



BELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

1001 Ulysses St. Golden, CO 80401

Phone 303-982-4280 Fax 303-982-4281

Attendance 303-982-4340

November 2019

[School Website](#)

[Menu](#)

[Lunch & Bell
Schedule](#)

Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families-

"It takes a village to raise a child." (African Proverb) Who originally said this and when is not clear; however, the meaning is relevant and timeless. In essence, the meaning behind the statement is that a child's conduct represents the well-being of the community, according to Lawrence Mbogoni a professor at William Patterson University. To me, it means that it is not easy to raise a child, and we all have to do our part to ensure our children will become productive in our community.

Next month, we are strategically planning some lessons for our Bobcat Time around sensitivity and inclusion based on observations of an increased use of offensive language during passing periods and on recess. To be clear, this is not in reference to some more typical cuss words middle-school students experiment with. Probably the most common and alarming terms an increasing number of students are using are ones that offensively reference LGBTQ people, as well as people with mental challenges, and people from different races. In talking with colleagues, this is an increasing trend in many schools, including our neighboring middle schools.

continued...

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Message from the Principal, continued...

As a school, we are combatting this head-on, but we need the whole “village” to help educate our students about this issue. In most cases, students use these terms flippantly and not directed toward any person, and because of this, I question how much students actually understand the meaning behind some of the words they are using, and why they are so offensive. When corrected, many students have commented, “It’s just the way we talk... no big deal.” Yet, people are offended, and it is a big deal.

I believe we can fix this through education. As a school, we believe in the power of our partnership with our families, and once again, we call upon that partnership to help educate and steer our students toward positive behavior and choosing kindness. There are a number of sources online to guide parents in this endeavor (search words: sensitivity, inclusion, and/or empathy training). Regardless of how you approach the conversation, *we hope you can talk to your kid(s) about this topic and help them understand that words can be very powerful, both in positive and negative ways.* Perhaps the most powerful messages we can send our kids are ones that empower them to not be quiet when people say offensive things. And if they are afraid to speak-up, they can always find an adult to intervene. Either way, they can be a part of the solution. Ultimately, through this school & family partnership, as well as Bell’s focus on Restorative Practices, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (ROAR), and Bobcat Lessons, we can extinguish this trend. Our goal is always to create a safe and welcoming environment that unifies our community, so thank you for your help in meeting this goal.

On a somewhat related note, with Veteran’s Day just around the corner, I want to acknowledge and thank all of our friends and family members who have served in our Armed Forces. Our veterans have combatted extreme acts of hatred around the world and defended our land for hundreds of years; for this, no words adequately can express our collective appreciation. As a tiny expression of our gratitude, we will be having activities around the school for Veteran’s Day in honor of the people who have served in our military.

Finally, as always, I want to thank you for sharing your kids with us. They genuinely make us laugh and smile every day!

Truly,

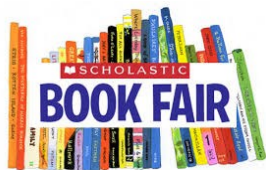
Michele DeAndrea-Austin, M.A.

Principal

Bell Middle School

Library News

Bell Book Fair



Bell's Library will hold its annual Book Fair Fundraiser November 18-21st. Julie Schlosser, the librarian, is looking for a few volunteers to help. Set up is November 15th between noon and 2:30. Parent Conference night is November 20th, and we will stay open late that evening for our families. Volunteer help that night would be very helpful! Please email Julie Schlosser ASAP if you can help at

julie.schlosser@jeffco.k12.co.us.

November's Tech Focus: News and Media Literacy

Students in Jeffco are learning about and discussing the media this month and how our access to technology changes how we might view the world. [Click here for the family letter about News and Media Literacy.](#)

Book Checkout and Overdues

Middle school students can check out four books at a time for two weeks at a time. Please visit the library before school, after school, during class with a pass, and during Bobcat time with a pass. Visit the [Bell Catalogue](#) through the Bell Website to look up available titles for checkout.

When books are overdue, parents will get reminders until the book is turned in. Fines will be assessed at the end of each semester.

