

# Acres Green Elementary

February 2018

Creating leaders, one child at a time!

## Home Of the Panthers



13524 Acres Green Drive  
Littleton, CO 80124

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Gina Smith

Assistant Principal  
Louise Wacaser

Phone  
303-387-7125

Fax  
303-387-7126

Attendance Line  
303-387-7127

DCSD Weather Line  
303-387-SNOW

## 25 Ways to Ask Kids About Their Day

Kids are busy at Acres Green every day! They are busy with literacy, math, science and social studies. They are playing, singing, drawing, talking and laughing. Many times, though, they come home and tell you school was “good” or “fine.” I know that my own children have used those two words way too many times at my house! Dinner time around the table or drive time to activities are great moments to stop and learn about your child’s day. Here is a list of questions that might help. Students want to share their day with you but most times could use a little push, especially this time of year when school is very routine. Hope this helps spark some new conversations around your house!

### 25 Ways to Ask Kids about Their Day

1. Tell me something exciting that happened today.
2. Who are three people that you talked to today?
3. What did you (will you) eat for lunch/snack today?
4. What did you played at recess?
5. If I walked into the classroom, what would I see?
6. What was one thing you wish your teacher did differently?
7. What made you laugh today?
8. Tell me about something that made you angry today.
9. Who was nicest to you today?
10. Tell about one thing the teacher said today.
11. How many people have you talked to today?
12. Tell me a story about today.
13. If you could play more at recess, what would you do?
14. Tell me about one paper that you had at your desk.
15. Name two teachers that you saw today.
16. Where did you walk to within the school today.
17. Tell me something you did outside today.
18. Did you use markers or crayons today? What did you do?
19. When were you bored today?
20. What made you mad today?
21. How many times did you wash your hands today?
22. What happened today that made you feel frustrated?
23. What classroom jobs did you have today?
24. If you did today over, what would be different?
25. What are you looking forward to tomorrow?



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[hightlandsrancheast\\_co@ikumon.com](mailto:hightlandsrancheast_co@ikumon.com)

## Students' Hard Work Pays Off

The Student Lighthouse members spent a week preparing for their Valentine Grams Sale and then another week selling them! While some made posters or organized the sales crate with labels, others made sure they had their school work done in order to cover their shifts. There were many that gave up their recess to ensure there would be enough members to count money, file the grams, and help the younger students spell. This wonderful 29 student committee sold 1,386 Valentine Dum Dum Grams! They brought in \$346.50, of which \$233.25 was profit!

At the Student Lighthouse meeting Tuesday morning, the members brainstormed ideas on how to put this money to good use. They were so moved by a video that was presented to them about a charity called Pennies for Patients, that they decided to donate \$125.00, 54% of the profit from the Valentine Sales. This charity is run through the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Student Lighthouse Team chose to take this on as their next fundraising project. There will be a Kick-Off Assembly on February 26th, and collections for this charity will go through March 15th. The student members discussed and voted on the school goal to be \$400.00. This is such an amazing group of students!

We would like to thank the parents for sending money to school with their children! Office staff and Admin, thank you for passing on all the information to our families and for trusting students to be in the halls! Teachers, you were amazing at fielding all the emails that it took to set this up and for guiding the students along to honor their commitments to the sales shift! This is a wonderful community that we have in and around Acres Green!

**Your Student Lighthouse Team**

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### Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) Testing

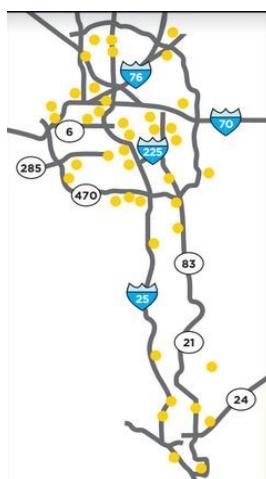
**March 26-April 27 for 3rd-6th Graders**

A detailed schedule can be found on our school website.

Under the Parents tab, click on State Mandated Testing and you will find more information.

*Please let your classroom teacher know as soon as possible if your child(ren) will be missing any school during that testing window. We appreciate your support in scheduling doctor appointments and vacations outside of the testing weeks.*

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## Acres Green B.A.S.E. Spring Break 2018

				Friday – 3/16
				<i>Student-led conferences (Indoor) Beach Bash @ BASE!</i> Bring a towel and flip-flops
Monday – 3/19	Tuesday – 3/20	Wednesday – 3/21	Thursday – 3/22	Friday – 3/23
<b>Star Wars Day @ BASE</b>  Movie, crafts, and games!	<b>Denver's Urban Farm</b> <i>Waiver needed!</i>  11:30 am – 3:00 pm	<b>\$ Hammond's Candy Factory &amp; Hard Rock Café*</b>  10:00 am – 2:30 pm	<b>\$ Nickel-A-Play</b>  10:30 am – 1:30 pm	<b>Peak Athletics Gymnasium</b> <i>Waiver needed!</i>  12:00 noon – 3:00 pm

Denotes extra spending money allowed  
(\$5 or under, please!)

