Dear Bell Families-

In addition to important reminders that we will be sending throughout the year, we will also be sending out a monthly school-wide newsletter to help keep parents and students abreast of what is happening at Bell. This is our first one of the year, so welcome!

What a great start to our school year! It was nice to meet so many of you at our Back-to-School Night, and on the first few days of school. If you were unable to make it to Back-to-School Night or need some reminders about what we covered, [here is a link to the Principal Presentation](#). One of the celebrations we shared at Back-to-School Night was that our students won the Jeffco Public Library Summer Reading Challenge award for all of Jeffco! So proud of our students and all the reading they did this summer – and thank you, parents, for supporting their summer learning!

As we get used to a new school year with new teachers and leadership, here are some important reminders to keep in mind and talk over with your students.

1. **Magazine Sales – PTA Fundraiser KICKOFF is on Sept. 14** – This is the biggest fundraiser PTA does for our students at Bell, and we are so lucky to have the partnership we have with our PTA. In the past, PTA has purchased technology for our students, provided competitive grants for departments and teachers, supported our PBIS rewards system for our students, and much more. [Please read the PTA section of this newsletter for more detailed information](#). Thank you for your support!

*continued...*
2. **NEW Cell Phone Policy** – After going through an extensive vetting process with all Bell MS stakeholders, including parents, the decision was made last year to implement a no cell phone policy in classrooms or at lunch for the 2017-2018 school year. One of the key components to this decision was that we have enough devices (computers, iPads, laptops, etc.) for students to use for educational purposes at Bell, therefore not seeing a need for phones. Additionally, phones were the impetus of many, many disciplinary actions in the past few years. The admin team actually had several parents thank us for the new policy at Back-to-School Night. We appreciate your support of this new policy.

3. **Communicating with Your Child During School** – In light of our new policy, we recognize that this makes it a little more difficult to communicate with your children during the school day. If you need to leave a message for your child or talk with your child during the day, please feel free to call the office. Bell’s main number is 303-982-4280.

4. **Parking Lot Safety at Student Drop-off and Pick-up Times** - We are working hard to make the parking flow as best as possible during these busy times. Additionally, **of the utmost importance is student safety.** To that end, please read the following:
   a. We have noticed that students are being dropped-off on 10th street and then nerve-rackingly making their way through the very busy parking lot to the school. **Please, please, please do not drop your children off on 10th Street in the mornings.** We have witnessed some “near misses” and it is the last thing we want any of our families to experience. We have several people in the parking lot directing traffic to help the process go faster and more efficiently. So, we ask that you follow the process through the parking lot.
   b. **For our walkers, please talk to your students about using the sidewalks and the crosswalks at ALL times when walking to and from school.** I never want to experience the injury or even the death of a student because of something that is easily preventable. Thank you!

5. **NEW Website – COMING SOON** – We’re excited to announce that we will have a **new and improved** website in the next few weeks. All of Jeffco is migrating to a different website platform, and it will look very different than our current website. Our hope is to make it cleaner and more user-friendly, working within the constraints of the website platform itself. So, keep an eye out for our new look, as we plan to launch in mid-September.

_message from the Principal, continued..._
Message from the Principal, continued...

6. **Restorative Practices (aka: Restorative Justice)** – We are excited to be implementing Restorative Practices at Bell this year. The purpose behind restorative practices is to build a sense of community amongst our students and staff, as well as to help resolve conflict and repair relationships in a healthy way so that we can move forward positively. For our purposes, a community can be defined as a group of friends and/or colleagues, a classroom, a club, or the whole Bell population.

   a. There is a multi-tiered approach to restorative practices, starting with a simple practice of having proactive **“community circles.”** While a community circle can occur in any class or group, our students will be having a guaranteed community circle once a week during Bobcat Time. They will go around in a circle and answer a question that is posed, such as, “Who has had a positive influence on you?” The purpose is, again, to get to know one another and form a sense of community within Bell MS.

   b. There will also be times where we will have students participate in a **Restorative Conversation.** This will occur when there is an actual conflict between people (could be anyone in our community, including staff, students, etc.). This is a scripted conversation using a trained facilitator. While this may occur when there is no disciplinary action warranted, we may also be using Restorative Conversations to supplement disciplinary actions, and possibly in lieu of disciplinary actions. However, every situation is considered on a case-by-case basis.

