



Family Bulldog Bulletin

September 18, 2023

****Letter from the Principal****

Hello Mortensen Families,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying this beautiful weather. We are certainly lucky to live in such a special place where we have four distinct seasons each with its own unique grandeur.

Today, I am continuing discussion of safety issues here at school. Today's topic will be about transferring your child from home to school in the mornings. We are always taking a close look at our procedures for how we document the "whereabouts" of our students at all times. When a student arrives at school at 7:35AM, the responsibility for supervision transfers from the parent to the school. We do not have supervision on the grounds until 7:30AM. Students should line up right outside their classroom doors. The door to the classroom will open at 7:40AM when the first bell rings, and all students in the line will enter the classroom. That door is then closed and is locked from the outside. After 7:45AM students must report to the office to "sign in" and receive a "tardy pass."

Many families have various plans for how their children get to school in the morning and get home in the afternoon. If you place your child on the bus,

you can be assured that the bus driver will supervise them closely until they are dropped at the bus stop at school. Students should go directly to their classroom door after being dropped off. They should NOT go to the playground or to the open field even if they see other friends there. Students should not be on the playground unless they are there with their own parents. If a parent is supervising another child, the parent needs to call the office to let us know that parent is supervising their child on the playground. If your children walk to school, please make sure they take the most direct route and instruct them to never go to other places in the neighborhood. In addition, it is always best practice to walk with friends rather than alone.

To make it more convenient for parents who drive students to school, we have placed 15 minute parking signs along Iris just at the curb. You may park there, and leave your car for 15 minutes in order to walk your child to the classroom door. We hope this will make the parking situation better for all concerned.

If a student is absent, we need all parents' help in letting us know as soon as possible. Please call the attendance line (303-982-0040) as soon as you know that your child will be absent. We start checking the attendance line at 7:15AM. If we have not received a call from a parent by 8:00AM we start calling the parents to find out why a student is absent. We call the number within Jeffco Connect that the parent has listed as the "Number 1" contact. If we do not get an answer on that contact, we move to #2, etc. We urge all parents to frequently check the information that is in Jeffco Connect to ensure that the numbers are current and working. Working together, we can ensure the safety of all of our precious students!

I hope this information is helpful, and as always, we greatly appreciate your continued support!

Sincerely,

Karla B. Hankins, Principal

Mortensen Elementary School

Field Day is this Thursday, September 21st for all 1st through 5th grade students!

What you need to know:

1. Make sure your student has good running shoes, a water bottle, sunscreen and a hat! A change of shoes is recommended in case the grass is wet in the morning!
2. Parents and other family members are welcome to come watch and cheer for their student(s)!
3. Kona Ice will be here! Our amazing PTO will buy a Kona Ice for all students, staff and high school volunteers. Parents, guardians, siblings, etc. can purchase a Kona Ice for \$5 each.
4. Look for an email from Mrs. Erickson with more details.

Highlights from our September 15th Merit Assembly



BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED FROM 8/21 - 9/17!

Beatrice Ortega, Ryker Vargas, Landon Diaz, Drake Allen, Brodie Lauwers, William Sweeney, Leo Stasney, Mariana Jaquez, Aleena Moya, Kayden Willey, Adleigh Cerrone, Joseph Bertolli, Christian Wilson, SativaRose Maes McElhany, Brenton Schlott, Olivia Foisie, Jonah Cruz, Braegan Foote and Cayden Cortez



Mr. English's 4th Grade Class Showcase!



Kdg - 2nd Grade Teal Award Winners:

Zelda Mean, Sydney Devereaux, EJ Diaz, Maggie Persichetti, Cal Sparrow, Landon Diaz, Matthew Mennona, Johanna Wood, Violet Hann, Judah Sotile, Christian Wilson, Austin Bourger, Austin Dennis, Rowyn Lung, Jace Spangler, Ivy Jones and Bodee Goodrich.

CONGRATS!!



3rd -5th Grade Teal Award Winners:

**DyOnna Jones, Clancy Bader, William Sweeney, Rosie Ortega, Silas Wolke, Talon Delgado, Uziel Villalobos, Mary Kiester, Sophia Harrell, Ashley Horton, Adam Correa-Cardona, Kaylee Boyles, Ryder Deacon, Adam Moya, Mariah Wolfe, Jensen Hettinger, Quade Dodge and Seth Tolbert.
CONGRATS!!**

****NEWS FROM PTO and PIE****

Thank you to all who came to our first PTO meeting. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 4 at 6:30

**Join us for our first Partners In Education (PIE) meeting of the school year!
September 20th from 5:30-7:00 pm in the library
We will be taking a look at Mortensen's 2023-2024 Unified Improvement Plan.**



BARKY'S BONFIRE!

