

# Bison Bulletin

December 2017

Clear Sky Elementary

Page 1

**Kellie Roe**  
**Principal**

**Katie Berry**  
**Asst. Principal**

**1470 Clear Sky Way**  
**Castle Rock, CO 80109**  
**Ph. 303-387-5900**

**Attendance Line:**  
**303-387-5902**

**School Day:**  
**9:10am - 4:00pm**  
**Office Hours:**  
**8:30am-4:30pm**

**Clear Sky PTO**



## Message from the Principals

'Twas the week before Winter Break and all through the school  
Not a student was silent, no matter the rule.  
The children were busy with their PBL fun;  
Finishing the work they never thought could be done.

The teachers excited and proud of their work,  
Had just settled down with the look of a smirk,  
When out in the hall they heard such a clatter,  
up sprang the kids to see what was the matter!

Away to the door they all flew like a flash;  
The one who was leading went down with a crash.  
Then what to their wondering eyes did appear  
But students and teachers all filled with cheer.

The students all cheered as they shared their collaboration  
With programs and Field trips and so many celebrations!  
They knew that the break was nearing and soon,  
As they still worked and worked but dreaming of June

As the first semester comes to an end,  
Clear Sky wouldn't be the same without the kids that you send!  
With parents and staff that go the extra mile,  
We know that everyone here will leave with a smile.

Thank you for all you do, and the memories we have made  
Because of each of you, Clear Sky is something that we will never trade!!!  
Have fun the next weeks with all of the memories you will make,  
Happy Holidays to all and a safe winter break,



Happy Holidays from *Mrs. Roe* and *Mrs. Berry*

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David Topolnicki ChFC CLU FLMI CASL, Agent  
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## Important Dates to Remember:

- Dec 2: 11:00 am – Orchestra Feeder Concert at CVHS  
5:00 pm – Band Feeder Concert at CVHS
- Dec 3: DCSD Community Event at Park Meadows Mall
- Dec 8: Bread in the Box fundraiser orders & money due
- Dec 12: 9:15am - SAC Meeting in the Bungalow
- Dec 13: 6:00 pm – CSE Choir Winter Holiday Concert at CSE
- Dec 18: 5:00 pm – CSE Band/Orchestra Winter Holiday Concert at CSE
- Dec 18-21: Holiday Spirit Week
- Dec 18: **Hawaiian Holiday Monday** – Mele Kalikimaka – Let's pretend we are in the tropical islands and wear Hawaiian shirts/flip flops, etc. (don't forget to bring warm gear for outdoor recess!)
- Dec 19: **Holiday Color Block Tuesday** – wear your favorite holiday colors – red/green/white/blue/silver etc.
- Dec 20: **Holiday Cheer Wednesday** – wear your favorite holiday outfit –from ugly sweaters to holiday hats/socks/scarves/family photo holiday flannel. Let's spread holiday cheer.
- Dec 21: **Long Winter's Nap Pajama Thursday** – celebrate the last day of school before Winter Break with our traditional pajama day.
- Dec 22 – Jan 7: **NO SCHOOL – Winter Break**
- Jan 8: Welcome back to School – 1<sup>st</sup> day of School in 2018
- Jan 12: **NO SCHOOL** – Professional Development Day
- Jan 15: **NO SCHOOL** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

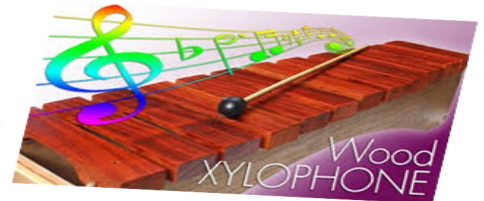


Don't forget – **Spirit Day is every Friday**- wear your blue, white or gray/silver

**\*\*some dates and times may change - notifications will be made by Thursday folders, emails or phone blasts**



## Music News



This five weeks, we are ALL working on our Orff units. These include the ones pictured here, as well as many other percussion instruments. Students in the upper grades will be working on harmony and melody and putting these two concepts together. Younger grades are working on notation, as well as learning melodies. Fun is already underway.



Clear Sky Singers and Jr Singers

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Castle Rock, CO 80104





**Winter Concert**

Dec. 13, 2017 @ 6pm



Clear Sky CVEIM Winter Orchestra and Band Concert  
December 18, 2017  
6pm

**SPRING MUSICAL**

April 27-29, 2017

Details for tickets coming in the spring!

