Message from the Principal...

Dear Bell Families,

With Teacher Appreciation Week coming next week, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredibly dedicated staff we have at Bell. It takes the whole village – teachers, counselors, support staff, secretaries, custodians, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and administrators – to operate our school and educate our children. So, I like to call this “Staff Appreciation Week.” I have had the pleasure of working in four different schools and working with upwards of 90 schools across the county when I worked at the District level, and I can honestly say that Bell is so fortunate to have the collaborative staff that we have. They care about kids and our community; they are willing to try new things if they think it will enhance students’ education, and they put 110% in every day. I am not only humbled to be the principal at Bell and a part of this community, I am also awe-struck by our teachers and what our students are able to do with their guidance. So, a huge thanks to all the teachers and staff who are here teaching, feeding, driving, and supporting our students every day!

Celebrations!

- We had two Engineering teams compete at the Sea Perch Competition in Colorado Springs last weekend, earning 2nd and 6th places out of 25 teams! Sea Perch is a competition where students build a robot to navigate an obstacle and a challenge course underwater. This is the first time our students have competed in this competition. The students on the 2nd place team are: Liam Leychik, Jack Braun, and Aiden Waugh. The students on the 6th place team are: Nathan Blanchard, Libby Girard, and Isaac Sorensen! The 2nd place team is now invited to the national competition in Maryland in June! Congratulations to Ms. Flores, Mr. Courkamp, and all of these students!

continued...

Summer STEM Camps

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Robotics • Coding • Game Design & More! Plus CODING BOOTCAMPS for TEENS!
5 Denver-Area locations including Regis Jesuit, CA & School of Mines

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303.800.0011

Voted Colorado's #1 STEM Camps!
Message from the Principal, continued...

- Last month, Francesca Slowinski and Abbey Jager submitted entries into the Equity and Excellence Show, and Francesca’s piece was chosen for purchase. Additionally, Francesca earned a 1st place for painting and Abbey earned 3rd place for drawing at the Jeffco Middle School Art Show. Also entered were: Ellie Fluckiger, Adelyn Gerig, and Maggie Toohill. Ellie and Adelyn earned Honorable Mentions. Congratulations to ALL of these students and Ms. Rettberg.

- We resurrected Student Council this year, and I could not be more proud or impressed with what this group of students have done all year long. Most recently, they partnered with Golden High School students to help raise money to support the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Specifically, GHS has adopted Greyson, a child recovering from bone marrow cancer, to help him realize his wish through the Foundation. While GHS has been doing this for years, this is the first time that Bell has asked to partner with them. Since the week of fundraising just ended today, I do not have a final number for how much Bell raised. However, as of Wednesday afternoon, we had collected over $4,400! I’m so proud of our StuCo kids, Ms. Swift, Mr. Krisl, and our entire student body who is helping Greyson realize his wish.

- Bell MS earned 3rd place for both the number of entries entered AND 3rd place for the most winning entries submitted to the Education Nonprofit Corporation (ENC) Writing Challenge! Congratulations to: Lincoln Hall, Kyra Jordan, Julian Miller, and Sophie Anderson for their winning entries!

Restorative Circles

As a school, we have been working on restorative practices, which has many layers. The most basic layer is to simply help kids and staff get to know each other and build an empathetic community through Community Circles. This also helps build a foundation for talking about challenges our community faces. The general rules of the circle are that they answer the question posed by the facilitator; one person speaks at a time and keeps their remarks brief; all participants respect the speaker; any member can choose to “pass” on their turn and will be returned to later. Our students have engaged in Community (or Proactive) Circles every week. They have also used the circles in every class. Because this is a familiar protocol for our students now, it was an invaluable tool on April 18 when our students returned to school following the threatening events of April 17 that shut down all metro area schools. Through this structured process, our students were able to process the events in a safe environment. The feedback from staff and students was incredibly positive, and they all were grateful that they had a structure and protocol to respectfully process through such an event. Thank you to our District supports who brought this process to us, our counseling department, and all of our teachers for their dedication to this valuable and systemic practice.

continued...
Message from the Principal, continued...

May is a BUSY Month!

As you know, May is always exceptionally busy! Below is a list of important dates and events that are upcoming in the next four weeks.