Please note that the return date for pre-sale tickets for Barky's was wrong on the initial flyers that went home. The corrected flier is in this bulletin, and the order form for pre-sale tickets is due to your teacher by Thursday, 9/21.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have signed up to support Barky's so far! We are so grateful for your help! We still have slots available to volunteer and hope that others will consider donating time to help make this event a great success. Please sign up to help here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0A4EAAAC2FA7FF2-barkys#/>

If you are unable to donate time, and still want to help, please consider making a donation to the Mortensen PTO Give Butter account: [Help Support Mortensen Elementary PTO](#). A donation of any amount helps!

Bulldog Bulletin for this Week

Tuesday, Sep. 19	2:35-3:30 pm	Sports Club
Wednesday, Sep. 20	5:30 - 7:00 pm	PIE (Partners In Education) Meeting in Library
Thursday, Sep. 21		Field Day for 1st - 5th Grades
	2:35-3:20 pm	Choir
	3:30-5:00 pm	Children's Theater
Friday, Sep. 22		NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day

Coming Up

Sep 26	Sports Club (2:35 - 3:30 pm)
Sep 28	Choir (2:35-3:20 pm)
Sep 28	Children's Theater (3:30-5:00 pm)
Sep 29	Barky's Bonfire (5:00-8:00 pm)
Oct 4	Walk or Bike to School Day
Oct 4	PTO Meeting (6:30 - 7:30 pm)
Oct 5	Young Librarians Club (2:40-3:40 pm)
Oct 11	PIE Meeting (5:30 - 7:00 pm)
Oct 12 - 18	Scholastic Book Fair

Oct 12
Oct 13
Oct 17 - 18
Oct 19
Oct 20

Young Librarians Club (2:40-3:40 pm)
Donuts for All
Fall Conferences
No School - Teacher Work Day
No School - Fall Break

Keep scrolling for more information!



Parents: Do you know where you should park?

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE HUG & DROP ZONE OR IN OUR BUS LANES. The bus lanes are where our buses enter and exit to drop off and pick up our students. They are on a schedule and when parents park in this lane then the bus has nowhere to park and causes delays. We do have a parking lot that you may park in. Our Hug & Drop Zone is designed for parents to drop off their children before school and pick them up after school. This means that the parent does not leave their car. If you need to leave your car to pick up your child you will need to park your car in the parking lot. Thank you for your cooperation!

Mortensen Elementary School Presents

Barky's Bonfire

Friday
**September
29**

Mortensen Elementary
School
from 05:00pm-08:00pm

BOUNCY HOUSE &
OBSTACLE COURSE,
FACE PAINTING, YARD
GAMES, CAKE WALK,
CRAFTS, MAGICIAN,
BONFIRE
AND S'MORES
INCLUDED IN THE
TICKET PRICE

Entry Fee is
***\$5 in advance,
\$7 at the door***



***Food trucks and
concessions will
be available!***

Magic shows: 5:15, 5:45, 6:15, 6:45 by the Amazing Dave Elstun

RETURN THIS PORTION TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER BY SEPTEMBER 21st TO BUY ADVANCE TICKETS

Student's Name: _____

****EVERYONE ATTENDING NEEDS A TICKET, ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A GUARDIAN****

Number of tickets: _____ x \$ 5 = _____
Make Checks Payable to : Mortensen Elementary PTO





CHATFIELD YOUTH BASKETBALL

Open to **Boys & Girls 2nd through 8th Grade** wishing to participate in the Winter 5on5 Basketball Season.

WINTER LEAGUE INFORMATION [Register Here:](#)

- Registration is open now through October 2, 2023, late fee of \$25 after Oct 2, late fee of \$50 after Oct 20.
- Available for boys & girls grades 2 through 8.
- \$280 per-player for grades 2, 3, & 4: 10-game guarantee plus playoffs for qualifying teams (top 8 in every division). Practice time is included. There will be an additional cost for Uniforms, see Jerseys & Uniforms section below.
- \$295 per-player for grades 5, 6, 7, & 8: 12-game guarantee plus playoffs for qualifying teams. Practice time is included. There will be an additional cost for Uniforms, see Jerseys & Uniforms section below.
- Individual Registration: we can place you on a team, or you can request to be on a specific team.
- Divisions for teams with various skills levels: Gold, Silver and Bronze in most grade levels for boys. Girls usually just have one division.
- No Sunday Games or Practices. PRACTICES begin October 30th.
- REGULAR SEASON GAMES begin Monday, November 27th and will conclude on or before February 17, 2024. Games could be any day of the week except Sunday.
- PLAYOFFS & LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS are included as part of the League and will be held the week of February 20 and will end on or before February 24, 2024.

