

Calendar Events

February

- Feb 4 8:30 am Spelling Bee
- Feb 6 6-8:00 pm Skate City Night
- Feb 11 Book Fair 11:30-3:00 pm
- Feb 12 **Valentine's Parties -**
Party schedule is on calendar
- Feb 12 Book Fair 8-11am
11:30-1:30 pm
- Feb 13 Book Fair 8-11 am
12:15-3:30 pm
4:00-7:45 pm
- Feb 13 **NO CLASSES**
Parent/Teacher conferences
8:00 am - 8:00 pm
- Feb 14 **NO CLASSES**
In-Common release day (K-8)
- Feb 17 **NO SCHOOL**
President's Day
- Feb 18 8:30 am Star Assembly K-2
9:15 am Star Assembly 3-5
- Feb 25 5-8 pm PTO Sponsored
Subway Night

Contact Information

Phone: 720-972-2340
Attendance Line: 720-972-2349
FAX Number: 720-972-2399
Office hours: 7:00am-3:30 pm
www.stellar.adams12.org



Stellar Elementary School Parent Newsletter February 2014

Michelle Thompson, Principal

Thank you to the parents who took the time to attend our first town hall meeting to hear the "State of Stellar" address and engage in discourse around our work, standards based education, and goals for building more communication and collaboration between our team and the families we serve.

One of the key pieces of feedback from the parents was the need for consistency between our grade levels in expectations and communication. As a Stellar faculty, we have already begun the vertical alignment work to facilitate those conversations and will continue to put that focus on our lens as we work together.

We have a Parent 411 document that will be going out again that illustrates our main practices here at Stellar. It is available on the web and explains a lot of our education jargon as well as the best instruction practices that we are focusing on this year.

We value your input and appreciate your feedback as we work to make Stellar an A+ school. High expectations, parental involvement, clear vision and mission, targeted interventions, campus wide incentives, safe and collaborative learning community, and frequent monitoring of student progress with clear communication and adjusting of instruction are all the primary structures that build student and school wide success.

At Stellar Elementary, we are dedicated to analyzing our internal systems and instruction through the Teaching Learning Cycle to meet every learner's needs.
Thank you for trusting us with your child.

Michelle Thompson
Principal

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

A big thank you to our volunteers who helped out at the December Mystery Reward Party! All of the students had a wonderful time. We could not do this without you! You are SO appreciated! -PBIS Team

The next Mystery Reward Party is on February 12th! Students earn the opportunity to attend a special party on this day with good behavior and hard work to meet personal goals. This party will be fun for students AND help out others at the same time.

COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM (CPP) 2014-2015

Adams 12 Five Star Schools offers preschool to a **limited number of CPP qualifying children**. The Colorado Preschool Program is funded by the state of Colorado. Eligible children will attend at no cost to the family. Classes are 4 days per week, 2 hours and 55 minutes per day.

To be eligible for the Colorado Preschool Program in Adams 12 Five Star Schools:

*The child and parent/guardian **must** reside within the boundaries of the Adams 12 Five Star Schools. Two proofs of residency must be provided at the time of the screening appointment.*

*The child **must** be four years old on or before October 1, 2014 (date of birth between October 2, 2009 and October 1, 2010).*

*The child **must** meet the State's criteria for eligibility. Some examples of qualifying risk factors are:*

- *Child is eligible to receive free or reduced-cost lunch pursuant to the provisions of the Federal "National School Lunch Act";*
- *Child is in need of language development, including but not limited to the ability to speak English;*
- *Child lives in a Multiple-Family Household;*
- *Parent or Guardian has not successfully completed a high school education or its equivalent.*
- *These are just a few of the approximately 20 qualifying factors. You will be notified if your child qualifies at the time of the screening.*

⇒ *All students **must** have an up-to-date immunization record and physical, required by Colorado State Law, and an official birth certificate as they enter preschool.*

⇒ *The parent/guardian **must** be responsible for transportation to and from the program.*

⇒ *The child **must** go through the Adams12 free screening process. Appointments are required. Screenings and the parent interview process will be held in March, April, May, June and August 2014.*

Call on or after March 1st to schedule your appointment with one of the following:

Becky McLaughlin at 720-972-8761

Jody Davis at 720-972-6145

Celeste Scott at 720-972-8764

Katrina Groetken at 720-972-3870

March 1, 2014 is a Saturday, but you are welcome to call that day and leave a message.