- **May 7** - 6th Grade ROAR Assembly during Bobcat
- **May 8** - 7th Grade ROAR Assembly during Bobcat
- **May 9** - 8th Grade ROAR Assembly during Bobcat
- **May 9** - ALL Library Books due to the library. Fines for unreturned books will be assessed
- **May 9** - Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 7-10** - Musical Theater production (7-8:30pm)
- **May 14** - Orchestra concert (6 - 8 pm)
- **May 14** - Author visit (12:30 pm)
- **May 15** - Band concert (6 - 8 pm)
- **May 16** - iSTEM showcase (6 - 8 pm)
- **May 20** - 8th Grade Picnic - all day **NO 6th and 7th graders at school.**
- **May 21** - 6th Grade TED Talk Showcase Night Auditorium
- **May 22** - Awards Ceremonies
  - 6th 7:45am- 8:45am -
  - 7th 9:15am-10:15am
  - 8th @ 6:00pm (evening)
- **May 23** - **Last Day of school and early dismissal at 11:40.**
  - ROAR Party for all students at 9:30
- TBD – Yearbook distribution
- TBD – Fines due

Finally, thank you for sharing your children with us. People have often asked how I like working with middle school-aged students in comparison to high school and elementary school students. I often surprise them when I say I love it! Just like at any age, they grow and mature in so many ways. Admittedly, there may be more “growing pains” in middle school than in other developmental stages in a child’s life; however, to me, this only makes being part of (and witness to) that transformation much more fascinating and rewarding. They are the reason I love my job.

Truly,
Michele DeAndrea-Austin, M.A.
Principal
Bell Middle School
Eighth Grade Picnic

The 8th grade picnic will be held on Monday May 20th from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Students must have their payment of $6.00 in by May 15th to their ELA teacher. The End of Year ROAR Party will be held on May 23rd on the last day of school from 9:30am – 11:40am, with an early dismissal. Any students that receive disciplinary action during the month of May might be excluded from either of the celebrations.

Peachjar

Hello Jeffco Families! For the remainder of this school year, Jeffco Public Schools will be sending a bi-monthly email with flyers for district and community events. This is a wonderful opportunity for all families to have the same information and opportunity regarding events, summer camps, resources, and much more! Individual schools may send Peachjar emails to their own families as well. Welcome to Peachjar! Click on the Peachjar icon from any school website or www.jeffcopublicschools.org to see flyers from all schools or just your child's school. In addition, you can see all flyers, past and present, by clicking on any flyer in the email, which takes you to the website. See THIS WEBPAGE for details. We hope you find this searchable, easily accessible tool helpful!
FROM THE PTA

We are so lucky to have such amazing, hard-working, and dedicated staff at Bell. Staff Appreciation week is coming up May 6th – 10th. Please help us thank our staff for all of the hard work, love, and dedication they show our students. The PTA is requesting donations of either treats or $10 gift cards. Notes and cards for teachers are also welcome and can be sent into the office anytime. Thank you for helping us shower our staff with gratitude! Please click on this link to sign up for donations. Teacher Appreciation Sign Up

The students of Bell Middle School have teamed up with Golden High School this year to help make Golden's second wish week bigger and better than ever! Make A Wish helps grant children with life-threatening illnesses a "wish" trip that gets them out of the hospitals, tests, and the general life that illness can bring about. It's their chance to make lifelong memories with their family and be just a regular kid. We will be holding different fundraising events the week of April 29 - May 3, 2019! Please help us raise money for our wish kid by contributing using the following link. http://site.wish.org/goto/Golden2019 In addition, students will have opportunities all week to make contributions at school. Thanks for your support!

Bell Middle School PTA would like to thank Brian Reed for his continuous efforts in raising money for the school over the past few years. His time commitment and dedication to organizing the magazine drive and Screenagers has been invaluable to the students and staff of Bell. Thank you for your tireless efforts, Brian!
Congratulations to the band and orchestra students that participated in Jeffco’s Solo and Ensemble on Saturday, April 13\textsuperscript{th} at Falcon Bluffs Middle School. The highest rating is Superior and all the Bell students earned Superior ratings and six students got Superior + ratings!! We are so proud of you, Bobcats. Great job!

**Superior Plus (I+) Rating:**
- Lauren Erickson
- Lindsay Harenberg
- Yacob Kibler
- Nia & Ani Napuli (duet)
- Annika Waples

**Superior (I) Rating:**
- Madison Bromfield
- Morgan Bromfield
- Max Buresh
- Tommy Buresh
- Sydney Drabek
- Shaylan Gangoo
- Desiray Glasmann
- Sophie Justus
- Tahlia Knoshaug
- Ani Napuli
- Nia Napuli
- Aiden Renzelman
- Jacob Runtz
- Nadija Rutar
- Caroline Stoltenberg
- Joanna Toy
- Owen Wiser
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Free introductory class
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www.tenguhouse.com
109 N. Rubey Drive, Suite A-2, Golden, CO 80403.
Bell's Musical Theater presents:
High School Musical Jr.
May 7-10, 7 p.m.
Bell Auditorium
We look forward to seeing you there!

Three Bell Middle School students have qualified for the Destination Imagination Global Finals.

