



Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association

Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Fall 2014

IF TODAY THEY CAN READ...TOMORROW THEY CAN LEAD! INC DICTIONARY DRIVE

In mid-September, dictionaries were distributed to over 70 3rd grade students at Cory Elementary School. This event happened in every 3rd grade class in the entire Denver Public School system, and over 7000 students in all received this "GIFT OF WORDS" compliments of the 19th annual \$Dollar\$ Dictionary Drive. Since it began in 1996, The DDD has provided more than 275,000 books to over 127,000 students. This program, a national award-winning project of the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (INC) a non-profit 501(c), is a coalition of Denver neighborhood organizations, including our own Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association. Your financial support of our CMNA allows us to participate in this program every year for this project with volunteers to assist in labeling, packaging and distributing these "GIFTS OF WORDS" to Children around our City. For information, visit www.DenverINC.org (Dollar Dictionary Drive link).



George Mayl (INC and CMNA neighbor) and Cory Students
Photos from Diana Golden - DPS

SCHOOL DAZE...What's happening at Merrill?

from neighbor, Kerry Zeller and Jessica Luecking (DPS)

6th Grade Academy

The 6th Grade Academy was a great start to the school year! The academy is designed to help students navigate the changing social scene. During the four day academy students offer a series of icebreakers and team building exercises helped to ease the 6th Graders into the new atmosphere. With the help of our 8th Grade leaders and all of the Merrill administration and staff this academy was a success!



Challenge Day

This first time event was a day full of learning for our 8th grade students about themselves and their peers. Many students go through a lot their 8th grade year, deciding what high school to attend, what their future may hold, and many individual struggles. The Challenge Day was a day for the students to express their fears and thoughts. It was a day without judgment and a day of fun! A special thank you to all the parents and community volunteers. Without you this event would not have been possible!

Neighborhood QUARTERLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY,

OCTOBER 15

6:00 pm

at the Kirk of Bonnie Brae.

Presentations and Q/A

Session with Denver

City Staff from the Offices

of 311 and Sustainability

Bring along your questions!

Keep our neighborhood organization alive. A pre-addressed envelope is enclosed. Your contributions are always appreciated. Send your checks for any amount payable to Cory Merrill Neighborhood Association PO Box 101713, Denver, CO 80210-1713.

2 **A seasonal treat to keep you warm this fall!**
Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients (makes 8-10 servings)

- 6 cups chicken stock
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 4 cups pumpkin puree
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 5 whole black peppercorns



Heat stock, salt, pumpkin, onion, thyme, garlic, and peppercorns. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer for 30 minutes uncovered. Puree the soup in small batches (1 cup at a time) using a food processor or blender. Return to pan, and bring to a boil again. Reduce heat to low, and simmer for another 30 minutes, uncovered. Stir in heavy cream. Pour into soup bowls and garnish with fresh parsley. Recipe shared from http://allrecipes.com/recipe/pumpkin-soup/detail.aspx?src=VD_Summary

Could it be a FOX or a coyote?

If you haven't seen our furry friends, there have been foxes and lots of other WILD animals hanging out in the neighborhood for years. You may see them in the Bonnie Brae area, along the bike path off Steele and many times roaming through the Archdiocese and Seminary land...even on the streets in Cory-Merrill. Most times these furry creatures can be scared off easily and it's rare for them to cause concern for your family or your pets as long as you leave them alone. But if you have an issue that needs attention, call the City's Animal Control at 311 or file a report at <http://www.denvergov.org/denveranimalshelter/DenverAnimalShelter/AnimalControl/tabid/445177/Default.aspx>



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Have you seen the Chihuly glass exhibit at the Botanic Gardens? The show will begin a nighttime performance "Chihuly Nights" from October 3 through November 30.



(Closed November 1, 8, 13, 14, 15 and 27)
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Admission:
\$10 member, \$15 non-member
Tickets only available online.
Last entry at 8 p.m., Grounds close at 9 p.m.



DO YOU COMPOST?

The Denver Composts program allows Denver residents to collect organic material (food, non-recyclable paper and yard debris) for composting. Composting dramatically reduces the waste we send to the landfill and - in so doing - prevents greenhouse gas emissions. Composting also

produces a valuable product that makes our soil richer and more productive.

