



December 2, 2022

"Our vision is educational excellence in knowledge, skills, and character with strong parent-teacher-student partnerships."

Dear Wolverines,

Happy Friday! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Fall Break last week. It was fun to hear about some of the adventures your children went on while we were away from school.



Did you know?

As I mentioned in the last Friday Note, I am going to spend some time sharing details about our *Parent Partnership* pillar. I would again like to invite everyone

to look at our [Hand-in-Hand Guidebook](#). My hope is that by sharing this, we can create a common vision and understand how things “work” at Traut, what to do when we have concerns, and how to ensure that our partnerships remain strong.

Before the break, I shared “Step 1” – Unity in a shared mission and vision. Today, I want to share “Step 2” – The fundamental importance of mutual respect.

From the guidebook:

“Before a working relationship even begins, the fundamental attitude from each student, teacher, and parent is one of mutual respect for the valuable role the other person brings to the partnership.

Teachers will remember that " ... every child's first and most important teachers are his or her parents. Our school exists to supplement and support the learning that is started in the home. " (TCKS Covenant) **Parents** will remember that "This partnership includes the responsibility to support the school staff and provide good examples of behavior and work habits for their children. " (TCKS Covenant) **Parents** will remember that the teacher is the final authority on all matters within the classroom. The **teachers** will remember that parents retain the final responsibility when it comes to their individual children. In the case of a conflict, the way the partners interact with each other should not undermine the authority of the other individual. **Parents** will be respectful of the teachers' privacy as it relates to their desks and personal property. **Teachers** will be respectful of the privacy and confidentiality of the parents and students with regard to personal family matters. **Parents and teachers** will respect confidentiality with regard to personnel records and student records and files.”

Mutual respect is the glue that holds our partnerships together and keeps us strong.

Families with incoming Kindergarten(2023-24) and outgoing 5th graders: IMPORTANT

The first-round school choice window is open now! Siblings who will attend Traut next year **MUST** submit a school of choice application. If your 5th grader plans to

attend Kinard Middle School, you also MUST submit a school of choice application for Kinard.

Parents should submit school choice applications before December 15, 2022 for the first-round period. You can learn more about PSD's updated platform and the school choice process here: <https://www.psdschools.org/schools/school-choice-process>

Reminder: If your student is already enrolled at Traut, we are their school through 5th grade. You do NOT need to re-enroll or sign up through the lottery again.

Hat & Mitten Tree

For nearly 30 years, Traut has collected hats and mittens for children in need across Larimer County with our Hat & Mitten Tree service project. These items go directly to *Realities for Children*, a local non-profit organization, and are distributed to children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, or are at risk.

Please bring new hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, earmuffs, etc. to the Media Center any time between now and December 21st. Thank you for your kind generosity!

Lego Robotics – 1st Place Winners!

The Traut Lego Robotic Challenge teams competed at the city qualifying tournament at Poudre High School on 11/12. They went head-to-head with 22 other 4th-8th grade teams. The Lego Princesses and Energy Hounds both qualified for the state tournament next week in Denver.

The Lego Princesses won the Champion's Award 1st place trophy. They also won the Robot Performance Award 2nd place trophy. Coached by Lance Celli, the Lego

Princesses include students: Noelle B., Alysha C., Rhonda Y., Netra V., Marian L., and Sydney L.

The Energy Hounds won the Robot Performance Award 1st place trophy. They also won the Innovation Project Award 2nd place trophy. Coached by Alan Pippin, Robert Havlik, and Rebecca Lyle, the Energy Hounds include students: William H., Annalise F., Zachary P., Grey W., Yashu M., Calvin S., Adam W., and Kamber L.

We have a strong tradition of Lego Robotics here at Traut, and these teams taking the top 2 spots across the board at the city tournament is a testament to the students and committed parent partners who work together to help make this happen.

Chessmates – 2nd Place Winners!

Our Traut team won 2nd place at the Chessmates tournament on Nov 19th! There were teams from Fort Collins, Timnath, Windsor, Boulder, Greeley, and Wyoming competing. Well done!

