

May 2009

# Cougar Tracks

## CMS's Last Day is May 22<sup>nd</sup>!!



### MIDDLE SCHOOL

9195 Cresthill Lane  
Highlands Ranch  
CO 80130

303.387.2800  
303.387.2801 (Fax)

303.387.2802  
24-Hour Attendance

303.387.7669 (SNOW)  
Storm Delays/Closures

Sid R. Rundle  
Principal  
303.387.2805

Dear Cresthill Community,

Wow! What a fantastic school year this has been. I am so excited to be sending up to the high school such a well-rounded and enthusiastic group of students – 9<sup>th</sup> graders now! For our continuing students and families, and our incoming community, I wish you a relaxing and family-filled summer break. We have great things in-store for next year, and I'm already excited about the new school year.

We have some very important pieces of information to communicate. Please take some time and read through this newsletter. Some items will apply only to current student and families, other things are for those who will be enrolled next school year. And, as always, don't hesitate to call our front office if you have any questions or need additional information.

Wishing you great refreshment this summer,

Sid Rundle  
Principal Cresthill Middle School

## 2009/2010 Schedule Pick Up Information

Great news! Cresthill Middle School will be using an on-line process to fill out your child's informational forms for the 09-10 school year. There will also be an on-line payment option for all fees. These changes to the schedule pick-up/registration process should make our check-in day, **July 30<sup>th</sup>**, go smoothly. Please watch your mail for more information. Our on-line schedule/check in forms process is set to go live on July 10th. Just think, no more summer mailing packets. All forms will be a click away.



# 2009-2010 Updates

## **RENOVATIONS!!**

As you probably noticed, JHL Construction has set up a fenced in site to the south of our building. In 2006, voters approved a bond providing for renovations and needed additions to Cresthill to bring it up-to-date with the newer built middle schools. The bulk of work will be completed over the summer with some projects extending into next year. We are very excited for our reopening in the fall and throughout next year when your students will benefit from our renovation. You will see updates from the installation throughout the entire building of state of the art lighting to technology drops in each room. Some of renovations we most look forward to include the following:

- new gym floor
- new bleachers
- new classrooms throughout the building
- the addition of a classroom to all core team areas for small group work
- new lockers throughout the building
- a specialized classroom devoted to aerobics and associated equipment
- an expanded Commons which will nearly double in size to the north
- a new wing housing two core teams (two stories) to the west off the south end (slated to open Fall 2010)

Over the summer, office personnel will be available in a new location; we will be temporarily located in a mobile to be found in front of the building. Watch with us as work progresses over the summer and throughout next year!!

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### **NEW ELECTIVES OPTIONS**

**Chinese:** We are extremely excited to announce that we will be expanding our World Languages offerings next year to include Chinese (Mandarin). Currently we offer Spanish and French, and beginning next year, we will now offer Chinese as well! (Note: This is a year-long elective.)

**Exploring World Cultures:** We have added another exciting class to our electives offerings! Exploring World Cultures is a semester long course that looks at a targeted group of countries and their cultures. Art, food, religion, customs, history, and language phrases will be investigated in this exciting class!

**INTERESTED IN ONE OF THESE NEW CHOICES?** At the time when students selected classes for next year, we did not have these electives available. Therefore, we need to hear from you if you are interested in replacing one of your electives choices with either of these exciting classes. Please call our counseling office secretary, Michelle Lisano, at 303.387.2825 by **MAY 22nd** if you wish to add one of these classes to your preferred choices.

### **Save Your Subscriptions!!!**

If you're considering subscribing to a magazine, renewing your current magazines, or thinking of gifting a magazine or two, Cresthill's got a deal for you!! On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Cresthill will begin its annual fundraiser and because we're starting our fundraising a little later in the year, you may be approached by other students first – don't jump the gun...wait for us!!

Not really wanting a magazine subscription??? You can make a donation to Cresthill – just give us a call to find out how.