Residents enrolled in the program receive a large green compost cart (similar to the Denver Recycles purple cart) and a two-gallon kitchen pail. Composting is picked up once a week by Denver Recycles. The Denver Composts program is a fee-based service and residents living in areas that are eligible for the service have two options for payment: **A quarterly payment plan of \$29.25 every three months, or a one-time payment of \$107.00 for the entire year**, payable in whole on or before February 15th (there is a discount for choosing the one-time payment option).

Residents can check their current eligibility to participate in the Denver Composts program by visiting DenverGov.org/DenverRecycles or by calling 311 in Denver. *Thanks to neighbor Debbie Fimpe for gathering this information.*



1699 S. Colorado Blvd. 720.420.0535
Monday-Saturday 11am - 9pm
Sunday 10am - 3pm



PJ Magin
Karen Staggs
Keller Williams Denver Central
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ENVELOPES INCLUDED FOR THE FALL DUES DRIVE!

Lisa Reynolds, CMNA Treasurer

Hello Neighbors- Our once a year **Dues Drive** is this month. We are a completely volunteer organization and we rely on donations to cover our costs. Each year we have a Neighborhood picnic (this year's

attendance was over 200 people), we print four newsletters that get hand delivered to every household, we donate to the Denver Dictionary Drive, and we hold several small Neighborhood Social gatherings. In addition, we use the dues to cover costs for our website, purchase office supplies, and cover our State neighborhood membership fees. Last year we had an AMAZING 67 families donate for a total of over \$2000. The average donation was \$31. Thank you to all of you in advance for this year's contributions. We appreciate your support!

Cory-Merrill Neighborhood 2014 Board Members

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To reach any of
these individuals,
visit our website
www.corymerrill.org

Mailing address:
CMNA
PO Box 101713
Denver, CO 80210-1713

This newsletter is designed
and coordinated by
neighbor, Mikki Wilder
Submit story ideas to
[corymerrillnewsletter@
wilderideas.com](mailto:corymerrillnewsletter@wilderideas.com)

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*** REAL ESTATE UPDATE ***

provided by Karen Staggs and PJ Magin - Keller Williams Denver Cherry Creek

As summer comes to a close and the kids head back to school the Denver metro area and surrounding communities took a familiar turn to a softening market. According to a report issued by Metrolist, Colorado's largest MLS and the provider REcolorado.com on September 10, 2014, prices dipped a bit in the month of August, the number of sold listings decreased and homes stayed on the market a bit longer. Since March, Cory Merrill has seen 111 houses sold, averaging 18.6 houses sold every month. The average net and median price sold price is \$558,000, which is up \$55,000 since the February newsletter. In both averages, sellers are getting 102% of their asking price. The average price per square foot is \$247. Luxury homes are a hot item in Cory Merrill with one of 73 homes sold hitting \$1,650,000 and four others at \$1,220,000+ and seven homes at \$1,000,000+. CNBC is reporting that the Federal Reserve is done with its monthly buying program, which included mortgage-backed securities. In addition, Washington is continuing to unwind Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which means that there will likely be less money to fund housing which means higher mortgage rates. This dynamic in combination with Denver's pricey market will mean homes will likely be more expensive for buyers in the 2015 and sales a little slower for Sellers.



The 2014-15 school year has gotten off to a great start at South High

contributed by neighbor Kerry Ziller

Over the Summer, the school received new pipes for water, new boilers, repairs to the roof, updated science rooms, a new kiln and kiln room for ceramics, new bathrooms, and a fresh coat of interior paint, along with some other improvements that have the school looking good inside and out.

The Freshman Class as part of the SH Digital Content Initiative received Kindle Fire HD Tablets that will allow them to do homework and reading assignments on the e-reader. No more heavy backpacks!

Fall sports and activities have also gotten off to a good start. Important upcoming events:

- Homecoming football game: South vs. GW Friday, Oct. 17 4:00 at All City Stadium
- Fall play: Into the Woods November 13, 14, 15, 16
- Open House for prospective students Thursday, November 20 from 6:00-8:00

For a more detailed calendar of events, general information about the school and information about student shadowing and/or tours, check out the South High website at denversouth.org

GO REBELS!

