



Paw Prints

Grant Ranch School
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Denver, CO 80123

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April 2018

GRANT RANCH SCHOOL ECE-8

About Paw Prints 2017-2018

These publications are available online @
http://grantranch.dpsk12.org/?page_id=432
Grant Ranch Webpage - <http://grantranch.dpsk12.org>



Paw Prints is a monthly newsletter for Grant Ranch School. This is an important communication link for parents and includes important happenings at our school.

You can read, download, and print this newsletter monthly on the Grant Ranch Webpage.

<http://grantranch.dpsk12.org>

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Important End of Year Dates



May 17 – Band & Choir Concert 6:30 pm Cafetorium

May 18 – ECE Field Day

May 23 – Talent Show/Art Night – 6:30 pm

May 24 – K-5 Field Day

May 24 – 8th Grade Pool Party 11:00 am – 2:30 pm

May 25 – Rainy day K-5 Field Day make-up

May 25 – 8th Grade to Elitch's

May 25 – Monson ECE picnic 11:00 am

May 28 – No School – Memorial Day

May 29 – Mettler ECE picnic 11:00 am

May 30 – Report cards printed and sent home

May 30 – 5th grade Moving On Up Ceremony 8:30 am – 9:30 am

May 30 – 2nd & 3rd grade picnic 10 am – 2 pm

May 30 – ECE End of Year Performance 1:30 pm (Cafetorium)

May 30 – 8th grade Continuation 6 pm – 7:30 pm

May 31 – Kindergarten Graduation 9:30 am (Cafetorium)

May 31 – No School for ECE

May 31 – 1st grade Breakfast Potluck & Awards Ceremony 7:40 am (Back playground)

May 31 – 4th grade picnic 10 am – 2 pm

May 31 – Last day of school for students. **This is a full day.**

Looking Ahead...

Registration

August 8 – 3pm – 7pm

August 9 – 8am – 12pm



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A Message from Mrs. Hurrieta

As I look back at the end of this first year at Grant Ranch I see the trail of successes. On the Denver Public Schools Performance Framework, we rose from Unsatisfactory (Red) to Accredited on Watch (Yellow) and are on our way to Meeting Expectations (Green)! We had some of the highest growth in the district and even have a sign hanging out front that the district sent us. Our suspension rate and discipline rates have dropped from last year.

There were many more families involved in various activities throughout the school day and in the evenings. At the showcase night students showed off their talents and class work! Our Destination Imagination team qualified for Globals – at an international level after a dynamic performance at State! Many students participated in the spelling bee and geography bee. And we ended the year with a scavenger hunt and musical concerts! Next on the calendar is field day followed by the talent show and continuation.

We have had the opportunity to make many aesthetic improvements due to the generosity of you, the voters! We replaced the carpet in the main hall and are looking to replace the hallway carpets, too. We will be installing a learning garden in front of the school and with the generous help of our parents have landscaped the front of the building. Our benches were painted along with all of the four squares and hopscotch squares! We painted the cafeteria and installed new shades. We are currently working on updating the library to create a 21st century learning environment with new books and furniture. There is still more to come!

Thank you for your support during my first year serving as your principal. I look forward to continued improvement. My goal, like yours is to create the best school for our children! We will reach Distinguished on the DPS School Performance Framework by continuing our work as partners in education. Enjoy your summer!

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Un mensaje de la Sra. Hurrieta

Cuando miro hacia atrás al final de este primer año en Grant Ranch, veo la escuela de éxitos. En el Marco de Desempeño de las Escuelas Públicas de Denver, pasamos de Insatisfactorio (Rojo) a Acreditado en Vigilancia (Amarillo) y estamos en camino de cumplir con las expectativas (Verde). Tuvimos el crecimiento más alto en el distrito e incluso tenemos un letrero colgando en el frente de la escuela que el distrito nos envió. Nuestra tasa de suspensión y las tasas de disciplina han disminuido desde el año pasado.

