A Message from the Principal...

Hello Mary Blair Families – Happy Fall!

It was great to see so many of you attend the Bobcat Dash on Thursday, October 3rd! Thank you so much to our Mary Blair families, friends and neighbors for supporting our annual fundraiser! Because of your efforts, we raised over $14,000!! This is an amazing achievement!

With that - we earned many incentives, including seeing several teachers and myself get doused with water balloons.

Over the last several years, we have invested these funds into a multi-phase plan to overhaul and improve our playgrounds and exterior of the building including a brand new swing set and spinning pole for the west playground, two brand new sets of soccer goals for the east playground, a beautiful outdoor classroom, and most recently two new water-bottle fillers! Additionally, these funds provide for teacher requests such as class-sets of novels for students to take home, technology in the form of Chromebooks, field trips and flexible seating options inside the classrooms.

This year’s funds will support the ongoing playground upgrades and additional technology for our classrooms!

Continued...
A Message from the Principal, continued...

If you are interested in supporting this work, or have ideas, please join us at our next PTO meeting – Tues. November 5th at 6:00pm, or consider joining our Bobcat Dash Committee.

Thank you for joining us for Parent Teacher Conferences on October 9th & 10th. Conferences are a fantastic opportunity for you to hear about the learning taking place on a daily basis in each of our classrooms. Your partnership and participation in your child’s instruction makes a big difference in their academic success! Thank you to the MBES PTO, parents and volunteers who provided dinner for staff on Wednesday, October 9th during conferences! It was delicious and much appreciated!!

Please remember that you have access to your ParentPortal account. This is an important part of monitoring your child’s grades and attendance for the rest of their academic career. This is also the main method for distributing progress reports throughout the year. If you need help with this, please contact the main office.

We have had a very successful start to the 19-20 school year at Mary Blair! We are right in the “thick of things” with regard to instruction – please talk to your students about their goals and how you can support them at home. Thank you, again, for being critical partners in your students’ academic success!

Have a wonderful November and a fantastic Thanksgiving!
Sincerely,
Valerie Lara-Black
Principal, Mary Blair Elementary
November 3rd  Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 5th  PTO Meeting
November 7th  Veterans Day Celebration
              (see information below)
November 22nd  Spirit Day “Athletic Day”

November 27th, 28th and 29th  No School, Thanksgiving Break
Bobcat Dash

Our annual fundraiser, the Bobcat Dash was a HUGE success, we exceeded our $10,000 by earning over $14,000 in donations this year!! To celebrate, students receive incentives such as a limo ride to Dairy Delite, free t-shirts and the grand prize of throwing water balloons at their teacher and students got to douse Mrs. Black with water balloons! Special thank you to our PTO for all of their work and effort to make this years Dash a success!!

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 3rd, Don’t forget to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed.

Mary Blair Elementary School
“Veterans Day” Invitation

Thursday, November 7
8:30 – 9:15 AM
Mary Blair Gym/Cafeteria

Active and retired military family members are cordially invited to a special Veterans Day ceremony to honor their service. Local Scouts and/or the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) will be presenting colors and students will be singing patriotic songs.

Student Council has been selling small flags to honor our military and these flags will be lined up outside of the school on and around Veterans Day.

We invite your children to wear Red, White, and Blue on this day.
Next School Spirit Day

Friday, November 22nd will be “Athletic Day”
You can participate by simply wearing athletic clothing, your favorite team jersey, or your own sports jersey.

After School Programs

Enrichment programs are up and running at Mary Blair! This first session we had an Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation class where students learned from a variety of guest speakers about organizations that are working to keep animals safe and healthy in the world around us. Another class took a tour of Rocky Mountain National Park in the classroom! They got to learn about the terrain, animals, ecosystem, changes, and history of the park. Now all they have to do is go and experience the park in person!

Knitting was another class that was enjoyed by several students who were able to improve on a skill or learn a new one! Stay tuned for more exciting classes to be offered throughout the year. Our next session will start on January 27th.

