Principal Updates:

Thank you for making this a wonderful first week at Ute Meadows! Children have been smiling, laughing, and learning. I have visited classrooms and introduced myself, encouraging kids to stop by and share awesome learning as well as mistakes. (Ask them why mistakes are so cool). I am thrilled to be part of this amazing community!

As many of you may have heard, we had a couple of late hires. We are so excited that they have joined our team! I want to formally introduce our ½ day Kindergarten and 4th grade teachers:

*Gail Bond comes to us as our ½ day kindergarten teacher from Denver Public Schools. She has extensive kindergarten experience as well as a background in ESL. She has jumped into her new role with gusto, setting up her classroom the day before school started, and building relationships across the building and community.*

*Brian Truax joins our 4th grade team from Stevens Elementary where he was a 6th grade teacher. He has a background in administration, but openly asserts the desire to be back inside the classroom. Brian joined us earlier this week and has jumped feet first into community building inside his classroom.*

Please take a moment to read the information below. There are reminders from the school as well as important information from the district regarding School Funding and what it means for you, the voter.

Please feel free to reach out to share questions or concerns, or even to say hello.

Dawn

Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships
On the Calendar

August 24th & 27th: Assessment Days – No school on these dates.  
Make sure and schedule a time slot with your teacher 
for an assessment appointment.  
Assessment Day Sign Up

August 28th:  Curriculum Night:
6:00-6:40pm K-2 classroom sessions 
6:45-7:15pm Principal & PTA session in the Gym 
7:20-8:00pm 3-5 classroom presentations

Consider becoming a room parent for your child’s classroom. 
Please click on the link below.  
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48aca728a2f85-room1

For information about Foothills Before and After School Program, please click here: 
https://www.ifoothills.org/school-care-camps/#before-after-school
Before/After School Playground Reminders

There is no playground supervision before and after school.

Before School: We do not allow children to play on the playground.

After School: Children may play if they are directly supervised by a parent/adult.

Join Ute Meadows PTA! Joining doesn't mean you are committing to anything. It just means you're helping to fund our national and state level dues and showing your support for Ute’s Parent Teacher Association and all that they do for the school. Signing up is easy! Just visit www.utemeadowspta.com and click on the Join PTA link today! Thank you!
Join The PTA

It's good for your kids

Research has shown that children whose parents are involved in their school get better academic results and have fewer disciplinary issues.

It's good for you

You will be in the know, give input, and meet like-minded parents. Whether you want to organize an event, help out the day-of the event, or be the room parent, you can utilize your skills and likely develop new ones! Not to mention, make friends along the way!

It's good for the school

You will play an important role in showing appreciation to our faculty and providing fun activities for our students. PTA promotes community within our school.
Please help us alleviate traffic congestion in the morning by using the hug and drop-off zone on the south side of Meadows Drive. There is no parking at this section of the sidewalk. Thank you!

Ute Meadows Elementary

Ute Meadows Elementary School Hug and Drop-Off Parking Lot Procedure

The school parking lot is closed to all vehicles with the exception of the school buses and daycare vans from 8:00 - 8:30 am. and 2:45 - 3:15 pm. Parents and community volunteers with school duties, activities, or meetings are invited to park in the school lot at any time.

A Hug and Drop-Off Pick-Up area is located on the south side of W. Meadows, east of the parking lot driveway. There is NO PARKING in the Hug and Drop-Off Pick-Up area from 8:00 - 8:30 am. and 2:45 - 3:15 pm. Parents that wish to walk their child to their classroom door may park on the north side of W. Meadows. Children know they must use the crosswalk to cross W. Meadows; we request that adults model safety by following the same rules we ask the children to follow. Occasionally, we know grandparents, friends, or relatives pick-up your children.

Please tell them of our parking lot procedure and about the Hug and Drop-Off Pick-Up area. School staff supervising parking, drop-off and pick-up areas will remind drivers of our procedures. If there is a legitimate reason why a family cannot follow these rules, we ask you to speak with the principal and receive a special pass.

