



# Shooting Star Newsletter

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016

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## Dates To Remember

February 15	No School	
February 19	Helping Hands Meeting	8:00
February 22	SAC	4:00
February 25	Garlic Knot	
February 26	No School	
February 29 - March 4	Scholastic Book Fair	
March 1-3	Conferences	
March 2	GRANDS Breakfast	8:00
March 7	PTO	7:00
March 10	1 <sup>st</sup> Wax Museum Flex Room	9:00

### Message from the Principal

Hello, Shepardson families!

It was wonderful to see so many of you for our classroom Valentine's Day parties last week. Walking around the building reminded me again of what a supportive community we have. Room parents worked very hard to make the parties special for each class including crafts, yummy treats, dance parties, and Q-tip launching games. Thank you for making the day special for our students!



The season of Kindergarten registration and School of choice are upon us! We had a very successful registration day, and got to meet some wonderful new students and families. If you know any neighborhood kiddos that did not get a chance to register last week, please let them know they can come in at any time to complete the paperwork. School of choice is also fully underway

*continued on next page*

## Shepardson

Principal  
**Alissa Poduska**

Office Phone  
**970.488.4525**

Fax Number  
**970.488.4527**

<http://she.psdschools.org>

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**Message from the Principal *continued***

as offers went out this week. We will continue to monitor our numbers and may have opportunities to add families during the summer as well.

It is very hard to believe that February 25<sup>th</sup> marks the end of the second trimester. This school year continues to fly by! Students will not have school on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> as it is a teacher work-day. You should have received the information for PTC Fast, which allows you to electronically sign up for parent teacher conferences. We will have conferences on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00 pm each night. If you have any questions or need help signing up, please contact your child's teacher. Looking forward to seeing many of you that week!



As a staff, we continue to work hard to make sure drop-off and pick-up is safe for all of our students. The crosswalk team was trained in helping improve traffic flow, and I have really seen some improvements here. I also continue to educate families about where we can and cannot drop off students. The area along the fence on Springwood is drop-off and pick-up only before and after

*continued on next page*

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**PAGE 2**

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## Message from the Principal *continued*

school. Please do not drop students off in the middle of the street while waiting at the stop sign. Also, please do not park or drop off in the crosswalk areas along Springwood and Fernwood. These are areas I am working hard to communicate and redirect. Thank you for your help in these improvements.

We are working to increase our Facebook presence. Please follow our page by clicking this link <http://on.fb.me/1SrXi3f> or the Facebook logo below. It's a great way to stay in touch with updates, weekly events, and great things our kiddos and staff are doing each day.

Thank you to each of you for helping to make Shepardson the best neighborhood school around!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Alissa Poduska


Principal



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## STEM Media and Technology

February is a busy month for the STEM Media and Technology program!

We celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on Friday, February 5. We were thrilled with the participation in the STEM Media/Technology 100 Day Project and were very impressed with all the creative rhymes and projects based on 100. Here's a sampling of just a few of the terrific projects – they were all fun and wonderful! Way to shine Shepardson STARS!



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**PAGE 4**

# Does your family



Learn more. ▶



Healthy Kids Club

 UCHealth

The right doc makes it all better.



### STEM Media and Technology *continued*



*continued on next page*



Visit Pedersen Toyota in Fort Collins  
[PEDERSENTOYOTA.COM](http://PEDERSENTOYOTA.COM)



Some vehicles prototypes. All models shown with options.





Joe Mivshek

**kw**  
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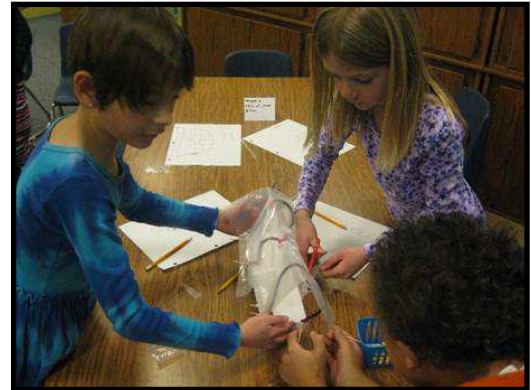
**970.420.7163**

[joemivshek@kwrealty.com](mailto:joemivshek@kwrealty.com)

Call today and a percentage of my commission goes back to your school!

