

Bison Bulletin

February 2018

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 Principal

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of January. Spring will be here before we know it!! Last Monday several of our teachers had the opportunity to participate in an after school professional development called MIndUp! This session was about Mindfulness and how we can use it to help our students in the classroom. Mindfulness is a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations.

Students are coming to us more stressed than they ever have before and we are finding that this chronic level of stress is making it difficult to learn. Our teachers are dedicated to helping our students develop strategies to deal with their stress. Research tells us that the brain's response to stress is linked to the amygdala. The amygdala serves as an information filter regulated by our emotional state. When we are calm and peaceful, the filter is wide open and information flows to the prefrontal cortex where the brain's executive functions take place. When students are feeling negative or stressed out, these executive functions, which provide cognitive control are inhibited. Fear and anxiety effectively shut down higher-order thinking and cause students to react without thinking.

During this professional development we learned about a curriculum called MindUp that helps teachers teach their students about mindfulness. Through this curriculum students learn about how their brain works. They learn to sharpen their senses through Mindful listening, seeing, smelling, tasting and movement. Students also learn about perspective taking, choosing optimism, expressing gratitude and performing acts of kindness.

Continued on next page.....



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*Based on the dentist's diagnosis, free, basic dental services may include the following: limited exam, cleaning, Digital X-rays, fillings, extractions, sealants, endodontic treatment and CEREC crowns/inlays/onlays.

Message from the Principal

We are hopeful that through this curriculum we can give our students tools that they can use for a lifetime to control their level of stress and anxiety. We are currently piloting this program in one classroom per grade level and will determine at the end of the year if we want to continue it school wide.

If you have any questions or concerns I would love to chat more with you about this! Thank you for sharing your children with me. They bring me joy every day!!

Sincerely,
Kellie Roe

Berry's Bits

Hello Clear Sky Families,

We have had a great start to 2018 and the students are busy learning and working on PBL's in their classrooms. We are also working as a school to refresh our BISON matrix and our PBIS system. We are all working to remind our kiddos of the expectations and behavior that a Clear Sky students should show. We will be taking the students on a Bison migration through the building to remind each class of the expectations and help to support a common language for positive behavior throughout the building. I also wanted to send a quick reminder that in April, our 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders will be taking CMAS assessment in English Language Arts, Math and 5th will be tested in Science. Please help you students prepare for the testing by getting a good night's sleep and eating a good breakfast. This test will provide us with information about how you student is doing, and for the 4th, 5th and 6th graders, it can give us information on how much they have grown on this assessment from last year. We want the students to give their best on the test so we have one more way to see what they know. If you have questions about the testing, there is a link on the CSE home page with more information. Also you can access the testing schedule on this tab. Please contact me with any questions on testing.

Thank you for all you do for our students,
Mrs. Berry



2018 PARCC Testing

3rd & 4th grade	April 10-12 th
5th grade	April 10-12 th (PARCC) April 17-19 th (CMAS)
6th grade	April 3 rd – 5 th

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Important Dates to Remember:

February

- Fri, Feb 2nd **GO RED** Spirit Day for American Heart Association
- Fri, Feb 2ⁿ Douglas County Community Night at the Colorado Mammoth - Portion of Ticket Sales benefit DCSD School of your choice. Purchase tickets at: <https://www.mammoth.teamkse.com/douglascounty1718/>
- Tues, Feb 6th SAC Meeting in the Bungalow at 9:15 am (**moved from 2/13**)
- Wed, Feb 14th 4th grade field trip to Colorado State Capital
- Thu, Feb 15th 6th grade field trip to Denver Museum of Nature & Science
- Thu, Feb 15th District 6th grade Honor Choir Concert
- Fri, Feb 16th **NO SCHOOL** – Staff Professional Development Day
- Mon, Feb 19th **NO SCHOOL** – President's Day Holiday
- Wed, Feb 21st 1st grade field trip to Pine Trails
- Fri, Feb 23rd PTO Movie Night

March

- Mar 4th DCSD Community Day with the Colorado Avalanche – buy tickets at: avalanche.teamkse.com/douglas1718 (portion of tickets sales go to school of your choice)
- Mar 15-16 **NO SCHOOL** -Parent Teacher Conferences/Teacher Work Day
- Mar 19-30th **NO SCHOOL** – Spring Break



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**

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4714 Milestone Lane, Unit D
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Project Puerto Rico Update

Merry Christmas to Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico

Dear CSE Parents and Students,

In November, our school carried on a large gift of love by raising money for a small community in Puerto Rico. We raised close to \$1800.00 and with that we bought 2 generators and the remainder was distributed among families who were able to buy the necessary items they needed. As you know, Puerto Rico is not fully equipped with electricity which was so needed and our help has gone a long way. We hope that soon the entire island will be provided with the necessary electrical power they need to survive. Please know that your giving was a true act of kindness and love. Here are pictures we took before the generators left for Puerto Rico and after they received them.

Before



After



Apple Awards



Congratulations to our 2018 Apple Award representatives:

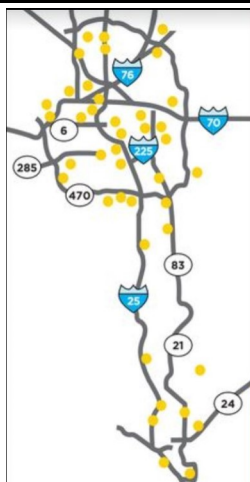
Tara Brunell (1st grade teacher) & Fran McBee (EA).



The Clear Sky family has grown by 1 ~



Congratulations to 1st grade teacher Meg Pacella & her family who recently welcomed Etta Mae. Mrs. Pacella is enjoying a short leave with her family before returning to her class by Spring Break.



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Innovation Lab

Our robotics unit is in the books! All grade levels did an amazing job of working on their challenges. I'm sure some of you have had requests for robot purchases. :) I have included a few photos of our work.

February will mark the beginning of our fifth rotation in the Innovation Lab. While students continue to practice the LAUNCH Cycle, a kid-friendly approach to the Design Thinking process, this unit will look very different than other rotations. During this round in the lab, all grade levels will be focusing on the same design challenge: *How might I plan my own passion project?* This round in the lab will have students preparing to create and execute their own Design Challenge during the last couple months of school. They will have the opportunity to explore some of the tools that they have already worked with, while also being introduced to several new tools.

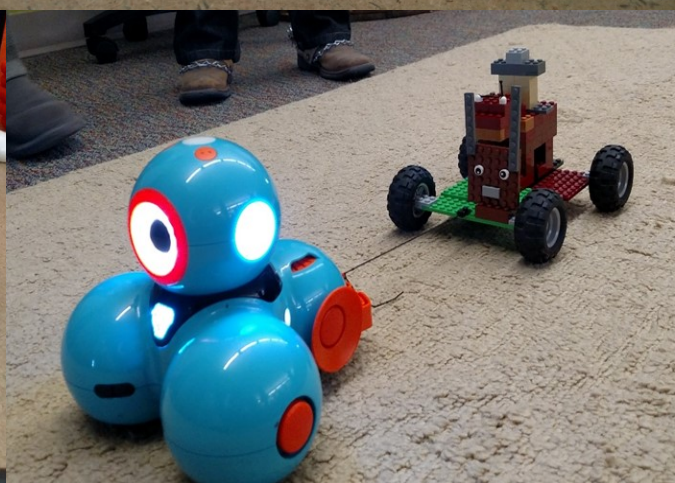
Want to donate?

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, an old Operation game...we need it for dissection :) Visit our updated Google Doc (<https://goo.gl/3RIMpJ>) to see what materials we need. If you want to volunteer your time, please feel free to contact me.

Want to learn more?

Visit these two resources to learn more about: Design Thinking - <https://www.ideou.com/pages/design-thinking>

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



English Language Learner (ELL) Update

Aurora Green
Aurora.green@dcsdk12.org

Abeer Sawaged
abeer.sawaged@dcsdk12.org

303-387-5954

Dear ELL Parents,

In January, ELL students took the ACCESS 2.0 language proficiency assessment for language acquisition and successful completed within the window given from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). We should expect for test results to come in after April, 2018 at which time we will use the data for student growth and future academic needs. We will provide that information to parents as soon as we receive the reports.

Reading Together

Our program is doing magnificently. Tutors and tutees really dedicate their time and effort into this program and we love hearing from parents on how well their child is doing in reading. The program will continue until April after spring break at which time we will have an opportunity to measure their reading growth.

When two struggling students work together, they accomplish more than either can alone. The older tutor learns by teaching and the younger tutee has a safe place to practice new skills.

Like many interventions, as students experience and apply these new skills, they begin to develop the intrinsic motivation and resilience they need to succeed. Students come to school, stay in school and feel good about school. <http://www.learningtogether.com/howitworks/>

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding ACCESS 2.0 and/or Reading Together. Thank you.



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Art

Art Room News

During January the 1st graders learned a little about the work of Pablo Picasso. Check out the website Picassohead.com with your children to create some of your own fun Picasso-like digital faces.