7. **PSAT 8/9** – In the past few years, the College Board has developed the PSAT 8/9 (or the Preliminary SAT) for 8th & 9th graders. This is a 2.5 hour test that is written in the same format as the SAT, an assessment that is widely used for college admissions in the United States. There are three sections: reading, writing, and math. Guessing is not penalized and scores range from 240-1440, making this assessment easily compared to SAT scores. Students generally take the SAT their senior year in high school, and the PSAT their junior year. However, the PSAT 8/9 gives students an opportunity to become more acclimated with the PSAT and the SAT. While Bell MS does not offer the PSAT 8/9, 8th graders can still sign-up to take the test on the weekend at another location. If you are interested in learning more and possibly having your child take the PSAT 8/9, please [go to this website](#) for more information.

Finally, on behalf of myself and the entire Bell staff, I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We all have felt the caring this community has for its school, and we feel lucky to be here. It’s going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

Michele DeAndrea Austin, M.A.
Principal
Bell Middle School
6th Grade Transition to Bell 2018-2019

The entire Golden articulation area is transitioning to a 6th-8th grade middle school model starting in 2018-2019. As you know, Bell Middle School is already a 6-8 middle school because five years ago Mitchell Elementary School moved its 6th graders to Bell due to capacity issues at Mitchell. So, while this is not a totally new model at Bell, it will still involve a great deal of planning to transition all of the Golden area 6th graders to Bell next year. These elementary schools are: Mitchell (already at Bell for 6th grade), Kyffin, Ralston, Shelton, Welchester, and Fairmount (whose matriculation boundaries are split between Drake MS and Bell MS). It is a great shift for the whole Golden area to be on the same model, and we are looking very forward to welcoming all of our 6th graders to Bell in 2018-2019.

We will approach this transition systemically with a “6th Grade Transition Committee” which will be comprised of Bell staff members, as well as parents and principals from every feeder elementary school. This committee has not met, so there is very little to report, just yet. However, we will periodically provide the community with updates to the plans, as we get further into the process. A great place to always get more information is the District Website that is linked here. Furthermore, here is the letter overviewing the District’s plans for the transition from Principal DeAndrea. If you have further questions, please let us know. Thank you.
Important Upcoming Dates

September 4       Labor Day (No school for students)
September 5       Bell Accountability Team meeting 4:00-5:00 p.m.
                   PTA meeting 5:00-6:00 p.m.
September 14      Magazine Sales Assembly - Kickoff
September 15      Golden High School Homecoming Game
September 22      Early Release
                   Magazine “Step-It-Up” Prize BURRITO BASH (for first week of sales only)
September 25      One Day Count window begins
September 29      1st 6 weeks grades posted
September 30      King Soopers Cut off
October 2         One Day Count
October 6         Picture retakes
                   Magazine Sales Prize Day during lunch

Reminder: **All students** are expected to be off campus by 2:20, unless they are meeting with a teacher or are in a club with teacher supervision. Thank you!
Interact Club

Interact Club is Bell's student leadership group that focuses on community service. We are sponsored by the Rotary Club of Golden. We plan, organize, and run service projects in service of our school and the Golden community, as well as partnering with national and international organizations to help make the world a better place. We meet every Tuesday after school from 2:20 to 3:30. All Bell students can join, at any time. Look for upcoming events and announcements in school and on the Bell website. See our website for more information, from the after school activities tab on the Bell homepage.

SeaCamp San Diego

SeaCamp is a week long field trip to San Diego that focuses on marine biology and oceanography. This school year's trip will be March 5-9, 2018. Look for information at the beginning of September in announcements and on the Bell homepage. Visit www.seacamp.com to view the program overview. See our presentation linked here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wKdKTwilqhQagATjhrRst0AjHEFjangpF9MdGZMCj0Q/edit?usp=sharing

6th Grade Outdoor Lab

Date: October 30th – November 3rd
Cutoff Deadline for King Soopers Cards - September 30th.

Payments are due in full after the King Soopers adjustments are made. This will be sometime in October.

King Soopers card credits will only go toward the $350 Outdoor Lab charge. The $7.00 name badges, materials and supplies is not covered under the King Soopers card program and will have to be paid separately thru the students Jeffco Connect Fee Payment on the Bell website.

