

Park County School District RE-2 Newsletter

October 2017

Issue No. 1



Its October and we are seeing the last colors of a beautiful fall and the first signs of winter approaching. It's hard to believe that we have been in school over a month. Our staff greeted students after the summer break and surely noticed the growth and development that just a few months make. Please know that our staff is dedicated to the noble profession of educating the youth of our community, preparing them for the future and building a citizenry that will be our future leaders. Before we realize it we will once again be ushering them off to the next phase of their lives.

Much is happening in the district and we have added a few new faces to the team that you can read about in this newsletter. In striving to improve and delivering a quality educational product, here are a few of our BIG initiatives in the district this year:

1. Planning Phase (year 1) of the School Based Health Center that will ultimately serve students and staff with medical, dental, and mental health services.
2. School Based Mental Health Counselors currently provide assistance approximately 40 hours per month to students and provide support and referral services to parents and families.
3. Review of our Career and Technical Education, concurrent, and on-line learning programs with the goal of alignment of planning resources and program offerings for our secondary level students.

I have been so impressed with the level of enthusiasm of students, staff, parents, and the community! Park County, Fairplay, and the Park County School District is an awesome place to live, learn, and play! It's great to see that sense of pride in the work that is getting done here. There certainly is always room for improvement and I am confident that with the people and resources here in the district we will accomplish much. So kids, stay active and work hard; parents, stay involved and informed; school staff, keep up the passionate efforts! As an example of people coming together, during Homecoming Week, we had many fun activities, an exciting and hard fought volleyball game with Crested Butte and it was great to see the positive energy in the community capped by an outstanding football game victory over Custer County!

We also have a very important School Board election this November 7, so please get out and vote! Read on to learn more about what's happening in the Park County School District Re-2.

Joe Torrez, Superintendent of Schools

This is the initial Park County School District Re-2 Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about the news, events, and activities in our district.



Edith Teter Preschool

By Carla Scholl, Preschool Director



Edith Teter Preschool is off to another great year! We are proud of our level 4 Rating through *Colorado Shines*. Once again, we are offering six different class sessions, including a few openings for families who still wish to enroll a child. Our new garden with a "dirt kitchen" has become a favorite spot for the children to interact with nature and each other. Beaver Creek trail provided a perfect location for our Fall Family Hike. Over 35 students and their families enjoyed matching colors, using magnifiers, bug catchers (for everything but bugs!), binoculars, and other observation tools as they trekked to the picnic spot at the top of the hill. The bus ride is also a favorite for the kids! Back in the classroom, the students have been learning about friendship skills, seasons, and apples.

A free Active Parenting class is being held at the preschool on three Tuesday afternoons in September and October. The class is designed for families with children under age six, and all community members are welcome. Participants from the first session had many positive comments such as, "I wish it was longer!", "The class is great! Thank you so much for organizing it!" "Thanks for the giveaways and free child care!" For more information about the preschool or the parenting class, please call 719-836-4416.

FAST FACTS

78%

The percentage of South Park School district RE-2 staff that have at least a Master's Degree.

100%

The percentage of South Park School District RE-2 schools that received the state's highest School Performance Framework plan designation- **PERFORMANCE**.



8118: SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL | 2610: PARK COUNTY RE-2

Preliminary 2017 School Performance Framework

Level: H - (1-Year)

Performance Plan



7891: SOUTH PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL | 2610: PARK COUNTY RE-2

Preliminary 2017 School Performance Framework

Level: M - (1-Year)

Performance Plan



8114: EDITH TETER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 2610: PARK COUNTY RE-2

Preliminary 2017 School Performance Framework

Level: E - (1-Year)

Performance Plan

Edith Teter Elementary

By Cindy Bear, Principal



Can you imagine learning how the Rocky Mountains were formed from the top of the Continental Divide? That's how fifth graders at Edith Teter learn many of their Earth Science lessons on their annual trip to Keystone Science School. From November 13-16, the fifth grade class will spend their days out in the field, climbing mountains, smashing rocks, and observing weather phenomena, among many other activities. Each morning, they collect their gear into their packs and meet their instructors for adventures out on the passes and in the gulches of Summit County. Additionally, fifth graders work on their independence and responsibility by taking care of their dorm rooms, serving each other food, and often spending their first nights away from home. The trip isn't cheap, and they work hard starting in fourth grade to help fundraise the cost of the program, bus fees, as well as room and board for themselves, their teachers, and their chaperones. Thank you to all of our community members who have supported the fifth grade class on this amazing trip!