Broken Devices

Please speak to your students, especially those in 6th grade and those carrying devices, about caring for their Chromebooks and laptops. We have MANY lost, stolen and broken Chromebooks this year, and all these issues can easily be avoided. Chromebooks are to be charged every night, and left in lockers during lunch. Students are NOT to carry Chromebooks by their screens. Students are not to engage in horseplay with devices that belong to them or to another student.

continued...



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Damages incurred to district devices are as follows:

Chromebook Repair Costs			
Part	<u>Touch Device</u>	<u>Non-Touch Device</u>	<u>Labor Charge</u>
Lower case	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$30.00
LCD cover with antenna	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
Hinge Set	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
Upper case with keyboard	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$30.00
Motherboard Replacement	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$30.00
Screen Replacement	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$15.00
Audio/Power sub-board	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
LCD Bezel	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$15.00
Battery Replacement	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$15.00

Students with district Chromebooks who would like to purchase an accidental damage protection can do so by following this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-6LmDu3zDoD6AYTnDAoIW0W8Vp9VnEmLDuzxmsl2Efl/edit>



K-12 tutoring in all core subjects,
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303.218.0428

Sponsorship space in this newsletter is extremely affordable! Reach parents in your local community & support schools!

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Math Moments

We are pleased to announce a monthly award, each teacher will nominate a student that is demonstrating amazing problem solving skills and dedication in their math class. We want to congratulate the September Mathematicians of the month: **Nina Hubbard, Koah Wozniak, Sage Hummon, Mackenzie Buxton, Allison Collins, Nathan Blanchard and Zari Wilbert!!**



Congratulations to the new Mathematicians for the month of October: **Jeremy Singer, Hannah Reinert, Jada Dockter, Nia Napuli, Amira Berry, Danika Holley, and Henry Holsing!!**

These Mathematicians are Definitely:

$$B > \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

We are having a great time problem solving in **Mathletes** on Monday's afterschool! We can always have more amazing math students join us. We plan to enter the [Mathcounts](#) Competition to defend our Jefferson County Title, enter the Video Contest, and [ASA Statistics projects](#) and more. Many of these national competitions award scholarships to winners. All grades and levels of math welcome! Monday's in Room 204 right afterschool until 3:00pm. If you would like more information, please contact [Terri Buruse](#) or [Linda Jones](#).

Unicef

National Junior Honor Society is collecting money for UNICEF through the Trick-Or-Treat for UNICEF project. See the link below for details. Social Studies teachers are competing for a class party, so remind your students to bring in a cash or check donation by November 7th!

<https://www.unicefusa.org/trick-or-treat>

[Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF 2019 | UNICEF USA](#)

www.unicefusa.org

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF began in 1950 to help kids who needed more than candy. This Halloween, discover the power of Kids Helping Kids®; Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

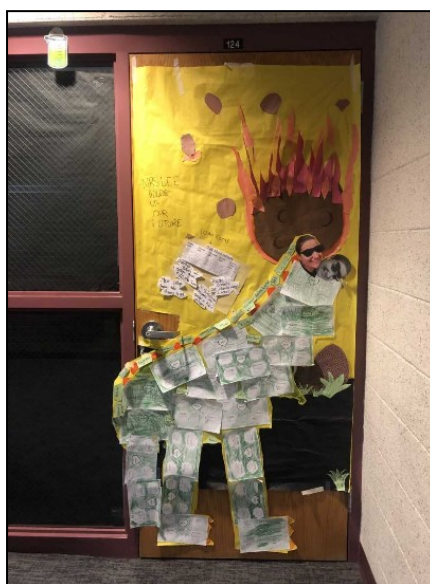
NEWSLETTER INFO

“My Future’s So Bright Week” at Bell was a success! Students school wide reflected on their academic, postsecondary and career futures. Every student set two goals (personal and academic) for this year, reflected on their future postsecondary and career plans, and 7th and 8th graders created/updated their Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).

Everyone had fun celebrating “My Future’s So Bright Week” by wearing college gear, dressing up as their future career and wearing yellow with sunglasses (because their futures are so bright!).

Bobcat classes competed (each grade winners earned a donut party) for best door decoration that reflected the spirit of “My Future’s So Bright Week”.

This entire week was a lot of fun and students’ reflections helped guide them in thinking about their futures. Ask your student about their personal and academic goals they set for the year.



Students in Need

You may not know this, but Bell has a wealth of resources to help our students meet their basic needs! If your family has fallen on some hard times and needs some support with food and/or clothing, we are more than happy to assist. Students can discreetly browse our clothes closet, and we can also send home discreet snacks and meal kits to help your student and family. If you need assistance in any of these areas, please contact our [Social Emotional Learning Specialist, Mr. Hahn](#).

Photos!

Did you attend the talent show? Flag football games? Band and orchestra concerts? Yearbook needs your photos! If you are willing to share your photos, we'd love to have them. Please send photos to jessica.swift@jeffco.k12.co.us or upload them to [photo submission](#). Thank you!



Summer Trips

6th grade parents, is your child on the waiting list for Panama? If so, two other travel options are available to them. Students can sign up for this summer's trip to London, Paris, and Italy (June 2-13, 2020) or next summer's trip to Ecuador: Andes and Amazon Adventure (June 3-12, 2021). Both trips are led by Bell teachers and will be as fun and educational as the Panama trip. Check out the tour centers for both trips or reach out to the teacher-sponsors for more information.

London, Paris, and Italy

www.explorica.com/Martinez-3752

jeanette.martinez@jeffco.k12.co.us

heidi.tietjen@jeffco.k12.co.us

Ecuador: Andes and Amazon Adventure

www.explorica.com/Ranney-3410

lori.ranney@jeffco.k12.co.us

Accountability Team Meeting



The Bell Accountability Team has added a meeting on Dec. 4 at 4:00. We will be talking about our school improvement strategies and discussing our budget priorities, as we begin to plan for our budget for the 2020-2021 school year. All are welcome!

CALLING ALL CODERS and GAMERS!

Bell students are invited to compete in the Cyber Robotics Coding Competition! This is a really fun set of cloud-based computer programming challenges that control a virtual EV3 robot. The organizers have created a Mid-Western group of schools that are all competing for a spot in the finals.

Boot camp started last week and will be ending this Sunday at midnight. The actual competition opens on Monday next week and closes two weeks after that on November 8.

The top 10 scorers at Bell will win fantastic coding prizes and the top 4 scorers will qualify for MidWest finals (location TBD). Last year, two students from Bell won sizable college scholarships for placing 4th, along with a super fun trip to Virginia in the snow!

As winners in last year's competition, Bell was granted 1000 free licenses to use for this year's competition (cost is \$500 per school otherwise). Go BotCats!

If you are interested in competing, follow this link and join the fun!

1. To join the CRCC competition:
2. Log in to your Jeffco Gmail account
3. Go to play.gocoderz.com
4. choose "Sign in with Google"
5. Click Join Class
6. Set your role to "student"
7. Enter the class code -- Sierradog
8. Complete the registration

Solve as many of the challenges as you can!
Good luck! May the code be with you!

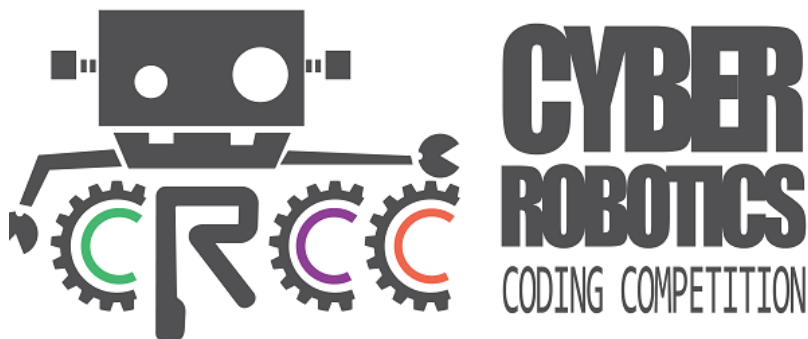
Ms Z

More INFO about CRCC:

<https://youtu.be/AxTzDhurg5I>

CRCC Info flyer

https://gocoderz.com/docs/35-2100-0002_BR_CRCC_VerA.pdf



REGISTER FOR FALL CLASSES

MON - THURS 4:30 - 5:30 (AGES 6 - 12)

MON - FRI 5:30 - 6:30 AND 6:30 - 7:30 (AGES 13+)



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