The Hungrier Thinkers (Berit Lundberg, Grey Holdeman and Zadie Knapp) took FIRST place at the Jeffco Regional Tournament on 3/16. They competed in the State Tournament on 4/6 and came in THIRD out of 21 teams from all over Colorado. Third place means that they automatically qualify for the Global Finals, which will be held in Kansas City at the end of May. This is a huge accomplishment and these kids have worked very hard. Congratulations to the three of you!
Sixth grade TED Talks are here! If you have a sixth grade student, please click here to learn more about our students' culminating project for both Language Arts and Social Studies.

European Trip 2020

Have you or your student always dreamed of seeing the Eiffel Tower? How about the Roman Colosseum? Perhaps Big Ben in London is #1 on your list? Here is your chance! Join Mrs. Martinez and Mrs. Tietjen for a European dream trip for summer 2020. We will visit London, Paris and Rome. All current 6th grade, 7th grade, and families are welcome! For more information, please mark your calendars for a parent meeting on Thursday, May 9 at 6:00pm in the Bell Library.

To access more information about the itinerary, tour investment, or dates click here.

Eighth Grade Summer Trip

6th graders are you thinking about your 8th grade summer trip? We are going to Ecuador: Amazon to the Andes in June, 2021. It's a trip filled with fun and activity. There will be hiking, hot springs, cultural tours, visits to native markets, and some great food and fun. Contact Ms. Ranney at lori.ranney@jeffco.k12.co.us or visit the tour site for more information. www.explorica.com/ranney-3410.

Youth Academy

The Golden Police department is hosting a Youth Academy for students 13-17 years of age. Youth Academy will be held June 10th-14th. Deadline to register is Monday, May 20th. Please call 303-215-8874 for more information!


Library Newsletter

**Author Visit, Compliments of Second Star to the Right**

Second Star to the Right in Denver is a children’s book store that hosts events for the community. Next month, Second Star is bringing New York Times best selling author Lynda Mullaly Hunt to Denver; and they have gifted a free author visit to Bell!

There is a link below to order signed copies of Hunt’s books for as little as $7.00. Please order before the assembly on 5/14.

[Learn more about Hunt by following this link.](#)

[Link to pre-order signed copies of Hunt’s books.](#)

**Book Return**

The last day to turn in books for the school year is May the 9th. After this day, students will receive a fine for the full amount of the book.

There will be no checkout after May 9th.

**Bring Your Own Device**

We continue to encourage students to bring Chromebooks and laptops to school for use in their classes and at home. Students can connect to the school’s wireless internet at no charge.

Please look on the Bell website under “Family Resources” or [follow this link](#) for Jeffco Tech Tips steps for BYOD (Bring Your Own Device).
Bell Middle School
Hosts Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Fill out the form below to place a cash or check order.
Checks made payable to: Second Star to the Right
Please place order form, cash or check payment in an envelope and deliver to the Second Star staff member who will accompany Lynda Mullaly Hunt during her visit on May 14th.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Student's Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>(First, Last)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Teacher's Name</th>
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**Student's Name who will be picking up the books at Bell Middle School**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity of <strong>Shouting at the Rain</strong></th>
<th>Name(s) for personalization <strong>Shouting at the Rain</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td>If ordering more than one book for personalization, separate each name with a comma.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Quantity of <strong>Fish in a Tree</strong></th>
<th>Name(s) for personalization <strong>Fish in a Tree</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td>If ordering more than one book for personalization, separate each name with a comma.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Quantity of <strong>One for the Murphys</strong></th>
<th>Name(s) for personalization <strong>One for the Murphys</strong></th>
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<td>If ordering more than one book for personalization, separate each name with a comma.</td>
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<tr>
<th>TOTAL BOOKS ORDERED</th>
<th>AMOUNT ENCLOSED</th>
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<td>$</td>
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Select which payment is attached:
- [ ] Cash
- [ ] Check - Please write the student's name on the check
Milk Caps for Moola

This year we will again be collecting bottle lids from products that come from the Longmont Dairy! Over the past five years we have been able to collect over 32,000 bottle lids (and save them from the landfills!) and in turn raise over $1600 for Bell Middle School! Longmont Dairy recycles the lids (a win for them!) and pays us 5-cents for every lid we turn in to them (a win for us!). So, please save and bring in any Longmont Dairy lids (includes milk, lemonade, creamer, half-and-half, tea, and/or eggnog lids that you have throughout the year). The recycle box is located in the front office of the school.

For questions please contact Gwen Stroup at gwenstroup@yahoo.com. Thanks for your support!

Outdoor Lab

Do you have a 6th grader who is headed to Outdoor Lab? Have you been using the King Soopers card to earn money towards their tuition? If you have and keep using the card the funds you earn go towards the Outdoor Lab Foundation. You can keep doing this or you can get a new card that donates the profits to Bell for students needing scholarships and other Outdoor Lab needs.

Amazon Smile

While you are doing your online shopping using Amazon don’t forget to shop through Amazon Smile. Same prices but when you buy part of your money goes towards the charity of your choice. By the way did you know that Bell PTA is one of the charities you can choose?