## STEM Media and Technology *continued*

We are also celebrating National Engineering Month during February with a variety of events and activities. During the week of February 8-12, we partnered with our STEMs of Learning Garden Moms, Heidi Priebe and Allison Straubing, to brainstorm ideas for covering the garden boxes to prepare for spring planting. Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade worked in teams to talk about how we could bring warmth to the garden and get some seeds in the ground early this year and then created models of possible structures that could be built to cover the garden.



We were impressed with the team work and designs the students created. The next steps will be to agree on a final design and build covered structures for some of the garden boxes.

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PAGE 6

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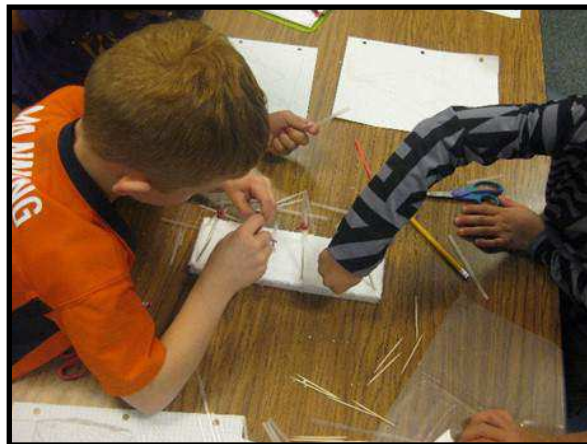
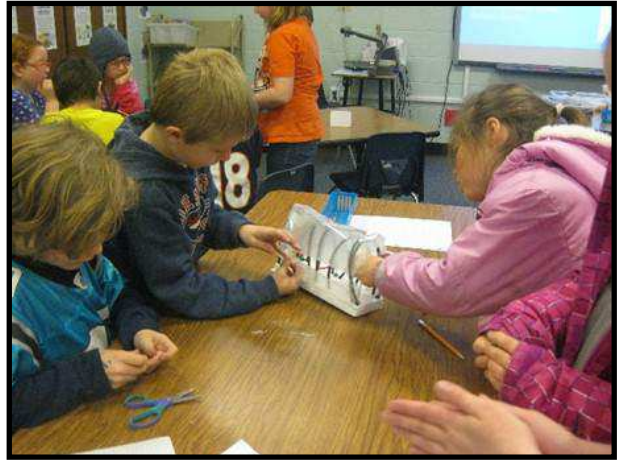
Sign up for weekly event emails for kids, teens, tweens & adults!



[www.poudrelibraries.org](http://www.poudrelibraries.org)

## STEM Media and Technology *continued*

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Engineering Discovery Week will be held in the STEM Media Center on February 22-25. Thanks to Hicks Electronic Design, we have a great project for the kids this year! We'll need some volunteers - information about volunteering and how to is copied below. We'll have pictures and a report of this exciting and fun event in next month's newsletter!



*continue on next page*



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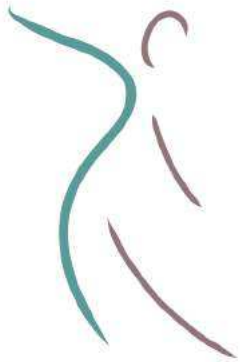
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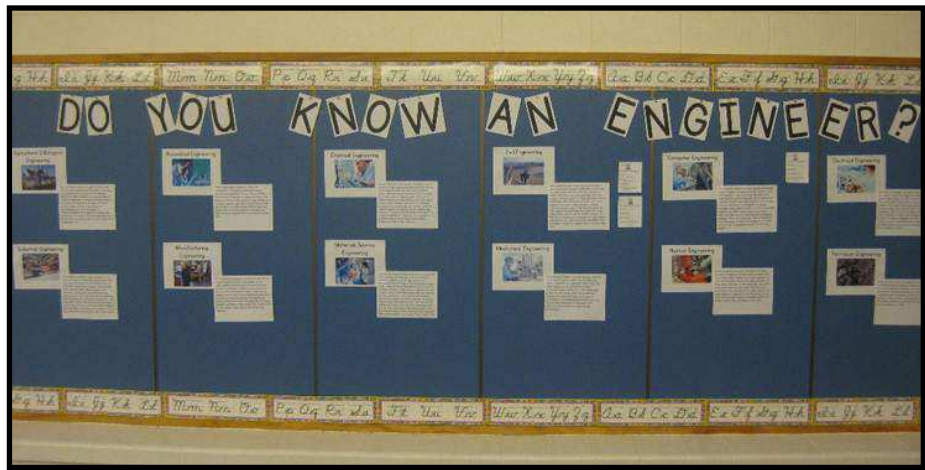


