



Colfax Elementary Tiger Tales

Fourteenth Edition
December 1, 2023

Important Dates

- **Dec 1**
3rd Grade Field Trip to the Nutcracker Ballet

Spirit Day - Dress to Impress
- **Dec 2**
Saturday School
- **Dec 8**
Spirit Day - Dress in Colfax Colors and / or as your best Tiger
- **Dec 9**
Saturday School
- **Dec 12- 13**
Interim Assessments #2 for Grades 3-5
- **Dec 14**
Spirit Day - Pajama Day
Last Day of School for 1st semester
- **Dec 15**
No school for students - Colfax
Only PD Day #2
- **Dec 18 - Jan 2**
Winter Break

Letter from the Principal

As we continue through this season of gratitude, I want to reiterate how amazing it is to have your children with us each day. Walking through classrooms, we see the joy and excitement in their learning. We see how much they have grown since the beginning of the school year not just in their learning, but in height, too! Thank you for trusting and sharing your children with us each day.

I also want to continue to thank everyone for your continued efforts to get your child to school everyday. We know students get sick and life happens but appreciate you all as the model in your family to get your child to school on time and everyday (unless they are contagiously sick). Students who had 100% attendance for November were treated to a 45 minute magic show yesterday. We had 84 Kinder through 5th grade students attend the show! We are also excited that our attendance rate for November 2023 was almost 10% higher than November 2022! That is AMAZING. We have had 90%+ attendance every month of school so far except for October.

As you continue to stay healthy as a family, please remember that every home in the U.S. is eligible to order an additional 4 free at-home COVID tests beginning November 20. You can place two orders for a total of 8 tests. Here is the link:
<https://www.covid.gov/tests>

December has a lot happening and we hope you can join us for the different events. From classroom performances to field trips, we appreciate seeing you at school. As a reminder, if you are available to spend some mid-day time at Colfax, we would love some extra help in the cafeteria. Take a look at the sign-up Genius. If a spot is taken, you can still volunteer. Just let me know and I can add you to the slot. If you are interested in working with students in reading or math, please let me know, too. It takes a village!

We are continuously thinking about our parent engagement opportunities. If you have an idea, please let me know.

Finally, thank you to everyone who provided feedback in the DPS Your Voice / Tu Voz survey. TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY. If you have not completed it yet, DPS is offering families and schools incentives for the highest participation rates. [The survey has been extended to December 1st](#). Thank you for providing input.

In partnership,
~Michelle Koyama





Congratulations

NOVEMBER Perfect Attendance!



ECE		Kinder	First Grade
Layana Allen Legend Allen McKinley Allison Avalina Archuleta Ellis Clucas Liam Diaz Emmy Duran Danny Enriquez Eloisa Garcia Maddox Garcia Liam Ibarra-Mercado Natalie Insall Avery Larin Milo McDonald Adalise Montoya	Leo Navarro Emmy Parenti Genevie Parenti Alina Rosas-Munoz Idaly Salas Arredondo Damian Segovia-Hernandez AuRiya Sparks Christina Velazquez Gonzalez Ayden Villegas	Abril Alvarez Chazaro Israel Anderson Evalyna Armijo Ruby Calderon-Castruita Fern Garstka Gabriel Hidalgo Silletto Roscoe Mulliniks Noah Ornelas Hinojos Truely Singmaster Alexis Vega-Duran	Aaralyn Anderson Daniella Armijo Eimy Barco Neko Clucas Sofia Diaz Isaac Garcia Ezra Herlyck Miriam Ibarra-Mercado Cirays Jimenez Salazar Matiwos Kirubel Roquella Lopez Ortega Porcelain Lux Lacy McDonald Aubriana Moreno Townley Parenti Amy Regalado-Corona Pedro Reyes Garcia Elizabeth Segovia-Hernandez Jonathan Torres-Valadez A'Kai Tyler
Second Grade	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
Engel Barrera-Orellana Madison Chandler Bridneth Diaz Elenna Esparza-Garcia Elijah Garcia Yonatan Getahun Alessandra Gonzales Julio Gonzalez-Rios Jace Lopez-Jefferson Aiden Montoya Kaden Palacios-Porteous Innocence Sims Fernando Velazquez-Gonzalez Narda Viacava Andru Villegas	Aubrey Anderson Yandel Calderon Nicolas Chacon Sandoval Rory Clucas Brianna Enriquez-Martinez Damien Laws Jonesy Mulliniks Brea'lenn Ramsey Maximiliano Renteria-Rivas Keivis Rios-Pereira Lincoln Rosas Ryatt Serna Alan Vega-Duran Yamilette Viacava	Ahmad Alissa Eduardo Alvarado Maxie Chandler Autumn Do Lauren Falconetti Adrian Garcia-Flores Robert Guerrero-Dozal Jhonnee Jeanty Tarenzo Patterson Ruby Rounds Parker Stewart Teshayla Thomas Airam Torres-Valadez	Nayeli Aragon Andy Calderon-Castruita Laseana Camack-Fobbs Yaretzi Castro-Perez Leilani Garcia Jailyn Guzman-Renteria Giovanni Hidalgo-Silletto Dylan Jimenez-Ponce Nohemi Morillo Marin Qui'saan Phillips Jaime Renteria-Rivas Angelo Sanchez-Pulgar

