



## Falcon Homeschool Program Newsletter

**April 2, 3, and 4 2024**

### UPCOMING DATES:

**April 4th: Ms Kassi's field trip to Garden of the Gods**

**April 24th: Ms Stacy's field trip to the Denver Aquarium**

**April 30th: Ms Leanne's field trip to the Royal Gorge**

**May 9: Ms. Amber & Ms. Heather's field trip to the Gazette**

**Front Desk Number: (719) 495-5373**

### **Class Updates:**

#### *Arts and STEM Exploration*

##### *Ms. Jill*

Thank you again to all the parents and siblings who helped make our Planetarium trip such a success! Welcome back from what I hope was a great Spring Break! This quarter we will be learning about a musical piece called "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saens. This week we will begin by listening and guessing the animals Saint-Saens chose for each section of his piece. As the weeks continue, we will also listen to a new modern 'remix' of the piece as we incorporate art, drama, dance, and science concepts in our activities. It is going to be a lot of fun! Please email me at [jill.foster@d49.org](mailto:jill.foster@d49.org) with any questions that come to your mind!

##### *Ms. Amber*

Welcome back everyone! I am so excited to have all the students back in class and ready to learn some STEM! We will be learning more about earth's surface and how other planets' surfaces compare. This will help us with our long term engineering project of building a space lander to withstand severe conditions. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Email: [amber.albrecht@d49.org](mailto:amber.albrecht@d49.org)

##### *Ms. Stacy's Class (K-1)*

Welcome back students and families. I can't wait to see all your smiling faces this week, especially my Thursday class, as we missed our time together due to the snow day before break. I hope you all had a wonderful break and are ready to get back into the swing of things.

This week we will be starting our new unit in Social Studies looking at what makes a community. This week we will be observing different kinds of neighborhoods and different kinds of homes. In Science, we will be learning about Whales this week. Whales are the largest animals on Earth and they live in every ocean. We will explore the two different types of whales: the tooth whales and the baleen whales. We will be looking at their bodies and what makes them unique, and how whales communicate.

Please make sure you are filling out the survey and turning in your permission slip for our field trip to the Denver Aquarium on April 24th. We must have all surveys and permission slips ASAP so we can plan for a fantastic day. If you're willing to be a chaperone for another student I would love to have you. Please mark that on your survey and let me know ASAP so we can make sure you're ready to go.

Have a great week and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.  
[stacy.kley@d49.org](mailto:stacy.kley@d49.org)

### *Ms. Kassi's 2/3 Class*

Welcome back families from Spring Break. I hope you had a wonderful time with your family!

***This Thursday, April 4, is our field trip to Garden of the Gods. Please make sure to look out for the email from me with all detailed information. Chaperones and carpool drivers please meet at FHEP on Thursday morning. All other families, we will see you at the park!***

This week we will be learning about Ancient Roman clothing and food. Students will get to make their very own bulla, a necklace children wore for protection in Ancient Rome.

In science we will take a deeper look at solids and design a new toy using solids.

Thursday class, I will do my very best job to catch you up on all of the fun projects you may have missed due to snow days and our field trip!

*Please do not hesitate to email me anytime with any questions or concerns at [kassi.nemeth@d49.org](mailto:kassi.nemeth@d49.org).*

### *Ms Leanne's Class (4-5)*

Welcome back, especially Thursday's class, I've missed you! We have an amazing 4th quarter planned with lots of fun activities. To start with we will be learning about Georges Seurat in art and try our hand at some pointillism. In Science, we will be testing a variety of materials strengths. Students will see how

different material stands up under tension, torsion and compression. In our Civil War unit, we are wrapping up a soldier's life by learning about the different ranks that people held in the military.

Our field trip survey to the Royal Gorge will be sent out tomorrow. I'll be needing lots of drivers and chaperones. I appreciate your willingness to help in advance. We have the best parents! Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

[leanne.mckinney@d49.org](mailto:leanne.mckinney@d49.org)

### *Ms Amber's Class (6-7)*

Welcome back everyone! In science we will be starting a great unit on electromagnetism and how this phenomenon impacts the world around us. We will start by looking into magnetic fields and exploring different aspects of magnetism. This will prepare us for our overall project for the 4th quarter, building a "circuit city". In social studies this week we will be starting in ancient China. We will do an overview of some history and the dynasties. This will give us the background knowledge we will need for our ancient China tea ceremony project that will continue through the 4th quarter. Please keep an eye out for updates about the tea ceremony (the food/drink awareness and requirements). Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Email: [amber.albrecht@d49.org](mailto:amber.albrecht@d49.org)

## PROGRAM REMINDERS

### ***New Field Trip Policy***

**IMPORTANT** - We have a new policy for completing paperwork for field trips: First you must complete the survey that will be sent to you via email three to four weeks before the field trip. It lets us know if your child is attending and if your child needs a ride. Then we need your permission slip, and money; if money is needed, turn these in together. All of these steps need to happen before the field trip. Our teachers have put a lot of time and effort into finding wonderful field trips that go with their curriculum, that they feel their students will love and benefit from. We want all our students to experience our field trips.