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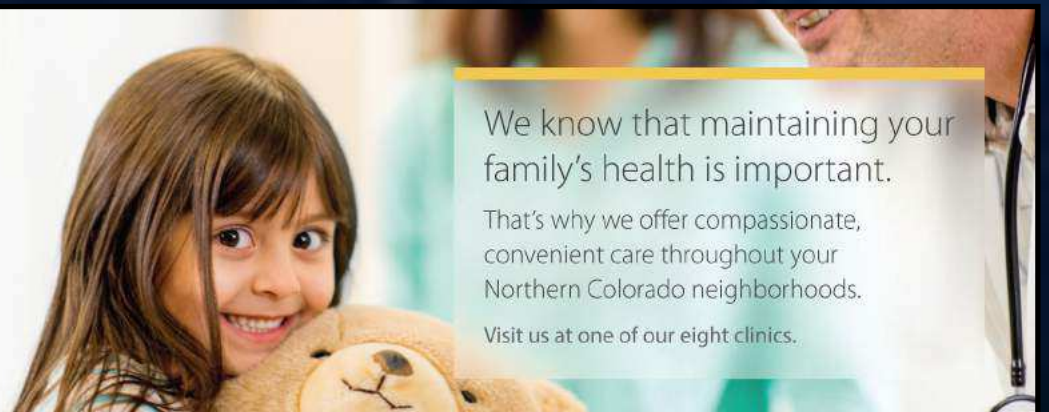
## STEM Media and Technology *continued*

Check out our "Do You Know an Engineer?" Bulletin board in the Media Center and have a conversation with your children about what engineers do and how they work to improve our world. If you need a jumping off spot for a conversation, this is a great website: <http://www.discovere.org/>

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## STEM Media and Technology *continued*

We're looking forward to the Scholastic Book Fair, which will be held in the Media Center on Feb. 29 – Mar. 4. Thanks to Janelle McGill and her team of great volunteers for coordinating the Book Fair again this year.

In the Tech Lab, students are learning good research skills, how to collect data and represent it in charts and working on their second trimester keyboarding test. As part of our celebration of National Engineering Month activities, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are being introduced to Tinkercad and 3D printing. We're excited to give the students the opportunity to learn a new skill and put it to use. Stay tuned . . . we'll have more to report about this fun adventure in the next newsletter.

We invite you to stop by the Technology Lab and Media Center to see all of the great learning activities that are going on. We love teaching your children and watching them grow and learn. Thanks for sharing them with us! Please contact a member of the Shepardson STEM Media and Technology Team if you have any questions or would like additional information about our STEM Media and Technology program.

Mrs. Woodcox – [bwoodcox@psdschools.org](mailto:bwoodcox@psdschools.org)

Mrs. Schutt – [aschutt@psdschools.org](mailto:aschutt@psdschools.org)

Mrs. Monks – [jmonks@psdschools.org](mailto:jmonks@psdschools.org)



### PARENT-CHILD ADVERTISING AND SHOPPING STUDIES



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Seeks **children ages 5-10 and one of their parents** to participate in two brief research studies!

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  - Takes place at CSU
  - Time commitment: about 1.5 hrs
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For more information, please:

- Call 651-747-7761 or 970-491-5129
- Email [research@colostate.edu](mailto:research@colostate.edu)
- Visit <http://frdl.colostate.edu/volunteer.aspx>

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## STEM Notes!

### National Engineering Month at Shepardson STEM Elementary

February is Engineering Month and Shepardson STEM Elementary is celebrating! We are seeking volunteers to help us with some terrific engineering activities. Click on the links below to find additional details about each event and to sign up. We'd love to have you participate with us during Engineering Month!

Click on this link to sign up to volunteer for the [Shepardson STEM Tinkercad/3D Printing Unit](#).

You can also copy and paste this link into your browser: [bit.ly/sheptinkercad3dprinting](http://bit.ly/sheptinkercad3dprinting)

*Help 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students learn Tinkercad and create a design for 3D printing. Feb. 8 – March 11, various days and times.*



Please click here to sign up to be an [Engineering Discovery Week Volunteer](#).

You can also copy and paste this link into your browser: [bit.ly/shepengengineeringdiscovery](http://bit.ly/shepengengineeringdiscovery)

*Help K-5 students celebrate Engineering Week as they solder a simple circuit and participate in engineering activities. Feb. 22 – 25, various days and times.*

Contact Mrs. Woodcox, [bwoodcox@psdschools.org](mailto:bwoodcox@psdschools.org), for additional information about volunteering to help with the Tinkercad/3D Printing Unit or Engineering Discovery Week.