School Fees

Fee payment for your student can be made online through Jeffco Connect. You can use your debit or credit card to make payment. Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover are accepted.

There are a couple of ways to access Student Fee Payment. Either go to your school's homepage and click on the Jeffco Connect link, or go to the Parent Portal at www.jeffcopublicschools.org. Once you are logged into Jeffco Connect, click on the “Jeffco Student Fee Payment” link on the left side. Help guides are available on the page.

Although we encourage you to pay school fees online, you can still pay at the school. Feel free to call the school 303-982-4280 if you have questions.
Instructional Coach Corner

My name is Allison Johnson, and I am the Instructional Coach at Bell Middle School. Instructional coaches wear many hats, but some my responsibilities include:

- Mentoring new staff members
- Planning and facilitation staff professional learning
- Assisting administration and teachers with school and student goal setting
- Managing the implementation of district and state assessments
- Helping teachers use data to drive instruction
- Supporting teachers as they learn new and innovative instructional strategies

1. This month assessment is front and center with two events:
   2017 PARCC reports have arrived and will be distributed during Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences. Your students will be receiving both ELA and Math reports. In addition, 6th grade students will be receiving a Science Report.

2. The Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test will be administered to your students between August 18 - September 15. Students will be taking the MAP test in Reading and Math (8th grade students will also take a science assessment). The MAP test gives real-time data and is used for planning purposes and student goal setting.

If you have any questions about the PARCC or MAP test, please feel free to contact me at any time.
Allison Johnson
303-982-4280
allison.johnson@jeffco.k12.co.us
ROBOTICS

Students started the year in Robotics with a Sphero. Students can program the Sphero in three ways. Line, block and Java. After this two week unit students will use Lego Ev3’s.

MultiMedia

Students are working on their photography unit. Rule of thirds, perspective, photo filters and finally photo editing using Gimp will round out this 2 week unit. They will apply these skills to the end of the year yearbook.
Counseling Newsletter 2017

Counselors are available to students for personal/social, career and academic support. Students can request to see their grade level Counselor by filling out a quick form in the main office. Counselors are also available for parent/guardian consultation. Appointments can be made by contacting your student’s Counselor.

Who are the School Counselors?

My name is Erin Ballweg and I am the counselor for the 6th grade. I'm a Colorado native and grew up near Golden. I love this community and all it has to offer! This is my 5th year as a Counselor in Jefferson County and I'm thankful I've had the opportunity to work in such a strong, committed school district. The last four years I've worked at the high school level and this year I'm excited to be working with the wonderful middle years students! It's a challenge I'm looking forward to. I enjoy spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, and taking advantage of the wonderful eatiers in the Denver Metro area. Please feel free to contact me at: erin.ballweg@jeffco.k12.co.us OR 303-982-1396.

Hello my name is Linda Jelinek and I am the 7th grade counselor. This is my 16th year in Jeffco as counselor. I am excited to work at Bell with amazing students and staff. I live in Golden with my husband and three children. I speak Spanish and Czech. In my free time I love to hike, read and travel. My goal as counselor is to serve and advocate for all students at Bell and to empower, inspire and encourage them to grow to their full potential. Please feel free to contact me at: linda.jelinek@jeffco.k12.co.us or 303-982-8116.

Hello My name is Lindsey Leigh and I am the 8th grade counselor at Bell. This is my 11th year in JeffCo schools and I love working in the Golden Community. Before becoming a counselor, I was a teacher for six years. I love spending quality time with my family and friends, cooking, baking, hiking, and spending time outside. I am looking forward to working with all of my students and having a fantastic year! Please feel free to contact me at: lindsey.leigh@jeffco.k12.co.us or 303-982-6307.

September Upcoming Events:

- Counselors will go into classrooms to introduce themselves and go over their roles.
- Counselors will meet and help facilitate goal setting with all Advanced Learning Plans (ALP) students. Communication to students and families to follow.
To facilitate classroom lessons around suicide prevention: information will be sent home to all 7th grade families prior to these classroom lessons

Helpful Tip of the Month:
Make it a weekly habit to log into Campus Portal to check grades. Should you have a question about a grade or assignment contact the teacher directly as soon as possible.

