



# Longfellow Longhorns

"A Great Place to Learn"

Rick Herrejon, Principal

## BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Finance Committee received an update on cost savings measures that were implemented for the current school year. The Board originally tasked the administration to reduce costs by \$3 million for 16-17. Through diligent planning, savings are projected to total \$4.1 million. The savings beyond initial targets are attributed to a new contract for internet service, the conversion to a self-insurance program for employee benefits and a reduction in retirement costs for teachers. The aggregated savings from last school year to this school year total an anticipated \$9.1 million savings to the District.

### TAX LEVY PRESENTED

The Board of Education heard about the proposed 2016 tax levy. School District 21 requests a levy as a dollar amount, which is then distributed proportionately to all property owners in the District. It is projected that the tax extension will be 1% higher than last year, constrained by both state law and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 0.7%. This year's levy represents a potential annual increase in property taxes of \$23 for a homeowner whose property has a market value of \$300,000. CCSD21 utilizes property tax revenue to pay for budgeted expenses, like contractual obligations with staff members and outside vendors.

### NEXT MEETING

November 10, 2016 – 7:30 PM  
Gill Administration Center

### FACEBOOK & TWITTER

CCSD21 is on Facebook ([facebook.com/ccsd21](https://www.facebook.com/ccsd21)) and Twitter (@CCSD21). Links to each can be found at [www.ccsd21.org](http://www.ccsd21.org).

Dear Longfellow Parents and Guardians,

Fall has arrived and the newness of the school year has gone with the summer. Halloween has come and gone and I'd like to say the Longfellow Spooktacular Fitness Walk/School Walk for Diabetes was a complete success! Special thanks to Mr. Cook, our fantastic PE teacher, for organizing this event and raising money for juvenile diabetes.

Don't forget to vote! We encourage you to discuss with your children the election process, the importance of voting and having pride in our democracy.

Like most schools, Longfellow has been overcome with Cubs fever. The impossible is possible!!! We took that experience to our classrooms to further teach teamwork, persistence and believing in yourself. The Cubs winning the World Series means something different to all of us and part of my personal experience was sharing these moments with the students and staff of Longfellow.

Finally, with Thanksgiving right around the corner, it's a good time to reflect and be thankful for all the wonderful things in our lives. Your children continue to amaze me on a daily basis. I'm thankful to have an opportunity to spend so much of my life with them and I am always grateful for your continued support.

Rick Herrejon

## The Learning Connection

We all know that school success relies on solid study habits, paying attention in class and diligently doing homework.

But it's also critical for students to get physical activity, eat well, stay hydrated and get enough sleep. Research supporting the importance of healthy habits to academic performance has been mounting.

Simply put, nutritious eating plus activity equals a healthy lifestyle AND can provide your child his or her best chance at academic success. Health and academics are intimately linked. In other words, healthy kids=better learners.

Parents, grandparents, guardians and educators can all play a part in instilling healthy habits in our kids. These habits, which we hope will stick with them for a lifetime, can help them achieve academic and future success. Below are a few helpful ideas that you can do for your children to make sure they are healthy, fit and ready to learn.

- Make sure kids eat a nutritious breakfast before school
  - Eat a healthy dinner together
  - Limit screen time and sugary beverages
  - Make sure everyone gets enough sleep
- Send healthy snacks to school (hard cheese, fruit or vegetable)
  - Get involved in healthy activities
  - Set a good example at home

## Notable Quotes

*"We know what we are,  
but know not what we  
may be."*

- William  
Shakespeare

*"Somewhere, something  
incredible is waiting to be  
known."*

- Carl Sagan

## Dates & Events

### March

- 11/8 Election Day  
No School
- 11/11 Veterans Day  
Assembly
- 11/22 Education  
Exploration  
Showcase
- 11/23-11/25  
Thanksgiving Break  
No School
- 12/2 and 12/5  
Kids' Holiday Shop  
Lunch Hour
- 12/3 PTO Craft Fair

## Breakfast at School

Mornings can be really crazy! The alarm doesn't go off, the kids don't want to get up, there's no time to eat breakfast before the bus comes or they're just not ready to eat. If this sounds like your house, we have good news for you.

Breakfast is available at school! Take advantage of this option to ensure that your child eats a nutritious breakfast. Studies show a link between nutrition and learning. A nutritious breakfast helps students be more alert so they can actively participate in class. Breakfast has vitamins and nutrients for a strong and healthy body and mind!

Help your student start the day on the right foot! Make sure they eat a healthy, nutritious breakfast.

## Short Notes

### Attendance Affects Success...

Missing school can hurt both the absent students and their classmates.

When students miss school, they miss out on learning. They have to work harder to catch up. And when teachers have to use class time to repeat material for those who were absent, the whole class is delayed.

**BE SAFE....BE RESPECTFUL...BE RESPONSIBLE**

## Health Office Notes

**Health and Wellness:** With November leading up to the peak "influenza and cold" season, it is extremely important to stay on top of the spread of illness. As a reminder, if your child has been sick, please keep them home for at least 24 hours fever-free (without medicine) before sending them to school. **If your child has been vomiting, they MUST be home for 24 hours without an incident prior to coming back to school.** This is part of District 21 policy and stated in the Parent-Student Handbook. Your child will be sent home if they come to school before the 24 hour window.

**Attendance:** It is VERY IMPORTANT to call the school by 9:00am to let us know when your child will be absent. Our first responsibility is to keep each child safe, and if we do not receive a call from you, we consider the child missing. The Health Office makes many calls to check on a child's whereabouts and safety.

**Changing Temperatures:** Fall is a time of frequent changing weather conditions. A sunny morning can lead to a windy, rainy afternoon. Please help by making sure your child comes to school prepared for the weather changes. Listen to the weather report and have your child bring a jacket, umbrella, hat, etc. and please write your child's name on these items so that when misplaced, we can get them back to their owners. Remember, students go outside for recess everyday, unless it's raining, or in the winter when the temperatures are below 0.