Meet our New Staff!



Stephanie Hatch

Stephanie Hatch is our new fifth grade teacher. Stephanie grew up in Bailey and attended school here in South Park so she knows our community well. She received her Bachelor of Arts: Human Development and Elementary Education from Metropolitan State College of Denver and M. Ed: Teaching and Learning Leadership from Liberty University. She currently lives in Blue River with her husband and four dogs. Stephanie has strong goals for her professional future. When asked about the things she values in education and her dreams for the future... "I believe the most valuable part of education is understanding that each individual has a unique perspective, learning style, and background knowledge that can be shared to allow others to learn in new ways. Teaching and learning is interchangeable and should be a process that continues for a lifetime." "I hope that every individual continues to foster meaningful relationships in their lives based on the foundational teachings of relationship building presented in the elementary years. Relationships are the most important aspect that I hope students continue to nurture for years to come." We are excited to have Stephanie on our staff. She holds the values and attitude we want here at Edith Teter.



Susan Haley

Susan is our new interventionist for our PEAK Department. She was born in Germany and has lived in several states as her dad was in the military. However, Montana and Colorado hold her heart as home. Susan holds three college degrees: A.A. in liberal arts, B.A. with Elementary Education licensure, and M.A. with a focus on differentiated instruction. She and her husband have been married over thirty years and currently live just outside of Fairplay. Both of their daughters are grown and reside out of the area. One lives north of Denver and the other is in Florida. For Susan, the best part of education is, witnessing the proverbial light bulb and seeing the joyful smile exuding from a student who makes a connection with a learning skill. Susan brings an incredible amount of experience and knowledge to Edith Teter and we are thrilled to have her. Her dream is to one day, return to Germany and visit her birthplace.



Jane Davis Jane Davis is our new Special Education Teacher in the LEAP program. She brings a wealth of experience and we are excited to have her on staff!

South Park High School

by Alan Nall, Principal



High School Sports Recap

Both the high school football and volleyball teams are in the middle of their fall seasons. The volleyball team is coached by Barb McGraw. This is her first year as a head coach after helping out the program as a volunteer in the past. The team started with a win against Platte Canyon. They have struggled some since but were able to add another win in mid-September. In upcoming contests, they look to improve their record as they get ready for districts late in the month of October. In October, the team has home games on October 5 and 14.

Under coach Jim Carpenter, the football team got off to a great start by beating Sangre De Cristo in their first contest. Following that, the team suffered back to back losses to West Grand and Hayden before scoring their second victory against Custer County. In October, the team has home games on October 21st and October 28th.

Please check the district website www.parkcountyre2.org for schedules and come out and support Burro athletics!



Staying current with your student's grades and classwork

I would like to remind parents that there are several ways to stay current with what your child is doing in school.

One way to access your student's grades is through Goedustar.

The web address for it is:

https://goedustar.harriscomputer.com/pol/pol_sign_in.htm?e=0

To access the system, you need a login and password. Please call the front office for those if you do not have one or have misplaced that information. MS: 719-836-4406 ext 444, HS: 719-836-4409. On the system, you can check grades (progress report), attendance, schedule, transcript, and several other helpful school related items.

Planbook is also an excellent way to stay up to date with class work. Most of our teachers use this online platform for their weekly plans. This may be especially helpful if your child misses a day or has an exam occurring soon. The link for it is:

http://www.parkcountyre2.org/pages/Park_County_RE-2/Parent_Portal

To communicate with teachers directly, email generally is an effective tool. To access their email addresses, go to your student's schedule on Goedustar. Each teacher's name should link to their email address.