Happy Engineering Month!

Becky Woodcox ([bwoodcox@psdschools.org](mailto:bwoodcox@psdschools.org))



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## STEM Notes! *continued*

### Science Fair – Full STEM Ahead!

The 2016 Shepardson STEM Science Fair will be held on Thursday, March 24, in the gym. All 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students are participating. We are seeking volunteers to be Science Fair judges. If you are NOT a parent of a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, please consider volunteering to be a Science Fair judge. The information and a link to sign up can be found below.



For additional information about the Science Fair, please contact:

- Becky Woodcox - STEM Coordinator
- Kim Ayala and Eryn Burge – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Erin Sullivan – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Thanks for supporting the 2016 Shepardson STEM Science Fair!

### ScienceFlix

Thanks to funds from last year's Scholastic Book Fair, we have a great new resource at Shepardson this year – Scholastic ScienceFlix. It is a great online collection of videos and other science related resources. Shepardson students and families can access ScienceFlix from home! We hope you'll take advantage of this resource. Check it out and give Mrs. Woodcox or Mrs. Schutt some feedback of how you use it and what you learn from it! A huge thank you goes out to the Shepardson PTO and the Book Fair funds for making the purchase of a ScienceFlix a reality for Shepardson STEM Elementary!



SCHOLASTIC



<http://scienceflix.digital.scholastic.com/>

Username: shepardson

Password: flix

## STEM Notes! *continued*

### Science Fair Judges

Shepardson STEM Elementary will hold their annual 4th and 5th Grade Science Fair on **Thursday, March 24, 2016, in the Shepardson STEM Elementary Gym.**

We are seeking volunteers to be Science Fair judges.



Judging will begin at 8:30 a.m. and be completed by 3:00 p.m.

- Volunteers can sign up to judge for the whole day or for a two-hour shift.
- Judges will critique student boards and conduct interviews with students. A judging rubric will be provided.
- Snacks will be available throughout the day and lunch will be provided.
- Please register to be a [Poudre School District Volunteer](#).
- For additional information, contact Becky Woodcox, Shepardson STEM Coordinator, [bwoodcox@psdschools.org](mailto:bwoodcox@psdschools.org).

**PLEASE NOTE:** *If you have a 4th or 5th grade child participating in the Shepardson Science Fair, you will not be eligible to judge. We do have a number of other volunteer needs to assist with the Science Fair, so please contact Mrs. Woodcox if you are willing to volunteer in some other role on the day of the Science Fair.*

Judging Time Choices:

**All day:**

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Two hour shifts:**

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Click on this link to sign up to volunteer to be a **Shepardson STEM Science Fair Judge**.

You can also copy this link into your browser: [bit.ly/shepsciencefairjudges](http://bit.ly/shepsciencefairjudges)



## Galaxy Travelers' Mileage Club

During the month of February and some of March, the Galaxy Travelers' Mileage Club **will not** meet at school. We encourage all students to continue to be healthy, active, and exercise. To encourage activities at home, students may earn miles towards the Mileage Club. If you are new to the mileage club, that's fine you may start now. Once the month is over, have your parents sign the Mileage Marker, and return it for your special monthly tokens and additional mileage tokens.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Token</u>	<u>Turn In</u>
January	Shooting Star	February
February	Heart	March

**Mileage Equivalency Guide and Mileage Markers** are in the main office. Use this chart to convert minutes of activity into miles. After each activity, write down what activity you did, for how long, and cross off the mile marker.

Beginning **Wednesday, March 23rd** we will begin walking / running again every Wednesday and Friday until May 23rd. May 23rd will be the last run until fall of the next school year.

### Special Run Dates

- **March 23 & 25 – Shamrock Shuffle**
- **April 20 & 22 - Umbrella Open**
- **May 18 & 20 – Flower Power**

Have fun!



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## Galaxy Travelers' Mileage Club *continued*

### Keys to Success!!

**Family Activity Ideas** - Walk, hike, jog, swim, bike, skate, jump rope, play tag, follow the leader, soccer, basketball and hopscotch.

**Warm-up first** – Walk a short distance while swinging and stretching the arms and legs. Include a few calisthenics like jumping jacks, jump and twist, ¼ knee bends and running in place.

**Keep it short and sweet** – Set a goal for each session that your child can attain without excessive effort. Increase the distance or time gradually.