Hubo muchas más familias involucradas en diversas actividades durante el día escolar y por la noche. ¡En la noche de escaparate, los estudiantes mostraron sus talentos y trabajo de clase! Nuestro equipo de Destination Imagination calificó para la Final, a nivel internacional después de un desempeño dinámico en el estado. Muchos estudiantes participaron en el concurso de ortografía y geografía. Y terminamos el año con una noche en familia de lectura y conciertos musicales. Lo siguiente en nuestro calendario es el día de campo seguido del espectáculo de talentos y la Continuación.

¡Hemos tenido la oportunidad de hacer muchas mejoras estéticas debido a la generosidad de ustedes, los votantes! Reemplazamos la alfombra en la sala principal y también estamos buscando reemplazar las alfombras del pasillo. Instalaremos un jardín de aprendizaje en frente de la escuela y con la generosa ayuda de nuestros padres hemos diseñado el frente del edificio. ¡Nuestros bancos fueron pintados junto con los cuatro cuadrados y los cuadrados de rayuela! Pintamos la cafetería e instalamos nuevos tonos. Actualmente estamos trabajando en la actualización de la biblioteca para crear un entorno de aprendizaje del siglo XXI con nuevos libros y muebles. ¡Todavía hay más por venir!

Gracias por su apoyo durante mi primer año sirviendo como su directora. Espero con interés la mejora continua. Mi objetivo, como el suyo, es crear la mejor escuela para nuestros hijos. Llegaremos a “Distinguidos” en el Marco de Desempeño Escolar de DPS al continuar nuestro trabajo como socios en la educación. ¡Disfruten de su verano!



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News from PTO

2018 GRS READ-A-THON

Friday, May 4 – All Day

Proceeds will support teacher requests for supplies and technology.

FOR every \$50.00 raised you will be entered into a drawing for Amazing prizes.

FORMS DUE FRIDAY, May 4th



Teacher Appreciation Week May 7-11

May 7 – PTO is providing gifts to teachers

May 8 – Bring in baked goods and treats to the staff lounge for our staff

May 9 – PTO is providing gifts to teachers

May 10 – PTO is providing gifts to teachers

May 11 – Bring flowers and card to your teachers



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ECE Field Day

Grant Ranch Pre-School classes will have their Field Day on **May 18th, 2018**. This year we will be having a celebration of skills we have learned in PE. All the stations are based on games and activities we have played in PE.

Pre-School Field Day - 8:30AM – 10:30AM

Parents are encouraged to come and cheer on their child. Please make sure to sign in at the front office and get your visitor's sticker before proceeding to Field Day.

Items you might want your child to have for Field Day.

- Sun Screen
- Water bottle with their **name** on it
- Hat
- Tennis Shoes
- Active clothes, and even an extra pair of clothes.
- There will be a few water stations where they might get wet.

You will not want to miss this Field Day. See you May 18th!!!

continued...



<p>FACT: Our proprietary Balanced Learning[®] curriculum emphasizes creative, social, emotional, physical, cognitive and character development.</p>  	<p>BALANCED LEARNING[®] WAY: That's pretty much everything, including the kitchen sink.</p> <p>Now Enrolling Fall 2018 New families receive waived Registration!</p> <p>CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO</p> <p>Primrose School of Ken Caryl (470 & Bowles) 720.981.2988</p>
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ECE Field Day, *continued...*

K-5 Field Day

Grant Ranch will have their Field Day for Kindergarten through 5th Grade on **May 24th, 2018**. This year we will be having a celebration of skills we have learned in PE. All the stations are based on games we have played in PE.

All grades will be participating in Field Day during their section times:

Grades K-2 - 11:45 AM - 2:30PM

Grades 3-5 - 8:00 AM - 10:45AM

Parents are encouraged to come and cheer on their child. Please make sure to sign in at the front office and get your visitor's sticker before proceeding to Field Day.

Items you might want your child to have for Field Day.

- Sun Screen
- Water bottle with their **name** on it
- Hat
- Tennis Shoes
- Active clothes, and even an extra pair of clothes.

There will be a few water stations where they might get wet.

You will not want to miss this Field Day. See you May 24th!!!



