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Upcoming Events

**STAKE HOLDERS MEETING**
November 4, Monday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
@ Administration Building, 800 S. Taft Ave., Loveland
The TSD Stakeholders team is a group of parents, community members, and others who assist the district by distributing important information, sharing great news about what’s happening within Thompson, helping to troubleshoot problems that need to be addressed, and providing feedback on potential issues that require attention.

**READ ALOUD DAY**
November 12, Tuesday
Research has shown that reading aloud to children helps develop literacy and educational development. That’s why Thompson School District will celebrate Read Aloud Day again on Tuesday, November 12. Members of local businesses, community members, and regular volunteers will read aloud to classrooms in TSD elementary schools. To volunteer or for more information, contact Frances Schuyler at frances.schuyler@thompsonschools.org or 613-5073.

**COURTS OF THE COMMUNITY**
November 13, Wednesday, 9:00 AM - Noon
@ Berthoud High School, 820 Spartan Ave., Berthoud
The Colorado Supreme Court and Court of Appeals provide an educational outreach program for high schools which introduces students to the state’s appellate process. The program gives students hands-on experience in how the Colorado judicial system works and illustrates how disputes are resolved in a democratic society. Each court travels to a different high school to hear oral arguments in two actual cases. In fall 2019, Berthoud High School will be one of only three schools with this program.

**COORDINATOR HOLIDAY PARTY**
December 5, Thursday, 10:00 AM
@ Administration Building, 800 S. Taft Ave., Loveland
We want to thank coordinators for their hard work and service by providing a fun break to de-stress during the holidays. Take time out for yourself to play laser maze and experience the X-rider. If you need to bring your child, you must pay for their own games and include them in the RSVP. RSVP by Nov. 22 to lisa.wegener@thompsonschools.org

“Loveland Halloween Festival has been cancelled by the City of Loveland. It will not take place this year.

**COORDINATOR REMINDERS**
- Remind volunteers that security policies require name badges to remain at the school. They should not be taken home.
- Hang your volunteer participation goal poster in your school. Promote the contest and your school’s goal to both registered and potential volunteers through newsletters, school events, etc.
- Email the School Information Sheet to volunteers if you haven’t yet, so they can see what the individual school policies are.
- Remind teachers that volunteers cannot enter grades for students in a grade book or on the computer because of federal (FERPA) laws.

Helpful Hint
You will need to pull reports from VITAL Online to update your goal poster and to check that volunteers are logging their hours correctly. It’s easy to do. Just follow the steps below.

1. Click on the picture of the bar graph at the top of the page.
2. Go to the drop down menu, scroll down and click on "Hours."
3. For Report Layout, click on "Total Hours."
4. Click the small circle that says "Only Selected School volunteers worked."
5. For Schools, click on your school.
6. In the date ranges below, type in the dates of 7/1/19 to current date.
7. Click "Export to Excel."

This will enable you to see the total number of volunteers for the year thus far for your goal poster.

Secrets that Build Parent Involvement from PTO Today

**Focus on New Families**
The families most need of information and most eager to connect with other parents are those whose children are new to the school. Reaching out to them can see what the individual school policies are.

**Tap Into Parents’ Expertise**
One of the most effective approaches in recruiting parents is to find ways to apply their talents and interests. It’s like being a human resources manager, matching parents’ skills, abilities, and interests with what you have available. Instead of walking up to someone and saying “Will you be our fundraising chairperson?” say, “What do you like to do?”

**Offer a Variety of Ways and Times to Volunteer**
If you can offer multiple ways to become involved, parents will be more likely to volunteer. Since some parents aren’t available during school hours, tasks they can do from home or from work, during the evening or on the weekend might work better.

**Ask, Then Ask Again**
A direct, personal request to get involved is best. Even if someone says no, they still might be responsive if you ask again with a slightly different proposal. Sometimes people do need a little push.

**Support Your Volunteers and Their Ideas**
Once someone has volunteered, it’s vital to support them, especially if they have stepped into a leadership role. This means allowing them the freedom to run an event the way they want to, even if that’s not how it was done before.

**Say Thanks**
Sometimes there’s such a focus on completing a project that individual thank-yous get overlooked. However, everyone likes to feel appreciated. So, make sure that you express your gratitude to everyone who volunteered.