

Thursday Thoughts - September 2, 2021

Fall is quickly approaching and we have definitely experienced a change in weather! JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER that WE DO NOT HAVE A LOST AND FOUND. Please label your child's jackets, coats, gloves, etc. and it will be returned to them. THANK YOU!

Teacher Communication ~ We definitely support open communication with parents. Teachers should have communicated to families their process and protocol for contacting them. Please remember that mornings are not the best as there is limited time to get all learners in, hands washed, breakfast served and class started. If you would like to meet, please email a request to staff OR call the office. THANK YOU!

Healthy School Meals FREE all year! Why do parents still need to apply?

Healthy school meals are FREE for all students the entire school year! The question now is...why should parents still apply for Free and Reduced Meal Benefits? See the three reasons in our [ATTACHED](#) link. For further information, please read the [ATTACHED](#) article from the US Department of Agriculture. REASONS TO APPLY~

1. P-EBT Benefits: Your family may be eligible to receive additional funds to buy food for children in your household during the pandemic through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Program.
2. D51 Discounts: Families can receive discounted school/test fees, bus passes, utilities and more.
3. D51 Funding: Additional resources to support healthy meals for students, afterschool programs and additional nutrition programs for students.

Privacy Reminder: All information provided is confidential and protected.

Families who qualify for meal benefits in the 2021-2022 YEAR will also receive the 30 day carry over eligibility for the next school year.

Looking for the school lunch menus? You can access them here
digitally-

[https://schools.mealviewer.com/district/MesaCountyValleySchool District,CO](https://schools.mealviewer.com/district/MesaCountyValleySchoolDistrict,CO)

TOYS - Per our handbook, toys are not to be brought to school. They can be a distraction to the learning environment, but also get lost. PLEASE support us in not bringing toys to school. Also, popular right now are the POP ITS! The jury is still out on the effectiveness of toys such as these (Pop its!, Fidget Spinners, Fidget boxes, etc.) Teachers are setting up classroom expectations around the use of POP ITS!. If they are used as toys, then they will be taken away.

PTA Pool Party WAS A HUGE SUCCESS! Unfortunately, I missed it because I was in a training in Denver. I ENJOYED seeing all of the pictures and hearing all of the stories! We look forward to creating an annual POOL PARTY in the Fall as a STEAM @ Tope Tradition!

Please take this quick survey to help us improve future PTA Family events <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P2QK8LJ>

COVID Protocols- Please stay informed with updates and changes through Dr Sirko's Friday email communication.

Just a reminder ~ Friday is EARLY RELEASE! Students will be dismissed every Friday at 2:00 pm.

NO SCHOOL - There is no school for students on Monday, September 6 and Tuesday, September 7

Growth Mindset Announcements happen daily at 9:05. You can find a copy of these announcements linked in the Tope website here:

https://tope.d51schools.org/about_us/principal_s_corner .

We invite you to read these and support the learning at your home as well! Our theme this month is Social/Emotional Skills and Strategies.

Registration and Student Fees - We have about 10% of our students who have not had their registrations finalized. Additionally, we continue to collect our student fees! Thank you to those that have paid the student activity fee. You can continue to turn in the \$35 fee. You can send it with your child in an envelope and their teacher will get it to the office, and a receipt will be returned to you. Student fees are not just for field trips. Student fees are utilized for planners, Monday folders, social studies materials, holiday and classroom crafts, and many more things. Thank you for supporting your child's learning in this way.

MORNING DROP OFF- We will continue to have drop off time as close to 8:50 as possible. Thank you for honoring this new system. **DO**

NOT DROP YOUR CHILD OFF PRIOR TO 8:40, WE DO NOT HAVE SUPERVISION AVAILABLE.

THINK SHEETS- Think sheets provide an opportunity for children to think about their actions. Think sheets are a "green zone" approach that allow students to think about a behavior, what the actual expectation is and what needs to happen to be ready for learning.

Think sheets should be used as a coaching tool only. Grounding, spanking, yelling, etc. should never accompany the coaching process. Here are some guiding questions as you visit with your child-

"Tell me a little bit about what happened today..."

"Why do you think you had to fill out a Think Sheet?"

"How can we prevent this from happening tomorrow?"

These think sheets are a "green zone" support, meaning that all Tope students need opportunities to think about their behavior at any given time. They do not go on their record or follow them for years.

Thank you for all of your flexibility and support with getting this year started. We continue to grow and develop our plan to support our learners in a safe environment. Our goal is to stay in school!!!

Create a beautiful life at home with your child,

Carrie Bollinger

IMPORTANT DATES

September

6 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day
7 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Plan Day
13-17 STEAM Week!
17 - PTA Movie Night
21 - Watch DOGS Sign up event
24 - Student of the Month Assembly
27-28 NO SCHOOL
28 - Parent Teacher Conferences