Hello Mary Blair Families – Happy Fall!

The 2019-2020 school year is in full swing, students and staff are busily working toward their academic and personal goals, so much learning is already occurring. Please speak with your child’s teacher about finding some time to experience the amazing things happening in your school each day!

I’d like to extend a huge THANK YOU for your support and participation in our BOBCAT DASH! We kicked off our fundraiser with an assembly where I revealed the incentive for meeting our class and school-wide goals:

Classes who meet their classroom goals will get to see their teachers race against each other on tricycles for fabulous prizes!

If the school-wide goal of earning $10,000 is met, students will get to see their teachers and I doused with water balloons!!

In addition, there are several individual incentives!

Continued...
I am pleased to announce that we EXCEEDED our goal and earned well over $13,000 with some money still coming in! This means “water balloon time” for the teachers and I, and the kids get to have a Dance Party in the gym during PE!!

WAY TO GO BOBCATS!!

PTO will use these funds to make improvements to our playgrounds!

THANK YOU PTO!

Thank you for your support! We hope to see you all here on Oct. 3rd for the Bobcat Dash!!

Sincerely,

Valerie Lara-Black
Principal, Mary Blair Elementary
Mark Your Calendar

Important Dates in October:

October 1st~ PTO Meeting 6-7PM
October 1st~ Bobcat Dash Pledge Money Due
October 2nd~ October Count Day
October 3th~ Bobcat Dash
October 4th~ NO SCHOOL
October 8th~ Book Fair 3:10-4:00 PM
October 9th~ Parent Teacher Conferences from 3:30 PM-7:30 PM
October 9th ~ Book Fair 3:10-7:30PM
October 10th~ NO SCHOOL
October 10th~ Parent Teacher Conferences from 7:30 AM-6:30 PM
October 10th~ Book Fair 7:30 AM-6:30 PM
October 11th~ NO SCHOOL
October 14th~ Domino’s Pizza Day
October 17th~ Einstein Bagels for Breakfast
October 31st~ Fall Festival (see details below)
Bobcat Dash

The Bobcat Dash is our one and only fundraiser for the year! This is a fun opportunity for our staff and students to come together to not only raise funds for our building, but also enjoy some time outside, moving!!

Sponsored by the PTO, money raised has been used to:
- purchase water-bottle filling stations,
- purchase technology, such as iPads, Chromebooks and Promethean Interactive Whiteboards, support school-wide beautification efforts, including:
  - the purchase of a new swing set and spinning pole for our west playground,
  - painting and refinishing our equipment and ground games on both the east and west playgrounds,
  - purchasing a new check-out computer for the library, updating the circulation desk and painting the entire library,
  - installing an Outdoor Classroom on the west playground,
  - purchasing and installing two sets of new soccer goals on the east playground, purchasing and installing a new Shade Sail over the outdoor classroom
- support various teacher and school requests, including:
  - paying for field trip busing,
  - purchasing class-sets of novels,
  - purchasing alternative/flexible seating for classrooms.

THIS YEAR OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AND UPGRADES TO OUR PLAYGROUNDS AND SUPPORT TEACHER & CLASSROOM REQUESTS!

In the past few years we have met or exceeded our pledge goal, which has been great fun for the students as they’ve gotten to douse Mrs. Black with ketchup & mustard, and see staff kiss a pig and a goat!

This year’s goal was $10,000, we shattered that goals earning approximately $14,400!!

By reaching our goal this year, we will get to enjoy a Dance Party in the gym during PE classes and see Mrs. Black and other staff get water balloons thrown at them!

Permission slips for the rewards were sent out - as money is continuing to come in, some permission slips will continue to be sent home.

Because of the required reservations for the Limo reward, money sent in after Friday, 10/4 will not count toward this prize.
Mary Blair Bobcat Dash Prize List

Every Student Who Raises Reward

*All students will receive a “Bobcat Dash” t-shirt, refreshments, school pride and lots of fun!!!

