

The TRAILBLAZER

DECEMBER 2016

COMPASS

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Trailblazer Elementary

9760 Hackberry Street
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Principal
Dr. Deanne Kirby

Assistant Principal
Julie Crawford

Main Office
303-387-6250

Fax
303-387-6251

Attendance

303-387-6252 Press 1

*Call anytime to report absences or late arrivals

School Hours

First Bell: 8:35 am
Tardy Bell: 8:40 am

Dismissal: 3:30 pm

Delayed Start: 10:10 am

Office Hours: 8:15am-3:45pm

Important Calendar Dates:

December 5-11th - Spirit WEEK at Wahoo's

December 10th - Breakfast with Santa (Sponsored by the PTO)

December 14th - Kindergarten Tour @ 9:30am

December 16th - January 2nd - Winter Break NO SCHOOL

January 3rd - PTO Meeting 5-6pm

January 3rd - SAC Meeting 6-8pm

January 5th - Kindergarten Tour @ 9:30am

January 10, 11, 12th - Kindergarten Registration

January 13th - Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL

January 16th - Martin Luther King Holiday NO SCHOOL

January 20th - Casino Night (Sponsored by the PTO)



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Compass

Dear Trailblazer Families,

Happy December! I hope you were able to spend time with family and friends over Thanksgiving Break.

As a mom and an educator, I have the unique opportunity to see both sides of schooling. I get to see the hardships that we all face from several perspectives, learning my own lessons along the way. I readily admit, like everyone else on the parenthood journey, that I have experienced many, many ‘Mom failures’ over the past 19 years ~ one, in particular, being the time my youngest could not find his tennis shoes and spent the entire school day in dress shoes that were 2 sizes too small. He was happy to tell anyone who would listen about how horrible I was for not taking the time to help him find his tennis shoes and for not bringing him a pair that fit. I can laugh about that situation now, but in the moment it was definitely a constant struggle to ensure that he was going to make it through 2nd grade alive! On the other hand, I have experienced just as many parenting joys and successes as my husband and I raise our young men. They are kind and caring humans and we are proud of their accomplishments in college, high school, and athletics. But it wasn’t (and still isn’t) easy.

One major lesson we learned as parents is that our boys needed the space to fail (or flail) and the support to recover from their failures, no matter how big or small. It was okay for our kids to forget their homework (or to wear shoes that are too small for a day) and for us to **not** take time out of our busy day to bring it to them. It was okay for them to forget their snack or to forget to get their planner signed. Obviously, there were times that we needed to intervene to keep them safe and healthy, but in general, they needed to fail and flail here and there to help them learn to make different decisions.

Continued on next page.....

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TRAIL OF LIGHTS

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GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

I am no parenting expert, so please take my next suggestions simply as suggestions that I share as a fellow parent. As we enter this season of giving, I believe the best gift we can give our children is the opportunity to take responsibility for their belongings, their homework, and their actions. Let them carry their own backpack to and from school. Gradually give them the responsibility of packing their own snack and making sure their homework is where it should be and their planner is signed. Resist the temptation to bring them their water bottle or their forgotten homework. They can get a drink from the fountain and any consequence they have from missing work will help them remember to be more organized. When they make a whopper of a mistake, let them do the hard work of taking ownership and making things right with whomever they have hurt or offended. I know how difficult it is to let them struggle or to remember to hand that backpack right back to them when they hold it out for you to carry. I also know firsthand that the lessons they learn now, while they are in elementary school, will make things much easier for you and them when they move on to middle and high school.

We are all on the journey to raise sturdy humans together. It is the hardest and best job in the world. Thank you for all you do to partner with us to make your child's elementary experience the best possible. We know how important your children are to you and we are always available to do whatever we can to meet your family's needs.

With care for our community,

Deanne Kirby





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Explorers of the Month:



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Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Amy Adams



Classroom Teacher: Mrs. Henley

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Amy Adams is a very hard worker and she does not give up. She listens carefully and tries to improve her work. She will make an improvement if necessary and she will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Jackson Freeman



Classroom Teacher: Ms. Edgett

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Jackson Freeman is a very hard worker and he does not give up. He listens carefully and tries to improve his work. He will make an improvement if necessary and he will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Clayton Huang



Classroom Teacher: Mrs. Fullender / Mrs. Pinos

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Clayton Huang is a very hard worker and he does not give up. He listens carefully and tries to improve his work. He will make an improvement if necessary and he will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Olivia Kuntz



Classroom Teacher: Mrs. Glendon

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Olivia Kuntz is a very hard worker and she does not give up. She listens carefully and tries to improve her work. She will make an improvement if necessary and she will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Jacob Carpenter



Classroom Teacher: Miss Rogan

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Jacob Carpenter is a very hard worker and he does not give up. He listens carefully and tries to improve his work. He will make an improvement if necessary and he will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Brooke Allen



Classroom Teacher: Mrs. Hennemann

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Brooke Allen is a very hard worker and she does not give up. She listens carefully and tries to improve her work. She will make an improvement if necessary and she will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Isabel Wilson



Classroom Teacher: Mrs. Dawson

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Isabel Wilson is a very hard worker and she does not give up. She listens carefully and tries to improve her work. She will make an improvement if necessary and she will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Kaylin Hochstetler



Classroom Teacher: Mrs. Dawson

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Kaylin Hochstetler is a very hard worker and she does not give up. She listens carefully and tries to improve her work. She will make an improvement if necessary and she will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

Explorer of the Month

Presented to: Brian Buckner



Classroom Teacher: Mrs. Bradford

For the month of: October

This student was recognized as Explorer of the Month because they demonstrated one or more attributes of The 16 Habits of Mind. Brian Buckner is a very hard worker and he does not give up. He listens carefully and tries to improve his work. He will make an improvement if necessary and he will do a great job.

