Upcoming Events

**November 6th**
Board of Education Meeting
Administration Building
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**November 11th**
Colorado Preschool Program
Advisory Council Meeting
Stansberry Early Childhood
12:00-1:30p.m.

**November 11th**
Family PIE Meeting
Stansberry Early Childhood
5:00-6:30pm
(Dinner and Childcare provided
RSVP 970-613-5053)

**November 20th**
Board of Education Meeting
Administration Building
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Important Dates

No School
Thanksgiving Break
November 27th - November 29th
Hello, Fall! I love this time of year, when trees are in their glorious fall colors and the promise of what the near future holds for time with family and friends. It was wonderful seeing many of you at our HUGS night. I hope that you had a lot of fun with your child and our staff.

**Strive 2025.** Beginning last year, stakeholders from the Thompson School District started the process of developing a strategic plan for our district. This team included students, teachers, parents, and community members that met several times over the course of the year. As a result of this work, The Thompson School District’s Board of Education recently adopted its new five year strategic plan that encompasses the “Portrait of a Graduate” and focuses on four distinct areas:

1. Student Achievement
2. Inclusive and Supportive Culture
3. Human Talent
4. Stewardship of Resources

I encourage you to learn more about Strive 2025 and our hopes are for all of our students. For more detailed information, please [CLICK HERE](#).

**Kindergarten Open Enrollment.** For the parents of our 4 year-old students, it’s time to begin thinking about kindergarten. If you are attending a preschool that is not your neighborhood school, you will need to Open Enroll at the school for the 2020-2021 school year if you would like to continue. For those interested in looking at schools other than your neighborhood school, you will also need to Open Enroll at the school of your choice. The Open Enrollment window begins on Monday, December 2, 2019 at 8:00 am and closes at 4:30 pm Friday, January 10, 2020. Applications are available on the Thompson School District website. If you choose to attend your neighborhood school for kindergarten, you do not need to fill out an Open Enrollment application.

**Kindergarten Open House.** The Thompson School District will once again host a Kindergarten Open House on Thursday, November 21, at Thompson Valley High School from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with staff members from each elementary school to learn what each elementary school has to offer and ask questions.

**School Closures and Late Starts.** With the first snow that recently occurred, it seems appropriate to share this information with you! If you have registered an e-mail address and/or a cell phone text number in Infinite Campus, you will receive late-start or closure
messages. The district will also announce on the district website, the district Facebook page ("Thompson School District") and Twitter (@ThompsonR2J).

The superintendent may announce a late-start schedule for the opening of schools if weather or other emergency conditions are severe but not serious enough to close schools. If a decision is made to start schools late, it will be announced no later than 5:30 a.m.

A late start means that all bus routes and school starting times will be delayed 90 minutes.

- All bus routes will run as usual only 90 minutes later.
- All school start times will be delayed 90 minutes.
- All morning kindergarten will begin 90 minutes later than usual.
- Full day preschool programs will begin 90 minutes later than usual.
- The morning (a.m.) preschool program will be canceled.
- The afternoon (p.m.) sessions will start and end at the regular times.

When the district is on a late-start schedule, all schools will be dismissed at normal times and all after-school bus routes will run in the normal order and at the normal times.

If the district decides to cancel school because of inclement weather or other dangerous conditions, these stations will carry the announcement: Radio stations KCOL (600 AM) and KTRR TRI-102.5 (102.5 FM), Denver television stations and the district’s television channel, Comcast Cable Channel 14. For route advisories, dial 970-613-5192.

Media sources will be contacted for both school closings and late starts. Information will also be available on the district's school closure line at 970-613-6788.

I wish you all a wonderful November!

Sincerely,

Lamb Caro, Thompson Early Childhood Administrator
“Stop it.” “No.” “Don’t do that!” As a parent, you might find yourself using these words and phrases more often when your child begins to make choices you’d rather she didn’t. Now, stop for a moment and consider how the conversation might feel if you couldn’t use these words? What if, rather than telling your child what he can’t do, you instead chose words to tell him what he can do? While this shift in language might seem small, it actually provides a powerful positive change to the tone of the conversation. When you focus on using positive language with your child, you will likely find that she has fewer tantrums, whines less and overall experiences fewer challenging behaviors. (Taken from the “Backpack Connection Series” at www.challengingbehavior.org)

To find out more go to:


Mary Bowman, Autism/Mental Health Coordinator
970-613-6179
Developing Writing and Spelling at Home (Pre-K)
By: Reading Rockets