**BOBCAT DASH IS THURSDAY OCT. 3, 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reward</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>over $1</td>
<td>Get a class picture of the Bobcat Dash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over $5</td>
<td>Get a Mary Blair color changing cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over $25</td>
<td>Watch a movie after school in the gym on Wednesday Oct. 17th from 3:15-4:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over $50</td>
<td>Throw 2 water balloons at Mrs Black, the movie and the cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over $150</td>
<td>Will ride in a LIMO to Dairy Delite on Oct. 16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class with the most students who bring in donations</td>
<td>The entire class will get an extra recess and a “ball” chair for the classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Each class that meets the goal they set as a class</td>
<td>Will get to throw water balloons at their teacher on Oct. 18th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class that raises the most money</td>
<td>The entire class will get lunch in their classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student who raises the most money in each grade</td>
<td>Assistant Principal for an hour (student will get to be Mrs. Black’s Assistant Principal for 1 hour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The entire school reaches goal of $10,000</td>
<td>Will get to have a Dance Party in the gym during PE classes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Parents and Families:

Reading increases knowledge and vocabulary, lowers stress, and supports your child’s emotional growth. But perhaps the best benefit is the lasting bond you create with your child when you read with them.

Visit the Book Fair with your child to discover new books together!

Save the date!
Book Fair dates & times:
October 8th 3:10 PM-4:00 PM
October 9th 3:10 PM-7:30 PM
October 10th 7:30 AM-6:30 PM

NEW In-School and Online Shopping Options! With Book Fair eWallet, a safe and convenient digital payment account, your student can shop the Fair cash-free! And if you’re not able to attend the Fair, try our new online shopping option. We’ve partnered with The Scholastic Store™ to offer over 6,000 products that ship direct to your home (with free shipping on orders of $25 or more)! Visit our homepage to access eWallet or shop online.
https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/
maryblairelementaryschool

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair!

Sincerely,
Holly Mann
Library/Media Specialist

Mary Blair Elementary School
2019 October Count Day
Wednesday, October 2, 2019

This day is VERY IMPORTANT!

"October Count" is the day student membership is established for funding for all Colorado public school districts. This funding accounts for 85% of our District's Budget.

Parent/Teacher Conferences
Conferences will be held Wednesday, October 9th from 3:30-7:30 PM and on Thursday, October 10th from 7:30 AM-6:30 PM. Classroom teachers will be reaching out to parents to sign up for conference times via SignUp Genius. Be on the lookout for an email and flyer, coming home soon!

Pets at School
Please help us in maintaining a safe school environment by leaving your pets at home during drop-off and dismissal times. Animals are such an important part of many of our students' lives and we know that they love to share them with their friends! Unfortunately, animals are not allowed on school property, without prior approval, when students are present. While we know that many of you have very well-behaved animals, all animals can be unpredictable. There have been a couple of incidents in the past where dogs have growled or barked at kids who are eager to pet them. We don't want anyone hurt, and the chaos of school dismissal might cause a pet to react unexpectedly. Thanks for helping us keep our kids safe!

AM Playground Supervision
DROP-OFF:
When dropping children off in the morning (before school), please remember that we do not have supervision on the playground until 7:45am – for the safety and security of all MBES students, please do not drop children off any earlier than this time.

Don’t Forget!
Keep up to date with things that are happening at Mary Blair

@MaryBlair_TSD

www.thompsonschools.org/maryblair

www.facebook.com/tsdmaryblairelementary
The "Three P's" of Career and Technical Education

Dear Thompson School District Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members,

To open the month of October, Thompson School District symbolically broke ground at the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center at the Van Buren campus. I mention that this was a symbolic groundbreaking, as work is already well underway to transform the facility into a state-of-the-art venue to expand and grow our already successful CTE programs here in our district. Today, I would like to provide some information on what I like to call the “three P’s of CTE:” Pathways, Partnerships and Programming.

TSD is excited about the development of the four career pathways to be offered at the new CTE Center, which is opening in the fall semester of 2020. The pathways are Advanced Manufacturing, Computer Science, Construction Skilled Trades and Health Care.

We have met and listened to local business and industry members by holding numerous advisory committee sessions to build out and develop these two-year program pathways. Each pathway will offer at least one industry credential, college credit (Aims Community College and Front Range Community College), and core academic credit in English, math and/or science. Each pathway will also contain a work-based learning opportunity such as an internship or apprenticeship, as well as multiple exit points for students to join the workforce, whether as a high school graduate, while taking industry specific college courses or as a college graduate.