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303-948-1553
Wadsworth & Belleview near Club USA

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Destination Imagination

The Grant Ranch 5th grade Destination Imagination Team, The Wise GRS Grizzlies, competed in the DI State tournament on April 7th, 2018 at Auraria Campus. The team performed extremely well and earned 6th place out of 20 teams in their overall score. They now advance to the Global Tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee May 22-27. During Globals they will compete against teams from all around the world, including Afghanistan, China, Australia and many other teams. There will be 1,500 teams competing during this event! Thank you to our community for supporting us in our fundraising efforts.



News from the Library

All library materials are due **Thursday, May 17th**. Please make sure all items are returned before the end of the year so we can have the library ready for next year!

Summer reading programs bring fun for everyone! Check out your local public library for a variety of free, fun summer activities including

- Summer Reading Programs
- Storytimes
- STEM Club
- ideaLab
- 3D Printing
- DIY Club

Denver Public Library - <https://kids.denverlibrary.org/blog/plan-ahead-awesome-summer>

Jefferson County Library - <https://jeffcolibrary.org>

And remember you have free access to eBooks and Audiobooks all summer long with [Overdrive](https://dps.libraryreserve.com/10/45/en/SignIn.htm?url=Default.htm) - <https://dps.libraryreserve.com/10/45/en/SignIn.htm?url=Default.htm> - eBooks though DPS.

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Making Fitness a Family Affair

Keeping it simple and fun is the key to making fitness part of the family routine.
by: GreatSchools Staff | October 28, 2016

Children learn from the example that parents provide: If you read, they'll read; If you eat healthy food, they'll eat healthy food; and if you exercise regularly, so will they. Or better yet, why not get everybody to engage in physical fitness activities together? The key to successful family fitness is to keep it simple and fun for everyone. Make your activities a family tradition that everyone will look forward to.

Even moderate physical activity (combined with a healthy diet) will help protect members of your family from heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some forms of cancer. Physical fitness activities are a great way to relieve stress (i.e., fewer sibling fights) and send oxygen to the brain, which means exercising regularly could help keep peace at home and boost academic performance.

Before you start on your renewed commitment to fitness, be sure that everyone in your family has the go-ahead from your family doctor. Always increase your physical activity gradually to avoid straining muscles and injury. Be sure to stretch and drink plenty of water, too.

Simple activities for getting fit

You don't have to join a gym or spend a lot of money to stay fit. All you need are a good pair of athletic shoes, and if you must, some inexpensive equipment — a ball, rope, and stick — and off you go! Get the whole family involved in these simple and fun physical fitness activities in the great outdoors.

Aim for 10,000 steps a day

The U.S. surgeon general recommends that everyone walk or run at least 10,000 steps a day. What a great way to use your math skills while keeping fit!

Buy a simple pedometer and have each member of the family wear it for a day and then compare notes on how many steps you walked. Talk about how you could gradually increase that number. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

When possible take the stairs instead of the escalator or elevator. Walk instead of driving, especially for short distances.

Don't park too close to your destination. When you go to the mall or the grocery store, park far away from the store in the parking lot. This will force everyone to walk a little more.

Do chores together. Wash the car, rake some leaves, work in the garden.

Take the family on a walk. Make a habit of taking a family walk in the neighborhood, in or around a park or to a destination (the mailbox, your school, a friend's house). Or incorporate one of these types of transport into your neighborhood tour: roller skates, rollerblades, bicycles or skateboards. (Be sure to wear helmets and the necessary padding.)

Take a walk or run on a local school track. Count your laps!

Get on your bikes and go. Biking is a great family activity. You can start out on short neighborhood rides and build up to rides on local bike trails. Be sure everyone wears a helmet for safety. To learn about some great places to bike as a family, and how to select the right equipment, check out GORP's Family Biking resource.

continued...

Making Fitness a Family Affair, *continued...*

Go on a treasure hunt in your neighborhood. Compile a list of “simple treasures” to hunt for on your walk: a leaf with beautiful colors, a shiny penny, a can to be recycled. Or make a list of things to notice as you walk: Find a house with a red door. Look for a specific kind of car parked in a driveway. What else might you hunt for? Have everyone in your family contribute “treasures” to hunt for on your list.