Beginning in January, 2017

Please [Click here](#) to sign up for Auditions.

Access code: CSECHOIR

Students who can participate must be in grades 3 – 6.  
Meeting days will come home at the end of December.

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Castle Pines  
361 Village Sq. Ln.  
Suite 100





## Art Room News

Happy December from the art room! We will have three more classes of each grade level continuing the same projects from the month of November. Be sure to check out the 5<sup>th</sup> graders soda bottle designs in the display area across from the art room, the "Aliens Love Underpants" project in the kindergarten hall, and all the 5<sup>th</sup> grade winning fashion designs in the big display case.

## Innovation Lab

**The perfect holiday gift for the kids who have everything! And you'll be supporting CSE Tech at the same time!**

Looking for the perfect holiday gift for your child? BitsBox is a great way to bring computer science concepts, like coding, into your home while also supporting technology at Clear Sky Elementary. During their time in the Tech Lab last school year, students used both the BitsBox activity books and Trading Cards. The students really enjoyed these coding activities and BitsBox is a great way to provide a gift for your child that keeps on giving...and won't clutter up the house a couple of months down the road. It can also be a great gift from grandparents or for other family living out of town.

As you probably know, CSE is celebrating our Bison10ial this year. All money raised from the BitsBox subscriptions will be used to offset the costs of replacing our aging technology. This includes iPads, Chromebooks, projectors, and document cameras.

Review the flier to learn more details and find the special CSE Promo Code that you will need. Please let me know if you have any questions, or feel free to stop by the Innovation Lab and take a look at the materials that the students used last year. (They are similar to some of the items in the subscription kits.)

Thanks for your support, Happy Holidays and Happy Coding!

### IN THE LAB - HOUR OF CODE

We are continuing with our coding based challenges. (You can find all of the grade level challenges in last month's newsletter.) And in honor of coding, check out the Hour of Code resources that I've posted on my web site: <https://sites.google.com/a/dcsdk12.org/cse-tech/hour-of-code-resources>

### DONATIONS

We are always looking for materials, expertise and extra hands! We are currently looking for the following items: Clorox Wipes, Duct Tape, Rechargeable AA Batteries, and an old Operation Game. You can always visit our updated Google Doc to learn more: <https://goo.gl/3RIMPJ>



Get a  
**TERRIFIC GIFT**  
for your kiddo and support  
**CLEAR SKY**  
at the same time!

Bitsbox is a crazyfun learning system for teaching kids about coding.

When you sign up, you'll receive a box of materials in the mail every month. Each box is a new level which introduces a new computer science concept. Bitsbox starts at \$20/month. Read (and see) all about it at...

[www.bitsbox.com](http://www.bitsbox.com)

**Between now and December 31st, Bitsbox is donating \$25 from each Clear Sky sale\* directly to the school!**

Use the promo code **CLEARSKY** when you're ordering on the website to make sure everything's tracked correctly (and YOU'll also save \$5 on your order).



Some kind words about Bitsbox from K-12 math education specialist Amy Scheff:



I have been blown away by what my two kids, ages 6 and 8, have learned so far. It's been amazing to see how quickly they were able to learn to code and then start to apply it in new and different ways. I love that each "lesson" from Bitsbox asks the kids to first code using lines already written and then asks them to apply and think critically about this code in order to modify the app. Bitsbox has given my kids meaningful experience in making their screen time both creative and thought provoking.

\*Signing up for any Bitsbox subscription (Basic, Digital, or Deluxe) qualifies for a \$25 school donation!

Jennifer  
Innovation Lab Specialist @ CSE  
STAR Discovery Educator & LC Member  
BrainPOP Jr. Technology Advisor  
<http://www.theteacherscorner.net>



## Treehouse



Clear Sky has implemented a new program this year called the "Treehouse". The Treehouse is a place where students learn about many things including identifying and expressing feelings; how actions impact self and others; how to solve problems; how to calm down; and how to use positive coping skills. Students visit the Treehouse for regularly scheduled groups to learn and practice skills that help them succeed in the classroom. Students also visit the Treehouse when they are having a hard time being "ready to learn". They may be moving too slowly, starting to lose control or out of control. In these situations the Treehouse is a great place for students to get some extra support to figure out what they need to regroup and return to class.