Kirk of Bonnie Brae

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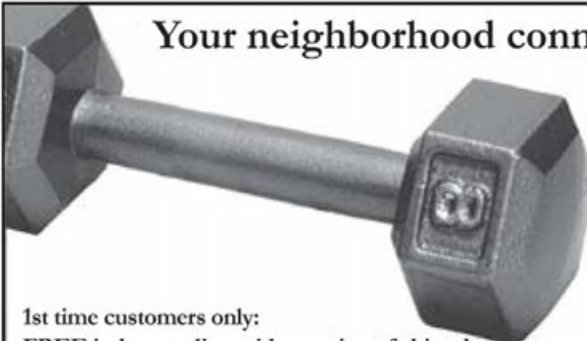
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Another Great Elementary Option in our Neighborhood from neighbor, Erika Sabatos

Creativity Challenge Community (C3), a Denver Public Innovation School, is located in the south wing of Merrill Middle School. These elementary kids share the gym, auditorium, lunchroom and library with their middle school elders but operate as a separate elementary school. C3's mission is to incorporate creativity into all subjects and encourage creative-thinking skills, challenge each student to reach their highest potential and learn in collaboration with community partners for real-life learning. One of C3's community partners is the Denver Art Museum, where the kids spend six Fridays in an on-going, collaborative arts education that no other school in the state can offer. C3 practices Content Specialization in grades 1-4, where teachers focus on teaching one area: either reading and writing or math, science and social studies. This style of teaching contributes to the success of each student to think creatively to solve problems and is challenged by two teachers daily. This unique learning environment is what makes C3 top choice for many families in Southeast Denver.

The school was inspired and created by principal, Julia Shepherd, who had been the principal at Cory for six years, and spent two years writing a successful School Innovation Grant and Beacon application with Merrill Middle School and a design team of educators and community members. They applied to Denver Public Schools and worked to get approval in June 2011 and marketed for the 2012-2013 school year, recruiting students for Kindergarten through 2nd grades that first year.

Each year, the school has added a grade and is currently Kindergarten through 4th grades, with two classes of each grade. With waitlists to get in, C3 has proven another excellent elementary option in our neighborhood. Since C3 is an Innovation school, it is not a neighborhood "home school" but Cory Merrill neighborhood families are part of a priority zone for the choice process. The School Choice and Enrollment forms are due in January.

If you have small children, you have probably played on the C3 playground with the fun rope structure they call the Eiffel Tower (pictured to the right with 1st graders from last school year). DPS will be adding more to the play areas, as well as a C3 garden along the west side of the parking lot. Since C3 is now part of the Cory Merrill neighborhood community, you are encouraged to take a Thursday morning tour to learn more information about their mission and philosophy of teaching kind and courageous thinkers.



Principal Julia Shepherd with some of her C3 students

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<http://c3.dpsk12.org>
 or call the office
 at 720-424-0630.

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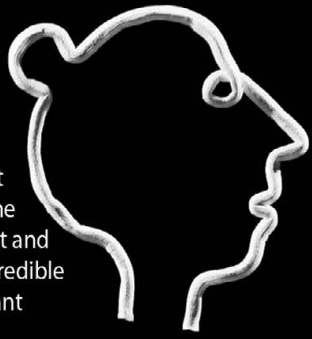
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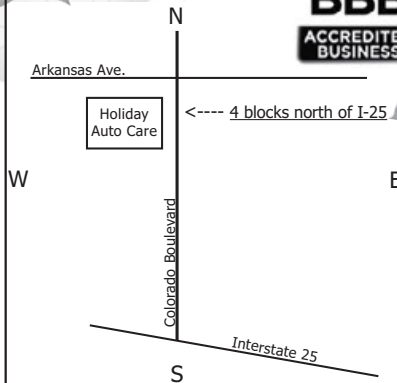


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at the Neighborhood Gathering Place in the courtyard in front of Timberleaf Construction, at the corner of Louisiana and Clayton) for a celebration complete with hot chocolate and marshmallows.

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Meet your neighbors!



**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 10**

at dusk
(from 6:00pm - 7:30pm)