All messages will be returned in the order in which the call was received.

For Spanish-speaking families – please call 720-972-3870



Our ESL Dept. would like you to know . . .

ESL classes have resumed to normal! Every student who receives ESL services and those who have waived services were given the state language assessment called ACCESS in January. Students were tested in small groups for the listening, reading, and writing portions of the tests, and every one was tested individually for the speaking portion of the test. We are pleased that the students worked very hard, and we are proud of them for completing the tests! Results should be released in the early part of May. **Congratulations ESL students for a job well done!**

The book fair is coming, the book fair is coming!



Volunteers are needed for Book Fair set up and break down.

Be the first to get a look at the items available at the Book Fair! We are looking for 4 people to assist with setting up the Scholastic Book Fair on Thursday, February 6, from 7:30 am to 11:00 am. Lifting heavy boxes is involved. We are also looking for 4 people to help break down the fair on Tuesday, February 18, from 7:30 am to 11:00 am. If you would like to volunteer, please email Mrs. Tyrrell at: Julie.M.Tyrrell@adams12.org

Thanks for your help!

**Please like Stellar Elementary on Facebook to
receive Facebook updates.** <https://www.facebook.com/StellarElementary>

Congratulations

to the following Classrooms for earning the

Box Tops Traveling Trophy!



September

Miss Fellwock – 546 Box Tops and Mrs. Sauls – 341 Box Tops

October

Mr. Pontillo – 32 Box Tops and Ms. Maloney – 27 Box Tops

November

Ms. Jiron – 388 Box Tops and Ms. Foss – 352 Box Tops

December

Miss Fellwock – 312 Box Tops and Ms. Foss – 410 Box Tops

January

Miss Fellwock – 193 Box Tops and Ms. Zensen – 180 Box Tops

**It is going to take TEAM effort to meet our
Box Tops goal of \$4,200!**

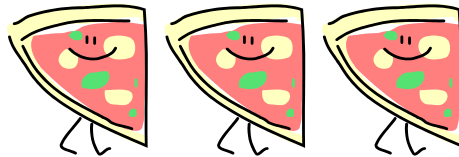
Participate in this easy way to earn cash for our school!



FEBRUARY COLLECTION CONTEST!

Be the ONE STELLAR CLASSROOM to
Collect the most Box Tops for Education
From now until Wednesday, February 26th and...

Win a Classroom Pizza Party!



Collect 50 Box Tops for Education
From now until Wednesday, February 26th
And earn an entry into a drawing to win...

SULLEY



ART or



SQUISHY!



- 1.) Students should enclose **ALL** 50 Box Tops, together at the same time, into a zip locked plastic bag, write his/her name on the bag and deposit into their classroom collection bin by **Wednesday, February 26th**. No late entries will be accepted.
- 2.) Students will receive one entry into the drawing for every 50 Box Tops they submit. Please submit in separate bags of 50. No expired Box Tops please.
- 3.) The Stellar student with the most contest entries (the most Box Tops collected for the entire school) will win the character of their choice! All other entries will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win the two remaining characters.

The last day to submit Box Tops for this contest is

Wednesday, February 26th!

Winners will be announced Friday, February 28th!

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

February 2014

Stellar Elementary School
Michelle Thompson, Principal

SHORT NOTES

The five Ws

Spark your youngster's interest in the newspaper by sharing sections with her. Tell her that a news story usually answers the five "W" questions: who, what, when, where, and why. Read an article together, and see if she can spot the answers to all five questions.

Camp registration

In many areas, camp sign-ups begin now. If you want your children to attend, start looking into options. City or county camps will cost less than private camps, and some may offer free or discounted registration to help people afford them. You could also check with community centers and places of worship.