The Treehouse is staffed full-time by Stacy Wheelus who greets the students and supports them in utilizing tools and small group learning. Through this work, Stacy partners with our School Psychologist, Lauren Bennett. Stacy applied for and was awarded a grant from Westerra Credit Union to help provide therapeutic and sensory tools that students learn how to utilize appropriately. The Treehouse has benefited many students by providing them with a safe place to meet emotional and sensory needs instead of using the health room or front office. We are excited to have the Treehouse as a part of our school this year!



## Teachers and Technology Program

The CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation's Teachers and Technology grants are designed to help fund projects that advance student success through the innovative use of technology in the classroom.

**Eligibility** - Full-time classroom teachers in public or private PreK-12 schools located in CenturyLink's residential service areas may apply for a Teachers and Technology Grant for the 2017-18 school year. Applicants do not have to be CenturyLink customers in order to apply for these grants.

**Key Dates** - Applications will be accepted October 1, 2017 until January 12, 2018. Grants will be announced and presented between April 1 and May 15, 2018.

**Grants** - CenturyLink will award approximately \$145,000 across Colorado. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000.

**Apply here** - [www.centurylink.com/teachersandtechnology](http://www.centurylink.com/teachersandtechnology)

For more information, contact:  
Brandon.Yergey@centurylink.com



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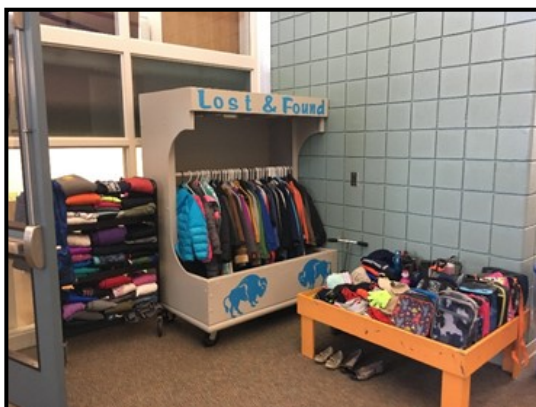
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## Lost & Found

### Before



### After



## Please help!

- 1) Please take your student to lost and found to look for their things.
- 2) Please remind/ask your students to hang up or put lost things neatly in the lost and found area.
- 3) Please ask your students to look through lost and found (reminders for Winter class parties and such).
- 4) Please remember to write last names on personal items (lunch boxes, jackets, etc.)
- 5) All items will be donated over Winter Break!!!!

**Thank you all so much for your help with my lost and found mission this year!**

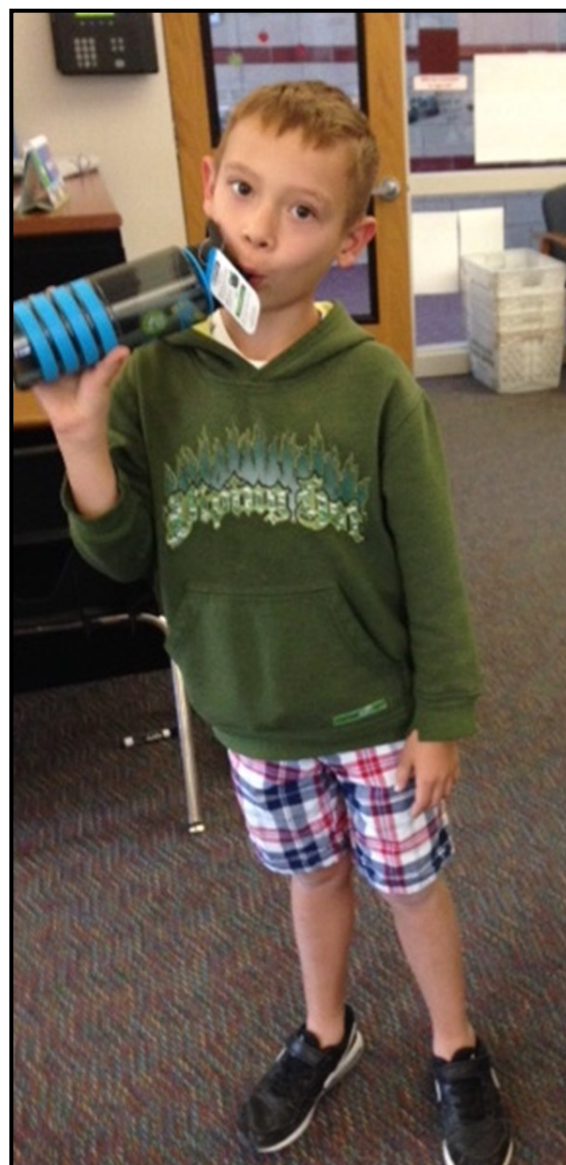
Rachel Woodbury  
Clear Sky Elementary School  
2nd Grade Teacher

