the Public Comment & Progress Monitoring Meeting.

Process for the public comment session:

- Three minutes will be allotted to individual speakers and 10 minutes to groups.
- Individuals may sign up only once to address the Board. NO INDIVIDUAL IN A GROUP WILL BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK FOR MORE THAN THREE MINUTES. Substitutes are not allowed...only the person who signed up to speak may address the Board.
- Anyone without computer access may still sign up by calling 720-423-3210 by 5:00 p.m. the Thursday before the Public Comment & Progress Monitoring meeting.



Monday, October 31st is a REGULAR DAY of School and learning.

Please have students at school by 7:30am for breakfast.

Classes begin at 8am.



THANK YOU

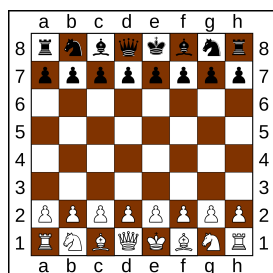
Thank you Latino Cultural Arts Center for partnering with us for our family event Thursday, October 27th. We appreciate all our families and staff who participated. It was fantastic to have a packed cafeteria! THANK

YOU also for contributing to our all School Ofrenda. If you would still like to participate to honor a loved one, here is how:

- 1.) **Place a picture of the person on our ofrenda-** this can be a photo or a drawn picture, with your students name and grade on the back of the picture. *Example: I don't have a photo of my great grandpa, so I drew a picture of him with my kids!*
- 2.) **Place items that they love-** this can be their favorite instrument, mug, religious item, pictures of their favorite things, non perishable foods, or even a piece of their clothing or jewelry! *Example: My grandpa Loved coffee, so I'll put some coffee beans in his favorite mug!*
- 3.) **Items NOT to send-** We cannot display anything that is not school appropriate. Any items that do not fit in here at an elementary school will not be accepted.

YOU MUST LABEL EACH ITEM WITH YOUR STUDENTS NAME SO WE KNOW WHO TO RETURN IT TO WHEN WE ARE FINISHED CELEBRATING.

The Month of November- Our All School Ofrenda will remain on display through the month of November. When we return from Thanksgiving break, Ms. Abreu will be returning them to you through your student on Monday November 28th.



Good Luck Colfax Chess Team!

They'll be participating in their first live tournament of the school year.

LOCATION: West High School 951 Elati St. Denver Co. 80204

TIME: 9AM TO 1PM

DATE: Saturday October 29, 2022

What's For Lunch this Week?

Week of:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10/31 - 11/4 	Mac & Cheese or Yogurt basket Salad bar & Milk	Chicken or Cheese Quesadilla or Wow Butter sandwich Salad bar & Milk	Black jack Pizza Salad bar & milk	Crispy Chicken sandwich or yogurt basket Salad bar & milk	BBQ PULLED PORK SANDWICH OR Baby baked Potatoes /w Broccoli cheese Salad bar & Milk



Monthly Attendance & October Celebration

So far we have 100 students with perfect attendance for the month of October. There is still one more day of October, so don't overdo the candy this weekend so students can return to school Monday ready to learn.

Parents / Guardians who brought in notes from the doctor or dentist, or from legal appointments were cleared as an excused absence and students will be able to participate to a limited extent in the celebration watching Ms. Koyama get Duct Taped to the wall on November 4th. Moving forward, if students have a doctor or dentist appointment, please have your student at school for the portion of the day they are not at the appointment. When students are away, it is challenging for the teacher to make-up the lost instruction, and it's difficult for the student to jump into the learning with the rest of the class. THANK YOU



JOIN US for TIGER HUDDLE

This is a weekly time we come together as a community to celebrate accomplishments and recognize students for demonstrating our school core values. Huddle takes place from 8:05 - 8:30 every Friday. Come celebrate with us in the gym!

Core Value Winners

Our School Core Values are: **Community, Positivity, Curiosity, Responsibility, & Perseverance**

THIS week students who demonstrate the Colfax Core Values are nominated by students and teachers and two are selected to be recognized as our Friday Tiger Huddle.



Erik Rubio

This week's core value winner is Erick. Erick was selected above all others because he is always respectful and kind to his peers and teachers. He always demonstrates a positive attitude and has a great interest in learning. He is also very responsible with his work and is always doing his best to improve. We are very proud of you. You are a great example to your classmates.

Oliver Salazar-Balbuena

This week's Core Values winner is Oliver. This student was selected above all others for his commitment to creating and sharing an inclusive and fun learning environment. During each part of the day, Oliver works hard to accomplish what is ahead of him while inspiring others to do the same. Oliver brings a calming presence to our class and can always be counted on to be our role model. He notices when someone may be struggling with an assignment and stops his work to help. If Oliver ever makes a mistake, he is first to acknowledge it and show responsibility for his actions. He is a quick learner and is so appreciated in our class. Oliver makes our community stronger and shows all of us what strong work ethic looks like!

Ms. Conklin's
5th

LAST week students who demonstrate the Colfax Core Values are nominated by students and teachers and two are selected to be recognized as our Friday Tiger Huddle.

Ms Morton's
4th

Savahanna Made

This week's Core Values winner is Savahanna. Savahanna's classmates voted her as the core value winner, because she works hard to show all of our core values every day. Savahanna is a new member of the Colfax community, but she has not wasted any time becoming an important member of this community. Savahanna leads by example, as she is always following our expectations and ready to learn. Savahanna shows perseverance by trying her best and never giving up. Since the beginning of the year she has been working tirelessly on multiplication and now, only two months later, she is tackling double digit multiplication problems. One of Savahanna's classmates said, "She is kind to others. She asks questions that help our class. She tries on her work even when it's hard and if she gets upset, she takes a break and comes back with a positive attitude." Thank you for being such an important part of our community!

Fern & Julian

Fern was selected for her commitment to being inclusive of her classmates and being a leader in the classroom! Fern always participates in class activities, asks questions, and shares her knowledge with others. She is helpful to her friends and new teachers in the classroom. The other day at clean up time, Fern saw that one center was not cleaned up. She cleaned up the whole center by herself, without being asked. Fern is a great role model for her younger peers!

Julian was selected for his commitment to creating and sharing an inclusive and fun learning environment. Julian is always kind to his friends in the classroom and a great listener. He is always helping his friends in need. Yesterday, a friend was struggling to put her water bottle away because she couldn't reach her bucket. Julian went to her and said, "I can help you" and put her water bottle in her bucket for her. Julian is always demonstrating generosity and community in our classroom!

Ms. Nina's
ECE

Lake Middle School Presents

Prospective
Family Night

November 16th 5:00 pm

Build your Legacy at Lake!

It's that time of year again! 5th Grade Families. – Learn more about Lake Middle School and what it means to be a Lake Knight!

Check out our prospective family night- November 16th at 5pm (Spanish translation will be available).

Lake Middle school is a traditional neighborhood middle school with not so traditional programming. Lake offers photography, podcasting, DJ school, dance class, Latinos in Action, Black Excellence class and many more.

Please plan on joining us to learn how our school values diversity, equity and celebrates culture!

Come tour our Castle and learn about all the things Lake has to offer! We can't wait to meet you!