**Keep it fun** – The goal is to help your child become more active, not become an Olympic athlete. Keep it fun so your child will want to do it again.

**Participate with your child** – If you are able, do the activity with your child. If you are not able to fully participate, maintain involvement by being in the area, encouraging with positive words and helping record those miles.

## Healthy Kids Club

The Healthy Kids Club Schools on the Move 5210 Challenge has begun! It's not too late to get started.

Each February, Shepardson students, staff and family members make a pledge to be active and healthy by adopting and tracking the "5210" healthy habits each day.



### What is 5210?

- Eat **five** servings of fruits and veggies.
- Limit recreational screen time to less than **two** hours.
- Be active for at least **one** hour.
- Drink **zero** sugary drinks.

Additional Challenge forms are in the office!



## 2016 School Bus Safety Poster Contest

*(Sponsored by the PSD Transportation Services and NAPT)*

Try for a chance to win a **new bike and helmet!**

The theme for this year's poster contest is:

**# STOP ON RED!**



PSD Transportation Services will select **two winners:**

- one from Grades K-2 (Division #1) &
- one from Grades 3-5 (Division #2)

Ask your classroom teacher or art teacher for contest rules or email Connie Klibbe @ [cklibbe@psdschools.org](mailto:cklibbe@psdschools.org)

***Posters are due to your teacher by Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>***

## Vegetable Seed Drive

Spring is almost here and the STEMs of Learning Garden is getting ready for another wonderful planting and growing season. We are in need of a variety of vegetable seeds and are holding a seed drive the week of February 29-March 4th. Bring your seeds to the media center or give to your classroom teacher. Specifically we need:

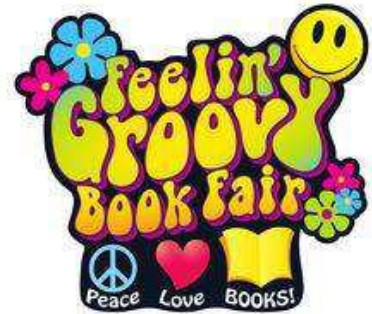
Squash seeds	Lettuce seeds
Pumpkin seeds	Carrot seeds
Radish seeds	Pea seeds
Bean seeds	Herb seeds
Beet seeds	

We thank you for your support of the amazing garden here at Shepardson STEM Elementary!



## Shepardson Book Fair February 29—March 4

It is that time of year again – this year's groovy book fair will be February 29-March 4. It will open for sales after school on Monday, then remain open through 5:00 pm on Friday. The Book Fair will also have extended hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during conferences. We hope to see you all there!



### Book Fair Grand Event

# SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> 8:00 AM

**G**randparents  
**R**elatives  
**A**unts and Uncles  
**N**eighbors  
**D**evoted Caretakers

Hello Shepardson Families!

It is that time of year again – the Shepardson Book Fair will be here from February 29<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>. Information on hours and events will be sent home in the coming weeks. We realize, though, that the GRANDs in your child's life may need a little more notice if they plan to join us. Our annual Grand's Breakfast – when your student gets to invite their GRANDs to join them for breakfast and Book Fair browsing before school – will be on Wednesday morning, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 8-9am. So please make note of the time and date for this year's event and pass it along!





# PLEASE HELP HELPING HANDS CLUB

Compile a Shepardson Cookbook!!! Please send each student with a copy of their favorite recipe, typed, written or copied, to be compiled into a **Shepardson Cookbook**. Recipes can be turned into Mrs. Durkin or the office. Cookbooks will be on sale in the spring. All proceeds to benefit Make-A-Wish. Please help us make dreams come true for sick or terminally ill children.

**Favorite Recipes:  
all categories**

---

**Collected  
Feb. 1- Feb. 19th**

---

**½ sheet of paper  
no larger**

---

**Typed, written or  
copied**

---

**Include name &  
grade**

**SHEPARDSON**  
Mrs. Durkin's Room  
4/5 pod

8:15-9:00

All Ages are welcome.



Shepardson PTO's next meeting is  
**Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7:00 pm** in  
the Media Center.

Come and see what the PTO is all about!