Writing is a terrific way for children to express their thoughts, creativity, and uniqueness. It is also a fundamental way in which children learn to organize ideas. And learning to write well helps children to be better readers. When engaging in writing, young children often mirror what they see around them; adults and older children writing lists, notes, text messaging. They are observing the way writing is used in our everyday lives. Here are some simple things families can do to support young children's writing:

- Keep markers, pencils, and crayons available at home. Children develop skills that prepare them for writing through their normal play — like drawing, painting, and tracing objects. This kind of play helps prepare the brain and the muscles for holding a pencil and forming written words.
- Help them learn to write their name. This is an empowering experience, and allows them to begin to identify themselves as writers.
- Involve them in your writing activities. Make a shopping list together and point out the words that start with the same letter as the child’s name.
- And most of all… Read books with kids. Early and frequent exposure to letters, sounds, words, and stories helps kids learn to read and write. As you read to your children, point out things the book author did to make the book so fun to read. "Wow! Listen to how the author describes the ocean. Don't those words make you feel like you're back jumping over waves?" Once children start learning letters, you can practice writing them on paper, in the air, or in sand or snow. These tactile experiences help them feel the shape and motion of the letter. As your child begins to write letters, caption what they've written. Ask your child, "What does this say?" Write their words under their writing. This helps them learn more about letters and words. Show your children that you write too. Let your children see you writing thank you notes, composing an e-mail, or communicating with your child's school.

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator
970-613-5078
Health/Wellness

Tips for increasing Physical Activity

Make physical activity a regular part of your day!

Select activities that you enjoy. It can be easy to fit activity into a daily routine – such as taking a 10 minute walk to and from the parking lot, bus stop or around the block. Keep activity interesting by alternating different activities on different days. The important thing is to be active most days of the week and make it a habit.

More ways for families to increase physical activity:

- Get everyone involved – go for a walk or bike ride together.
- Play with the kids – dance to favorite music, build a snowman, play in the leaves etc.
- Walk up and down the soccer or softball field sidelines/playground while watching the kids play.
- Replace a coffee break at work with a brisk 10 minute walk.
- Take a 10 minute walk together before or after dinner.
- Park farther away at the shopping mall/store and walk the extra distance.

Christiana Shorten/ Health Coordinator (970)613-5063
Family Engagement

November is here and the holidays are just around the corner. For those who may need some resources during the holidays, please remember to sign up early:

- Santa Cops - Applications are taken in person at the Loveland Police and Courts Building in early November. Check out the website for more information and dates to apply for gifts for your children: [http://santacopslarimercounty.org](http://santacopslarimercounty.org)
- The House of Neighborly Service is offering Christmas food baskets to families who qualify. You can request an application from your CFSP and apply in person at HNS, 1511 E. 11th Street no later than Dec. 5th.
- Serve 6.8 is joining Foundations Church to sponsor the Adopt-A-Family program for the holidays. Please see your CFSP to apply online if you are needing gifts for the holidays. Participating families will be invited to a festival at Foundations Church to meet other families and receive gifts.
- Salvation Army is offering Thanksgiving turkeys through Larimer County Food Bank, as well as the Christmas Giving Tree. Apply at 840 N. Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101 or call for more information (970) 699-8380.

Money Matters – Budgeting 101
Creating and sticking to a budget is an important first step toward financial security. Define your monthly income, which is the money you earn, plus child support, alimony or other income. To create a budget, start by separating your needs from wants. Needs are things like housing, food, medicine and childcare. Wants are things like cable t.v. and eating in restaurants. Prioritize your bills by fixed expenses such as housing, car payments and insurance. What is left after paying for fixed expenses can go toward food, gas and credit cards. Whenever possible, try to put money aside for an emergency fund, as well as retirement. Track your expenses in a notebook or on your computer to see how well you are sticking to your budget. The website [www.greenpath.com](http://www.greenpath.com) offers budget worksheets and other tools.

Julie Lindsay
Family and Community Partnership Coordinator
970-613-5053
English Language Development

Happy Fall to you all! As you live and play with your multilingual learner remember the importance of oracy. This is a term that was coined in the 1970s to draw attention to the importance of the development of oral language skills. Research has shown that oracy plays a role in developing reading comprehension and written vocabulary (Escamilla et al., 2014).

Continue talking with your child about everyday encounters and things. Vocabulary development is rapid and fun to watch in the early years. Encourage your child to name the things around them and use those words in sentences and stories. Make up stories together to facilitate oracy. Enjoy all things Fall and take time to stop, notice and name the signs of the season together.

Please call or email if you have any questions for me. You can also use TSD’s translation service anytime you need translation for school business. Their number is (970) 613-6167.

-Julie Sullivan, ELD teacher
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(970) 613-6885