### **Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program Returns to CMS!**

We are thrilled to welcome back into our building the middle level D.H.H. program for the district. This program provides specialized instruction, acoustical accommodations, and general support for students with hearing loss. We are excited to welcome the four 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families to the Cresthill community!

## **DISCOVERY PROGRAM UPDATES**

At Cresthill, we offer the Discovery Program for Gifted and Talented students on two separate academic core teams, one at 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one at 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who qualify for this program at the middle school level receive accelerated curriculum and instruction in language arts and mathematics. This acceleration takes place by grouping these eligible students together for these two classes. Half, or more, of the academic core team (approximately 140 students) consists of typical learners and students are mixed together for the other core subjects and elective classes. Currently, we are using a 'looping' model with our Discovery teams. This means that our current seventh grade students will move to eighth grade with the teachers they had this year. We welcome Sonja Herring and Jennifer Jaworski to next year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade team as the social studies and language arts teachers respectively.

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## **NEW START & END TIMES FOR NEXT YEAR!**

### **Take note!!**

The first class of the day will begin at 7:30 a.m. SHARP next year! Students are encouraged to be in the building **NO LATER THAN 7:20 a.m.** in order to get to lockers and into their seats by the first bell at 7:30 a.m. Our day will end at 2:45 p.m. with the buses leaving approximately 7 minutes after this last bell! The first day of school for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders is Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. The first day for 8<sup>th</sup> graders is Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **New Band & Orchestra Teacher**

The Highlands Ranch feeder-area community welcomes John Epps as the new band and orchestra teacher at Cresthill. John has been a curriculum leader at the district level for the past several years. He has a very strong background in band and choir as well as other performing arts. John will be a key player in the conversations regarding the model and future of the band and orchestra programs in our feeder area.

## **New Chinese Teacher**

We are delighted to welcome Ivory Wu as the Chinese teacher at Cresthill next year. Ivory will be splitting her time between our school and Renaissance Magnet School.

## IMPORTANT DATES 2009-2010

July 30, 2009	Schedule Pick-Up 8 <sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:00 A-F 8:00-9:00 G-L 9:30-10:30 M-S 10:30-11:30 T-Z 7 <sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:00 A-F 2:00-3:00 G-L 3:00-4:00 M-S 4:00-4:30 T-Z	7:00 am – 5:00 pm
August 6	Late Schedule Pick-Up	8:00 am – 12:00 pm
August 6	New Family Orientation	9:00 – 10:30 am
August 10	First Day of School – 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only Full Day	7:30 am – 2:45 pm
August 11	First Day of School – All Students	7:30 am – 2:45 pm
August 25	Magazine Sale Kick Off	
August 27	Back to School Night	6:30 pm
September 7	Labor Day - School Closed	
September 8	SAC Meeting	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
September 11	Picture Make up Day	10:30 am – 1:00 pm
September 24	Cougar Prowl (School 5K Walk/Run)	
September 25	Teacher Professional Development Day (No Students)	
October 8	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	
October 9	Grading Day – Staff Development - No Students	
October 12	Beginning of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	
October 13	Student Led Conferences	3:30 – 7:00 pm
October 14	Student Led Conferences	3:30 – 7:00 pm
October 15	Picture Re-Takes	TBA
October 19 – 23	FALL BREAK	
TBD	Vision & Hearing Screening	
November 6	Teacher Professional Development Day - No Students	
November 10	SAC Meeting	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
November 25	Comp Day – No School	
November 26	Thanksgiving – No School	
November 27	School Closed	
December 17	End of Second Quarter	
December 18	Grading/Work Day - No Students	
December 21 – January 1	WINTER BREAK - No School	
January 1	New Years Day	
January 4	Beginning of Third Quarter	
January 7	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night	6:30 pm
January 11	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night	6:30 pm
January 12	SAC Meeting	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
January 18	Martin Luther King Day - School Closed	
January 22	Teacher Professional Development Day - No Students	
February 10	Student-Led Conferences	3:30 – 7:00 pm
February 11	Student-Led Conferences	3:30 – 7:00 pm
February 15	Presidents' Day - School Closed	
March 1 – 16	CSAP Testing Window	
March 11	End of Third Quarter	
March 12	Grading Day - No Students	
March 15	Beginning of Fourth Quarter	
March 22 – 26	SPRING BREAK - No School	
April 13	SAC Meeting	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
April 19	Comp Day - No School	
April 20	Teacher Professional Development Day – No Students	
May 25	End of Fourth Quarter/Last Day of School	
May 26	Grading/Work Day – No Students	

