



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL



## Dessert Theatre - A Big Hit!

Thunder and lightning set the stage for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade's production of *The Mystery of the History Museum*, in which all the statues in the museum came to life. Following 3<sup>rd</sup> grade's performance, 5<sup>th</sup> graders presented their last Dessert Theatre in Children's School, *The Princess Knight*, the story of a princess who would rather have been a knight than a princess. Written and directed by Mrs. Sandy Bray, with costumes, props, and scenery created by Mrs. Rachel Longstreet, and a highly energetic cast, Dessert Theatre was a huge success! A big Thank You to Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Longstreet, the classroom teachers, and all the students for the many hours of work it takes to create this production. Thanks, also, to the parents who provided delicious desserts, which were served in the lobby of the theatre.

On March 2, we'll look forward to another Dessert Theatre, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will perform. Showtime is at 6:00 p.m. in Louisa.

## From the Admission Office

### DESSERT THEATRE

Grades 2 & 4

Friday, March 3, 2012

LPAC 6:00 PM

Watch for enrollment contracts to be emailed to families. Admissions will also host three "Contract Parties" for those wishing to complete their enrollment contract online with tech support here at CSS.

These parties will take place in

the Middle School Computer Lab (in the Trianon) on January 31 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., on February 1 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on February 2 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. There will be refreshments and prizes for those attending.

## Upcoming Events

### Feb. 3

Parent Conference  
sign-up online

### Feb. 3

Gr. 3 "Space Presentation  
"Out of This World" 2:30 p.m.

### Feb. 3

Kindergarten Visits  
Myron Stratton Home

### Feb. 3

"Poetry Alive"  
K - Gr. 2 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.  
Gr. 3 - Gr. 5 1:15 - 2:00 p.m.

### Feb. 8

Gr. 4 PowerPoint  
Presentations in Louisa

### Feb. 9

Black History Assembly  
8:30 a.m. in Louisa  
Parents are welcome

### Feb. 9, 10, 13

Gr. 2 sells "Love Bug"  
Candy Grams  
7:45-8:00 a.m.,  
3:15-3:30 p.m.

### Feb. 10

Gr. 5 Visits  
Woodland Park Goat Farm

### Feb. 10

Friday Night Out

### Feb. 10

Gr. 2 Invention Fair  
10:00 a.m. in Louisa

### Feb. 13

100th Day of School  
K-1 Activities

### Feb. 13 - 15

Jump Rope for Heart

### Feb. 14

Valentine's Day Parties

### Feb. 16 - 17

No School  
Parent Conferences  
Conference Day Camps

### Feb. 20

No School  
President's Day

### Feb. 24

Gr. 1 Famous Americans  
Presentations  
12:00 noon - 1:15 p.m.

### Mar. 2

Gr. 2 and Gr. 4  
Dessert Theatre

## Parent Conferences - February 16 and 17

Beginning February 3, you will be able to sign up online for your Parent Conference at your convenience. Please watch for an email giving you complete instructions for signing up. Conferences will take place on February 16 and 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with an hour lunch break from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Since these conferences provide special time for you and the teachers to discuss your child's progress, we suggest that you leave young babies with a sitter or exchange sitting arrangements with a friend to avoid distraction during this short period of time. Childcare will be provided at no cost during your conference times only for children 3 years and up (state law requires that children be potty-trained to be left in our care center). Please remember that all children must be under adult supervision if they are on campus. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Conference Day Camps

We have some fun activities planned for Thursday and Friday, February 16 and 17, during conferences. You received information and registration forms in Friday Folders last week.

## Visit-the-Next-Grade Week for Pre - Grade 4 Families January 31 - February 2 from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

We would love to have you visit the Children's School to see our wonderful teachers and programs in action. To learn more about what lies ahead, during the week of January 31 - February 2, you are invited to visit the class your child will be attending next year, grades K-5. For instance, if your child is in Kindergarten, please sign up outside the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom to see Mrs. Mayberry teaching. We ask that you limit your visit to about 30 minutes and that you sign up ahead of time, with a maximum of four visitors at one time. This will help avoid having a crowd that would lessen the experience for both the students and you. Sign-up sheets are posted outside the classrooms.