Ute Meadows Elementary
11050 W. Meadows Drive
Littleton, Colo 80127

Principal Dawn Morgan
Jeffco Public Schools is considering asking voters for additional school funding this November. Here's how it could affect our schools:

If voters pass a **BOND** ($567M to address capital improvement needs):

- **Every** school would benefit.
  - 60% of funds would support improvements to classrooms, safety/security, career/technical education, and early childhood education
  - 20% would be reinvested in established schools, including many additions/major renovations
  - 10% would address needs in growth areas
  - 10% would be passed through to charter schools
  - Taxpayer cost: $1.81/month for every $100K of home value
- Our school buildings' average age is now 50 years old
- Jeffco has $1.3 billion in construction and maintenance needs, and the last time a major bond for facilities passed was in 2004

*How might your school be improved?* See the Facilities Facts Sheets section or the interactive map on this page for details.

If voters pass a **MILL LEVY** increase ($33M to supplement annual operations):

- 50% of funds would support our ability to compete with neighboring school districts to hire and retain great teachers and staff at all schools
- 20% for school safety & security and increased mental health support
- 10% to expand career/technical education and STEM options for students
- 10% to improve classroom materials and technology
- 10% expand full-day early childhood education
- Taxpayer cost: $2.10/month per $100k home value

Additionally, a statewide school funding measure, **Amendment 73**, will be on the November ballot. If it passes, all schools in Colorado would receive significantly more funding from increased taxes on corporations and residents making more than $150,000 annually. This would move Colorado near (but not quite at) the national average of per-student funding. This will also result in a 0.2% reduction in residential property tax rates.
Take a few moments to learn more about these issues at www.jeffcopublicschools.org/futurefunding.
AMENDMENT 73

WHAT IS AMENDMENT 73?
- Statewide Constitutional Amendment
- Generates $1.6 billion statewide for education
- Moves Colorado near, but not quite at, the national average
- Requires 55% statewide to pass

HOW IS AMENDMENT 73 PAID FOR?
- 92% of Coloradans would pay no new tax increase
- Income tax on filers making more than $150,000 annually
- Tax on corporations
- Creates a reduction in property tax rates, compared to current levels:
  - 0.2% Residential
  - 5% Commercial
  - Other locally-approved taxes not affected

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS POSSIBLE FOCUS AREAS FOR AMENDMENT 73
- Attract & retain quality teachers & staff
- Additional programs and services for students (career/technical, college preparation, arts & music, and more)
- Address class size & staffing shortages
- Early childhood education & full-day kindergarten
- Targeted supports for:
  - Gifted & Talented
  - Special Education
  - At-Risk Students
  - English Language Learners

HOW WOULD THIS BENEFIT JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS?
- $1,609 additional per pupil, each year
- $134 million total
- Funding would go to all public schools, including charters
JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Possible 2018 Bond

WHAT IS A BOND?
• Voter-approved borrowing for capital construction projects
• Generates up front dollars, which are repaid (with interest) through a property tax over time
• Put simply: a bond builds classrooms - it's about our school buildings.

JEFFCO'S NEEDS & RECENT HISTORY
• Jeffco has around $1.1 billion in facility needs
• Jeffco last passed a major bond for facilities improvements in 2004 & a smaller bond for warm, safe & dry repairs passed in 2012.

WHAT'S THE TAX IMPACT?
$567 MILLION PROPOSAL
$1.87/month per $100K in (residential) value
• $300K home = $5.42/month • $500K home = $9.03/month

ACCOUNTABILITY
• Can't be used for administration or other staff
• Monitored by a citizen oversight committee
• Subject to annual external audit

POSSIBLE BOND FOCUS AREAS
• All schools will benefit
• Bringing all schools & classrooms to quality standard for
  • Instruction
  • Safety & security
  • Upkeep
• Career/technical education sites
• Expand early childhood education
• Reinvesting in established schools & communities
• Accommodating growth through new schools & additions
• Supporting charter schools
• Major renovations to high schools built prior to 1980
• Investing in local economy - preference in contracting for local firms

Safety Information
Safety Letter.docx