

February 23rd



There is a new session of Mad Science starting soon. For more information click [here](#).

Columbine Knolls Swim Team

The Columbine Knolls Blue Dolphin Swim Team will be holding its annual swim clinic for those individuals who are looking to improve and refine their swim skills before the summer swim season begins in May.



Click [here](#) for more information

Important Dates

- 2/26 End of Second Trimester
- 3/2 Report Cards Sent Home
- 3/8 PTA (3:45 - 5:00, Library)
- 3/8 BAC (5:00pm - 6:00pm, Library)
- 3/9 Peer Mentors (Mrs. Helmerich's room)
- 3/14 Conferences
- 3/15 Conferences
- 3/16 Early Release
- 3/16 Skate City (1:00 - 3:00)
- 3/26-3/30 Spring Break
- 4/12 BAC (5:00pm - 6:00pm, Library)
- 4/12 PTA (6:00pm - 7:00pm, Library)
- 4/17 PTA Fund Raiser - Garlic Knot (All Day)

Kidstage

New sessions will be starting soon. To sign up and find out more information click [here](#).



February 23rd



An Unusual Day at School

Blue Heron Families,

Today was a day we all hope doesn't happen often or ever again! In light of recent events in our nation, our district decided to err on the side of caution Friday morning where there were two different police events happening in the south part of Jefferson County. Jeffco Schools determined we would go into a LOCK OUT situation. Normally we practice LOCK OUT as no one in and no one out. However, this time it was happening just as many of our schools were beginning their day. Because of the unknown status of how long this might go on, I was told by district security to get any staff members in our parking lot in our building quickly.

We have a group of Blue Heron staff who serve on our SERT (School Emergency Response Team) and I asked them to put on their bright neon vests and assist me at our front door. At the time of the lock out, we had approximately 50 kids inside our building already. Those that had been on buses on their way to our school were sent to a separate location away from the danger and reunified with their parents at that location.

After the Lock Out was lifted, we had more students arrive to school and some who had been here already were picked up by parents to go home. We are estimating that about 50% of our students were here at some point today, but as you might imagine, we continued throughout the day verifying attendance. We did our best to make sure kids were safe, engaged and fed. Every staff member here pitched in as we worked together to decide what "business as usual" was going to look like. It was anything but usual here today, but kids were safe and staff were amazing and parents have been very kind.

We know that this messed up work for many of you. We know it caused stress, but we so appreciate how supportive you all were as we tried to follow district safety protocols and do what was best for students. Thank you to many of you who sent supportive messages to the teachers. We appreciate your kind words.

You will find a document attached that addresses how you might talk to a student about threats to the community. It has been provided by our district in case any parents were looking for assistance as you process as a family our unusual day at school.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Burch
Principal
Blue Heron Elementary
Jeffco Schools

[Link to Suggestions on how to talk with your students about threats to the community](#)



Hi Blue Heron Families,

I want to personally tell you about an opportunity we have to make a difference in our community and our state. Many of our families have been touched by someone we know and love having Heart Disease. Blue Heron will be participating in Jump Rope For Heart fundraising which will all go directly to the American Heart Association. Some of you may know that when I originally found out that Blue Heron was looking for a principal, I declined the opportunity to interview because my husband and I had a trip to Hawaii scheduled at the same time that interviews for the principal were being held. I turned down the interview...seriously, it was HAWAII!!! As it turned out, my husband went to the doctor for a problem with his thumb and through the course of their conversation, it was decided that he should have a routine Stress Test. Just three minutes into that stress test, he was stopped, given meds and sent immediately to the hospital. Within a few days he had quintuple open heart surgery which saved his life. And ruined our vacation to Hawaii. And left me available to interview for the Blue Heron Principal position. I am very grateful for what the American Heart Association has done in the area of research and education. Not only has my husband benefitted from open heart surgery, but so has my father, his father, and my grandfather. Several of our relatives have had stints put into their hearts as a result of a heart attack. And I know that you have your own stories just like mine.

For that reason, I am very excited for our students to have an opportunity to accept a challenge to participate in Jump Rope For Heart. Your child will participate in a quick assembly next week to kick off this great event and you will see pledge envelopes come home as well. Of course you are not obligated to participate but I would encourage you to check out the information attached here and here to learn more about the American Heart Association and their work specifically in Colorado. Consider supporting this opportunity for us to contribute to this great organization. We have a school wide goal of \$3,000 and there will be incentives for the students as they participate.

As always, it is with a grateful heart that I lead this school as your principal.

Sandy Burch
Principal
Blue Heron Elementary
Jeffco Schools

Information Links:

10 Ways We're Changing the Health of Colorado
Colorado Heart Association Research