If you have questions for the teachers and they are teaching the entire time you are there, please leave them a note, and they will get back to you. Patti Nelson would also welcome your visit and would be happy to hear from you.

## Scholastic Book Fair

Plans for our annual Scholastic Book Fair, which runs from April 9-13, are well underway! Again, this year, many kind-hearted and gracious volunteers will be needed to make this event successful. If you would be willing to help, please contact our Librarian, Michael Carpenter, at [mcarpenter@css.org](mailto:mcarpenter@css.org) or call her at 434-3511.



## The Love Bug Fundraiser

Moms, dads, sisters, brothers, friends, and Secret Admirers, here is your chance to send a note of love or friendship to someone special in PreKindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade for Valentine's Day and help raise money for the Children's School garden.

On February 9, 10, and 13 from 7:45-8:00 a.m. and 3:15-3:30 p.m., 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be selling Love Bug candy grams in the Children's Academic Center. These candy grams will include a personalized message from you and a piece of candy and will be delivered to that special someone on February 14. The cost is only \$1.00 each, and Love Bugs will be delivered to students in grades K-5 only. All proceeds will go to the Children's School Garden Fund, so please support the garden project and spread some love!!! If you are unable to come to school to buy a candy gram, just print the page at the end of the Courier, fill in the blank Candy Gram, put it in an envelope with the money, and send it to school by Monday, February 13. Checks will be accepted, but cash is preferred.

## Parents Association Garage Sale - April 10

As you look around your home, in closets, basements, garages, etc., please consider collecting items you would like to donate to the CSS Annual Garage Sale. Each year, the Parents Association collects your old treasures for a giant community Garage Sale, with proceeds benefiting CSS. This year's Parents Association's Garage Sale will be held Saturday, April 28, 2012.

Contact Parents Association Garage Sale Chair, Donna Taylor, at [\(719\) 641-1607](tel:7196411607) or [donna\\_m\\_taylor@msn.com](mailto:donna_m_taylor@msn.com) to schedule a pick-up or drop-off time.

## Friday Night Out - February 10

It's Mardi Gras season, and it's time for CSS students to party and have a good time! Wear a costume and be ready to join a Krewe to make a float, catch some throws, and bake (then eat) a King's cake! A delectable dinner of pizza, gator on a stick, and corn will be served with lemonade.

Friday Night Out is a monthly program for children in grades K-5 to have fun with friends from 5:30-9:30 p.m. while parents have an evening to themselves! Each month features dinner (unless specified) and a fun, enriching activity. The cost is \$45.00 per child, \$40.00 per each sibling. For more information, contact the Enrichment Coordinator, Lori de Juan at [ldejuan@css.org](mailto:ldejuan@css.org).

## New Horizons

Plans are being finalized for New Horizons classes, so watch for brochures to be sent home in this week's Friday Folders.



## 100th Day of School Celebration

Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on February 13, and activities will include projects involving the number, 100. As part of this celebration, the Kindergarten students will spend part of the morning in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classroom with Mrs. Mayberry, while the 1<sup>st</sup> graders visit the Kindergarten classroom with Mrs. Leachman.

## Jump Rope for Heart

Did you know that in 2011, the American Heart Association met its goal of reducing deaths from coronary heart disease and strokes by 25%? Unfortunately, increasing rates in obesity and physical inactivity may reverse these gains. The AHA continues to educate young people about heart health while also donating to medical research and prevention. Feel free to visit their website at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) to read more about this worthy organization and the many success stories they share.

The AHA's annual fundraising is in the form of "Jump Rope For Heart" and "Hoops For Heart," both fun events for children of all ages. Once again this year, CSS will participate in the Children's School with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades holding a "Jump Rope For Heart" event in PE classes while grades 4-5 will participate in "Hoops For Heart." The event will take place the week of February 13-15 before conferences.

