



September 2015 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. We are thrilled to have started another exciting year at Coeur d'Alene Avenue School. We are approximately 580 students strong, with over 150 new students who we have welcomed to our school. Our kindergarten classes: one transitional kindergarten (TK) class, a combination TK / kindergarten class, and four kindergarten classes, are brimming with students eager to learn and grow. I am always so impressed with how easily our teachers are able to quickly establish routines and begin the process of setting up sound structures for teaching and learning. With the adoption school wide of balanced literacy (readers and writers workshop) and Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) for mathematics, our team has a common language and approaches that are the foundation for our collaborative planning, reflection, and learning. It is a testament to the dedication of our team that all of our teachers engaged in some form of learning over the summer, either through professional reading or staff development, a majority of our teachers sacrificing 4-8 days of their summer break to attend the biennial CGI and / or annual balanced literacy conferences. We recognize that our own learning is lifelong, a value we work to instill in our students.

Thanks to our families who attended our annual Back to School night. This was an important time to learn about what to expect for your child's year. If you were not able to attend, please make sure to reach out to your child's teacher so that you are abreast of how you can support the work of school at home. Your partnership and active involvement are critical to your child's success.

Finally, the results from the state's Smarter Balanced assessments that our third through fifth grade students took last May have been released. While we certainly are not accustomed to the percentages reflected in these data, we realize the differences in how our students are being tested, how they are to show what they know, and what they are expected to learn from our previous standards and assessments to our current ones. Please know that our team is working that much harder, as we all should, to ensure our students are successful on any measure. Thanks for your partnership.

Principal Jenkins

Attendance

Our goal is for 76% or more of our students to be in attendance 96% of the time. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences.** The table shows by grade the class with the best attendance and the percent of students with 1 or less absences. Our school wide rate last year was 65.2%, which was approximately 11 percentage points below our goal. Let's ensure that we are only absent for excused reasons. The classes with the best attendance get an extra 10 minutes of recess, and fourth grade wins the extra PE class. Finally, Ms. Aver's class wins a free Mad Science™ class for an attendance rate of 97.72%! Thanks.

Cumulative Attendance Data as of September 11, 2015

The class with the best attendance wins a free Mad Science class!		The grade with the best attendance wins an extra PE class with Coach David and Coach Brittany!	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 96% Attendance	
Mackavoy	93.98%	Kindergarten	0.9%
Phelps	95.83%	First Grade	1.8%
Aver	97.72%	Second Grade	2.6%
Tepas	92.24%	Third Grade	1.0%
Rognstad	96.64%	Fourth Grade	10.2%
Buck	97.36%	Fifth Grade	4.1%

Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI)

Because we have so many new families, I will be sharing again in my newsletter our approaches to teaching and learning. We also discuss these practices at our monthly Coffee and Tea with the Principal meetings and our two annual Common Core / GATE Informational Meetings, October 13th and April 20th. Finally, we will be scheduling clinics for families to see this learning in action.

CGI is an approach to the teaching and learning of mathematics that is grounded in students solving real world problems, using multiple approaches and student generated algorithms. In the context of their solutions, our teachers create opportunities for them to develop deep conceptual understanding in small group and whole group collaborative conversations. Research has shown that the more flexibly students can think about number and operations, the more successful they are in higher level mathematics, particularly algebra and beyond. Finally, teachers also design warm-ups that are meant to build procedural fluency.

Smarter Balanced / Common Core Assessment Data

The results from our third through fifth grade Smarter Balanced assessments aligned to the new Common Core State Standards have been released. Any stakeholder can view these data at www.cde.ca.gov. Parents will be receiving soon individual score reports, and we will discuss our data at our next Coffee and Tea with the Principal, October 5th. Please know that we are analyzing our results as a means to ensure that our students show greater success on this measure.

Grade	% Prof / Adv in ELA	% Prof / Adv in Math
Third	46%	51%
Fourth	58%	52%
Fifth	58%	31%

Important Dates

09/17/15 ELAC Meeting	10/03/15 PSArts Free Arts Morning
09/18/15 Initial CELDT Testing Ends	10/03/15 CAA / City Year Service Day
09/20/15 Let's Lunch Fundraiser	10/05/15 Coffee & Tea with the Principal
09/21/15 Volunteer Orientation (09:00 AM)	10/07/15 Booster Club Meeting
09/23/15 No School	10/08/15 Growing Educators Clinic
09/24/15 Safe School Plan Meeting (02:45 PM)	10/09/15 Prospective Family Tour
09/24/15 PSArts Music Begins	10/13/15 GATE Parent Meeting (05:00 PM)
09/28/15 PSArts Visual Arts Begins	10/14/15 Picture Day
09/30/15 Environmental Defenders Assembly	10/15/15 Earthquake Drill
10/01/15 Growing Educators Clinic	10/15/15 SSC / ELAC Meeting