Play catch. It may sound simple, but try some of these variations or create your own:

Play catch with different sizes and shapes of balls, or a Frisbee.

Play catch at gradually increasing distances.

Play paddle ball.

Have an old-fashioned egg toss. Start close and gradually increase your distance in throwing the egg from one person to another.

Play footbag (also known as “Hacky Sack”). Check out the rules here.

Take a walk with the American Volkssport Association (AVA). The AVA’s network of 350 walking clubs organizes more than 3000 walking events per year in all 50 states, as well as occasional bikes, skis and swims.

The club, run almost completely by volunteers, has branches in cities across the United States and Europe. They schedule trail walk events where groups walk together in rural and urban areas, many at sites of historical interest or fun places like the local zoo. New members are welcome but you don’t have to be a member to participate in one of their walks.

The walks range in difficulty, from one (easiest) to five (hardest) and all ages are welcome. Generally, a flier and map are provided, with commentary on what you will see as you walk. Most walks are six miles or less, and take an hour or two at most to complete. The walks, generally free of charge, are fun to do in places close to home, as well as when you travel. “We have walks in lots of fun places,” says AVA Executive Director Jackie Wilson. “You can learn what a city is really about when you take one of our walks. The guided walks even note points of interest, such as the best ice cream places!”

AVA also publishes a book of self-guided trails, called the Year-Round Event Book. Achievement-oriented types can enroll in the group’s Individual Achievement Award Program. You can purchase a Distance and Event Record Book for \$5 at any event. For every walk that you complete, you get a stamp. There are prizes for completing 10 events, 30 events, 50 events, 500 kilometers, 1,000 kilometers, etc. You can also redeem your Record Book for a Certificate of Achievement, a patch and a hatpin, and your accomplishment is printed in *The American Wanderer*, their national publication.

To get started, check the AVA Web site to find a club near you.

continued...

**Congratulations to
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**A parent from Moore Middle School entered the contest and
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Stay tuned for our next contest coming soon...

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Making Fitness a Family Affair, *continued...*

Old-fashioned family fitness

Remember the good old days when kids used to run outside to play hopscotch, baseball or jump rope? Keeping fit was just a natural part of having fun. With the help of staff and youth organizations across the country, Rose Kennedy has gathered a variety of old and new games and activities into a book brimming with fitness activities, *The Family Fitness Fun Book: Healthy Living for the Whole Family* (Healthy Living Books, 2005).

The key to fun family fitness, she says, is to “Keep it simple and fun. If it is not something you can easily do all the time, you won’t do it.” She recommends not discussing weight issues or health benefits. You are more likely to encounter resistance if you say, “This will be good for you.” Chances are if the activities are fun, everyone in the family will look forward to doing them, and the health benefits will be a natural result.

Family fitness night. Kennedy suggests having a regular time during the week for family fitness activities but cautions families to make it an “add-on” activity rather than a substitute for watching TV. Why not let the kids stay up a half-hour later on family fitness night? That way it becomes something special, a privilege that they will look forward to.

Kennedy likes games that are a little goofy, that involve some mental strategy, and that can involve everyone in the family, no matter what age. “When you can use your brain, too, you don’t have to be the biggest, strongest or fastest to win,” she notes. Here are some of her favorites:

TV tag. A variation on tag. Everyone runs around trying to tag each other. To avoid being tagged, you can squat down anywhere and yell out the name of your favorite TV show. A variation would be to yell out the name of your favorite book or book character.

Sardines. A variation on hide and seek. This game can be played inside or out. One person hides. Everyone else tries to find him. When you find the person who is hiding, you hide with him. The last one left looking gets to be the one to hide in the next round of the game.

continued...

**Community
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Wanted!**



Photo by Steven Libralon on Unsplash

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Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable! Reach parents in your local community & support schools! Businesses that want to sponsor this school, please contact TSCA at info@tscaschools.com or 970-239-1641.