Congratulations!

Sr. Srann Kuby Dearie Kuby, Principal
Julie Crawford Assistant Principal

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Specials Spotlight

What's New in PE

So Far This Year...

Kindergarten has been working on their locomotor skills. They use them to move around the gym in different games that we play. They have also done some balancing and every day they are working on their spatial awareness. Recently they have added manipulatives to their locomotor skills and games and are working on tossing/throwing and catching.

1st & 2nd have been working on racing where they make sure to follow the directions and have appropriate responses to winning and losing. They have been learning the 5 food groups and knowing what foods will go into each of the food groups. They have been working on throwing/tossing and catching and are moving towards being able to juggle two scarves and maybe even three.

3rd -5th grade have been working on racing and correct handoffs with a baton. They are also working on the appropriate responses to winning and losing a race and how to adjust their lineup so that they have their team in the order they want to have a better chance with their anchor and the lead runner. They have reviewed and learned the 5 food groups and have decomposed the foods we eat to know what food groups are in each food (ex: Spaghetti, Tacos, Pizza, etc.). Recently we have been doing our basketball unit and working on the skills of the game including, dribbling, passing, and shooting.

6th grade have been working on following the directions and the correct responses to winning and losing. They have also been doing relay racing and learning how to hand off the baton and put their team in the best order for them by placing people in positions such as anchor and lead runner. They know what each position requires and make a team decision for their order. They have reviewed the 5 food groups and have had to make a one day menu including breakfast, lunch, snack, and dinner that has the 5 food groups in it and is healthy and realistic. They recently have been working on basketball and applying their skills and knowledge of the game to game play. They make their own teams and designate jobs to the people on their team. The jobs include 2 coaches, 2 referees, and 2 equipment managers. When one plays, the other does the job and then they sub for each other. The entire unit is run by the students and they have done a great job with this learning model.

The beginning of the year has been great and I am looking forward to the second half of the year!!

Randi Johnson



ETIL - Where digital and print live happily ever after.

Students have been busy in ETIL this fall. We had a robotic unit featuring Bee Bots where all grades were able to program at a variety of different challenge levels. Bee Bots are entry level robots perfect for building skills using sequencing, estimation, problem-solving, and just having fun!



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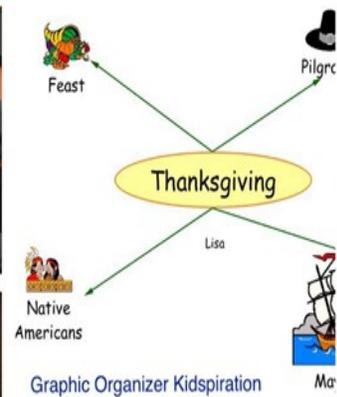
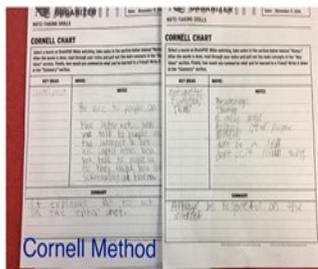
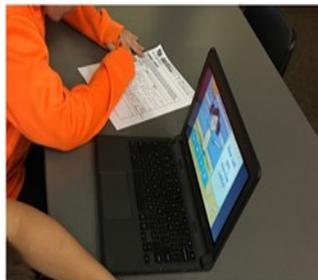
**Boys & Girls
Ages 5 - 15**

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ETIL - Where digital and print live happily ever after.

We also worked on note taking skills using a variety of methods both pen and paper as well as digital. Students tried out traditional outline methods, graphic organizers and visual note taking techniques. This is a skill set we will work on throughout the year to build confidence and proficiency. Our 1st and 2nd graders explored working with graphic organizers using Kidspiration. Most students preferred using digital templates for note taking but realized how important being able to type as fast as you can think becomes when trying to listen or think and type at the same time. Practicing keyboarding at home is highly encouraged. Students have access to several typing programs and games on our TBE website.



Thankful Turkey 1st Grade



Chili Cook Off!



Spirit Rock has arrived!!



Rent the Trailblazer Spirit Rock to send a personal message! Rules and links to sign up are available [HERE](#).

PARENT UNIVERSITY

DCSD's Parent University is an excellent resource for parents with children in all levels of school. Follow [THIS](#) link to find out more about Parent University and the courses DCSD offers. There are several upcoming topics that may interest you!



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The Facts

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- REWARD CARDS MAY BE USED AT KING SOOPERS, CITY MARKET FUEL CENTERS, OR LOAF & JUG!
- Trailblazer earns 5% on the amount of those RELOADS. You can RELOAD with credit or debit card, cash, or check.
- Average family spends \$1000 a month in groceries.
- 5% of \$1,000 is \$50.00 per month for your child's education!
- \$50 a month per family. 200 families at TBE. \$10,000 a month. \$120,000 a year!
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Thank you for reading!