South Park Middle School

by Alan Nall, Principal



Middle School Sports Roundup

The middle school sports seasons are off to a good start. South Park Middle school has three teams competing including football, volleyball, and cross country.

The football team has competed in four games. The first two games were on the road to Sargent and Custer County. Unfortunately, the team was not able to bring home a win in either of these two games. Last week, the team played home games on Thursday and Saturday against Gilpin County and Del Norte. In both games, the middle school teams were able to get quality wins. These two wins brings their record to 2-2 with three remaining games. There are three contests remaining. They are: Thursday October 5 at home against Miami-Yoder, Friday October 6th at Cripple Creek, and then the season finishes on Friday October 13th with a home contest against Custer County.

The middle school volleyball team has also been busy. They began play the week of September 4th with matches against Fitzimmons Middle School and Buena Vista in which they won one and lost one. Since then, the girls have played Sargent as well and took a loss in that contest. September 16, 22, and 29th saw the girls involved in quad meets competing against several schools on the same day. Remaining in the season are contests at home against Del Norte on Friday October 6th and the league tournament on Friday October 13th in Westcliffe.

Cross country is also nearing the end of their season. This is only the second year that South Park has had a cross country team. The team has attended meets in Bailey, Frisco, Buena Vista, and most recently Salida. Coach Becky Pryce says that all the team members have been working very hard and that they are showing great improvement. New this year, the team is hosting a fun run in Fairplay as a fundraiser for the program. The fun run occurring on October 7th will consist of a 2.5 mile course. Registration for it begins at 9:15 with the race beginning at 10:15. Please contact coach Becky Pryce for more information at

rebeccajbf2@hotmail.com for further information.



South Park Middle and High School New Staff

South Park Middle and High School added several new staff members for the 2017-2018 year.



Mario Santa Cruz teaches math at the middle school and high school level. His career began in Los Angeles as a middle school math teacher. After many years away from the teaching profession, Mario once again began teaching in 1994 at the high school level. Most recently, Mario has taught at the college level for Colorado Mountain College. Outside of school, Mario likes the sport of fencing.



This year, the school was also able to hire an additional counselor. **Matt Fries**, originally from Klamath Falls Oregon, is filling that role. Matt has extensive experience in the counseling field and working for educational institutions from first grade through college level. Matt's last position in a high school was in Lewiston Idaho. In addition to his work as a counselor, Matt has previous experience as a high school girls' basketball coach. Since moving here late in the summer, Matt says that he has tried to take advantage of all the fishing opportunities in the area.



Our new high school language arts teacher is **Ryan Beauvais**. Ryan was born in Africa and spent time there as well as in Florida as a child and young adult. Ryan obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida before moving to Colorado in 2008. Ryan has spent time in Colorado and Florida since then. Last year, Ryan taught at Castle Rock Middle School. Ryan said he moved here to be in the mountains and recently purchased cross country skis and is looking forward to using them.



New to the social studies department is **Curtis Long**. Last year, Curtis worked in the Summit school district in a non-teaching role. This will be Curtis's first year in the classroom. Before that, Curtis received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Old Dominion University in Virginia. Curtis has enjoyed living in the area for the past year and likes the winter recreational opportunities that are available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 4 FAFSA Night (Application for College Federal Student Financial Aid) 6:30-8:00 pm High school Computer Lab

Oct. 12 Bingo Night in Alma (Benefits Keystone Science School) 6:00 pm Potluck 7:00 Bingo

Oct. 26-27 ETE Parent Teacher Conferences
10/26 4:30-8:30 pm
10/27 8:00-12:00 pm

Oct. 31 Halloween

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640 Hathaway St.
Fairplay, CO 80440

www.parkcountyre2.org



As Winter weather approaches stay updated on school delays and closures. Access important information at:

www.parkcountyre2.org

Television Channels 9, 7

93.7 FM Radio