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## ATHLETICS

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade Track will be finishing up on May 16, 2009, with the district meet being held at Douglas County Stadium. Field Events start at 7:45 a.m. followed by all running events starting at 9:45 a.m.

## ATHLETICS – 2009/2010

Please make sure your child has a current sports physical on file for the 2009-2010 school year. All athletic forms are on the Cresthill website. Fall sports include: 8th grade boys football, 7th grade flag football, cross country, and volleyball. Fall sports will begin on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> with 7<sup>th</sup> grade flag football beginning on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. You may sign up through Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> for all fall sports. All forms and fees are due when you sign up. Get your physical done this summer!

**If you have an outstanding fee or fine, your yearbook will be withheld until the fee or fine is resolved – this includes library books and textbooks not returned.**

**Don't be left out on May 22nd!**

**(Check IC often for updated fee and fine information.)**

## NEWS FROM THE CHOIR ROOM...

The Cougar Choirs are hard at work preparing for the *Finale Concert* of the school year on Thursday, May 21, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the large gym. It is titled "Disney Spectacular" and features over 70 Cresthill students singing solos in the All-Disney concert.

Please come and enjoy music from "Aladdin," "The Little Mermaid," "Tarzan," "Toy Story II," "Chicken Little," "Mighty Joe Young," and many more of your favorite Disney classics.

## Cougar POMs Dance Clinic

For all incoming 6th graders and current 7th graders interested in Cougar POMs! There will be a POMs Clinic May 18, 19, 20, and 22, 2009 in the large gym at Cresthill. Please contact Rene Smith-Tomszak at 303.387.2800 for more information

### Bus Transportation for the 2009-2010

Parents...please check the following link in **early May** for information on new bus route pick up and drop off spots.

<http://www.dcsdk12.org/portal/page/portal/DCSD>

### Notes from the Registrar...

I am busy processing all the class requests and getting ready to prepare schedules and team assignments for next year! Don't forget that we have added two new classes: Chinese and Exploring World Cultures. If your student would like to add his or her name to these class lists please just send email with all your details, the class you would like to add to your requests, and the class that you would like to drop from your requests. Email [pamela.johnson@dcsdk12.org](mailto:pamela.johnson@dcsdk12.org) or leave me a message at 303.387.2810 before May 22<sup>nd</sup> (our last day of school). Due to budget restrictions and class sizes we will not be able to make any changes to schedules after this date.

We are excited that we will be offering online summer registration this year from July 10<sup>th</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup>. You will receive more details in a summer postcard from us so **please make sure that the address we have in Parent Portal is up to date**. To participate in online registration you must have a **PARENT PORTAL** account. You will not be able to process this through your student's account. If you do not have an account, please email [cmsportal@dcsdk12.org](mailto:cmsportal@dcsdk12.org) immediately to set up an account or join us at Cresthill in the counseling office on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for an informal Parent Portal Open House from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our portal manager will be there to help you set up and/or navigate Parent Portal and answer any questions.

Parents, please let the registrar's office know immediately if your student will not be returning to Cresthill for the 2009-2010 school year. Leave a message with your student's name and the name of the school he or she will be attending. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please call me at 303.387.2810

Pam Johnson  
Registrar

## Volunteer News

Where has the year gone? Only one month left of school. Thank you to all of our wonderful and thoughtful volunteers! You always come through for me when I request you. You are so appreciated here at CMS. I am so excited for the coming school year of 2009-2010.

### Future Events

**End of School Year Field Day** - Friday, May 22 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. 45 volunteers are needed to help with the fun activities.