## Waste Free Wednesdays!

Congratulation to our most recent Waste Free Wednesday winners: **Aden, Wyatt & Addyson.**

One great way you can work towards being waste free is to bring your water in a reusable container instead of getting disposable plastic water bottles or using styrofoam cups at lunch.

Thank you for your support. Mrs. Rankin & Mrs. Sabus





## English Language Learner (ELL) Update

Aurora Green  
Aurora.green@dcsdk12.org

Abeer Sawaged  
abeer.sawaged@dcsdk12.org

303-387-5954



Happy Holidays and  
Thanks  
to **ALL** our **ELL**  
**families**,

We are so thankful for the ELL students and families that we serve at Clear Sky. You are what makes our program what it is.

Every year we welcome new families from all parts of the world who have other languages other than English which allow us to embrace the multiculturalism of the students.



WE began our *Reading Together* Phase 1 program in October.



WE came together as a community to help raise money for Puerto Rico, USA in November.



WE will begin our ACCESS 2.0 testing between January 12 - February 12, 2018.

To you and your family  
From Your Clear Sky ELL Staff:  
Aurora Green and Abeer Sawaged



Felices fiestas y  
agradecimientos  
a **TODAS** nuestras familias  
de **ELL**,

Estamos muy agradecidos por los estudiantes de ELL y las familias que servimos en Clear Sky. Eres lo que hace que nuestro programa sea lo que es.

Cada año damos la bienvenida a nuevas familias de todas partes del mundo que tienen otros idiomas además del inglés que nos permiten abrazar el multiculturalismo de los estudiantes.



Empezamos nuestro programa *Reading Together* Phase 1 en octubre.



Nos unimos como comunidad para ayudar a recaudar dinero para Puerto Rico, EE. UU. en noviembre.



Comenzaremos nuestras pruebas ACCESS 2.0 entre el 12 de enero y el 12 de febrero de 2018.

Para ti y tu familia  
Departa de su Clear Sky ELL Staff:  
Aurora Green y Abeer Sawaged

Links for ELL families/Sitios para familias de ELL

[Raising bilingual kids/Criando niños bilingües](#)

[Why Reading to Your Kids in Your Home Language Will Help Them Become Better Readers/Por qué leerles a sus hijos en español los ayudará a ser mejores lectores](#)



## HOW DO I WISH MY FRIEND

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS IN...



