Principal’s News:
Dear Parents,

I hope that you have a wonderful Spring Break with your child! We hope you had the opportunity to experience all the great things that Northern Colorado has to offer.

**Literacy Night.** I hope that you can join us on our Literacy Night at Conrad Ball Middle School on April 20th! It will be a fun night with great activities for your child and your family. Dinner will be provided.

**Early Childhood Registration for 2017-2018.** We are currently accepting applications for our Early Childhood Programs for the 2017-2018 school year. If you and/or you know someone who has a child ready for preschool, send them our way! For further information visit our Thompson Integrated Early Childhood web page or call 613-5052 or 613-5761.

Interested in learning more about the Thompson Integrated Early Childhood Program? Please visit our website: [http://www.thompsonschools.org/preschool](http://www.thompsonschools.org/preschool)

Click on the “Main Menu” button on the right, and the click on “Parent Resources,” you can find information that you be informative and helpful. This includes:

- Be Ready
- Colorado Preschool Program Advisory Council
- Policy Council
- United Way of Larimer County Resources
- Literacy

If you have any questions, please give us a call. We're looking forward to the two months of school!

Lamb Caro, EC Administrator

*Stay connected with us on Facebook, too! Look for us under “Thompson Integrated Early Childhood.”*
Did you know that a child’s social and emotional development is critical to their success in school? Here are some things you should know:

⇒ Children with strong social and behavior skills are more likely to succeed in academics. This is true for all children regardless of their cognitive ability or family background. (Raver & Knitzer, 2002).

⇒ “Young children cannot learn to read if they have problems that distract them from educational activities, problems following directions, problems getting along with others and controlling negative emotions, and problems that interfere with relationships with peers, teachers, and parents. “Learning is a social process” (Zins et al., 2004).”

Social skills that have been identified as essential for academic success include:

- getting along with others (parents, teachers, and peers)
- following directions
- identifying and regulating one’s emotions and behavior
- thinking of appropriate solutions to conflict
- persisting on task

Taken from: [www.challengingbehavior.org](http://www.challengingbehavior.org)

Mary Bowman – Mental Health/Autism Coordinator

970-613-6179

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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
National Volunteer Week is April 24 – 28

On behalf of all of our Early Childhood Staff, we would like to thank the many volunteers who help us every day in our classrooms. We appreciate the time you spend enriching the lives of our youngest learners. Thank you for all that you do! Just a reminder, the last day to register to volunteer is April 30th.

Fort Collins Museum of Discovery

If you filled out an application last fall for a pass to the Ft. Collins Museum of Discovery, you can check out the museum and pick up your pass. The museum is closed Mondays. Hours are: Tuesday – Sunday, 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, and open late on Thursdays until 8:00 pm. The museum is closed New Year’s Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

Early Childhood Field Day

Please join us for fun and games on Friday, April 28 at Kroh Park from noon – 2:00 pm for our first Early Childhood Field Day. Bring a blanket to sit on and a picnic lunch. We will be celebrating “Every Kid Healthy Week”. All children who attend must be supervised by the adult who brings them, as we will have limited staff at this event. We hope you can make it!

Julie Lindsay
Family and Community Partnership Coordinator – (970) 613-5053

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**Fun Fruit Kabobs**

**Prep time:** 15 minutes

**Ingredients:**

- 1 apple
- 1 banana
- 1/3 c. red seedless grapes
- 1/3 c. green seedless grapes
- 2/3 cup pineapple chunks
- 1 cup nonfat yogurt
- ¼ c. dried coconut, shredded

**Directions:**

1. Prepare the fruit by washing the grapes, washing the apples and cutting them into small squares, peeling the bananas and cutting them into chunks, and cutting the pineapple into chunks, if it’s fresh. Put the fruit onto a large plate.
2. Spread coconut onto another large plate.
3. Slide pieces of fruit onto the skewer and design your own kabob by putting as much or as little of whatever fruit you want! Do this until the stick is almost covered from end to end.
4. Hold your kabob at the ends and roll it in the yogurt, so the fruit gets covered. Then roll it in the coconut.
The Education Corner

It’s Not a Box...It’s Literacy Night!

Please join us for an evening of food, fun and games!

When: April 20, 2017
4:30-6:00pm

What: Literacy Games, Free Pizza and Prizes

Where: Con Ball Middle School
2660 N. Monroe Ave

Each student will receive a free book!

Not a Box by Antoinette Portis

We hope to see you all there!

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator