PRINCIPAL’S NEWS:

Greetings!

I hope that you had a fantastic Thanksgiving and had an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends! As we head into the month of December, I wanted to take some time to update you about our new website on the Thompson School District website. You can find us by going to the Thompson School District webpage and going to the top left button marked, “Select a School.” Here’s a short list of things that you’ll be able to find:

- School calendar
- Upcoming events
- Parent Resources
- Newsletters
- Policy Council Agendas and Minutes
- Colorado Preschool Program Advisory Council Agenda and Minutes.

In addition, on the main district web page, you’ll also be able to find school closure information.

Another exciting piece of information is that the Thompson Integrated Early Childhood program recently was rated a Level 4 out of a possible high rating of “5” according to Colorado’s new rating system. Colorado is intentionally focused on lifting the quality of early education programs for all children. Colorado Shines QRIS is a method to assess, enhance and communicate the level of quality in early education and care for all licensed providers in Colorado. This system provides standardized criteria for all child care providers in Colorado to be rated for quality, and provides incentives and supports to providers that wish to raise the level of quality care available at their facility. Look for our new rating system decals at your site!

Your Policy Council is in the early stages of beginning our Self-Assessment. This Self-Assessment is an annual opportunity for us to partner with our parents to look at what we are doing well and where we should direct our efforts in future years. Our Early Childhood Policy Council would welcome anyone who would like to share shape our decisions that impact Early Childhood. The next meeting is on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in the Madison Early Childhood Center. If you have any questions about this, please contact me at 970-613-5031.

I, and the all of the Early Childhood staff, wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Lamb Caro, EC Administrator
Reading Tips for Parents of Preschoolers

http://www.colorincolorado.org/es/node/56307

Read early and read often. The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading. It's never too early to begin reading to your child! The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

**Read together every day**
Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close.

**Give everything a name**
Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that airplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

**Say how much you enjoy reading**
Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favorite part of your day.

**Read with fun in your voice**
Read to your child with humor and expression. Use different voices. Ham it up!

**Know when to stop**
Put the book away for awhile if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

**Be interactive**
Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions.

**Read it again and again**
Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time!

**Talk about writing, too**
Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.

**Point out print everywhere**
Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing.
Social Emotional Resources

The holidays are on their way! And with them comes excitement and fun! Even though the holidays can be full of wonder and enjoyment, they can also cause **Stress**, for adults and children. It is going to an important time to take care of ourselves and our loved ones. Here are some ideas:

- Practice deep breathing
- Take a warm bath
- Give each other back rubs
- Take time to read and play together
- Exercise
- Keep your sense of humor
- Remember to count your blessings

***Find out more “Holiday Strategies” at:***

**VERY HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!**

Mary Bowman – Mental Health/Autism Coordinator 970-613-6179

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

*Want to make a difference in your community?*

Larimer County and Colorado State University Extension are looking for youth and adults who want to be leaders in the community. Whether you’re already involved in your community or looking to get started, check out the Family Leadership Training Institute!

**What:** Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) is a 20-week training

**When:** FLTI kicks off with a day-long retreat on January 23, 2016 and after that, takes place every Thursday evening from January to May 2016

**Why:** To help adults and youth gain leadership skills and knowledge to help families and children in their community

For more information or to apply, contact:

Patti Schmitt
(970) 402-4319
schmitpj@co.larimer.co.us

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