Girls in STEM

The Girls in STEM club is open to all girls in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Every month, our club hosts an event at the Golden Public Library to teach elementary and preschool girls about STEM concepts. Bi-monthly, the Girls in STEM club meets in the workshop to meet with mentors, build something amazing, or work on ongoing projects. This year, students will sign up for the topics that they are most interested in attending. Our first Girls in STEM meeting will be Thursday, September 7th from 2:20-3:00 in the iSTEM workshop to go over this process. If your daughter is unable to attend the meeting, the sign up will be on Mrs. Flores's website on September 7th. Each topic will run for about 4-6 weeks in duration. If you have any questions, please email Jen Flores (jflores@jeffcoschools.us).
PTA Corner

Join PTA and Support Student Success
Bell PTA invites you to become members and volunteers of a fantastic organization of parents and teachers striving to make your children’s school experience outstanding!

Please join the Bell Middle School PTA today! Only $10 per school year per family.

Member Benefits Include:
* Support of your child’s school
* Opportunities to work with school staff and other parents
* Email and social media communications regarding school events and volunteer opportunities

Sign up today via our website at: http://bellpta.org/members

Did you know our very own Band Director, Mr. Breeser rocks that long hair while playing in an 80’s rock band? You can catch his band on Saturday, September 23rd in Downtown Golden at The Buffalo Rose. **We will be giving away 20 tickets to this unique event to PTA Members!** Become a PTA member by September 15 and we’ll draw the winners that day!

Please join us for our first PTA meeting **Tuesday, September 5th at 5:00 pm in the Library.** Can’t make the meeting? No problem. Check out our website at www.bellpta.org or like us on Facebook at Bell PTA.

Fall Magazine Fundraiser Kicks Off with Assemblies on 9/14
Bell PTA’s only school wide fundraiser of the year is quickly approaching – the Fall Magazine Fundraiser. The Magazine Sale supports Bell programs in the form of grants. Bell teachers and staff request PTA grants for items like technology, student enrichment programs and field trips, and several other areas that directly impact Bell students and improve the teaching environment. **In 2016 – 2017 PTA awarded Bell Teachers/Staff more than $20K in various grants!**

Bell’s Magazine Fundraiser will be starting soon, with a focus on online ordering. Students will receive program details at Assemblies on 9/14, but here is how you can get an early start today:

1 - Go to www.APMags.com and register your student(s). Our school code is: HELPBEEL
2 - Have some fun by customizing your landing page with an avatar, selfie, short video (OR ALL THREE!)
3 – Send emails to family and friends encouraging them to support our school by purchasing on line.
4 - Share on social media for great results.

continued...
PTA Corner, continued...

Reflections is Coming this Fall – Get Ready to Reflect on the Theme “Within Reach”

The PTA Reflections art program welcomes students of all grades and all abilities to explore their inner artist. Students may explore one or all six arts disciplines including: Visual Arts, Photography, Music Composition, Literature, Dance and Film/Video.

This year’s Reflections program theme is “Within Reach” and participation forms are available in the office and at http://bellpta.org/reflections/. Completed participation forms are due Monday 9/11. Your artwork along with entry form/artist statement is due on Monday 10/9.

We know we have lots of talented, creative students here at Bell! We encourage you to REFLECT on the theme, CREATE a piece of art and ENTER the Reflections contest.

Want to help Bell Middle School and PTA raise money without spending money?

Here are a few easy ways to help by shopping places you probably already shop.

1. Target Credit Card: Did you know that you could sign up for a Target Credit Card (or Debit Card) and 1% goes to the school of your choice (hint – CHOOSE BELL) and 5% goes to YOU for purchases made at Target and Target.com?! Through their Take Charge of Education®, it is a win all around! http://www.target.com/redcard/main

2. Amazon Smile: The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible Amazon Smile purchases. On your first visit to Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization (Bell Middle School) to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. http://smile.amazon.com/about

3. Boxtops4Education: Save box tops from cereal boxes and from a whole list of products. Simply turn in box tops to the collection box in the main office any time throughout the year. http://www.bboxtops4education.com/how-box-tops-works

4. King Soopers Card: Here is an easy way to help Bell Middle School raise funds for curriculum enhancement at absolutely NO COST to you! We thank King Soopers for their generous donation to Bell Middle School of 5% of all the re-loadable GIFT CARD purchases. Buy a “gift card” from the Bell School contact, Sue Urban, surban@jeffco.k12.co.us, in the main office.