Fourth through sixth grades have been elbow deep in clay the past month and having so much fun! Check out some of these African masks our fourth graders have been creating!

This month in the art room:

Kindergarteners will be experimenting with making basic shapes with modeling clay. They will also be learning to make basic pinch pots out of clay

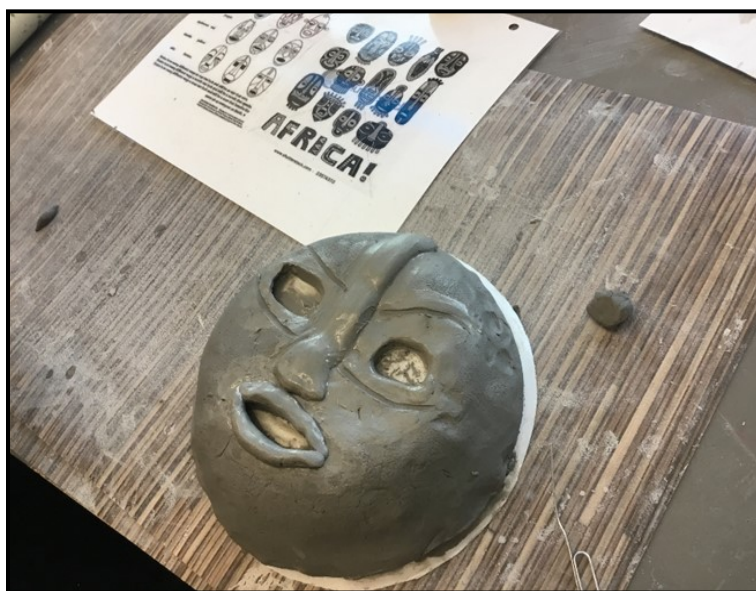
1st graders will also be making pinch pots, but we will be adding some texture to our pots by using basic household items like marker tops and pasta! They will also be learning about the work of Wassily Kandinsky and making some colorful snails influenced by his work.

2nd graders will be learning about form and reviewing warm and cool colors by creating clay Mexican suns.

3rd graders will be creating clay fish.

4th and 5th graders will be weaving in burlap.

6th graders will be discussing persuasive art and viewing Andy Warhol's prints of endangered animals. They will create drawings of an endangered animal and create a Warhol-inspired piece.



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Music Notes

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April 27-29, 2017

Details for tickets coming in the spring!



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News from the Learning Commons

PAWS FOR BOOKS!

Our spring Scholastic Bookfair is coming soon! Mark your calendars: March 12 - 16 in the Learning Commons!

In preparation for our bookfair, we invite all students to bring in a photograph of their pet or favorite animal with paws for our hallway decorations! Please send in a picture no bigger than 4"x6". Then come visit the book fair in March and find your photo! Please send the photos to Mrs. Kransie in the Learning Commons by Feb. 14.

MARKER RECYCLING

Please send all your used markers, any brand, in for our marker recycling project. The collection box is in the Learning Commons! Help us in our efforts to clean up our world and recycle! We do this year-round, so please send them anytime you are discarding markers.

New Enrollments 2018/19

We are now accepting enrollment packets for K-6th grade students who will be **new** to Clear Sky for the 2018/19 school year. Packets may be downloaded from our website www.clearskyelementary.org or picked up from the front office. Students already enrolled at Clear Sky for this school year do not need to re-enroll.

Questions about enrollment may be directed to

Kanoi.Oili@dcsdk12.org

School Fees

Many student fees are outstanding.

Please check your fee balance via parent portal. Fees may be paid online via RevTrak at <https://dcsdk12.revtrak.net/>.

Tri the Rock

Thanks to our CSE families who participated in 2017's **Tri the Rock** our PE dept recently received a check for \$288 to benefit kid's health and fitness.

The 2018 Tri the Rock will be on **May 20th**. See link below for Registration which is open now. Let's take back the trophy from Aspen View!! (we tied for 2nd place with Soaring Hawk last year)

<http://www.crgov.com/2004/Tri-the-Rock>

Health Room News

It's that time of the year for **coughing, sneezing, stuffy noses, and tummy aches...yuck!**

Parents please remember to keep children home if they are feeling under the weather.

Attendance Policy

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)

Kari Nichols

303-387-5909

knichols1@dcsdk12.org

Found Bear



We have a little friend in the office who is looking for their family. Is anyone missing their well-loved teddy bear? He was found in the kiss-and-go lane and we have been taking care of him but we think he is missing his special person. He can be claimed at the front office.