We also heard from our community about the importance of soft, or essential skills for our students in developing their career, college and community readiness. This matches well with Strive 2025 and our Portrait of a TSD Graduate. Embedded in all courses will be the four C’s: Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking and Creativity. Self-advocacy and citizen competencies will also be applied within courses and mastered upon completion of the work-based learning component in each pathway.

Finally, we will continue to look at developing and creating pathways for students at our middle and elementary school sites to explore CTE programming and learn more about the opportunities that will exist as they move from our elementary to secondary schools.

As we prepare our students to be college, career and community ready, we are also mindful that the CTE program will create authentic and meaningful experiences that will serve them well as they graduate from TSD and head into future endeavors. We once again thank you for your support and trust in the work that we are doing. We recognize that the generosity of our community through the passage of last year’s Bond and Mill initiatives has allowed us to offer programming and experiences for our students that will serve them well in the future. We see our work within CTE not only as a way to support our students, but also as a way to give back to our community by creating a highly skilled and talented workforce.

We are excited and energized by the work ahead!

Sincerely,

Dr. Marc Schaffer
Superintendent of Schools
Thompson School District
Parking Lot - Pick up and drop off:

Please help us to keep our children safe by observing these reminders:

29th Street is a main thoroughfare and should not be used for drop-off or pick-up purposes at any time.

Both east and west parking lots on 29th St. will continue to be closed to private vehicles during drop-off (7:45-8:00) and pick-up (3:00-3:20) times.

The west lot will be accessed by buses and day-care vehicles ONLY at drop-off and pick up times. The main (west) MBES parking lot will be available for visitors and staff parking throughout the day and for evening events.

- Please access the building via the horseshoe/loop drive-through and parking lot between MBES and Conrad Ball.

- Drop students off and pick them up along the sidewalk on the loop – this keeps them from running in front of cars and other traffic.

- If you are going to be leaving your vehicle, please use one of the designated parking spots in the ConBall parking lot – do not leave unattended vehicles in the loop/horseshoe.

- Please watch out for staff members and other pedestrians in the crosswalk as they are moving through the parking lot, remember that pedestrians have the right of way Staff members are on duty during drop-off and pick-up times, please help us by following their directions and modeling respectful behavior toward these volunteers.

I highly encourage you to consider walking, car-pooling or using the school bus if it is available to you – not only is this a great way to eliminate congestion in our parking areas, but it is also great for the environment!

How To Become a Volunteer

https://www.thompsonschools.org/Page/2277
The VITAL program encourages parents and community members to share their time and knowledge with Thompson students by becoming authorized volunteers. **Whether or not you have students in the district, we welcome your involvement.**

- Help in classrooms
- Chaperone field trips and school activities
- Volunteer as a coach for a sports team
- Serve as tutors
- Assist in science and computer labs
- Serve on a district committee
- Help fundraise
- And more!

Please visit the district website above for more information.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL**

A student’s attendance is crucial for their success at school. Their consistent presence in class provides the teacher with the necessary interaction to assist the student's growth in learning. Although we realize that occasionally it is inevitable that a student will miss school due to an emergency or illness, we hope that our students will attend daily. If you are aware of an upcoming absence or need to call your child in absent, please call our attendance line (970) 613-6490 and leave your information on the voicemail. Additionally, there is an auto-dialer that will call you to confirm or inform you that your child is absent on a given day. These phone calls are automatically generated.

As part of the attendance system, there is a process for when students are absent from school. Any student who misses 4 or more days, whether excused or unexcused, will receive a letter explaining that the student has missed, as well as the expectations and contact information in case there are circumstances that arise that we can assist in remediying. Another letter will be sent at 7 days with more information and the possible next steps in accordance with our Board policy and state statute. We are required to provide families with this information. These communications are form letters and are automatically generated based on the student's attendance.

There are strict laws regarding a student's excused and unexcused status. We work closely with families to navigate this process. If there is a habitually absent situation, we are required by law to take steps to remedy the circumstance. In some cases, it will involve requesting medical excuse, conferencing with a team, a contract with the school and in extreme cases, there is the necessity to engage the court system.
Vital, continued...

We are proud to be partners in the education of your children as we prepare them for a career, college and community readiness. We hope you will engage us in the journey. Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to making TSD and Mary Blair Elementary the most incredible educational experience for your child.

