

Bison Bulletin

March 2023

Clear Sky Elementary

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Kellie Roe
Principal

Katie Berry
Asst. Principal

Attendance Line:
303-387-5902

Office Phone:
303-387-5900

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

Clear Sky PTO



*Advertising in this
newsletter does not imply
endorsements by the
school or district.*

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that it is almost Spring! I hope you are able to enjoy some quality family time during Spring Break. Third quarter was a busy one! Highlights for me were watching our 6th grade honor choir perform with other choirs around the District. The performance was amazing. The talent I saw that night was truly impressive! I am also very proud of our 3rd and 4th grade Battle of the Books team! They worked incredibly hard and made it to the Castle Rock championships! We have also started our multiplication madness tournament and it is fun to see our students compete with each other and work hard to improve their multiplication skills!

Thank you for attending your child's conference. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss your child and to celebrate the progress they have made! As many of you discussed at conferences, the importance of learning to read well cannot be overstated. One of the most important things you can do as a parent is to make sure your child is reading every day.

Best practices, backed by research, tell us that reading every day/night at home (coupled with reading every day at school) have enormous positive effects on children's learning. Here are the Top Ten Benefits of Reading for Children:

- Their vocabulary is larger and more extensive.
- They perform better academically.
- Their imagination can run wild.
- Their creativity skills develop.
- They develop empathy.
- They gain a deeper understanding of their world.
- Their concentration levels improve.
- The parent and child bond improves.
- Their cognitive development is supported.
- Their social skills and interaction improve.

Help your child to read at home each night, preferably something that he or she enjoys reading or writing about. Reading any medium (actual books, books online, children's magazines, billboards, grocery lists, etc.) is acceptable too. Being able to read well is a gift we want for all of our students. Thank you for working with us to make this a reality!!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Very respectfully,
Kellie Roe

5th Rotation of Specials

February has been a great month in the science lab. Students have been using the practices of science through experiments, measurement, creating their own experiments, and following the scientific method.

Here's what they've been learning during our 5th rotation of specials:

Kindergarten and first grade: measurement, estimating, using common items to measure, and experimenting with scales

Second grade: collecting data and conducting experiments. How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll Pop? Will a gummy bear change length and mass if left in water overnight?

Third grade: learning about the scientific method and various methods of measuring and collecting data. Will a regular or sour gummy worm stretch more? Measuring mass to find how much sugar is in bubble gum.

Fourth grade: energy unit: What is energy? How can energy change forms? How can energy be transferred from one object to another?

Fifth grade: using the scientific method to create an experiment, identify variables, and draw observations. What happens when you dissolve a Gobstopper in water? What other variable can you test?

Sixth grade: using the scientific method to create an experiment for a super absorbent toy sea creature. Students focused on identifying the independent variable, writing a detailed procedure, and using data to support a conclusion.



Earn cash for your school! Save Longmont Dairy Milk Caps.

Longmont Dairy Farm will donate 5¢ per LDF produced product bottle cap. Schools are free to spend these funds as they wish to benefit students.



To sign up, go to LongmontDairy.com/savecaps or click here.

Milk Caps for MOOOLA





Reading With Your Child

Looking for a way to spend memorable time with your child that will have a positive impact on their entire life?

The article, [Reading with Your Child](#), from Reading Rockets is a quick and informative read. Enjoy!

Watch Dog Dad Day, Mr. Scott (dad of Amelia & Franklin)

Math Centers



News from the CSE Library

If you ever have any questions regarding the library whether it is regarding checkouts or fines, feel free to reach out via email. femcbee@dcsdk12.org



Do you have an extra hour or so a week to volunteer in the library? We are looking for loving parents, grandparents or community members to come and help with reshelving books. If you are interested please contact Fran McBee femcbee@dcsdk12.org



Star Bison

Star Bison is our student of the month recognition. These students are nominated by teachers and other staff for showing excellence in being Bison Strong. Congratulations to these students for being our February Star Bisons!!! [Feb 2023 Star Bison.pptx](#)



Applebee's
KIDS EAT
FREE
ON EASTER SUNDAY

Valid for 1 free Kids' Meal per adult entrée purchased on April 9, 2023. Valid at AAG Applebee's locations. Kids 12 and under. Must order from Kid's Menu. Dine-In only. **RING HOLIDAY**

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Student Council News for March 2023

Student Council and Clear Sky elementary raised \$750.00 to help Castle View High School with MAD WEEK. Thank you everyone. We also Took over 250 Food items to the Douglas County Task Force from our Food Drive.



Music News

Clear Sky District Honor Choir Members

Top: Jack Hastings, Dallin Hart, Lucas Raandgard

Middle Row: Elli Snow, Brianna Jones, Ava House, Alyssa Mounce, Cambrie Wright, Camryn Meyers, Kate Whitcomb, Mrs. Dome

Bottom Row: Chloe Hayes, Sierra Taylor, Claire Dixon, Natalie Fryman

Congratulations on your amazing sing abilities and representing Clear Sky at the District level.



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Music News, continued...



Guitars 5th and 6th grades!

We have had an amazing time discovering our new curriculum in guitar.

(Photo: Mrs. Rolfsons' 6th grade)



2nd - 4th grades

Ukuleles have been a big part of our learning experience.

We have composed, sang and enjoyed our new curriculum.

Kindergarten and 1st grades have been working on singing games and rhymes. We have been having fun being creative and composing new verses for our songs, as well as acting them out. Yeah K and 1!