Spelling Bee

Clear Sky had our annual Scripps Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 17. The top five spellers per grade on a written test competed in an exciting competition that finished just before the bell rang! Our champion was Michael Lu and alternate Nathan Peil -both 4th graders from Miss Zivojinovic's class! The next level is the Douglas County School District bee at Castle Rock Middle School on Saturday, February 10, 2018 and involves students through 8th grade. The top 25 there go on to The Denver Post News Colorado State Spelling Bee at the University of Denver in March. Congratulations to all!



CSE Website News

Clear Sky's website is being redesigned for improved communication and collaboration. Our new website will bring students, parents and community members news and information in a more concise, consistent fashion. We're confident you'll find the new website easier to use and find the information important to you. The entire site has gone live today, Monday, January 29th. We are moving towards using the new URL of clearskyelementary.org. The .org domain extension is more fitting for the school. You will still be able to access the site via the former URL of .com, but we will be focusing on the .org address in our future communication.

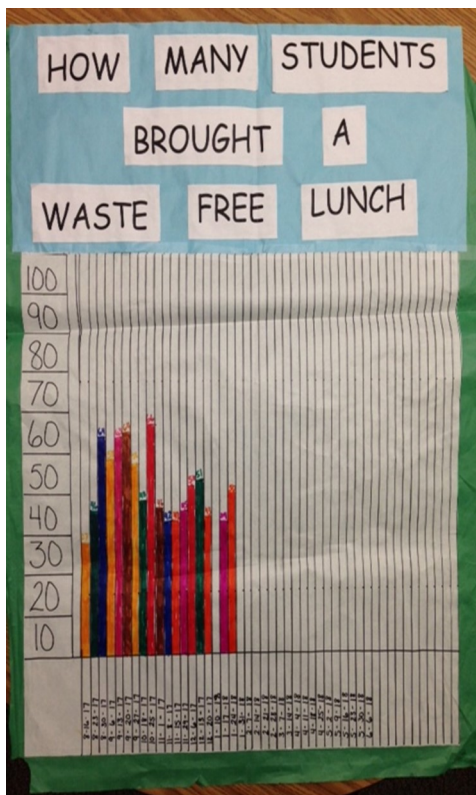
One of the first things you'll notice is a uniform look and feel. The navigation is consistent throughout the new website. You will be able to find information more quickly and in many cases fewer clicks. We also made sure to include:

- News and announcements
- Responsive Design allows optimized viewing on any screen size and technology device
- School and activity calendars
- A searchable staff directory that includes photos and short bios

The CSE staff members will continue to utilize Google Sites until they receive training within the new platform. We hope to have all staff websites transferred by the end of the year.



Waste Free Wednesdays



We continue to have Waste Free Wednesdays where students bring a lunch from home without generating any landfill trash. Each week we hold a drawing for fun prizes.

Congratulations to Kai, Colston, Chloe and Jimi for bringing waste free lunches to school and winning prizes from our weekly drawings during January.



Shout Out Board

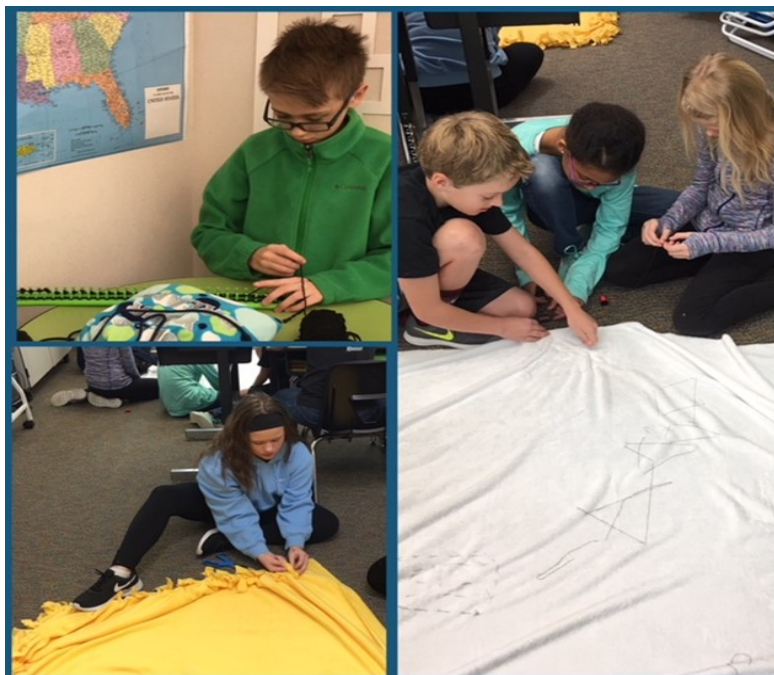


Students now have a way to send out some praises to staff members.