**Check-In/Registration for School Year 2009/10** – July 30 from 6:30am to 12:00pm and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Numerous volunteers are needed.

### “Thank You”

I would like to thank the volunteers who have committed to work Cougar Mart for the school year of 2008/09. You are all doing a great job! Thank you for your commitment.

To the volunteers who committed to the Main Office and Library for the year: You are so much appreciated!!

Thank you also to Karen Tobin, the chair of all Cougar Mart Volunteers. She also now shops for the Cougar Mart - a huge task. Thank you so much for all you do!!!

To all volunteers who helped at the dances, to all the moms and dads who helped with the play, and to all our wonderful volunteers who come and help when requested, you are all so valuable to Cresthill!!!!!! Thank you!

### Cresthill Cougars Spirit

If your student would like some Cresthill Cougars Spirit gear, the Cougar Mart will be having a sale on shirts. Hoodies will be \$18.00; long sleeve shirts will be \$7.00, and short sleeve t-shirts will be \$5.00. Have your students bring their money, the Cougar Mart is open after school. The shirts are big enough for adults, too. If moms and dads want some school spirit, ask your student to pick up a shirt or hoodie for you. Feel free to come in and check them out.

If your student would like a locker ladder there are plenty available in the Cougar Mart. They fit both the long and short lockers.

### Volunteer Guidelines

Please enter the front office doors and sign in at the desk to your left and always wear a name tag. Please be confidential. It's very important to be punctual, and email me if you will not be able to volunteer at your scheduled time. You can find volunteer information on my new web site linked to the Cresthill Home Page.

Thanks again for all your help, time and energy that you put into Cresthill Middle School. We are all so appreciative.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Mary Johnston  
Volunteer Coordinator

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### Seekers Team

The Seekers Team has had a great year and just wanted to take the opportunity to thank our students and parents for their energy, enthusiasm and above all, their great thinking and incredible hard work throughout this year. The Seekers students have grown as writers, thinkers, mathematicians, and scientists. They have matured in their habits, personalities, and understanding of the world around them. We could only have achieved this through the partnership between students, teachers, and parents. The school year is not done yet though and we still have some fantastic learning opportunities remaining. In math we are learning about more complex equations. In Science we will be ending the year by exploring the plant kingdom. After we FINALLY finish Johnny Tremain, we will end the year in language arts with poetry. In history we are exploring the Civil War era through inquiry research projects. We ask that students remain focused on ending the year in a strong fashion by getting all assignments turned in and keeping their brains turned on until the very end. Once again, thank you for a fabulous year!

### From the Library....

Great Summer Reading! Find these and other books at Douglas County Libraries or at your local bookstores.

- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
- Little Brother by Cory Doctorow
- Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson
- The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing (Volumes I & II)
- 3 Willows by Ann Brashares
- Compound by S.A. Bodeen
- Flyte by Angie Sage
- Climbing the Stairs by Padma Venkatraman
- Ten Things I Hate About Me by Randa Abdel-Fattah
- Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers

### Physical Education

With the school year ending quickly, I want to encourage parents and students to stay active during this summer break. Find that one activity that makes you want to get up and move. Go out and do it and do it often. See you in August.

### **Career Day**

Cresthill held its sixth annual Career Day on Friday, April 17 (the afternoon guest speakers, however, had to be rescheduled for May, since we had an early release day for the students because of all the snow). Students were given the chance to experience and explore a variety of career opportunities as they listened to and interacted with guest speakers during their core classes. Guest speakers shared an overview of careers available in their field, as well as the skills and education that are required to be hired. They also provided students with insight as to how the skills the students are learning now transfer into the world of work.

Thank you to all the guest speakers who gave of their time to share their careers with our students!

### **STRATEGIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS— SUMMER 2009**

The following are a few strategies middle school parents can try with their son or daughter to:

- practice family courtesy. Modeling courtesy is the best possible way to teach your children this behavior. Courteous behavior is an essential skill in the working world.
- identify career interest opportunities through travel, summer camp, and recreation activities. Select jobs from these settings and ask: “What would it be like to be a camp counselor...artist...travel agent...lifeguard...pilot?”
- set a few goals to work towards during the summer (e.g. read a certain number of books, learn a new skill, volunteer in the community, attend special events).

### **CollegInvest Early Achievers Scholarship**

If you are a Colorado 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> grade student, you have the opportunity to apply to become a CollegInvest Early Achiever with the CollegInvest Early Achievers Scholarship (formerly the College In Colorado Scholarship). If you complete pre-collegiate coursework and graduate from high school with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, you may qualify for up to \$1,500 per year for up to five years at an eligible Colorado college. For additional information and to download an application, go to [www.collegeinvest.org](http://www.collegeinvest.org) or call 1-800-448-2424.

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## World Language Department

The CMS World Language Department will be offering a placement exam on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m. for any student who has prior experience with French or Spanish. If you would like to attend or if you have further questions, please contact Cathy Kaminski at [catherine.kaminski@dcsdk12.org](mailto:catherine.kaminski@dcsdk12.org)

## Did You Know...

The total Cresthill enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year will be approximately 930 students. 8<sup>th</sup> grade will consist of about 470 students while the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class will be about 460 students. We welcome students to Cresthill primarily from the following six elementary schools: Acres Green, Arrowwood, Cougar Run, Eagle Ridge, Fox Creek, and Lone Tree!

## Schedule Updates for 2009-2010

For the upcoming school year, our schedule will look different. Classes will begin at 7: 30 a.m. and end at 2:45 p.m. each day. Instead of eight teams, we will have seven and each core team will now have five core teachers including language arts, math, science, social studies, and physical education/health. We will no longer flip the schedule at semester. Students will continue to switch from PE to health every 10 class periods so that students have the opportunity for physical activity all year. Next year, elective classes will meet every day; we will no longer have a rotating ABC schedule. Advisement (also known as homeroom) is scheduled for the end of the day. Students will continue to have the choice of electives and we have added World Cultures and Chinese. If your student is interested in any of these, please contact the Registrar, Pam Johnson (303-387-2810), at your earliest convenience.

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Registration Form –LAST CHANCE- Due to our summer building renovation we will be unable to accept any Registration Forms after May 15<sup>th</sup> . Please return forms to Cresthill Middle School with registration fee to reserve a position. (No refunds after June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009)

# CRESTHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

## NEW BEGINNINGS - SUMMER 2009



### IT'S ALL SO NEW...

The transition to middle school can be an overwhelming, yet exciting feeling for most students and parents. Cresthill wants to support your student with this new transition. The three day New Beginnings class is designed to ensure a positive transition experience by providing strategies for student success in middle school. The class will incorporate strategies and opportunities for:

- Understanding middle school culture and expectations
- Meeting Cresthill staff members and new friends
- Learning organizational techniques
- Learning about athletics, activities and clubs
- Preparing for tests and quizzes
- Understanding behavior expectations
- Using a locker
- Using a planner
- Navigating the building
- Managing daily schedule

**For more information please contact Ms. Mabary by email at [shirl.mabary@dcsdk12.org](mailto:shirl.mabary@dcsdk12.org) or check our web site at [www.dcsdk12.org/secondary/cms/index.html](http://www.dcsdk12.org/secondary/cms/index.html)**

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**Please check session attending: (\$50 per session)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Session A Aug. 3, 4, 5 8:15 -11:00 a.m. M,T,W**

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\_\_\_\_\_ **Session B Aug. 3, 4, 5 12:00-2:45 p.m. M,T,W**

### Please Print:

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender M/F (please circle)

T-shirt size: sm med large x-large (adult sizes) Please circle one.

Special Needs (please circle all that apply): SPED ILP IEP DHH Health Needs 504 Other

Elementary School attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address (preferred method of communication):** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact (Name and Phone number): \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # (M/C or Visa): \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Check number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Total fee paid @ \$50 per session: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation of dates, times and fee received will be e-mailed to you. This is our preferred method of communication.