Making Fitness a Family Affair, *continued...*

Capture the flag. This is a great classic game for family or neighborhood gatherings. Mix different age groups on each team, if possible. Have at least three people on each team. Divide a large area into two equal halves (best at a park or large backyard). The players on each team work together to hide their flag (could be a rag, shirt or any object) in their team's territory. Designate a "prison" area on each side of the field. Players try to find the other team's flag and bring it back to their side of the field without being tagged. If they get tagged, they must wait in the prison area for a member of their team to come "free" them. The game ends when one team captures the opposing team's flag. "Dads sometimes start off playing this game reluctantly," says Kennedy, "but they never finish reluctantly."

Fitness games to play while you are waiting

Play ball. Kennedy says she likes to keep a pink bouncy ball in her car because she can always pull it out to play catch at a rest stop on the highway or at the school playground while waiting to pick up one of her children.

Hit the stick. Another quick game to play with a ball is Hit the Stick. Put a stick in the middle of two sidewalk squares. Take turns trying to hit the stick with the ball. If you turn the stick over, you get two points.

Stone teacher. This is a good game to play on a staircase at an office building or at a school. One person is the Stone Teacher. She holds a stone in one hand and faces the group lined up on the steps below her. One person walks up to her and tries to guess which hand has the stone. If she guesses correctly, she moves up a step. When she reaches the step where the Stone Teacher is, she gets to take her place.

Walk the plank. Draw a line on the ground or floor, or put a piece of rope down. Take turns trying to walk on the line. Try walking backwards, with eyes closed or looking into binoculars that are upside down. This game is good for improving your balance.

Other old-fashioned fitness

Have a hula hoop contest. Who can keep their hula hoop swirling the longest?

Jump rope. Did you know that jumping rope started out as an activity for boys in the United States? When people started migrating from the farms to the cities, the activity became popular with girls as well. Boys tended to do fancy tricks (trick jumps, crossovers, double jumping, and peppers) while girls made up rhymes and songs. So let there be no excuses from boys who think jumping rope is just for girls.

Start out slowly, jumping 30 hops, just clearing the rope, and add a few more hops as you get comfortable.

Your rope should be long enough to reach from the floor to your armpits when the rope is folded in half. In addition, ball bearings in the handles are preferable.

See who can jump the longest or bring out the old jump rope songs and rhymes. Remember this one?

A my name is Alice,
And my husband's name is Arthur,
We come from Alabama,
Where we sell artichokes.
B my name is Barney,
And my wife's name is Bridget,
We come from Brooklyn,
Where we sell bicycles.
C my name is _____,
And my husband's name is _____,
We come from _____,
Where we sell _____.

continued...

Making Fitness a Family Affair, *continued...*

Play hopscotch, handball or stickball. All these games require nothing more than simple materials: chalk, a stick, a ball. For rules, variations and events, check streetplay.com.

Keep a family fitness journal

Kennedy suggests that one of the children in the family be appointed to keep a log or chart of your family fitness activities. It can include what games you played each week, what your heart rate was before and after, whether you improved your time or number of spins with the hula hoop, for example. The log becomes one more way to get your family to commit to fitness activities.



Jumpstreet Indoor Trampoline Parks Celebrate Kids of All Abilities



April is National Autism Awareness Month but Jumpstreet celebrates kids of all abilities every month!

Jumpstreets across the country host a special semi-private event on the first Saturday of every month, including Saturday, April 7. Children with special needs and their siblings are welcome to enjoy the park one hour before it opens to the public.

The private hour is from 9am to 10am.

Jumpstreet COO Mark Goldman says,

“Families have shared with us that their children with developmental challenges feel more confident in their play when the park is less crowded. We want all our young guests to have fun.”

The special admission price for the monthly event is \$8 for kids 5 years old and older and \$4 for ages 4 and younger. The admission is for a two-hour pass.

For more info, please visit GotJump.com.

A promotional graphic for Jumpstreet indoor trampoline park. It features the Jumpstreet logo in red and white, with "indoor trampoline park" written below it. The main offer is "25% off a party or group event!" in white text. Below that, it says "and/or 2 for \$22.00" in white text on a red background. To the right of this, it says "Valid any day of the week" in white text. At the bottom, it says "expires 5/31/2019 www.gotjump.com" in white text. The background is dark with colorful paint splatters and a red ball on a black track.