Visit the Winter League Information page to register: www.chatfieldbasketball.com

Contact Jacquie Pearson at jacquiepearson@yahoo.com or 303-880-1415



THE YOUNG LIBRARIANS CLUB

2023-2024

Our 1st meeting will be Thursday, October 5th from 2:40pm - 3:40pm in the Library

This club will meet twice a month on Thursdays from 2:40pm - 3:40pm. This club will learn the behind the scenes tasks of the library to keep things going. As well, the group will serve as a leadership team to make suggestions for library improvement and potential new programs. The team will develop their own reading, writing and presentation skills as they work to promote library events and literacy for all!

Parents, we are so happy to be working with this exceptional group this year. Please email us with any questions you may have regarding Young Librarians. Also, let us know if you are interested in helping with events and activities!

Meeting Dates:*

**October 5th and 12th
November 2 and 16
December 7th
January 11th and 25th
February 1st and 22nd
March 7th and 28th
April 4th and 18th
May 2nd**

*** We understand there might be a conflict with some dates for Choir practice and we understand.**

Club Sponsors:

Melissa Adams	melissa.adams@jeffco.k12.co.us
Michele Mueller	michele.mueller@jeffco.k12.co.us
Jill Warwick	jill.warwick@jeffco.k12.co.us
Kris Bartuska	kris.bartuska@jeffco.k12.co.us

Social Skills Improvement System™ Social-Emotional Learning Edition Screening/Progress Monitoring Scales (SSIS SEL) Information for Parents and Families

Our community works together to ensure high levels of learning for all. This includes not only being attentive to academic growth, but also recognizing that the social and emotional growth of students is critically important. Current research indicates a direct connection between students' emotional well-being and their academic performance.

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. (CASEL 2021)

We are dedicated to creating academic and social-emotional supports linked directly to the assessed needs of our students. We now have the opportunity to systematically screen the social and emotional skills of all our students, using the **Social Skills Improvement System™ Social-Emotional Learning Edition Screening/Progress Monitoring Scales (SSIS SEL)**.

SSIS SEL Information:

The SSIS SEL Edition Screening/Progress Monitoring Scales is a strength-based tool for screening and progress monitoring social and emotional competence. Teachers will be asked to score each of their students in the six following areas: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible decision-making, and motivation to learn.

**Students' scores on their eighth-grade
academic achievement tests were
better predicted by scores on their
third-grade social skills assessments
than their third-grade academic
assessments.**

(Caprara, Barbaranelli, Pastorelli, Bandura, &
Zimbardo, 2000)

The first five areas listed above are the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) core competencies, also called "The CASEL 5."

The CASEL 5 are defined as follows:

- **Self-Awareness:** The abilities to understand one's own emotions, thoughts, and values and how they influence behavior across contexts.

- **Self-Management:** The abilities to manage one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors effectively in different situations and to achieve goals and aspirations.
- **Social Awareness:** The abilities to understand the perspectives of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds, cultures, & contexts.
- **Relationship Skills:** The abilities to establish and maintain healthy and supportive relationships and to effectively navigate settings with diverse individuals and groups.
- **Responsible Decision Making:** The abilities to make caring and constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions across diverse situations.

How will the data be used?

The SSIS SEL is a screener that provides a starting point to help identify student strengths and needs. The data is not used in isolation but rather in combination with other data to help ensure that all students get what they need to be successful.

**Teaching to students' strengths can
improve student engagement.**

(Sternberg, 2000, Sternberg & Grigorenko, 2000)

The information gathered will guide the development of school-wide, small group, and/or individual academic and social-emotional supports and interventions.

How can I see my child's SSIS SEL results?

If you would like to see your child's SSIS SEL results, please contact Mandy Cyphers (Social Emotional Learning Specialist/SELS) at mandy.cyphers@jeffco.k12.co.us.

Want to opt your student out?

Please email Mandy Cyphers with your child's name and she will get the opt out letter to you! We must have the initial request to opt out your student by 9/20/23. Thank you!