Household fire drill

Your youngster is probably used to fire drills in school—but what about at home? Ask him to draw a map of your house and use a red X to mark two exits from each room. Then, pick a safe meeting place outside (the corner, a neighbor's front yard), and hold a fire drill.

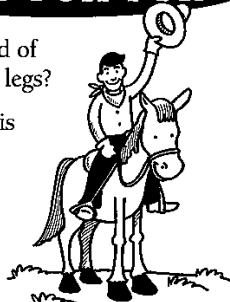
Worth quoting

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer." *Harriet Tubman*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What kind of horse has six legs?

A: One that is being ridden.



Your child's social life

Just like being involved in your youngster's education can lead to his success in school, taking an interest in his social life can help him form healthy friendships and handle peer pressure. Try these strategies.

Ask about friends

When you talk to your child about what he's learning in school, also find out who he plays with at recess or sits with at lunch. During conversations with your youngster's teacher, discuss how he gets along with classmates. If he struggles to make friends, see if there is someone he seems to like or has things in common with. Then, encourage him to invite that child home to play.

Meet other parents

Building relationships with the parents of your youngster's friends makes it easier to manage any problems that arise. Before your child visits a friend's home, call the parent to touch base. Better yet: Drop your youngster off, and introduce yourself in person. You can also meet friends'

parents at school functions (literacy night, concert), sports games, and neighborhood playgrounds.

Explain peer pressure

Help your child make good choices when he's with his friends. Point out that kids influence each other in good *and* bad ways, and together, brainstorm examples of each. To determine the difference, he should think about whether a friend's advice is helpful ("You *have* to read this book!") or harmful ("Only babies wear helmets when they ride bikes").♥



Fun with analogies

Here's an easy way to boost your child's thinking and word skills.

Give her an *analogy*, or a sentence comparing how things are related. For example, "Basketball is to sports as mozzarella is to ____." She should say "cheese," since basketball is a type of sport and mozzarella is a kind of cheese. Then, let your youngster give you an analogy to solve.

You could also make up analogies about topics she's studying in school. If she's learning about continents, you might say, "Japan is to Asia as Mexico is to ____." (Answer: North America.)♥



Winter walks

Walking in a winter wonderland can be fun *and* educational. Find a trail in your neighborhood or at a park, bundle up, and have your youngster take along these items.

Camera. Bare branches allow your child to observe details that are hidden when trees are full of leaves. She can choose a favorite tree and take photos of it, zooming in on things like a squirrel perched on a branch or a hole in the trunk. *Note:* Have her come back to the same tree in the spring so she can observe changes like buds and bird nests.



Bag. Suggest that your youngster collect a few natural items from the ground, such as rocks, pinecones, or nuts. At home, help her practice research skills by using library books or websites to identify each object.

Book. Pick a comfortable place to sit, and enjoy an outdoor read-aloud. A volume of nature poems, a story set in the woods, or a nonfiction book about wildlife make nice choices. Encourage your child to look around for images from the book (an icicle dangling from a porch, a deer darting through a field).♥

ACTIVITY CORNER



Memory strategies

Try this game to boost your youngster's memory. He'll discover techniques that can help him remember information he learns in school.

1. Write down 10 random words. Let family members look at the list for one minute, then put it away.



2. Give everyone a blank sheet of paper, and have them write as many words as they remember in two minutes. Count to see who got the most.

3. Discuss the strategies you each used to recall the words. Maybe your child noticed that *supermarket*, *crisp*, and *bowl* could all be linked to food, and remembering food made him think of those three words. Or perhaps you made up a sentence using four of the words.

