



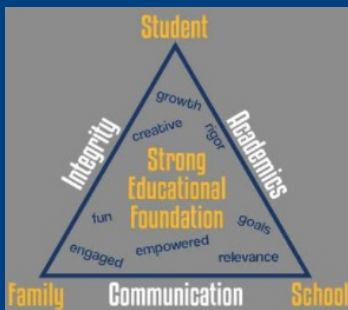
# ELDORADO ELEMENTARY

December 2022

## Panther Press

**Julie Crawford**  
Principal

**Allison Hawk**  
Assistant Principal



### School Hours

Soft Start (doors open) -  
8:30AM

First Bell - 8:35AM

Tardy Bell - 8:40AM

End Time - 3:30PM

End Time for Half Day AM

Kindergarten - 11:40AM

### Office Hours

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

303-387-6325  
(main office)

303-387-6327  
(attendance)

*Advertising in this  
newsletter does not imply*

## From the desk of the Principal...

As a group of professional educators, we have recently discussed our thoughts and beliefs about the educational impact of homework in elementary school. Through these discussions, we have read some of the most current research regarding the absence of the educational impact of homework in elementary school. Time Magazine recently ran an article titled "Why All Schools Should Abolish Homework." Below you will find an excerpt from the article...

- How long is your child's "workweek?" Thirty hours? Forty? Would it surprise you to learn that some elementary school kids have workweeks comparable to adults' schedules? Even without sports or music or other school-sponsored extracurriculars after school, the daily homework slog keeps many students on the clock as long as lawyers, teachers, medical residents, truck drivers and other overworked adults. Is it any wonder that our kids suffer an epidemic of disengagement, anxiety, and depression?
- In elementary school, where we often assign "assignment overtime/homework," studies have shown no academic benefit to any amount of homework.
- Brain scientists know that rest and exercise are essential to good health and real learning. Even top adult professionals in specialized fields take care to limit their work to concentrated periods of focus. A landmark study of how humans develop expertise found that elite musicians, scientists and athletes do their most productive work only about four hours per day.

Edutopia recently ran an article titled "Homework- No Proven Benefits." Below you will find an excerpt from that article...

- There isn't a shred of evidence to support the folk wisdom that homework provides nonacademic benefits at any age -- for example, that it builds character, promotes self-discipline, or teaches good work habits. We're all familiar with the downside of homework: the frustration and exhaustion, the family conflict, time lost for other activities, and the possible diminution of children's interest in learning. But the stubborn belief that all of this must be worth it, that the gain must outweigh the pain, relies on faith rather than evidence.

We understand that when researching any topic you can find strong evidence to support whatever you believe, so there is evidence out there that does state that homework has educational value in elementary school. We also understand that some families appreciate and see value in practicing skills taught through nightly homework.

What about reading each night? Professional educators at Eldorado believe that

*continued...*

## From the desk of the Principal....

nightly reading is crucial in the academic development of all children. Reading improves language skills, which in turn improves writing skills. Not only will your child understand correct sentence structure and use parts of speech correctly, but their increase in vocabulary will help them write creatively. Reading stimulates the imagination. Reading 20 minutes daily exposes kids to many words (1.8 million each school year, actually!). And this exposure makes children more likely to score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests. If you compare this to children who read just 5 minutes per day — and are therefore more likely to score in the 50th percentile — it's easy to see how reading time translates to academic success.

Meanwhile, a separate study involving almost 10 million students showed only those reading at least 15 minutes a day achieved accelerated reading gains. And those reading less were at risk of falling behind their peers. As you can see, reading each night (either with your child or independently) is extremely important in their academic success and promotes a love of lifelong reading!

After looking at all the research and thinking about the needs of all our students and families, Eldorado has decided on the following homework policy for the 2022-2023 school year.

### Required Reading Homework

Whether through a book, eReader, audible, read aloud or sustained independent reading, text comprehension can look many different ways. We encourage you to look at all sorts of ways for students to comprehend text.

**K-5th grade:** Please read to your child, with your child, or have your child read each night independently for a minimum of 20 minutes. Teachers may assign a reading response to support accountability with reading.

**6th grade:** We model our work practices after middle school. Students are allowed within each block to complete work and a dedicated Flex Time each school day. If work is not completed within these allotted times, that may need to become homework. Students are still highly encouraged to read 20 minutes a night but can use their ELA book clubs to fulfill this requirement.

### Exceptions:

- Purposeful projects throughout the year may require additional time at home for completion.
- If a student is not finishing their work during the school day, a plan may be set up with the family to work on unfinished work at home.

### Optional Homework

**K-6th:** Your child's teacher will send you specific instructions on accessing this optional homework. This optional homework will be developmentally appropriate for your child and practice skills and standards needed for their grade level.

If you have any specific questions, please contact me at [jccrawford@dcsdk12.org](mailto:jccrawford@dcsdk12.org). We ask that you fill out another survey after winter break regarding this homework policy revision and ask for feedback and adjustments. Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education.

Proud to be your principal,  
Julie Crawford

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The graphic features a green background with a yellow gear-like border on the right. It includes the Longmont Dairy logo, a hand icon pointing to the sign-up link, and a pile of milk caps at the bottom right.

## Mission Statement

At Eldorado Elementary, we focus on the whole student and believe that every child has the capacity to be successful physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. We are dedicated to providing opportunities that help children recognize and capitalize on their individual strengths. Eldorado Elementary students are ready to take ownership of their learning and change the world!