5. Longmont Milk Delivery: Save your Longmont Dairy Lids! Not only does Bell benefit by receiving $0.05 for every lid you bring in to the school, but over the course of one year we have helped to save MANY lids from the landfill by helping the dairy recycle their own lids. You can find the Longmont Dairy Bottle Lid recycle boxes near the elevator in the front entryway of Bell.
**2017 MAGAZINE SALE**

**EARLY START PROGRAM**

**3 2 1 LAUNCH!**

The **Fall Magazine Sale** is Bell PTA’s main fundraiser. Sales support Bell programs in the form of grants to teachers/staff. Last year, **Bell PTA awarded Bell teachers/staff more than $20K in various grants** for items like technology, student enrichment programs and field trips, and other areas that directly impact Bell students and improve the teaching environment.

Soon we will be starting our annual magazine subscription renewal drive. Our past results show that supporters greatly prefer online ordering. Here is how you can get an early start today:

1. Go to [www.APMags.com](http://www.APMags.com) and register your student(s).
   
   Our school code is: HELPBELL

2. Have fun by customizing your landing page with an avatar, selfie, short video (OR ALL THREE!)

3. Send emails to family and friends.

4. You can even share on social media for great results.

Parents, start now by ordering/renewing your magazines online. Friends and family can also support our school by purchasing online. It’s easy, fast and you can use a credit card to make your purchases. Sending emails now allows customers more shopping time before orders are due back to school.

**WHY ORDER ONLINE?**

- Customers receive their orders faster
- Hundreds more products available online
- Students receive prize credit just like a regular order
- There is nothing to deliver, the Mail Carrier does all the work
- Renew and order new or gift subscriptions easily

**Magazines make great gifts!**

**Thanks for supporting our school in this important program!**
PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

SIMPLE PRECAUTIONS CAN HELP LIMIT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

• WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY AND THOROUGHLY WITH SOAP AND RUNNING WATER. IF SOAP AND WATER ARE NOT AVAILABLE, USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER.
• AVOID TOUCHING HANDS TO EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH.
• COUGH OR SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOW IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A TISSUE. OTHERWISE, COVER YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH WITH A TISSUE, THROW THE USED TISSUE INTO THE WASTEBASKET AND THOROUGHLY WASH YOUR HANDS.
• STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK.
• AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SICK.
• AVOID SHARING OF WATER BOTTLES, MOUTH GUARDS OR INSTRUMENT MOUTH PIECES.
• AVOID SHARING OF EATING UTENSILS, DRINKING GLASSES OR PERSONAL ITEMS SUCH AS TOWELS, RAZORS OR MAKEUP.
• TALK WITH YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER ABOUT AGE APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZATIONS INCLUDING AN ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINE.

STAY HEALTHY WITH NUTRIENT RICH FOODS, PLENTY OF WATER, EXERCISE EVERY DAY AND PLENTY OF REST EACH NIGHT.
Attendance

Bell Attendance Line is 303-982-4340

Please do not call the Main Office concerning attendance.

- The school must be notified of any absence no later than 24 hours following the beginning of the absence. For multiple day absences, calls must be made daily. If the school does not get the notification within this period of time the school will keep the absence unexcused. Students can be excused for absences due to: funerals, illness, injury, legal obligations, medical procedures and religious observations, and extenuating circumstances determined by the Principal.

- Students missing any part of the day for appointments MUST be signed out then back in by the parent/guardian.

- Students will be marked tardy if they are late to the first half of any period. Missing more than half of the period, students will be marked absent. This is the state regulation tardy policy.

- Students requesting pre-arranged absences must have prior approval from the Principal and the parents. This approval must occur at least 3 days before the extended absence is to occur. In order for the absence to be excused, the student must complete the “Pre-Arranged Absence Form” and meet one or more of the following criteria: 1) is in good academic standing, 2) has no unexcused absences, or 3) has four or fewer excused absences in a semester or seven or fewer in a school year. Please pick that form up at the Attendance Office. Bell will enforce the written district policy for makeup work.

- ANY unexcused absence may result in school and district intervention for truancy.

Advertising in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the school or district.