For additional information regarding attendance, please see TSD Board Policy JH/JHA/JHB and JH/JHA/JHB-R

Our students will be challenged to **maintain at least 95% attendance throughout the year**. In order to meet this goal an individual students should have no more than 10 absences in a year.

*If you know that your student(s) will be gone for 3 or more days, please stop by the office and complete a Pre-Arranged Absence Form. This will help the school and the teacher prepare for the absence.*

Fall Festivals

Students and staff will be participating in Fall Festival celebrations on **Wednesday, Oct. 31st**. These celebrations will be held at the end of the school day and will include various fall-themed treats and activities. Information regarding classroom activities will come from your child’s teacher.

Classroom Fall Festival celebrations will occur in place of Halloween this year. In the future, we are hoping to possibly build-on an evening family event. Some ideas presented have been a “trunk-or-treat” in our school’s parking lot or a “track-or-treat” around the ConBall track. If you are interested in helping to plan future Fall Festivals or Family events, please join us at our monthly PTO meetings, which occur on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm in our community room.

Birthday Celebrations!

At Mary Blair we celebrate student birthdays each day!

Student and staff birthdays are announced via the intercom during morning announcements, including summer birthdays, and students can then come down to the office for a special birthday pencil.

*We would like to respect families who do not celebrate birthdays, so please feel free to let Mrs. Black know if you would NOT like your child’s birthday announced.*

In addition, we know how kids love to celebrate with their classmates, so we invite you to discuss with your child’s teacher the many options that are available for birthday celebrations. We ask that families please not bring cupcakes or other sweet-treats, but instead select a healthy alternative, such as: extra recess, bring and share a special book to be donated to the classroom library, bring and share a special non-food treat (pencils, erasers, etc). Your child’s teacher has a menu of additional options from which you can choose.

Thank you for helping us to build a healthy culture at Mary Blair!
How to stay informed/involved throughout the school year

There are many studies which show that involved parents and families substantially increase the achievement levels of students.

Your involvement can include:

- Encouraging students to read and/or practice math activities each night,
- Providing your students with a distraction-free location in which to do their homework,
- Ensuring that your students get plenty of sleep and a healthy breakfast each day
- Volunteering in the classroom and at school activities,
- Reviewing the monthly MBES newsletter to stay abreast of current information pertinent to Mary Blair.
- Participating in the Parent Teacher Organization. **PTO meetings occur on the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7pm.** FREE child care is provided for school age students.

Please be sure to update your Infinite Campus accounts regularly. We communicate using email, text messages, voice calls and Friday Folders. If we do not have updated contact information for you, you might miss out on important communication!

School Tech Facilitator-Computer Lab

Our computer lab-School Tech Facilitator position is still not filled. If you are interested in a part time position now that your students are back in school please visit the thompsonschools.org website and look under job openings at Mary Blair for more information. [https://www.applitrack.com/thompson/onlineapp/default.aspx?AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22Mary+Blair+Elementary%22](https://www.applitrack.com/thompson/onlineapp/default.aspx?AppliTrackPostingSearch=location:%22Mary+Blair+Elementary%22)
Universal Breakfast:
Each and every student at Mary Blair will start their day with a FREE breakfast.

Monday: Breakfast Bar, Juice, Dry Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Tuesday: Breakfast Bread, Cheese Stick, Dry Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Wednesday: Frudel, Juice, Dry Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Thursday: Cereal, Dry Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Friday: Giant Goldfish with Yogurt, Dry Fruit, Fresh Fruit, Milk
Ways to Support Mary Blair

SUPPORT YOUR KIDS AND MARY BLAIR PTO WHEN SHOPPING AT...

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Mary Blair Elementary Parent Teacher Organization whenever your shop on AmazonSmile.

Here’s How:

2. Go to Your Account & select Change Your Charity
3. Choose Mary Blair Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization as your designated charity!
4. Whenever making purchases go to www.smile.amazon.com
Ways to Support Mary Blair

Community Rewards Program is teaming up with Mary Blair Elementary School.

Shop. Save. Support Mary Blair Elementary!

Here’s How:

1. Go to www.KingSoopers.com/CommunityRewards
2. Select Sign-In. (If you do not have a digital account, you will need to create one.)
3. Select My Account from the drop down menu.
4. Click on Community Rewards under Account Summary.
5. Under Find and Organization: Enter Mary Blair Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization or FV791.
6. Click Enroll!!