Students are encouraged to participate in the fund raising aspect, but, of course, are not required to do so. They can collect pledges either in person or on line, which has proven to be most effective. To do so, simply go to [www.heart.org/jump](http://www.heart.org/jump) or [www.heart.org/hoops](http://www.heart.org/hoops) and click on the "Students Sign Up" button. Then click on Colorado and find CSS so that you can 'Join This Team.' Next, set a goal for fund raising before setting up your Username and Password. After a parent or guardian has signed the permission form, simply click "Complete Registration" to complete the registration. From here, it is easy to send out emails, superhero cards, or even customized videos to friends and family all around the world!

Our goal this year is \$3,000 which would earn our PE department \$300 in PE equipment from US Games. We could earn another \$100 if 30 people from CSS simply register online and send out 10 emails each. This approach seems to produce the best results while making it easier to collect, as well.

Whether they fund raise or not, all students will be educated on heart health in February and can participate in the event during PE classes. Please look for forms coming home in student folders and contact Vicki Vaughan (x577) if you have further questions. As always, your support is appreciated, and your efforts do make a difference!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Thank  
you

...to all the parents who provided delicious treats for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders' Dessert Theatre.

FEBRUARY 5 Mrs. Birnbaum	FEBRUARY 13 Paige R.	FEBRUARY 15 Kaite Ann F.
FEBRUARY 18 Aadi N.	FEBRUARY 22 Emma G. Aubrey G. Noah S.	FEBRUARY 23 Sasha M.
FEBRUARY 24 Graham B.		

## Poetry Alive!

This fantastic organization literally brings poetry to life, with its performers acting out various poems for their audiences. Poetry Alive! will visit CSS on Friday, February 3. Parents are welcome to attend any of the four age-appropriate shows:  
K-2 – 12:15-1:00 p.m.; 3-5 – 1:15-2:00 p.m.; 6-8 – 11:20 a.m.-12:00 noon; 9-12 – 10:30-11:10 a.m.



## VALENTINE'S DAY

Children will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Tuesday, February 14, with parties in their classrooms. PreK will celebrate by exchanging valentines and having a special snack. Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade parties will be from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Watch for more information from classroom teachers.

## Flu Season

With flu season upon us, we encourage parents to be alert to any symptoms their child might have that could indicate the flu: chills, sore throat, body aches, headaches, and eye pain. There is an advantage to seeing a doctor; when symptoms are diagnosed early, the flu can be treated. Symptoms can come on fairly suddenly, so someone may feel well in the morning, and later in the day, feel awful. People who have symptoms like those above should not stay until the end of the day but should go home. The virus is spread, both by droplets in the air and through touch. Keeping surfaces clean and disinfected is important, and washing hands well, of course, is always imperative.

Children should also remain at home when cold symptoms are evident; persistent runny noses, coughs, or sore throats. They can benefit from a day or two at home when these symptoms are persistent, and it also helps to keep from spreading these viruses to other children and teachers.



## Colorado Expeditions On The Horizon

As an experienced-based school, CSS embraces an emphasis on learning by active participation, both within and beyond the classroom. Our outdoor education program is designed to help students gain independence, acquire outdoor living skills, and develop an appreciation for and responsibility to the natural environment while learning about the history of Colorado.

Information about the trips and Applications for Parent Educational Leaders will be shared at Parent Conferences.

## Spring Break Camps

Spring Break Camp is filled with fun and enriching experiences for children in grades K-5. Choose the days that work with your schedule or attend them all. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Extended Care is offered daily from 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 3:00-5:30 p.m. for \$6.00 per hour. The cost is \$50.00 per day, \$40.00 per each sibling, or \$210.00 per week, \$180.00 per each sibling, and registration is required. For more information, please contact Lori de Juan at [ldejuan@css.org](mailto:ldejuan@css.org).

**March 26 – Slimy Science** Gross and awesome experiments will fill the day. Eat a brain? Make glap and other ooze-filled experiments.