End of Semester Celebrations

Thursday, December 14th will be a day of celebration at Colfax. At 8am we'll kick off the day as a community in the Gym - a Thursday Tiger Huddle & Holiday Sing Along. Classes will have various end of semester celebrations - details to be sent by classroom teachers. It is also Pajama Day! Stay cozy in pajamas to end this last day before winter break.

The holiday season can be full of both joy & stress as a parent. Many adults can feel overwhelmed by the shift in routines during this season, which can make caring for your family difficult, but it also offers opportunities for fun and connection. As you navigate your kids being home from school, connecting with family, or feelings of isolation, consider these questions:

- *What is the priority for your family this holiday season? Is it connecting with loved ones? Maintaining traditions? Or maybe all you can focus on is surviving and maintaining the status quo. Consider what feels manageable for you, and how you can access support in the areas that might feel difficult.*
- *What are your family expectations this holiday season? This may be related to gifts, seeing certain family members, travel, or other expectations. Do you know what your children(s)' expectations are? If so, list them and talk about what is realistic to meet this year. If the expectations aren't realistic, how will you communicate any changes to your children?*
- *What routines do you want to preserve during holiday breaks? Consider keeping consistent bedtime and meal routines to create some structure during time off. This can help with your child's mood, energy, and stress levels - as well as your own.*
- *Where can you pause and be in the moment with your kids? The holidays can be busy, and at times, stressful. But they also offer opportunities for greater connection that kids remember throughout their lives. Allow yourself to take a moment to be present with your family this holiday season, and consider what a gift this alone can be!*

Mental Health Resources

As we enter the holiday season, we know that this is a time that can present challenges for many students and families. Below are some resources to access more support over the holiday season as many navigate difficult situations that may occur while school is out of session.



Resource	Number	Description
Colorado Crisis Services	844-493-8255, or Text TALK to 38255	Crisis services for adults and youth
Second Wind Fund	303-988-2645	Access to twelve (12) counseling sessions to youth at risk for suicide
Suicide & Crisis Lifeline	Call or Text 988	24-hour toll-free confidential suicide prevention hotline
The Trevor Project	866-488-7386	Crisis intervention and suicide prevention services for LGBTQ+ youth
Safe2Tell Colorado	877-542-7233	Anonymous reporting tool to report concerns. Reports can be made by phone, app, or online
DPS School Based Health Centers	303-602-8958	School-based Health centers offer no-cost child and adolescent care, and are available to any DPS student. (Various locations across Denver in schools)
WellPower	303-504-6500	Community behavioral healthcare located in Denver
Jewish Family Services	303-957-5000	Nonsectarian, nonprofit human services agency offering comprehensive, integrated, customized for individuals and families
Maria Droste Counseling Center	1-844-493-8255 Text TALK to 38255	In-person and/or online counseling services and psychotherapy for adults, children, teens, couples and families

**“THERE IS
NO RIGHT
OR WRONG WAY
TO HANDLE
THE HOLIDAYS.”**

— RICHARD KAUFFMAN
HSAULTBOSS.COM



What's For Lunch this Coming Week?