Thanksgiving Break
No School November 27th, 28th and 29th
Dress for the Weather

AT MARY BLAIR, we try to go outside for recess as much as possible. It’s really important to allow kids the opportunity to run, play and engage with each other in an un-structure free-play environment so that they can better engage in their learning. Therefore, we follow district practice of going outside for recess UNLESS the temperature (including windchill factor) reaches 15 degrees or below. Please have your child dress appropriately for the weather, and be sure to write your child’s name or initials on their coats, hats, gloves, etc. so that can be more easily located if lost.

Heads up from the Health Office

With the change in the weather, the hats came back out, and now is a good time for parents to be on the alert for head lice. Head lice are a common childhood affliction. All places where children get together are places where head lice can be transferred. Clean hair and home are no guarantee that head lice will not find your child.

From time to time as a precaution, school staff may check for head lice in classrooms on an as needed basis just to be certain that there is no notable incidence of lice. If any concerns arise, the family of affected students will be notified. PLEASE remember that although lice can be a communicable condition, having this condition poses no real threat to health. Schools are not often the place where head lice are spread. Sleepovers among friends and relatives are thought to be a common way they are passed from home to home.

Please feel free to contact the Health Office (613-6403) should your child present with itching of the scalp, but you are uncertain if nits are seen in the hair. We can help you gain clarity and to guide you in treatment options should the presence of nits be confirmed.
Mary Blair Flag Sales

Mary Blair would like to commemorate Veterans Day November by placing American flags along the front of the school to honor the men and women who are or have served in the Armed Forces. Students can buy a small American Flag, for $2.00, to honor a Veteran or service member in their lives, or buy one to honor all who have served. Students will bring home an order form in their Friday Folders there will also be extra forms available at school. Have your child bring the money and the form back to school, the flag you buy will be given to your child by Friday, November 15th. For questions contact Holly Mann 970-613-6410.

The Mary Blair Student Council students are selling American flags to display in front of the school, for Veteran’s Day.

Purchase a flag in honor of a family member, friend or neighbor, who is or has served our country or one for all who have served our country.

Fill out the form(s) below and attach the money ($2.00 per flag) with the form(s). Many people have used baggies to keep the money and the forms together.

Have your student return the form(s) and money to school by Monday, November 4th. They may give this to their classroom teacher or Mrs. Mann.

The flags will stay at School to display in the front of the building on the 7th, 8th and 11th (Veteran’s Day), your student will get them back by Friday, November 15th.

Thank you for honoring our Veterans!

I,___________________________________ would like to honor ____________________________________ for serving and protecting the United States of America.

Mary Blair Elementary School
Veteran’s Day 2019

Students Name:_____________________________________  Class:____________________________
Dear Families:

Now that cold and snowy weather has arrived, we thought this would be a good opportunity to reach out and provide some quick information regarding the notification of district late starts and closures when they are necessary.

If the district decides to cancel school or initiate a late start because of inclement weather or other dangerous conditions, the announcement will be carried on radio stations KCOL 600 AM, KTRR TRI-102.5 FM, 1610 AM, KUNC 91.5 FM, KGRE 1450 AM (Spanish), KFKA 1310 AM, KBNO 1280 AM (Spanish) and on Denver television stations. Media sources will be contacted for both school closings and late starts.

The announcement will also be made via the district website (www.thompsonschools.org), Facebook account (“Thompson School District”), Twitter account (@ThompsonR2J) and school closure line (970-613-6788). A copy of the announcement will be posted on the district's mobile app, which you can download by visiting the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (depending on your smart phone) and searching for "Thompson School District R2-J." A phone call, email and text message will be sent to all families. To verify or modify your telephone number and email address that is on file, please log in to your Parent Portal account or contact your school for assistance. School staff can also assist you in setting up text notifications. Messages sent by the district respect the privacy settings that you select on your account. Messages will not be sent to telephone numbers or email addresses that have been opted out of receiving communication.

For more information on the district's school closings and late start procedure, please see the following Web page: www.thompsonschools.org/Page/5778

A document with more details on how schedules are impacted by a late start is also attached to this message.

