

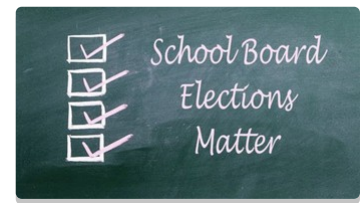
# Excel Academy Eagle Update

September 22, 2023

## UPDATES FROM THE SCHOOL

Dear Eagle Families,

**Jeffco Board of Education Election:** Did you know we have a coordinated election here in Jefferson County on November 7th? This year's ballot includes the opportunity to vote for two new Jeffco Public Schools Board of Education members. In Jefferson County, Board of Education members serve a designated district, but all Jefferson County voters get to vote on all seats. That said, one of the vacancies is for District 3, serving Arvada, Wheat Ridge, and north-central Lakewood - which includes Excel Academy. We encourage all eligible citizens learn more about the candidates, register, and vote in the election. To help our families learn more about the candidates, the Jeffco Charter School Consortium, a group of charter school leaders and board members, is hosting a candidate forum. I invite guardians to join me at the forum. Details below and [linked here](#).



**WHAT:** Jeffco Board of Education Candidate Forum

**HOST:** Jeffco Charter School Consortium

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 27th

**TIME:** 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Addenbrooke Classical Academy High School, 3940 S. Teller Street, Lakewood

**WHY:** Prepared questions focus on issues related to charter schools and school choice.

In addition, other organizations are hosting candidate forums throughout the district. You can see information about other upcoming candidate forums, find links to each candidate's website, and learn more about the Board of Education and election process on the [Jeffco Public Schools website](#).

In Partnership,  
Kresta Vuolo  
Executive Director

## Science Fair

6th-grade students (Freya and Harlow) meeting with a Forest Entomologist from the US Forest Service about their science fair project on Mountain Pine Beetles. Stay tuned, there will be more information about this year's science fair in the upcoming months.



## Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)

All second grade students will complete the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) during the first week of October.

Tuesday, October 3 - Verbal;

Wednesday, October 4 - Quantitative; Thursday, October 5 - Non-Verbal.

[CogAT Letter](#)



## Eagle Athletics

The Excel Academy Volleyball team started its season last night against the Woodrow Wilson Wildcats. The "B" team started thing off only to lose their two games. It was apparent that first game jitters were part of the cause for those losses, easy mistakes to be corrected! The "A" team followed and started the night out with a resounding win. It was a total team effort with several rallies lasting for several hits. Things went a bit awry, in games two and three as the Wildcats rallied to take the next two games in a row. Once again easily corrected mistakes cost the Lady Eagles the win. Volleyball resumes action on Thursday September 28th, as the Eagles host the Jaguars of Lincoln Academy!

## Hot Topics & Burning Questions

Periodically, we will share some questions received by our front office staff and share the answers here so that all may benefit. This week's topic focuses on student safety.



**Q: Why does Excel complete a background check each time a volunteer comes to the school?**

We use the Raptor instant background check system for our day to day volunteers and others who come to the school to support with children. In order to assure equity, we run checks for all folks each time they come to the school. Volunteers can provide a valid driver's license (card or via the MyColorado app), passport, or government-issued ID. The process takes 1-2 minutes. We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation in keeping all of our students and staff safe.

**Q: What are expectations for chaperones who support field studies?**

Chaperones are so valuable to our staff and students on field studies. They help in making a wonderful experience for the students in their group. Chaperone expectations are put forth for the safety and security for all students. The expectations of all chaperones include:

- Chaperones must keep all students in their group near them and in eye sight.
- Chaperones are expected to follow the directions of the teacher and/or facilitator on field studies.
- Chaperones are expected to follow school rules and be a model for our students.
- Siblings or other family members are not permitted on field studies.
- Parents and family members may not join the class at the destination for our field studies.
- No smoking or vaping is permitted.
- Chaperones are expected to ride the bus with the class unless otherwise specified.
- Chaperones should not be purchasing items or food for their child or other students on a field study.
- Chaperones must act as a good role model and not exhibit inappropriate behavior.

**Q: Should I be concerned if I see police at the school?**

Our law enforcement partners and Jeffco Public Schools Safety & Security officers come to our school for a variety of reasons. Officers come to share information, support school investigations when requested, follow up on Safe2Tell reports, observe emergency drills to make recommendations to improve safety, be a visible presence on campus when there might be something of concern happening in the broader community, and even just walk the halls to greet students and reinforce their familiarity with our school layout in case they ever need to respond to an emergency at Excel Academy. If there is ever a situation that families need to be made aware of, we or Jeffco Public Schools communications office will send information via School Messenger. This is one reason that it's important to keep your contact information and preferences updated in Infinite Campus.



## Author Jessica Kim Scheduled to Visit Our 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders

Excel Academy is honored to work with The Bookies Bookstore in bringing author Jessica Kim to Excel Academy on October 10 to visit with our 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. Jessica is touring and celebrating her newest book, *Make a Move, Sunny Park*, and is ready to share her craft with the students. *The Bookies Bookstore has discounted her books 20% off for this visit. Jessica will autograph and personalize books that are pre-ordered before the visit.*

Please print out [this book order form](#) and submit order and payment to the front office by **Wednesday, September 27**. Order forms also went home in Friday folders. We are so fortunate to have an author visit at no cost to the school; let's show our support by

purchasing one of her books. We are so excited to welcome Jessica Kim!

