



Foothill Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) New Parent Packet

Welcome to Foothill Elementary! The PTO has put together this packet as a reference for you throughout the year. We hope that you will be able to use this to help you navigate the ins and outs of Foothill.

The purpose of the Foothill Elementary PTO is to support and enrich the educational experience of Foothill families by building community, planning events, providing additional resources such as classroom paras, health room para and a community liaison, recruiting volunteers and raising the funds to support these efforts. The PTO Board works closely with the Principal, School Accountability Committee (SAC), teachers, staff, parents and students to help make Foothill an amazing place. For more information, visit:

www.foothillpto.com

A Warm Welcome to Foothill

We know that starting in a new school can often be overwhelming not only for the students, but also for the parents. The Welcome Team provides a personal connection for new Foothill families serving as a friendly face and a go-to point to find out information about our school. Each grade has a representative that parents can turn to for any questions they may have about our school. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have.

2018-19 Welcome Team Grade Level Representatives

GRADE	NAME	EMAIL
Kindergarten	Christy Drury	ccolett@gmail.com
1st	Alexis Schwartz	alexisnschwartz@yahoo.com
2nd	Shannon Weisblatt	shanweisblatt@gmail.com



3rd	Melanie Bauer	melanie.bauer@gmail.com
4th	Shannon Weisblatt	shanweisblatt@gmail.com
5th	Erica Kuhl	erica.kuhl@gmail.com

Communication

As a [Green Star School](#) the vast majority of our communication occurs online. Most answers you need will be found without even picking up the phone!

- Reading the weekly e-blast communications sent from the office each Tuesday is the easiest (and most important!) way to know what is going on in and around Foothill, so please read these closely.
- Occasionally, the office will send out additional emails as needed (urgent or important topics, reminders, etc.)
- The [PTO website](#) and [Facebook](#) pages are also great sources of information, so check those regularly as well.
- Check the [Foothill Elementary School](#) website for lunch schedules, current calendar, access to your BVSD Infinite Campus account to update family information and to report an absence and announcements.
- The [PTO website](#) also includes a link to our student and family directory within our Help At School platform. We encourage you to register at your earliest convenience as this allows other families to contact you as needed as well as allows parents and guardians to volunteer for various activities within the Foothill community.
- [Register to receive PTO email updates](#) direct to your e-mail inbox.

Community Building Events

- **Kindergarten Play Groups:** Typically a playgroup is held each month over the summer (June, July + August) for incoming Kindergarteners to come play and get to know each other, meet other Kindergarten families and, if their schedule allows, even a Kindergarten teacher! All Kindergarten families will be invited to attend the three



play groups that occur on the kindergarten playground (fenced in western playground).

- **Check In Day:** The day before school begins, all families are invited to come to Foothill on the day before school starts to find their classrooms, meet their teachers, sign up for volunteer roles, get their class photographs taken, find out about fundraising opportunities for Foothill and meet other families. Popsicles will be provided and distributed by the PTO for all students.
- **Meet the Parents nights:** Evening meet and greet for parents hosted by grade level families, usually in September or October.
- **Spirit Days:** Every Friday all students and staff are encouraged to wear Foothill Foxes shirts.
- **Back to School Picnic:** A much looked forward to tradition at Foothill that occurs within the first few weeks of a new school year. Food trucks, games and getting to know others within our school community are highlights of this event.
- **Heritage Night:** All students and families are encouraged to attend this special evening of sharing food, enjoying live music and dance performances while traveling with Foothill passports to various continents that represent our diverse cultural heritages. This event typically occurs in the Fall.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many types of volunteer opportunities at Foothill including, but not limited to, classroom assistance, special events, field trips, helping in the library, the PTO and much more! We are grateful for all the time and positive energy volunteers dedicate to our school. It is our hope that every family can find some opportunity during the school year to volunteer their time, whether it be for one hour or something each week. It takes a village and we appreciate our parent volunteers' contributions to our school community.

Beginning Winter 2018, we are launching a new way for you to volunteer at Foothill by utilizing the [Help At School platform](#). Please register and check to see what volunteer opportunities are currently available and check back throughout the year as new opportunities are added. We sincerely appreciate your time and talents that you share with the Foothill community! We couldn't do it without you and your efforts will only help to enrich the students' experience.



Fundraising

Did you know...

Colorado ranks 47th in per pupil spending change between 2002-03 and 2012-13 ([National Center for Education Statistics](#))

Colorado ranks 42nd in per-pupil spending adjusted for regional cost differences (Ed Week, [2016 Quality Counts](#), 2013 data)

Colorado ranks 40th in per pupil spending ([National Center for Education Statistics, 2012-13 data, Colorado vs National Per Pupil Spending](#))

Colorado ranks 39th in spending on education adjusted for regional cost differences (Ed Week, [2016 Quality Counts](#), 2013 data)

Fundraising events occur throughout the year at Foothill to meet the difference in what funding is provided by the state and what funds are actually needed to provide a successful school experience for our students.

The two biggest fundraising opportunities at Foothill are our Fund the Fox and Give to Grow campaigns.