**March 27 – Star Performers** Get your creative juices flowing as you and your friends lip-sync songs and create silly commercials and comedy routines while being videoed. Videos will be e-mailed to your parents' e-mail address so you can relive your creative skits!

**March 28 – The Golden Screen** Having fun during Spring Break can be hard work, so today we are going to relax at the movies! Popcorn, friends, and fun are on the agenda for the day. Weather will determine if we go to the park or open gym!

**March 29 – Spring Carnival** Step right up kids! Don't be shy, because it's a carnival delight! Play games, win tickets, and exchange them for the best carnival prizes.

**March 30 – Rock Climbing** A favorite of Spring Break Camp! Off we go to the rock climbing gym for an afternoon of fun on the rocks. Wear comfortable clothes and tennis shoes.

## Middle School Chili Cook-off

It's that time of the year again! That's right, it is Chili Cook-off time! On Thursday, March 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., there will be food, prizes, and games! You don't want to miss out eating the great homemade chili, so bring money for admission, desserts, and games. All proceeds from this event go toward offsetting the cost of Walkabout for all the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.



## PE Beach Party

Have you ever wanted to escape the doldrums of winter? Well, we did, and we decided to throw a CSS Beach Party for the Children's School! On Friday, January 20, Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students rotated through various activities that a beach scene might provide. Smiles and just pure fun build community in countless ways. As the waves pounded the shores and seagulls circled overhead, we reveled in the release of pure joy in movement with friends. Summer wear was clearly evident with brightly colored clothing and hats, even a snorkel or two! Beach volleyball, Lei relays, tag games, limbo, and various scoop and paddle games rounded out the activities of our mid-winter beach party. Life is good.

# Themes of Study

## **PreKindergarten Authors**

The PreKindergarten class will continue the study of authors and illustrators, focusing on Don, Audrey, and Bruce Wood.

The Wood family has written many favorite children's books over the years, but we will narrow the selection to five favorites: *The Alphabet Mystery*, *King Bidgood's in the Bathtub*, *The Napping House*, *The Deep Blue Sea*, and *Silly Sally*. King Bidgood's in the bathtub, and he won't get out! Do you know how to get him out? The Page does. After writing and illustrating his/her own adaptation to the story, *King/Queen \_\_\_\_\_ Is In The Bathtub*, each child will present his/her idea to the class. *The Napping House* and *The Deep Blue Sea* are wonderful stories for practicing the sequence of events. Each student will be challenged to recall the sequences as he/she acts out *The Napping House* and illustrates *The Deep Blue Sea*.

## **Kindergarten Communication Through the Arts**

For our new theme, we will embark on an Author Study of Leo Lionni. Not only did he write and illustrate an array of children's books, but he also sculpted with bronze and glass, worked with textures, and painted in a variety of ways. He was inspired by his love of nature, which began as a young child. We will explore all of his different talents and read many of his wonderful books, sparking inspiration in our own young Kindergarten writers. This study of communicating through storytelling and art leads us into our Dessert Theatre presentation, which will be an adaptation of one of his stories. To begin this unit, the children will listen to nature sound CDs, and then they will be asked to use the sounds as an inspiration to paint what they are feeling or hearing. The discussion after this lesson leads us

into an exploration of the many formats through which one can communicate.

## **First Grade Famous Americans**

First graders will continue their Famous Americans theme.

## **Second Grade Invention Fair**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have discovered a problem, imagined a solution, designed an invention, and are building a working model. This week, our little inventors will name their inventions and apply for a patent, create a slogan, and advertise it on a billboard. The students will then learn persuasive tactics and write a pitch that will get others interested in their invention. The children are excited to share their inventions with friends, teachers, and parents on February 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Louisa Performing Arts Center.

## **Third Grade Independent Study**

Writing is a powerful tool for learning. It enables students to analyze and synthesize their thoughts and discover new ideas. During our Independent Study, we will focus on five specific stages of writing: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. We will also be doing in-depth research, along with writing specific facts and a bibliography. The Independent Study theme will take about five weeks, beginning on February 6, 2012. The final product will be an informative and creative book, which will be shared with classmates and parents at our Young Author's Tea on March 22, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. (Location to be determined.)