Members of the team include: Aiden H., Adler L., Nicholas L., Cade W., Yusuf H., Kelsey H., Nadav S., Irshita, K., Mattias L., Rhonda Y., Haoming W., Jason W.

Absence Reporting

Please be sure to let the office know if your child is going to be absent! Whether it is for a trip, appointment, or illness, it is important that we know when your child is not at school.

You can call the attendance line at 970-488-7503 24 hours a day to report an absence. When students are not at school and we have not heard from a parent or guardian, we do have to reach out to make sure that they are safe and accounted

for. Calling the attendance line makes our job a whole lot easier and really cuts down on the number of phone calls we need to make.

Thank you very much for your help with this!

Shop With a Purpose!

Join us at the Spice Tea Exchange (next to Super Target in the Front Range Village Shopping Center) for **Shop Out with Traut!** Dec. 5th -7th. Help raise money for our Wolverine Fund to support projects at Traut! You must mention this promo at the time of check-out. See the flyer, [here](#).

Healthy Kids Colorado

Healthy Kids Club (HKC) is a community health program sponsored by UCHealth to promote health and wellness among elementary-age children in northern Colorado.

Their goal is to provide opportunities and access to programs that promote life-long healthy habits. Check out their newsletter [here](#).

Spelling Bee – Coming Soon!

- TCKS Spelling Bee competition for 3rd – 5th graders only, will begin on **Thursday, Jan. 5th @ 3:15 p.m.**
- Competition will resume each afternoon until a winner is determined. (Jan. 6th, 9th, & 10th if needed.)
- To be held in Mrs. Whitcomb's classroom- Room 219
- Spelling List link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tTsGiLrg5JtcRzlvE0-LjB-BPyA1fkqa/view?usp=sharing>

Opt-In to get PSD text updates!

If you did not get an update from PSD about the late start this week, please take a moment to sign up to get text messages. Any time school is canceled or postponed, or other emergency information is shared from PSD, parents who have opted-in to get text messages will get that information first.

To opt in, please go to:

<https://it.psdschools.org/Guide/schoolmessenger-sms-enrollment-guide-parents-flyer>

Important Dates

New Parent Orientation, 5:30-7:30 pm	12/5/22
Winter Break – No School	12/22/22 – 1/4/23
First Day of 2 nd Semester	1/5/2023
MJK, Jr. Day – No School	1/16/2023

“It is easy to mourn the lives we aren’t living. Easy to wish we’d developed other talents, said yes to different offers. Easy to wish we’d worked harder, loved better, handled our finances more astutely, been more popular, stayed in the band, gone to Australia, said yes to the coffee or done more yoga...It is easy to regret, and keep regretting, ad infinitum, until our time runs out. But it is not the lives we regret not living that are the real problem. It is the regret itself. It’s the regret that makes us shrivel and wither and feel like our own and other people’s worst enemy. We can’t tell if any of those other versions would have been better or worse. Those lives are happening, it is true, but you are happening as well, and that is the happening we have to focus on.”

~Matt Haig from “The Midnight Library”

For me, December is a time that I seem to “look back” and reflect on the year. I do believe that taking the time to be reflective, especially in the field of education, is critically important. Taking the time to recognize the decisions I made that didn’t lead to the outcomes I wanted, as well as the ones that worked out well, helps me learn what I want to keep doing and what I want to do differently next time. Sometimes, regret sneaks in there.

When I came across this passage earlier in the week, it was a good reminder that as I do my annual autopsy of the year, I need to focus on the *happenings* rather than the *what-ifs* and *wish-I-would-haves*. I can still look back and examine my decisions without getting bogged down in regret, or worse yet, comparing my journey to everyone else’s. That kind of thinking isn’t helpful and doesn’t help me learn or grow. It just makes me sad and withered.

So, this year, I am committing to taking the time to reflect, but also committing to focus on the happenings rather than the regrets.

I hope you are all able to enjoy a beautiful weekend with family and friends, and that your happenings are joyful.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kendall