**French:**  
**"Joyeuses Fêtes"**  
 say "jwa-YUHZ FAY-te"



**Spanish:**  
**"Felices Fiestas"**  
 say "feh-LEES-ehs fee-ES-tas"



**Swahili:**  
**"Turaha Likizo"**  
 say "foo-RAH-ha lee-KEE-zo"



**Hebrew:**  
**"Chag Sameach"**  
 say "hahg sah-MAY-ah"



**Ukrainian:**  
**"Shchaslyvykh Svyat"**  
 say "sh-TCHA-slih-vyh svee-at"



**German:**  
**"Frohe Feiertage"**  
 say "FROO-eh FYER-tahg-eh"



**Portuguese:**  
**"Boas Festas"**  
 say "BOW-as FES-tas"



**Dutch:**  
**"Prettige Feestdagen"**  
 say "PREH-teh-huh FACE-da-hun"



**Italian:**  
**"Buone Feste"**  
 say "BWO-neh FEHS-teh"



**Albanian:**  
**"Gëzuar Festat"**  
 say "ge-ZOO-are FES-tah"



**Hindi:**  
**"Chuttiyo Ki Shubh Kamanayein"**  
 say "choo-tee-YO kee shuhb KAM-nah-yay"



**Romanian:**  
**"Sărbători Fericite"**  
 say "sar-ba-TOR fe-ree-CHEE-tah"



**Turkish:**  
**"Mutlu Bayramlar"**  
 say "MOOT-loo bye-ram-LASH"



**Irish:**  
**"Laethanta saoire sona"**  
 say "lay-HAN-tuh SEE-ra SHO-na"



## PROJECT PUERTO RICO



Clear Sky is happy to announce that we raised \$1,872.00 from our bake sale and our theme days sponsored by the Student Council. Our 5th grade students and families came together at a time that devastated Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are appreciated more than you will ever know.

One thing to share with our fellow Bisons is this: Charity is a virtue. Particularly when disaster strikes, the urge to help is admirable. Your support is amazing, but as you know it doesn't mean that the need will end. It continues long after the news and camera crews move on.

This year, our 2nd grade PBL also gathered donated school items for a Houston elementary school hit by Hurricane Harvey. Our school has the biggest heart we have ever seen when it comes to giving. The community of Trujillo Alto, will know that we care here at Clear Sky and that we hope that the solar power and money will keep them warm and safe. We hope this will impact every single person in the that community.

Thank you for your support and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Kellie Roe, Katie Berry, Kim Herman, our ELL team, 5th grade students/parents and teachers, and CSE Student Council

[Trujillo Alto during Hurricane Irma](#)

[Solar power for sale](#)



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# PROYECTO PUERTO RICO



Clear Sky se complace en anunciar que recaudamos \$ 1,872.00 de nuestra venta de pasteles y nuestros días temáticos por Student Council. Nuestros estudiantes y familias de 5to grado se reunieron en un momento que devastó a Puerto Rico después del huracán María. Su consideración y generosidad son apreciadas más de lo que nunca sabrá.

Una cosa para compartir con nuestros compañeros Bison es esta: la caridad es una virtud. Particularmente cuando ocurre un desastre, la necesidad de ayudar es admirable. Su apoyo es increíble, pero como usted sabe, eso no significa que la necesidad terminará. Continúa mucho después de que las noticias y los equipos de cámara continúan.

Este año, nuestro PBL de segundo grado también reunió artículos escolares donados para una escuela primaria de Houston afectada por el huracán Harvey. Nuestra escuela tiene el corazón más grande que hemos visto cuando se trata de dar. La comunidad de Trujillo Alto sabrá que nos importa aquí en Clear Sky y que esperamos que la energía solar y el dinero los mantendrán cálidos y seguros. Esperamos que esto impacte a cada persona en esa comunidad.

¡Gracias por su apoyo y Felices Fiestas!

Sinceramente,

Kellie Roe, Katie Berry, Kim Herman, nuestro equipo de ELL, estudiantes de 5 ° grado / padres y maestros, y CSE Student Council

**\$100**

## Gift Card

# For You



**\$100**

## Gift Card

## For Your School



Click to enter our free giveaway...



## 1<sup>st</sup> grade

In November 1<sup>st</sup> grade students had special PBL project while studying solids, liquid and gases – they worked together to make a variety of pies and then served them to their families that night at a 1<sup>st</sup> grade Pie party. Thanks to the 1<sup>st</sup> grade & Reading Recovery teams, school staff and parent volunteers who made this project possible.





## 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Mrs. Backus arranged a 4th grade health treat! Castle Rock Kids Dentistry came and spoke to our 4th graders about dental health. The students had the opportunity to play Jeopardy, learn new information, and walk away with new toothbrushes! What a wonderful experience.



## GOODTIMES **NEW** KIDS MEALS

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**MAC & CHEESE**  
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**\$3**  
**SALE**

## Student Fees

Please go to and Online Payments (at bottom of page) to pay all or a portion of outstanding school fees. Also, if your student is on Free/Reduced Lunch, send a copy of your letter into the office to have school fees waived.

**Letters from previous years may also be sent in.** Letters can also be emailed to [susan.snider@dcsdk12.org](mailto:susan.snider@dcsdk12.org)

Field trip fees are waived for free/reduced lunch families on request.