\* Lunch is provided

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before trip departure(s)!



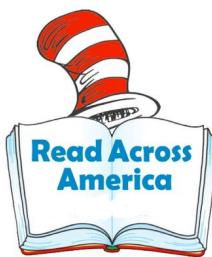
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Acres Green will be celebrating Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss' 114<sup>th</sup> birthday! As a part of our celebration, we have many fun activities planned. These activities will include: dress-up days, read-ins, book mark decorating, volunteer readers, and a door-decorating contest! Our dress-up days will be:

Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>- Crazy Socks Day

Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>- Hat Day

Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> - Wacky Wednesday (Wear mixed up clothing)

Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup> - Stuffed Animal Day

Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wear Green Day

If you would like to come in and read to our Kindergarten-Third grade students, sign up at: [tinyurl.com/agereads](http://tinyurl.com/agereads)

\*Additional information about these activities will be sent home in the Friday Folders.\*

The last Scholastic Book Fair of the year is coming up. This is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read to our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Friday, March 9th from 12:00-4:00

Monday, March 12th from 8:00-4:00

Tuesday March, 13th from 8:00-4:00

Wednesday, March 14th from 8:00-6:00

Thursday, March 15th from 8:00-6:00

Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-1:30

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## 5th Grade News

For 5th graders, the new year brings a change in their curriculum. Last fall, we focused on Social Studies, which oriented around microeconomics, geography and U.S. history from the migration of the first Americans through the Revolutionary War.

This semester we will turn our attention to Science. We have already introduced several important physical science concepts, notably mixtures and solutions, as well as the scientific method. In the coming months, subject matter will include body systems and natural disasters. Eventually, we'll ask 5th graders to summarize their learning in the form of a persuasive letter that we hope will allow them to demonstrate mastery of both topics.

Of course, much of the 5th grade curriculum has revolved around reading, writing and mathematics. That won't change in the spring as we will continue to provide students with ample opportunities to read individually and in groups with specialized instruction. This takes the form of reading groups or book clubs, while other students may need spelling help. Also, 5th graders have a standing homework assignment to read for at least 30 minutes every night.

Writing will continue to be a focus in the spring. Students will concentrate on improving their sentence complexity, their use of figurative language and their paragraph organization. They'll be tasked with several writing assignments, the most notable being the persuasive letter mentioned earlier. We'll also revisit informational writing too.

We devote an hour per day to math and are wrapping up one of the more difficult topics: the dreaded division with decimals. This has proven to be a challenge for many students; however, as we've told the students, they'll revisit the topic in 6th grade. The math program we use spirals, which is a fancy way of saying we revisit concepts the kids learned the previous year. So, if your student struggles with some of the more difficult topics please reassure them that they'll be taught again in 6th and 7th grade.

Of course, Leader in Me is always a big part of our curriculum. We begin each day with Leader in Me time and we're always looking for ways to encourage students to embrace and live by The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Kids.

Conversely, a topic the students generally aren't as enthusiastic about is puberty. Like we have in the past, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science will deliver a talk about how students' bodies change during puberty. We hope this talk will complement any discussions you're already having with your student. Please look for those permission slips.

That's it for now. This 5<sup>th</sup> grade class continues to inspire us with their kindness and dedication to excellence every day. We're hoping a strong finish will cement these students' legacy as one of the best classes ever.

Warm regards,  
The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

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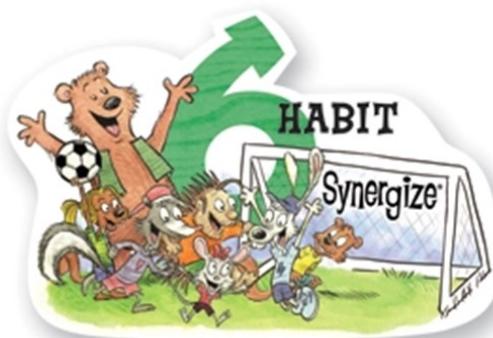
Highlands Ranch Town Center      Castle Pines  
9358 Dorchester St      361 Village Sq. Ln.  
Suite 106      Suite 100



## Habit 6 – Synergize

### Together is Better

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble.



## How you can find out if there is a snow delay or closure this winter?

If it has been determined that DCSD schools need to delay opening or close during a snow storm or another event, DCSD Communications will notify you in the following ways:

1. Email notification
2. Text notification (you must opt-in by texting "Yes" to 68453)
3. Notice posted on [dcsdk12.org](http://dcsdk12.org)
4. Posts on DCSD's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages
5. Local media outlets

[Learn more about how these decisions are made, get a peek into the snow team's process overnight, and more, here.](#)

<https://www.dcsdk12.org/are-you-ready-for-snow-season>

## 2018 AGE Online Auction items wanted!

AGE Families,

Do you own a business or want to promote one you work for? Do you have season tickets to a Denver based sports team, free tickets to a museum, or a free month membership to an area business you won't be able to use? Or do you have a cool job that others would find fascinating? If you can answer yes to any of these questions, please consider donating some merchandise from your business, donating tickets to a local venue, or offer up an "experience" that could be bid upon during our PTO sponsored AGE online auction.

The auction, like last year, will be all online and will run for approximately 10 days in the beginning of March.

All donations are tax deductible and would be very appreciated! As always, 100% of all proceeds go directly to the school.

There are also sponsorship opportunities for your business.

Please contact Tracy Lang via email or phone for more information.

[tracygamage@yahoo.com](mailto:tracygamage@yahoo.com), [303-870-4451](tel:303-870-4451)

## Our Lost and Found is overflowing!

If your student is missing a coat, sweatshirt, lunchbox, water bottle, hat/gloves or any other item, there is a really good chance it is in our Lost and Found. Please come and look to see if you recognize anything. Please label all items that come to school with your student so we can return them to you when they are misplaced.





## From the Health Room: Guidelines for Determining Student Attendance

**A student should be sent home if they exhibit any of the following:**

- Skin eruptions / rashes
- Nausea / vomiting / diarrhea
- Severe abdominal pain
- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Eye drainage (excessive drainage and significant discomfort)

**Other conditions that are indicators of illness and are considered when determining illness:**

- Decreased activity – droopy, tired appearance
- Irritable behavior
- Sore throat / swollen glands
- Runny nose / cough

**When can a child return to school?**

- After **24 hours** of medication for the following conditions:
  - Strep throat
  - Infected skin eruptions
  - Other conditions requiring antibiotics

Exception: If being treated for Pertussis, student must be on antibiotics for 5 days before returning to school
- The student has been free of the following conditions for at least **24 hours**:
  - Fever (without benefit of fever-reducing medication)
- The student has been free of the following conditions for at least **48 hours**:
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting (related to stomach virus such as norovirus)

### ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

At The Westin Denver

Downtown enjoy 50% off your second room, with connecting rooms based upon availability. Plus kids eat free with delicious and nutritious options.





## Lunch Menu

[Click here](#) to access the lunch menu.

## DCSD App

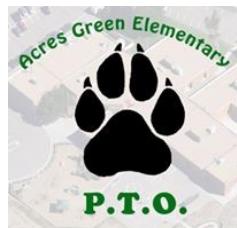
Download the DCSD App [Here](#).

## Parent Portal

[Click Here](#) to access the parent portal.

## Express Online Payments

[Click here for all AGE/DCSD payments.](#)



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For full job description and to apply for this position please submit your application on our career's page:

**[dcsdk12.org/careers](http://dcsdk12.org/careers)**

## Job Openings for Educational Assistants



## Douglas County School District

Community Day with the Colorado Avalanche  
Sponsored by the Foundation for Douglas County Schools



VS



## Colorado Avalanche vs. Nashville Predators

Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> • 1:00PM • Pepsi Center

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**TICKETS STARTING AT: \$25**

NO ADDITIONAL TAXES OR FEES! Subject to change.

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*A portion of every ticket sold will be donated to the school of your choice (follow the link below)!*

**FIND TICKETS:** [avalanche.teamkse.com/douglas1718](http://avalanche.teamkse.com/douglas1718)



Can't make this game? We are offering a back-up option!

**Colorado Avalanche vs. Nashville Predators**

Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> • 7:00PM • Pepsi Center

**FIND TICKETS:** [www.avstix.com/douglasbu18](http://www.avstix.com/douglasbu18)

For questions please contact Jackie Van Watermeulen with the Colorado Avalanche:

303.405.6197 | [Jackie.VanWatermeulen@TeamKSE.com](mailto:Jackie.VanWatermeulen@TeamKSE.com)