## **Fourth Grade Independent Study (cont')**

Fourth graders continue to persevere in their Independent Study projects. They have completed the note-taking and outlining process and are working on writing their rough drafts. Revision and editing are a

major focus, as is the process of organizing a concise, five-paragraph, expository essay. The other part of Independent Study is to prepare a PowerPoint Presentation for parents and 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Not only is this a useful tool, but the students continue to gain confidence in their ability to present information and engage an audience. Feel free to come see their presentations on Wednesday, February 8, at 1:30 p.m. in Louisa.

Following that theme of study, 4<sup>th</sup> graders will take the stage for a different reason as they prepare for Dessert Theatre. For five weeks, students will be immersed in the process, from character development to costumes, and choosing props to choreographing blocking.

## **Fifth Grade Simple Machines**

Health and sanitation, or a lack thereof, helped define our perception of life in the middle ages, as did the use of simple machines used for warfare and construction. In tying all of these elements together, the themes of the human body and simple machines are being explored alongside medieval life.

We'll cover the human body by systems, giving structure to the study by first understanding the skeleton. From there we'll flesh out the study with skin and muscles, breathe a little life into it with the cardio/respiratory system, add some sensation with the nervous system, and end up with endocrinology so we'll be ready for "the talk" in May!

We have already started to pry into simple machines with a basic understanding of levers, a pivotal lesson in understanding how humans can increase their effort with simple tools. Seeing human bones as levers brings these studies full circle. This study will leave us inclined to build a chain reaction machine, using all of the simple machines.

**The Faces of  
Desert Theatre**



**CHILDREN'S SCHOOL OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM K-5**

Our program is developmentally structured to increase the level of challenge from grade-to-grade. Personal growth occurs when children feel a sense of accomplishment, such as being away from home overnight without their parents, getting along with classmates, and living in the outdoors for an extended period of time. Children have a brief age-appropriate introduction in the fall with either an extended day or overnight experience. Fall Trips foster community and introduce students to the longer, more exhilarating experience of Colorado Expeditions. These trips are designed to expand upon classroom studies in an experience-based environment.

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>FALL TRIP</u>	<u>COLORADO EXPEDITIONS</u>	<u>SPRING THEME</u>
K	extended day	camp in the classroom	Colorado Ranching & Wildlife
1	extended day	1 night away from home	Children of Colorado's Past
2	1 night in classroom	2 nights at a lodge	Gold Mining in Colorado
3	1 night in tents	2 nights at Bent's Fort	Westward Expansion
4	1 night in tents	3 nights in the San Luis Valley	Hispanic & Native Am. Cultures
5	1 night in tents	4 nights at Mesa Verde	Ancestral Puebloan Culture

"Colorado Expeditions" for grades Kindergarten through 3 will take place May 16 through May 18. This year, the 2nd and 3rd grades leave on Wednesday, May 16, and returns on Friday, May 18. First grade leaves on Thursday, May 17, and returns on Friday, May 18, and the Kindergartners will spend Thursday night, May 17, in the classroom. More information will be coming as we get closer to the dates of the trips. Thank you in advance for your support and for taking the time to consider volunteering to be a Parent Helper for our Colorado Expeditions.

"Colorado Expeditions" for Grades 4 and 5 will take place during the week of May 7 through May 11. Fifth grade will leave on Monday, May 7, for Mesa Verde, and the 4th grade leaves for the Sand Dunes on Tuesday, May 8. Both will return on Friday, May 11. If you are interested in being a Parent Educational Leader, you will be given an application at Parent Conferences. Please complete and return it to Ms. Anterra before Friday, February 24. Thank you for taking the time to consider making the commitment necessary to be a Parent Educational Leader for our Colorado Expeditions.



# Candy Gram Love Bug



To: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade and Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Message:



# Candy Gram Love Bug



To: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade and Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Message: