CORE VALUES:
Focus on Learning; Integrity; Respect; Collaboration; Citizenship; Excellence

VISION:
To inspire and empower our students by creating a culture of excellence

MISSION:
Through innovative learning opportunities, we will fuel students’ passion for life-long learning, establish rigorous academic expectations, promote integrity and respect, and nurture citizenship in order to prepare students for success in a global society.

MOTTO:
Rigor, Relevance, Relationships
Greetings Parents and Valued Community Members:

It is with sadness and excitement that I inform you I have decided to retire at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. While I have been pondering this decision for months, it is none-the-less difficult, as it means closure to my chapter of 26 wonderful years in education. Simultaneously, however, it is exciting, as it allows my husband and I to explore a new chapter in our lives. We will kick this new chapter off with a summer trip and celebration of 40 years of marriage in June, followed by a little less work and a little more play and travel while we are still young enough to enjoy our 5 grandchildren and the many wonders our world has to offer.

I will continue to serve as principal through the end of this school year. I have thoroughly enjoyed the two years of service to this community, which consistently remains one of the premier communities in Jefferson County. I have been blessed to have had the chance to work with you and have the utmost confidence that the next leader of Ute Meadows will help you all sustain the successes that you have achieved over the last 30 years.

Warmest regards,
Susan Borzych, Ph.D.
GRADE LEVEL TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS FOR NEXT YEAR...

As of the publication of this newsletter, the following listing represents our grade level teaching assignments for the 2018-2019 school year:

**Kindergarten (1/2 day) – to be determined** – *pending enrollment numbers after registration*

**Kindergarten (full-day) – Teachers: Nanette Brooks, Amy Oakeson**

**First Grade – Teachers: Penny Bober, Andrea Graney, Tara Ahearn**

**Second Grade – Teachers: Mimi Crockett, Leslie Conner, OPEN POSITION**

**Third Grade – Teachers: Heather Folsom, OPEN POSITION**

**Fourth Grade – Teachers: Brigit Mulcahy, Krista Hashemi, Suzanne Beauchamp**

**Fifth Grade – Teachers: Donny Nestingen, Lori Sherman**

**Teacher/Para Retirements This Year:** Marty Thrasher (kindergarten); Deb Willingham (para)

OPEN positions are being advertised and will be filled prior to the end of this school year. A full list of staff assignments will be available in July, once all positions have been filled.
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL…

The last day of school for students is on Thursday, May 24th. This is an early release day, as well, and students will be dismissed at 12:30 pm.

WALK-IN REGISTRATION FOR THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR…

Walk-in registration for next year will be held on Wednesday, August 1, 2018. Families new to the area are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity to get acquainted and visit Ute Meadows. For families who are returning to Ute Meadows next year, registration and fee payment may be completed online through Jeffco Connect.
NOTES FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

End of the year medication pick-up 2018

Dear Parents,
It is that time of year again! If your student has medication in the health room:
District Board Policy JLCD, states:

*Unused medication*
It is the responsibility of the parent to obtain all unused medication from the school when the medication is expired, discontinued, the school year ends, or the family transfers to another district. All medication left in the school under these circumstances will be disposed of using district guidelines and monitoring by the district RN.

This includes all prescription and all over-the-counter medications including: cough drops, cough syrup, Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benedryl, Epi Pen, inhaler, and any other injectable medications.

If you, as the parent, are not able to come in to the school’s health room and pick-up the medication, please call your district RN to set up a special arrangement.
If your child will be in summer school this summer, please pick up the medication as noted above; the current medication agreement form will be copied and put in a Ziploc along with the medication. You will need to bring this Ziploc bag to your child’s first day of summer school at the site he/she is attending and check it in with the health aide.

The last day of school is May 24, 2018. This will be an early release day.

All medication that is left in the school clinic will be disposed of after the last day of school according to Jeffco Board policy JLCD.

If you have any questions feel free to call your district RN, Kerri Burnside, at 720-315-3862, or the Ute Meadows Health Aide, Sandie Deslauriers, at 303-982-4044.

Thanks! Have a good summer!
EVENING OF THE ARTS

On Friday, April 20th, Ute Meadows hosted its 18th annual Evening of the Arts. More than 500 students, parents and guests attended this year’s Enchanted Forest-themed event.

The event showcased several pieces of artwork from each and every student at Ute Meadows. 1-dimensional and 2-dimensional art pieces were matted and hung along the halls. Three-dimensional pieces were hung from ceilings and in the foyers. Each metal lantern designed by the 3rd graders, was lit with a small glow stick. The 5th grade constellations lit up the atrium with their star-like LED lights. Several paper trees arched over the hallways to display iguanas, leaves, witch hats, mice, praying mantis and dragon eyes. The backlights installed in the display windows made the weavings, spiders and insects come alive. Did you notice the mystical dragon egg holograms in the North hallway display case? The enchanted forest theme continued with delicious woodland refreshments, a magical selfie spot and guests even experienced the sounds of a harpist as they walked the halls enjoying the art.

Once again the talent show in the gymnasium was a big hit that included piano, dance, voice, comedy, yo-yo tricks, jump roping and one last show-stopping performance by the 5th grade Banana Boys. It was kicked off by an adorable performance of the “The Little Red Hen” by the 1st graders and Mr. Anders.

Poetry readings were given by children of all ages in the library. A stunning forest-themed stained-glass window in the library designed and made by Mrs. Westhead and the graduating elementary class was unveiled early in the evening. 4th and 5th graders had an amusing addition this year with their “Fractured Fairy Tales” Motion Picture Arts screening in the music room.

The best part of the evening was watching the kids find their artwork and proudly show it to their family. When their art is matted and hung gallery-style on the wall they see themselves as true artists. The decorations and over 3,000 pieces of student artwork completely transform the school, and it is always such a memorable night for everyone.

Thank you to all the teachers and volunteers who spend countless hours making this event possible. We also need to give a big thank you to the Ute Meadows PTA whose funds pay for Evening of the Arts along with several other sponsors who generously donate their resources so that the Ute community can enjoy this amazing, FREE evening!

photos continued...
EVENING OF THE ARTS, photos continued...
Dear Ute Meadows Families,

I want to take a moment to thank all the community members and volunteers who helped coordinate, facilitate and display over 3000 pieces of art work by our students here at Ute Meadows. It took over 500+ volunteer hours to make Evening of the Arts possible. This year’s Chairs, Cari Eversman, Liza Kaley, Alicia Truman and Stephanie Oppenlander were the ladies behind the scenes making this all happen. Ladies take a bow, well done!

An event of this magnitude takes the entire staff and community to sustain and carry forward, improve and make better each year. Thank you.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Lisa Westhead
Ute Meadows Art teacher

TALENT SHOW

The talent show portion of Evening of the Arts was AMAZING! We saw many different talents including jump rope, singing, dancing, comedy, instrumental, and even a Yo-Yo trickster! The students put in a ton of work on their own time to help make this evening spectacular. Thank you to all of the parents who helped with dress rehearsal and fostering creativity in your children. We can't wait to see what next year brings!

Stephanie Oppenlander and Heather Lee
The Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education passed a resolution in support of, "Thriving Communities," ballot initiative on April 5, 2018. It is our understanding that:

- Initiative 93 is a proposed income tax that would affect incomes above $150,000/year and “C” Corporations.
- Funding would support PreK-12 public education in Colorado.
- If Initiative 93 makes the ballot and passes, Jeffco Public Schools would receive a significant increase in funding, possibly up to $1800 more per student (~$160,000,000 for 86,000 students)

It is also our understanding that the ballot initiative is supported by non-profit, K-12 public education, advocacy group. This group is currently collecting signatures from registered voters across the state in hopes of getting the ballot initiative on the November ballot.

- See http://www.greatschoolstrivingcommunities.org/
- See also https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/filings/2017-2018/93FiscalImpact.pdf

**EARTH BALLOON**

The Children's Museum presented their "Earth Balloon" to our first graders on Monday April 23rd. The Earth Balloon is a unique look at the Earth from the inside of a 26 foot tall Earth Balloon. Students were able to walk in the balloon and discover the continents, countries, rivers, mountains and oceans on this interactive trip around the globe. Ask a first grader how to say hello in a new language or what kind of animal you can find in Ireland or even name the continents!
On April 18th, the third graders were lucky to have Ranger Pam come and visit and explain Native American artifacts - how and why they were used and they even got to build a tipi.

Ask a third grader what a bison horn could be used for or why there is a bull on a bottle of Elmer's glue.
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As we near the end of the school year…

It’s hard to believe we are in the last weeks of the 2017-2018 school year. Collectively as a school community, we have many celebrations. Teachers, parents, and student have worked hard to achieve academic growth this year. As we near the end of the year, it is bitter sweet for me. For the past 11 years at Ute Meadows, I have been able to develop so many positive and caring relationships with staff, students, and parents. I have been able to grow personally and professionally. I am truly grateful. As I continue my journey in education and educational leadership, I will begin a new adventure next year at Dennison Elementary as an Assistant Principal. I am excited at the opportunity to develop new relationships in a new community, be a side by side learner and leader with the Dennison staff, and support student achievement in a community that also honors the development of the whole child. The Ute Meadows community will always hold a special place in my heart, and I hope our paths will cross in the future.

Summer Learning…

As we look to the summer, we encourage families to continue to support student learning in a variety of ways. According to many educational experts, to succeed in school and life, children and young adults need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. This is especially true during the summer months.

All young people experience learning losses when they don't engage in educational activities during the summer. Research shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of summer vacation. On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months, and summer learning loss also contributes to the achievement gap in reading performance. Studies reveal that the greatest areas of summer loss for all students are in factual or procedural knowledge, regardless of socioeconomic status.

Checkout the websites below for a few ideas to help prevent summer learning loss.

Seven Ways to Prevent Summer Learning Loss
http://www.edutopia.org/blog/7-ways-prevent-summer-learning-loss-barbara-dianis

12 Fun Ways to Help Prevent Summer Learning Loss

48 Ultra-Cool Summer Sites for Kids and Teachers

Wishing you all a safe and fun-filled summer,
Sherry Odegard, Assistant Principal
GREAT TURNOUT FOR UTE MEADOWS CARNIVAL

More than 400 kids plus hundreds of parents attended the Ute Meadows Carnival on May 11. There were games, prizes, a barrel train, face painters, a cupcake walk, bounce houses, and more. While the event is a small fundraiser for the PTA, profiting about $2,000, it is more about bringing together families in the community. It takes a tremendous amount of volunteers to put on the event, so thank you to all of the parents, staff, and Chatfield students who worked the event. Thank you to the room parents for coordinating the grade-level games...the games were a huge hit as always! Huge thanks to Ute staff members Julie Warner, Minda Crider, and Nanette Brooks for stepping in at the last minute to paint faces!

CARNIVAL CO-CHAIRS NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR

The carnival co-chairs will be stepping down from their roles this year. We are looking for a parent volunteer (or co-chairs work well!) to lead the carnival in 2019. If you are interested in coordinating this awesome event, please contact Victoria DeSair at vdesair@gmail.com.
RUNNING EAGLES

This year’s Running Eagles took part in the High Plains Elementary 8th Annual 5K Fun Run. For many of the girls, this was their first 5K race. For others, this was a race in which they were looking to compete. First place finishers in their age groups were: Ella Wood, Daisy Lubbers, Ella Ayres, and Abby Mulcahy. Every girl crossed the finish line with their arms up and head held high. They were an amazing group of girls who were incredibly dedicated and determined. Way to go Running Eagles!!
PTA

Did you know, the PTA financially supports field trips for our kids and brings special guests to Ute? This year, PTA sponsored the following trips:

Kindergarten
The Arvada Center – Seussical
JeffCo Extension Office bring in an incubator of chicks

1st Grade
Denver Zoo Field trip
Children’s Museum Earth Balloon in school presentation
Arvada Center – Seussical
Denver Botanic Gardens – Chatfield pumpkin patch

2nd Grade
Denver Zoo
NCAR

3rd Grade
Life Cycle of a honey bee in school presentation
Denver Museum of Nature and Science w/ planetarium show
Native American Dance presentation
Ute Indian Artifact and Tipi building in school presentation

4th Grade
Molly Brown House
Denver Museum of Nature and Science
History of Colorado Center
Golden History Museum – Building Colorado Classroom program

5th Grade
Wonder Movie at Elvis Cinema
STEM field trip at Skate City
Running unopposed in all open positions, the following candidates were nominated and unanimously voted into office at the April PTA meeting for two year terms beginning June 30th 2018:

Alicia Truman & Cari Eversman – Co-Presidents
Liza Kaley – Vice President
Brooke Schmidt – Secretary

Continuing in her current position as Treasurer, Rebecca Rotar.

A huge thank you goes to the outgoing members of the PTA board whose terms are ending this year. You have done an outstanding job for the students and community at Ute Meadows.

Amanda Cruser & Darla Wampler – Co-Presidents
Jennifer Butler – Secretary

Thank you very much for volunteering!
We had an amazing turn out for teacher appreciation week. The staff was treated to great meals every day as well as special gifts throughout the week. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to show how much we care and love our teachers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

May
22nd 5th Grade Continuation
24th Last Day of School

Summer Break May 25th to August 15th

August
16th First Day of School
Thank you for helping! Clipped Box Tops are each worth $0.01 for your child’s school. Bonus certificates should not be attached to this sheet - please submit them separately. To see more ways to earn cash for your child’s school, go to BTFE.com. See more collection sheets at BTFE.com/collectionheets.