## Upcoming PTO Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
February 19, 2016	Movie Night
February 25, 2016	Family Night - Garlic Knot
Feb. 29 - Mar. 4, 2016	Scholastic Book Fair
March 7, 2016	<b>PTO Meeting - 7:00 pm</b>
March 31, 2016	Family Night - Garlic Knot
April 1, 2016	Sock Hop - 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm
April 4, 2016	<b>PTO Meeting - 7:00 pm</b>
April 28, 2016	Family Night - Garlic Knot
May 2, 2016	<b>PTO Meeting - 7:00 pm</b>
May 2 - 6, 2016	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6, 2016	Teacher Appreciation BBQ
May 26, 2016	Family Night - Garlic Knot
May 2 - 6, 2016	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 6, 2016	Teacher Appreciation BBQ
May 26, 2016	Family Night - Garlic Knot



## **King Soopers Neighborhood Reward Program for Shepardson STEM Elementary School PTO**

Do you shop at King Soopers?

Did you know that King Soopers can donate money to *Shepardson* based on the money you spend? King Soopers **RE-LOADABLE** gift cards make raising money for our school as easy as shopping!

Use the order form on page 17 to request your card today. The Shepardson PTO is pre-ordering 80 of these gift cards, preloaded with initial minimum balance of \$2.50, so that there is NO cost to you other than the money you choose to load on the card to buy your groceries. With this first run of 80 cards, all of the money you load on the card is yours to spend, AND then King Soopers generously donates 5% of those funds back to our school!

### **Here's how it works:**

- Complete the order form below and return it to your student's teacher.
- The PTO will mail your King Soopers Re-loadable Grocery Card(s) to you - so be sure to complete your mailing address on the form below.
- Then, the next time you shop at King Soopers, load your grocery money on your Grocery Card prior to scanning your items:
  - \* The Grocery Cards come preloaded with \$2.50. **PRIOR** to checkout you load (add value to) your card, in a separate transaction, at the cash register or customer service desk.\* You can reload your card with any amount up to \$500.00. You can reload your card an unlimited number of times.

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# SHEPARDSON PTO

## **King Soopers Neighborhood Reward Program for Shepardson STEM Elementary School PTO *continued***

- \* If you reload your card at the customer service desk there is approximately a 5-minute delay for your card to be processed so it may be easier to simply hand your card to the clerk at the register **before** they scan your groceries.
- Use your Grocery Card right away to pay for all your shopping at King Soopers!

It's that easy! We appreciate your participation in the Grocery Card Program and your willingness to take this extra little step to reload your grocery cards. This is a great opportunity for Shepardson STEM Elementary School PTO to earn funds from King Soopers that directly impacts our students this school year!

**There is no limit on the amount of money the Shepardson PTO can earn for our students and teachers! Imagine the possibilities... for a family who spends \$1000 in groceries and gas each month and uses the Grocery Card Program, the return is \$600 to Shepardson STEM Elementary**



**\*\* King Soopers Grocery Card Program \*\***  
**Order Form**

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Student(s) Grade Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Grocery Cards You Would Like: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grocery Card Program Quick Information:**

- Cards with a zero balance for 90 days become inactive. If this happens you will need a new card.
- Only gift cards purchased through Shepardson PTO will be linked to our school for the 5% rebate.
- You can continue to earn frequent flyer miles or reward points when using a credit card to reload your King Soopers.
- Friends and family, even those in other states, can support Shepardson STEM Elementary PTO and your student! Cards linked to Shepardson PTO can be distributed to anyone wishing to support our school.
- King Soopers cards are accepted at most Kroger affiliated stores including City Market, Loaf & Jug, Ralphs, Smith's, Food 4 Less, Dillons, Foodco, QFC, Fred Meyer, Baker's, Scott's, Owen's and Fry's.

**Q.** What if I lose my card?

**A.** Keep record of the # on the back of your card. (The PTO will also keep a record for you.) Each card has an ID # that keeps track of your balance. If your card is lost, your money isn't gone (provided someone did not find the card and use it immediately).

**Q.** How do I check the balance on my card?

**A.** There are four ways to check the balance: the bottom of your most recent receipt; online at [www.gcbalance.com](http://www.gcbalance.com); by calling 1-866-822-6252; or your cashier can check the balance.

**Q:** What can be purchased with your re-loadable Grocery Card(s)?

**A.** Any merchandise in King Soopers and City Market stores including groceries, prescriptions, gasoline, gift cards to restaurants & retailers, etc. (Services such as Western Union, lottery tickets, stamps, etc. are exempt.)

Thank you for your support! Please contact Cara Fleckenstein at [cara\\_fleck@live.com](mailto:cara_fleck@live.com) with any additional questions. More detailed information about your Grocery Card and the Program will be sent to you with your card(s).

Thank you!