April 6th and 7th

6:30pm

Tickets

\$10 for adults

\$5 for DCSD students and kids 5 and above.

Limited tickets available at the door.

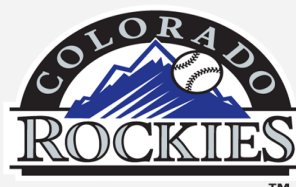
[Colorado Rocks Clear Sky Link](#)

Join us for a family evening out on April 11, 2023,

As our Clear Sky Singers, in combination with Soaring Hawk and Meadowview singers combine together to sing the National Anthem.

All fundraised proceeds will go to helping the music programs at all three schools. All schools are looking to purchase new instruments and music for all.

Thank you in advance for supporting music education at Clear Sky.



In the Innovation Lab

During our last rotation in the lab, all students completed this year's engineering design challenge presented by Science Buddies "Ping Pong Pickup Challenge" using just three types of paper, various types of string, paperclips, and tape. Each material had a specific cost and they had certain rules of how they had to approach, pick up and return the ping pong ball to the start line. The final score for this challenge was the distance their device was from the ping pong ball (in centimeters), minus the total cost of supplies they used for their device.

Reminder of the engineering design process:

- **Ask:** *What is the problem you are trying to solve?*
- **Imagine:** *Brainstorm different ways to solve the problem.*
- **Plan:** *Select one solution and make a plan.*
- **Create:** *Build a prototype of your solution.*
- **Test:** *Test the prototype/solution and collect data.*
- **Improve:** *How could you improve your solution? Make revisions based on your test results and observations.*

All of our final scores and device photos were submitted in the hopes of winning one of the ten \$1,000 cash prizes for our school. See some of those photos on the following page.

We have also been focusing on "SCAMPER" method, a guided brainstorming and ideation technique. (Learn more about [SCAMPER](#).) Here is an overview of the framework:

S - Substitute replace one piece

C - Combine some pieces from two ideas

A - Adapt by giving a piece a new job

M - Maximize/Minimize by making a piece bigger/smaller, more/less important

P - Put the whole thing to another use

E - Eliminate one piece

R - Rearrange by keeping the same pieces, but changing their order

UPCOMING UNITS IN THE LAB

We are down to just two rotations in the Innovation Lab. As we begin to wrap-up the school year, we will be focusing on the following units and/or topics:

- 3D Pens
- Stop Motion Animation
- Mini-Game Design
- "Battle Bots" with our Sphero Bolts
- Duct Tape Engineering (6th grade only)
- Seasonal STEM Challenges

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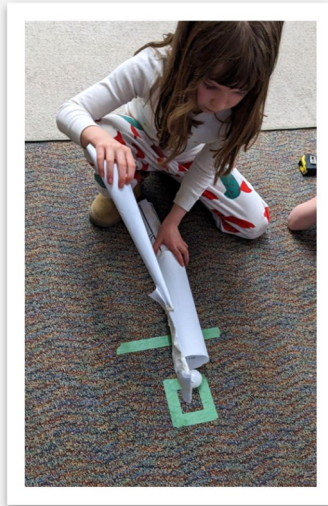
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In the Innovation Lab, continued...



CAMP INVENTION IS COMING BACK!

Camp Invention® is coming back to Clear Sky Elementary with an all-new program, Wonder!

In partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame®, CSE is excited to once again offer the nationally acclaimed Camp Invention program to children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. This popular program has earned rave reviews from parents, teachers and — most importantly — campers! Children who join this inspiring, weeklong summer experience will engage in open-ended, hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering and more! Taking on a variety of exhilarating activities each day, campers have fun collaborating with friends, thinking creatively and inventing their own solutions to real-world challenges.



The camp runs **June 5th-9th**, with Mrs. Jensen once again serving as Director. The all-new 2023 program will spark the imagination of both new and returning campers with an adventure full of inspiration, innovation and unforgettable discoveries!

During this action-packed, confidence-boosting program, young innovators will:

- Design and build their own mini skate park, customize their mini skateboard and practice persistence as they take on ramps, bowls, rails and more
- Transform a robot into a one-of-a-kind stuffie while exploring genetics, finding inspiration in nature and taking pride in their individuality
- Take on the role of event planner as they design a grand celebration, invent a Party Assistant and create a light-up party hat and bubble art banner
- Launch their own pop-up business while building entrepreneurship skills, making smart financial choices, using green energy and attracting customers



Early registration discounts are available! Register using SUM25 by 3/30 to save \$25 off the \$275 registration fee. Availability is limited, so visit invent.org/mylocalcamp or call 800-968-4332 to secure your child's spot today!

If you have or know a middle or high school student that would be interested in serving as a leader during our camp, please contact Mrs. Jensen at jennifer.jensen@dcsdk12.org

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In the Innovation Lab, continued...

LOOKING FOR RESOURCES AT HOME?

Here are the free and fun STEM/Makerspace/Innovation/Creation resources for March. Find additional resources on my website by clicking [HERE](#).

St. Patrick's Day STEM

Find a great collection of 12 St. Patrick's Day activities [here](#). Everything from squishy circuits to Lucky Charm Catapults!



Spring Scavenger Hunt - [Link](#)

The Monday we return from spring break will also be the first day of spring. Have some fun over "spring" break and enjoy this spring walk scavenger hunt.

WANT TO DONATE? We are always looking for materials, expertise, and extra hands! Visit our updated Google Doc (<https://goo.gl/3RIMpJ>) to see what materials we need.