Fund the Fox

At the start of every school year, the Foothill PTO requests financial support from the parent community to ensure our school has sufficient funding to provide a high quality educational experience for our children. Foothill's Fund the Fox campaign is a long standing, successful program that provides the critical funding necessary for the staffing and resources that are not provided for by the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD).

Learn more about this year's Fund the Fox campaign, [here](#).

Give to Grow

Give to Grow is a capital campaign with the purpose of providing one-time money for school initiatives that strategically work toward our shared vision and goals. Our vision states: At Foothill



Elementary, we are committed to creating an engaging environment that nurtures the whole child. Our interdisciplinary approaches to learning are inquiry-based, student-centered and collaborative. We challenge all learners through differentiation and measure their success in multiple ways to truly reflect their individual growth and progress.

The Give to Grow initiative is not intended to replace Fund the Fox, and is distinctly different in that it targets specific, innovative improvements at Foothill Elementary.

Learn more about this year's Give to Grow campaign, [here](#).

Other fundraising opportunities at Foothill include:

- **[Amazon Smile](#)**: Amazon will donate .05% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Foothill Elementary. Amazon Smile is the SAME Amazon you know - same products, same prices, same services.
- **[Box Tops for Education](#)**: For every Box Top you clip, Foothill will receive 10 cents. That may not sound like a lot, but it adds up quickly! Hundreds of products participate in the program, and you probably already have several in your pantry, freezer and fridge. Each school can receive up to \$20,000 per school year from clipped Box Tops.
- **[Grandrabbit's Toy Shoppe Bunny Bucks](#)**: Grandrabbit's Toy Shoppe has partnered with local schools to offer the popular and successful Bunny Bucks for Schools program. Customers can designate 5% of their pre-taxed purchase to the school of their choice at time of purchase. Simply mention Foothill Elementary when checking out. Bunny Bucks are accrued throughout the year, and in January a gift card is issued to each participating school, which can be redeemed by teachers for toys, books and enrichment materials for their classrooms.
- **[Feed the Foxes](#)**: One fundraiser that is a universal favorite is a "Dine Out" event. This fundraiser, which we've deemed a "Feed the Foxes" event - clever, right?! - gives parents a night off from cooking AND donates money back to Foothill without any extra cost to families that participate.
- **[Grocery Give Back](#)**: We appreciate your participation in the Grocery Give Back Program! Grocery cards raise significant funds for Foothill with no additional cost to you! Safeway & King Soopers donate 5% to our school on every reload and Lucky's Market donates 7%. Simply reload (add value to) your card at the cash register PRIOR to your first item being scanned. Reloading value to your card is done in a separate transaction and you can make payment with a credit card, debit card, check or cash.



- **Kidz Artworks**: Kidz Artworks (formerly known as KidzArt) was founded in Boulder, Colorado in 1998 by two moms who love children's art. They established Kidz Artworks to enable schools to raise funds and feature their art curriculum while providing parents with fundraising products they would be excited about. They offer a wide variety of products all featuring the unique artwork of your child.
- **Milk Caps for Moola**: Milk Caps for Moola is a program sponsored by Longmont Dairy that helps students earn money for their school. Longmont Dairy milk caps are worth 5¢ each and are redeemable for cash by participating schools only.
- **Spirit Wear**: Show your Foothill pride by purchasing spirit wear for your entire family! Every purchase made helps fund school projects and events sponsored by the PTO. Students and staff are encouraged to wear spirit wear each Friday to promote our amazing school community.
- **Payback Books**: It was also decided that Payback would give a generous 50% profit (\$10 of the \$21 purchase price) for every Payback book that a school sells....an unheard of concept in coupon book fundraising (other similar books start at a mere 20% profit).

Weekly Foothill Eblast

Every Tuesday you will receive the weekly announcements via email from the school. This email contains ALL the important information for the week and will answer most questions you may have!

Helpful Information

- PTO Website
<http://www.foothillpto.com>
- Foothill PTO Facebook Account
<https://www.facebook.com/foothill.elementary>
- Foothill PTO Twitter Account
https://twitter.com/Foothill_PTO



- School Calendar
<http://foe.bvsd.org/About/Pages/calendar.aspx>
- School Hours, Lunch Times and Schedules
<http://foe.bvsd.org/About/Pages/bell.aspx>
- Foothill Phone Numbers
Main Office: 720-561-2600
Attendance: 720-561-2602
- Report Student Attendance Online
<http://foe.bvsd.org/parents/Pages/Report-Absence.aspx>
- Foothill Elementary Website
<http://foe.bvsd.org/Pages/default.aspx>
- PTO Contacts:
 - Melanie Bauer, President: president@foothillpto.com
 - Garret Savage, Vice President: FoothillPTO.VPresident@gmail.com
 - Robin Miller, Treasurer: FoothillPTO.Treasurer@gmail.com
 - Christy Drury, Secretary: FoothillPTO.Secretary@gmail.com
 - Maria Bloomfield, Community: FoothillPTO.Community@gmail.com
 - Alexis Schwartz, Fundraising: FoothillPTO.Fundraising@gmail.com