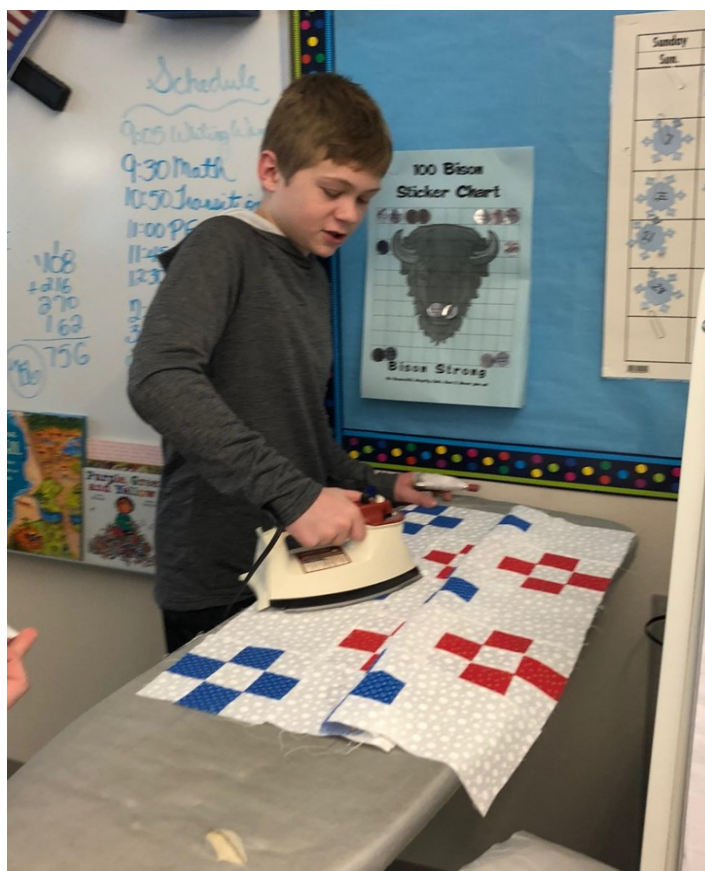
Please check out the new shout out board.

This will change weekly as we get new messages.

5th Grade



Markle's 5th Graders making blankets for the PTO Spring Event!

6th grade

Sixth grade is wrapping up our math project on quilts and diving into matter. Our students will be studying different forms of matter, atoms, and molecules. All of our classes have had some fun experiences with Dry Ice. We have also purchased some kits called "Happy Atoms" which work with an app for students to explore atomic bonds in molecules.





CLEAR SKY PTO

PTO Update | February 2018



It's time for another rewards collection contest! Box Tops are a simple way to help earn free money for Clear Sky.

So far this year we have earned over \$1100, thanks to you! When you turn in your Box Tops, be sure to include your child's name and teacher's name. The classroom that collects the most Box Tops wins a cupcake party! Contest ends February 26th.

Coming Soon: Family Movie Night - February 23rd, 2018
Sponsored by The Law Office of Gregory Homer

Come join us for Family Movie Night at Clear Sky. The movie will start at approximately 6:00pm, with pizza and refreshments available starting at 5:30pm. More details will be forthcoming (including which movie will be showing!), but we hope you will plan now to join us for this fun, annual event.



CSE PTO Spring Event, "A Clear Sky Night"

Event Date: Saturday, April 14, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Where: Lone Tree Golf Club

Tickets: \$40 per person

<https://events.handbid.com/auctions/a-clear-sky-night-2018>

Please join us for a fun filled Fiesta Night!
Mexican Buffet, Margaritas, Live & Silent Auction,
Balloon Pop, Door Prizes, DJ & Dancing! FUN, FUN, FUN!!



All those who purchase tickets before 2/28/18 will be entered into a drawing to win a Complimentary 1 Night Stay for 4 in a standard suite at the Great Wolf Lodge!!
Winner will be announced March 1st

If you would like to donate to the live or silent auction, or have business products or coupons we could include in the gift bags, please contact Suzanne Uhrich, CSEPTORewards@gmail.com.
Anyone who donates a product or service valued at \$250 or more will receive
2 free Spring Event General Admission tickets!!



CLEAR SKY PTO

PTO Update | February 2018

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



[The Bison Blog](#)

Sign up for blog updates

Alone we can do so little;

together we can *do* so much.

— Helen Keller



Lunch Menu

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

Parent Portal

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

Express Online Payments

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