# CLICK IT

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Newsletter

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these great companies!

## Upcoming Important Dates

DEC 9

Spirit Day - PJs

DEC 14

Choir Singing at Nuggets Game

DEC 22-JAN 9

NO SCHOOL Winter Break

# Lunch Menu

## December Lunch Menu

## Nurses Corner

Winter weather has arrived in most parts of the country and that means frigid temperatures, snow storms and icy roads, among other cold weather hazards. Whether ice skating on a frozen lake or pond, sledding, snowmobiling and tubing, or traveling to resorts, hotels, vacation homes etc., it's important to be prepared for the elements and always keep water safety top of mind.

### Winter Weather Safety Tips




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## PTO News of the Month

**GiftCrowd Gift Giving** | PTO would like to offer GiftCrowd as an easy, free, and virtual way for parents & students to send gifts to Eldorado Teachers & Staff this holiday season. Please consider all of the staff who support your child(ren): teachers, admin, office staff, specials teachers, EA's, learning specialists, kitchen staff, All Stars, etc. The deadline for sending gifts is 12/22/2022 @ 8:30 AM. | [Link](#)



**Holiday Shop** | December 7th, 8th & 9th - Let your child experience the joy of giving this holiday season. | [Link](#)  
| Volunteer Sign Up: [Link](#)

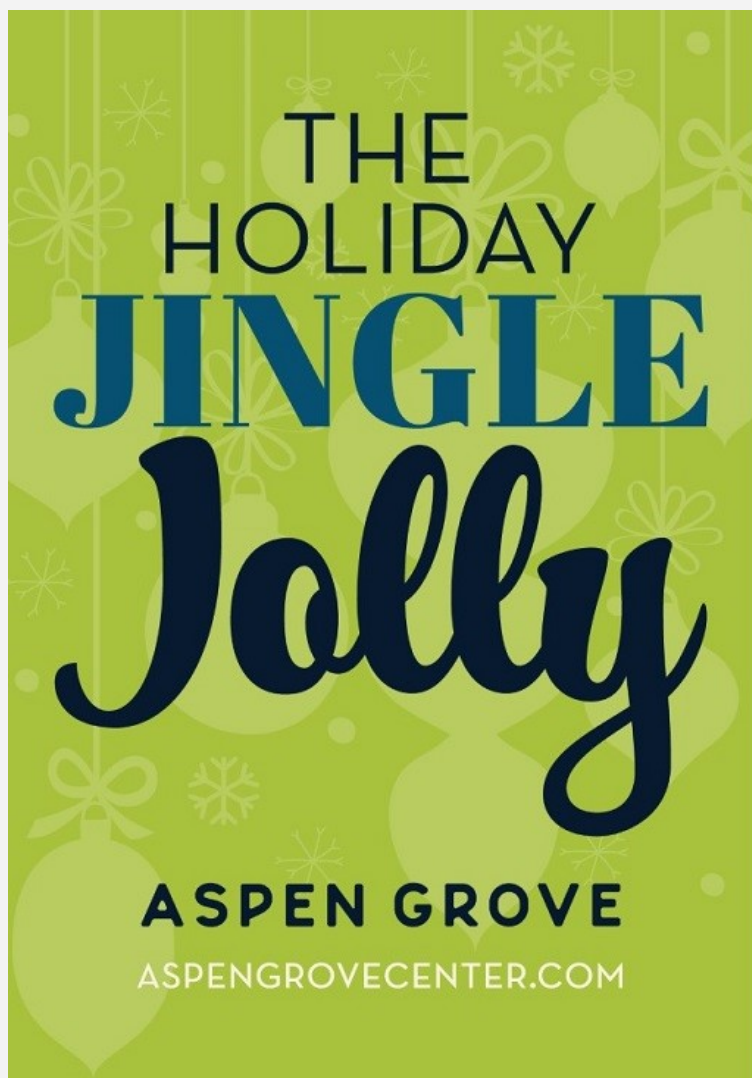
**PTO/SAC Holiday Social** | Thursday, December 8th - 6 to 8 PM @ Grist Brewing Company | [Evite](#)

**Staff Appreciation** | Holiday Staff Luncheon | Wednesday, December 21st | [Link](#)

**SPIRITWEAR** | On sale through the end of the school year! | [Link](#)

[PTO Website](#)

[SAC/PTO '22-'23 Agenda Minutes Link](#)



## Students of the Month - November

## Kindergarten



Karlle Wood



Aviana Rico Weams



Tanna Romney



Wilhelmina Waldrop

## 1st Grade



Mae Zajacs



Isabella Villarreal



Jonah Fant



Luke Ellis

## 2nd Grade



Colette Erickson



Ban Raddatz



Grace Rivera

## 3rd Grade



## Students of the Month - November continued...

## 4th Grade



Zoe Locricchio



Maggie Browning

## 5th Grade



Dexter Yagelski



Olivia Thomson

## 5th Grade



Greenlee Schmidt

## 6th Grade



Jr. Vazquez Martinez



Evan Rivera



Kenley Walsh

**Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable!**

Reach parents in your local community and a significant portion of your investment goes back to the school! Want to sponsor this school?

Please contact Rob Mangelson at  
[Rob@tscacolorado.com](mailto:Rob@tscacolorado.com) or  
(720) 878-4107.

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**Rob Mangelson**  
(720) 878-4107

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