## Parent Portal Account Update

The district has implemented some changes to upgrade the security of parent/guardian and student data which has impacted parent portal accounts (now referred to as District Portal Accounts). Please see the following link for detailed information about these changes. Questions about Parent Portal may be directed to our Registrar at [kanoi.oili@dcsdk12.org](mailto:kanoi.oili@dcsdk12.org).

## Kindie Enrollment

Kindie Enrollment for 2018/19 school year is just around the corner! Is your student going to turn 5 on or before October 1, 2018?

Kindergarten Registration packets will soon be available on the CSE website and in the front office.

Kindergarten Registration will begin on **January 18, 2018, at 2pm**. Registration paperwork will be accepted on January 18th in the front office from 2 to 5:00 pm. After that day, paperwork will be accepted during office hours (8:30 to 4:30 pm on school days)

We will have both full time (tuition based) and part time (free - AM/PM) options available.

**\*\*Please note:** Schedule preferences will be met according to the order in which the packets are received and the sections offered.

Please continue to check the CSE website for updates! Questions about enrollment may be directed to our registrar at: [kanoi.oili@dcsdk12.org](mailto:kanoi.oili@dcsdk12.org).



Nominate an exceptional DCSD teacher or staff member who is making a difference! Award categories include: Certified Elementary & Secondary Educators of the Year, Classified School & Department Employees of the Year, Administrator of the Year, & Community Partner of the Year. Nominations Deadline: December 22, 2017. Nominate a teacher or staff member [HERE](#).





**Substitute EA's** (EAI -Lunch/Recess/Classroom) and (EAIV's -SSN) – if you are interested in subbing on an as-needed basis for either a lunch/recess/classroom EA or EA in our SSN learning lab please look for the job posting at <https://dcsd.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/DCSD>.

**Kitchen Assistant Position – CSE:** Come be part of the DCSD Nutrition Services Team. Work while your kids are in school with a starting pay of \$11.25/hr. Most shifts are between 9am and 2pm Monday through Friday. Please contact Dawn Kidd at [dawn.kidd@dcsdk12.org](mailto:dawn.kidd@dcsdk12.org) or apply online at <https://www.dcsdk12.org/careers>

## 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

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## Bistro Happenings

On November 15<sup>th</sup> we had another very successful Thanksgiving Feast thanks to the hard work of our kitchen staff, EA's and feast day helpers. They served 512 meals and much fun was had by students and their families.





## Halloween Parade





Halloween Parade





# CLEAR SKY PTO

As we come to the end of this calendar year, we hope you and your families get a chance to enjoy the holidays and reflect on all that is important and meaningful to you. As members of the PTO, one thing that is important to us is providing fun, meaningful, memory-filled activities for our students and school community. We enjoy what we do, and hope that you have had a chance to participate in some of the fun activities that your Clear Sky PTO has planned and facilitated so far this school year.

In addition to the activities and events outside of school, the PTO works hard to make sure that our students and teachers have great experiences during school. Due to the success of our various fundraisers (thanks to YOU!), the PTO has already been able to distribute funds back to the students and classrooms this year in multiple ways:

- \$300 given to each classroom teacher (for a total of \$9300) at the beginning of the year to be used for Project Based Learning
- \$8000 given to the school to offset the cost of the Avid 4 Adventure outdoor learning experience
- \$7500 given to the school for use specifically for Guided Reading books and materials for literacy focus
- \$215 for literacy items to support our ELL (English Language Learner) students
- \$550 for 6<sup>th</sup> grade science learning
- \$440 for 1<sup>st</sup> grade literacy enhancement
- \$300 to build a classroom library
- \$120 for items for our new Treehouse area
- \$150 for vocabulary curriculums
- \$450 for equipment for the CSE Photography Club

As you can see, your efforts are creating wonderful experiences and opportunities for your students. As we have mentioned many times this year already, none of this is possible without all of you. We are so thankful to you for your support of the PTO fundraisers and activities. We wish you all the merriest of holidays, and look forward to seeing you all in the new year!



**We encourage you to follow our CSE PTO in these ways:**

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ClearSkyElementaryPTO/>

**Website:** <http://www.csepto.com/>

**Email blasts:** Sent out each week by Susan Snider in the front office, these email blasts will contain information about upcoming PTO needs and planned activities

Alone we can do so little;

together we can do so much.

— Helen Keller