## Children's Museum Visits Excel 3rd Graders!

Our 3rd graders had so much fun during a visit from the Children's Museum today! They became Kinetic Engineers, building all kinds of ramps and roller coasters, preparing them for their next science unit, Forces and Motion. Be sure to ask your kiddo about their successes and challenges.



## Original Works Art Fundraiser!

Original works projects are wrapping up! Please stay tuned for more information on ordering your children's beautiful Art!!



## SOAR Winners

Congratulations to this week's SOAR drawing winners!

- Self-Discipline
- Outstanding Effort
- Acceptance of Others
- Resilience

- K- Madeline M.
- 1- Grace S.
- 2- Asher B.
- 3- Allie S.
- 4- ShiAnn T.
- 5- Myca P.
- 6- Emilia J.
- 7-Annika J.

## FROM THE CLINIC

### PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)



#### Grown Up Night Out

**Grown Up Night Out**

September 28th

Click [HERE](#) for details

#### Twisted Penny Final Week!

**Twisted Penny continues!** The students and staff are really excited about all the FUN and fundraising underway. Help us reach our goal of raising \$10,000 for our Field Studies and Specials department while helping your kiddo's class win one of the awesome daily classroom prizes!



For those of you who haven't experienced the fun, Twisted Penny is a PTO-led fun classroom competition to raise funds for our Field Studies Program and Specials Departments.

**How it works:** There are tables set up in the front lobby with coin bins for each homeroom teacher. Students are encouraged to put their change in the bins during the day. The competition really heats up at dismissal. Counts will be held every afternoon at 3:45 pm

- All paper money, checks and pennies are positive. **You want these in your classroom bin.** Get creative with how you "package" the checks and bills. Larger denominations can be hidden in smaller, checks can be wrapped in \$1 bills, etc! Make it fun!
- Silver coins are negative points. You want to put these in other classroom bins. This is the part we refer to as **the "Twist"**.

The daily prizes still up for grabs are listed below and on boards in the front lobby. The PTO will work with teachers to schedule and facilitate the prizes during October and November. The Middle School has their own competition, so be sure to participate!

#### **Elementary Prizes: Week #2**

M: Popsicles & Extra Recess

Tu: PJ's & Stuffed animal for the Day

W: Board Game & Popcorn Party

Th: Bubble Party with Ms Rothstein

F: WILD CARD (choose any from the list)

## Middle School Prizes: Week #2

M: Breakfast Party

Tu: Tie-Dye Party

W: Popsicles & Extra Recess

Th: Capture the flag vs Coach Miller and Staff

F: WILD CARD (choose any from the list)

**Looking for a volunteer opportunity?** Coin Counters are still needed every day. See open spaces in Track it Forward (preferred) <https://www.trackitforward.com/> or email [treasurer@excelpto.org](mailto:treasurer@excelpto.org)



## Vegas Night!

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE! Come out and join the Excel community for a Vegas Night Theme Party. This is the PTO's Fall Fundraiser, which is replacing the Love for Excel Gala this year. We'll have a silent auction, a buffet-style dinner, casino games, a photo booth, lawn games, a cash bar, and maybe even a special guest photo bomber! A starter pack of casino chips is included, and more chips will be available to purchase to keep the fun going! All the money spent in chips will go to the PTO, which in turn goes back to our kiddos and our school!

[Vegas Night Flyer](#)

Link to tickets - <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/e2e67644-d243-4d0b-b903-3cd3317a2357>

## PTO Links

[Excel Academy PTO Website](#)

[Track it Forward Volunteer Opportunities & Hours Tracking Site](#)

## ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS



## Boys Volleyball Clinic

7th and 8th grade boys! If you are interested in playing volleyball, Mr. Riley will be hosting a clinic with 2 other Arvada West HS coaches on September 17th and September 24th . Both sessions will be from 1pm to 3pm at A-West. Click the link on the attached flyer to register.

**This not a school sponsored event.**

## Join Ralston Valley H.S. Mini Dance Clinic.

**Kindergarten through 5th graders!** Join the Ralston Valley Poms for Mini-Mustangs Dance Clinic September 26th and 28th with a performance September 29th .

Click [HERE](#) for details.



## Helpful Links & Resources

[Order Breakfast or Lunch](#): **October** meals available to order. (due a week before the week of meals)

[Infinite Campus Parent Portal](#) (Check grades, missing assignments, attendance, pay fees)

[Infinite Campus Parent Directions](#)

[Log Volunteer Hours](#) and sign-up for volunteer opportunities

[2023-24 Excel Academy School Year Calendar](#)


Ideas for thanking a staff member: [Treats and Deets](#)





## Excel Academy K-8 Charter School

 Facebook

 11500 West 84th Avenue, Arvad...

 Julie.Smith@jeffco.k12.co.us

 303-467-2295

 excel-academy.jeffcopublicsch...