4. Play again with 10 new words. Encourage your youngster to try one of the ideas you discussed. Can he remember more words this time?♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

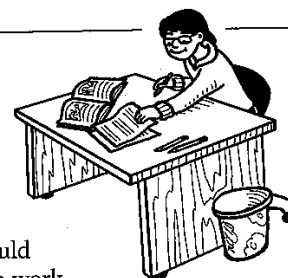
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Developing a work ethic

A strong work ethic—a belief in the value of hard work—can help your child in school, at home, and in her future career. Consider these suggestions:

- Show her how you put work before play. You could say, "I want to relax with a magazine, but I have to work on our taxes first." Then, have her do her work first, too. For instance, she should complete homework before she watches a movie.
- Help your youngster recognize the feeling of satisfaction that comes from hard work. After she cleans her room, let her invite family members to take a tour. Or when she finishes a painting that took a long time, you could let her display it in the hallway as a reminder of her effort.♥



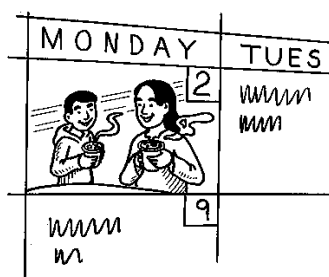
Create together time

Q: Our family has a busy schedule, and I feel like I don't spend enough time with my son. How can we stay connected?

A: Try giving your son a special spot on your calendar. Find a pocket of time, and pencil in his name. Then, ask how he'd like to spend it. Perhaps you could visit the library on Saturday morning or chat over hot chocolate after dinner on Monday.

You might weave "together time" into your existing schedule, too. If you work the evening shift, call him during your break and let him read you a story. When you're in the car or on the bus together, sing songs with your child.

Also, think about ways you can save an hour here or there so you can make time to be with your son. Could you put dinner in a slow cooker once or twice a week? Would switching to online banking help you pay bills faster?♥



Stellar Elementary School “Home-to-School Connection”

Please return to Michelle Thompson, Principal
3901 E. 124th Ave., Thornton, CO 80241

I have a question, a concern or something positive to share:

This information is optional:

Name: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

.....

We would like to give you an opportunity to share your appreciation of our staff by using this form below. Simply return the form to the office.



Staff Appreciation

Dear _____,

February 2014

Trait of the Month: **Ethical**
An ethical student displays respect, integrity and trustworthiness.

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>
3	4 7-7:30 am Taiko 2:30-3:30 Choir 2:30-3:15 Learning Together 3 2:30-4:00 Learning Together 5	5 7-7:30 am Taiko	6 2:30-3:30 Clay club 2:30-3:15 Learning Together 3 2:30-4:00 Learning Together 5 2:35-3:40 MESA	7
10	11 7-7:30 am Taiko 11:30-3pm BOOK FAIR 2:30-3:30 Choir 2:30-3:15 Learning Together 3 2:30-4:00 Learning Together 5	12 <u>VALENTINE'S PARTIES</u> 7-7:30 am Taiko 8:00-11:00 BOOK FAIR 11:30-1:30 BOOK FAIR	13 No Classes Conferences 8am-8pm 8:00-11:00 BOOK FAIR 12:15-3:30 BOOK FAIR 4:00-7:45 BOOK FAIR	14 No Classes Teacher Work Day
17 No Classes President's Day Holiday	18 7-7:30 am Taiko 2:30-3:30 Choir 2:30-3:15 Learning Together 3 2:30-4:00 Learning Together 5	19 7-7:30 am Taiko	20 2:30-3:30 Clay club 2:30-3:15 Learning Together 3 2:30-4:00 Learning Together 5 2:35-3:40 MESA	21
24	25 7-7:30 am Taiko 2:30-3:30 Choir 2:30-3:15 Learning Together 3 2:30-4:00 Learning Together 5 5-8 pm PTO Sponsored Subway Night	26 7-7:30 am Taiko 1:15-2:15 Mad Science	27 7-7:30 Student Council 2:30-3:30 Clay club 2:30-3:15 Learning Together 3 2:30-4:00 Learning Together 5	28

Valentine's Parties will take place on Wednesday, February 12. Here are the party schedules by grade levels:

EDKP is 8:25-9:10; AM Kindergarten is 8:25-9:10; PM Kindergarten is 11:50-12:35 pm

1st grade is 12:30-1:15 pm

2nd grade is 7:45-8:30

3rd grade is 8:00-8:50 am

4th grade is 12:00-12:25

5th grade is 10:15-11:00