Above all, please be safe! The safety and security of our students, families, visitors and staff is always our number-one priority. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Mike Hausmann
Public Information Officer
Thompson School District
**DELAYED START**

**THINGS TO NOTE FOR PARENTS**

| Communication | A delayed start or closure will be communicated in several different ways, including:  
|               | • District website  
|               | • Local media outlets  
|               | • Email and text message to parents/guardians  
|               | • Social media (Facebook – Twitter) |

| Start Time | Families will add two hours to the start of the school day, including adding two hours to morning bus pick-up times, morning programs and school start times at every level. |

| End Time | School will end at the regular scheduled time. |

| Transportation | Morning bus pick-up will be two hours later than the normal pick-up time; afternoon bus drop-off times will not be adjusted. |

| Elementary, K-8, Middle School & High School | While all schools will start two hours later than the normal start time, the bell schedule is determined by each school.  
| Elementary starts at 10:00 a.m.  
| Middle School starts at 10:45 a.m.  
| High Plains starts at 10:20 a.m.  
| High School starts at 10:30 a.m. |

| Kindergarten | Full-day kindergarten will start two hours later than normal start time. |

| Early Childhood | Morning Early Childhood classes will be canceled district-wide. Afternoon Early Childhood classes will remain with the normal start and end time. |

| Before-School Care Programs | Students in the morning programs will be canceled. Afternoon programs will end at their normal end time. |

| Nutrition Services | School meals will be available at all schools. Meal times will be adjusted based on the delayed start schedule. |

| Extracurricular Activities | Activities and field trips during the school day that require transportation will be canceled.  
| Participation in non-district, statewide competitive activities will be determined by district leadership. |

A delayed start protocol will not be utilized on Wednesdays due to the district-wide late start day.
Volunteer Needs

We would love to have help in any of the following areas:

- Helping with classroom or building tasks such as copying, counting, filing, etc.
- Helping to support students to make good choices with their selections at the salad bar (lunch time).
- Supporting students with needs during lunch time (getting napkins, condiments, opening packages, etc.)
- Reading with students one-on-one.
- Running an Enrichment activity! (one day per week for 4 weeks...can be anything!!) Contact Ms. Brown for more information.

PTO

Please join us at our next PTO meeting – Tues. November 5th at 6:00pm, in the Community Room.
ALL are welcome!! Free Childcare is provided for school age children.

PTO Minutes 10/1/2019
Meeting called to order at 6:11

In Attendance:
Holly Mann, Valerie Lara-Black, Katrina Hatch, Leticia Fick, Sarah Rodden, Melissa Hughes

Review Minutes from 9/3/2019 :
Approved by Katrina and 2nd by Leticia

Treasury Report:
Mary Blair received our official amazon smile approval
Tentative Bobcat Dash monies is $11,615.07

Volunteer Needs:
Book Fair
10/8  3:10-4:00
10/9  3:10-7:30
10/10  7:30am-6:30pm

Teacher dinner 10/9 -Potato Bar

Teacher Requests:
none

Principal Update:
-Free and reduced numbers are on the rise
-Optimal building capacity is 4 rounds
-Val is on the district calendar committee-there will be a survey to the community that will take place to get feedback
- UTA update. District funds are decreasing for this years UTA implementation and we are probably at the beginning of 2020-2021 school year. We will be at the top of the list for next year.

Other Business:
Bobcat Dash October 3rd
No School October 4th
No School October 10th
No School October 11th

Meeting Adjourned 6:51, Next Meeting
November 5th form 6:00-7:00pm
### 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
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 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!

Ways to Support Mary Blair

**KING Soopers Community Rewards Program**

is teaming up with

Mary Blair Elementary School

**Here’s How:**

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 FY715.
6. Click Enroll!

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

**AmazonSmile**

You Shop. Amazon Gives.

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:**

1. Open [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and sign in.
2. Go to Your Account and 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](http://www.smile.amazon.com)