Week of:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12/4 - 12/8	BEEF OR CHEESE NACHO OR A BONZO JELLY SANDWICH FRUIT VEGGIES & MILK	HOMEMADE CHEESE OR PEPPERONI PIZZA FRUIT VEGGIE & MILK	COUNTRY CHICKEN BOWL OR GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH FRUIT VEGGIES MILK	BEEF OR GREEN CHILE CHEESE TAMALES FRUIT VEGGIES MILK	PULLED PORK SANDWICH OR BABY CHEESE BAKED POTATOES FRUIT VEGGIES & MIK

Week of:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12/11 - 12/14	BEAN & CHEESE OR BEEF & BEAN BURRITOS FRUIT VEGGIES & MILK	CHEESY BREADSTICK / MARINARA OR YOGURT BASKET FRUIT VEGGIES & MILK	MEAT & BEAN CHILE OR BONZO JELLY SANDWICH FRUIT VEGGIES & MILK	CHEESEBURGER OR YOGURT BASKET FRUIT VEGGIES & MILK	NO SCHOOL



**DENVER
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

**Community Hubs
@ Colfax Elementary**

Holiday gift resources for kids

- Kenzi's Causes— age from birth to 18. Registration and birth certificates are required to attend the event and guarantee toys. Registration will open on Thursday, November 30th at 9am.
 - <https://kenziscauses.org/toy-shop-denver/>
 - Event is on December 2, 2023 from 8:45am-4:00pm
 - National Western Complex: 4655 Humboldt St, Denver, CO 80216
 - Parents need identification and birth certificates for their children
- Volunteers of America
 - <https://www.voacolorado.org/gethelp>
 - Vouchers given out Monday, December 11th at 9:00am. First come first served will get vouchers until they run out
 - VOA Mission: 2877 Lawrence St., Denver, 80205
- Denver Santa Claus Shop
 - Dates are December 8, 9, 11, 12 (location provided after registration is complete)
 - <https://www.denversantaclausshop.org/register-for-toys/>
 - Must Register on their website: <https://register.denversantaclausshop.org/>
- AID Center
 - 1370 Elati St., Denver 80204
 - Event is December 15, 2023 from 10:00am-4:00pm
 - Families must complete a referral form
 - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7RjzzVhk0SksCft8t7aRG7hMLomP5qELCjC2rUYkwEUjCA/v/iewform>



Colfax Staff Holiday Gift Giving!

If you are considering holiday cheer for Colfax staff, may we offer two ideas:

1. Contributing to the staff holiday get together

*(Any monetary amount is greatly appreciated, and family participation is completely **optional**)*

OR

2. Contributing to our staff breakfast on Friday, December 15th.

Remember, no school for students this day as it's a teacher work day only. (Again, family participation is completely **optional**)

For cash and monetary gifts contact Shantelle Mulliniks at 720-394-8248 or you can [Venmo money @westcolfaxlampstand](#) directly with this QR code:

Be sure to Label the donation for "Colfax Staff"

Funds will first be used to support the staff holiday get-together and any remaining will support breakfast.

OR,

Make a contribution to our staff breakfast on December 15th! [Click here to sign up.](#)



Thank you for supporting the Colfax Staff!





H.O.P.E.

You and your family are invited to the 30th annual HOPE event at Colorado Academy!

What Is HOPE?

Toys and games for kids. Secondhand clothing for all ages. Personal care and hygiene products. Optional flu vaccines administered by medical professionals. A warm meal. And much more! Each service is free of charge!

Where?

Colorado Academy – 3800 S. Pierce St. Denver, CO.

When?

Saturday, December 9th, from 9AM to 2PM

More Information

All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Transportation is available on request.

Join Us!

For questions or concerns email us at hope@coloradoacademy.org