However, our new policy is that all items are due no later than one week before the field trip: the survey, permission slip and money (if applicable). If those items don't get turned in one week prior, your child will not be able to attend the field trip. We will have a list on the board in the multipurpose room of all the upcoming field trip dates and what's needed for each one. Your child's teacher will also have due dates on their wipe boards outside their classrooms.

### ***Welcome Back***

We hope all of you had a wonderful Spring Break! We sure enjoyed our breaks, and we missed your fantastic kids! We have lots of amazing things planned in this fourth quarter, and we will be so happy to see your smiling faces back at school this week!

### ***Confirmation Emails for Re-Enrollment for the 2024-2025 School Year***

On Monday, April 1, you should have received an email from Ms. Katie with confirmation details pertaining to your child's enrollment with FHP for the upcoming school year. Obviously, if you've already let us know that you won't be returning next year, you shouldn't have received an email. If you haven't received an email and you plan on returning to FHP next year, please contact Ms. Katie ([kathryn.boal@d49.org](mailto:kathryn.boal@d49.org)) so we can make any necessary corrections.

### ***Note from the Registrar's Desk***

Hello wonderful FHP families. Thank you to all of you who completed our Intent to Return Survey. We are thrilled with how many of our families will be returning next school year, 24-25. We have placed your student(s) on our official rosters for next year based off of your survey answers. You will be receiving a confirmation email within the next month.

However we do understand that sometimes plans change. If your plans change, whether that be moving, changing educational needs, etc., please let Ms Nancy know as soon as your plans are finalized. All of our classes are filling up quickly, so as a courtesy to families on our waitlists, we don't want to hold a space for your student(s) if they will not be returning.

Thank you so much, Ms Nancy - [nancy.carder@d49.org](mailto:nancy.carder@d49.org)

### ***Chaperone and Driver Info***

Spring Classroom Field Trips are Quickly Approaching - Have you completed a background check yet?

Field trips for our program depend on parent drivers and chaperones. If you would like to help out our program and volunteer, you will need to have a background check completed by District 49.

- If a background check is completed between July 1 and Feb 28, the background check is valid through June 30.
- If a background check is completed between March 1 and June 30, the background check is

valid until June 30 *of the following year.*

To complete a background check follow this link and complete the application linked at the bottom of the page. The cost of the background check is \$5.00. Thank you so much for your willingness to help our program with this need. [Volunteer applications](#)

**\*\*Please note that if you would like to go on the field trip with your student, but are NOT chaperoning or driving other students, you do NOT need to have a background check completed.**

If you have any questions regarding volunteering, please contact Ms. Nancy at [nancy.carder@d49.org](mailto:nancy.carder@d49.org)

### ***49 Photo Opt Out Policy Update***

Hello Families, this is a letter that was sent to us from our District 49 Digital Communications Manager, Joe Quevillion.

Dear Parents,

Last month, District 49 sent out a message to families that have signed a media denial form. This update only applies to those families. No action is needed if this doesn't pertain to you.

In order to confirm District 49 has the correct students listed in our new Photo Opt Out policy, we are asking that you resubmit a new form approved by the Board of Education.

Over the past several years, we have seen numerous incidents where a student was listed in the previous "media denial" form, but parents allowed them to participate in photos and videos.

In November, the Board of Education approved a new Photo Opt Out policy. If you would like your student to remain listed in our Photo Opt Out policy you must fill out the new form in PowerSchool.

We will begin using the new Photo Opt Out list in March.

Instructions can be found on the D49 website here:

<https://www.d49.org/Page/10310>

I have checked in Powerschool on some families that I know were previously "media denied" and they are no longer showing up as so due to the form not being filled out. I mark media denied earlier in the year, so thankfully I know who does not want their child to be pictured for this year, but it will not be the case for next year, so please take the time to fill out the form if you need.

### ***Help for High School: A Day of Seminars and Workshops*** ***Thursday, Apr 25, 2024@ The Campus***

Our FHP staff is so excited to invite all current middle and high school FHP parents to our second Help for High School Day filled with helpful seminars and workshops. This year we will be having three different sessions which all focus on something different: High School 101, Transcript Workshop, and Concurrent Enrollment Info Session. Parents may sign up for one session or all three!

If interested please register for the workshop by April 24th using the following link for the sessions you would like to attend: [Help for High School](#)

## ***Homeschool Helpful Tips***

### ***Looking Ahead to Next Year: Part 1-Reflection***

When I homeschooled, I often would begin to look towards the next school year around April. Not surprisingly, this is also the time many homeschool publishers begin to have great sales on their curriculum.

For the month of April I will be sharing some great tips on how to begin preparing for the following school year. This week I would suggest taking a few moments to reflect on your current year.

Here are some great questions and thoughts to consider:

- What is working well and not so well?
- Analyze how your curriculum is working for each of your children.
- Do you have a good balance of activities, enrichment, sports... or do you need to add or take away some commitments?
- What challenges have you had this school year? Were you able to persevere through them?
- How could you receive more support or help next year?

Write your reflections down, especially the positives!!!! Come back next week for another helpful tip for Looking Ahead to Next Year!

*Find Joy in your every day!*  
Ms. Kassi, FHP Home Based Education Specialist  
kassi.nemeth@d49.org