Message from the Principal

Saturday, April 7th was a night to remember! I want to thank all of you for the tremendous success of this year’s Gala! This year, we increased our funds raised by 29% over last year, and together, raised a net amount of over $28,000. I am so grateful to our entire Gala committee, led by Vicki Strand for this amazing success! Thank you all for your continued support in ensuring the educational opportunities for our students here at Stober are unparalleled! I continue to be filled with tremendous gratitude and pride for our amazing community! We are small, but mighty!

Next Year...

I wanted to take this opportunity to share that Mr. Jonas Smead will be joining our intermediate team next year. We are thrilled to have him as part of our school community, and Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Berglund, and Mr. Smead have already begun their planning for our 4th/5th grade classrooms next year in order to create differentiated and flexible environments that will meet the needs of all of our learners.

Another change that has occurred for next year, is that our district has adjusted our school pairing for Art, Music, and PE. Being a small school, Jeffco pairs schools together to create fiscally responsible full-time positions across the district. There is a district-level team that determines the pairings for each school as well as the teacher-assignments. Our team next year will be: Ms. Dunning (Music), Mr. Flowers (PE), Mrs. Rosales (Art), and we will welcome to our team Ms. Chris Pankratz (Art) from Fremont Elementary. Mr. Petrafeso will be part of the pairing with his home-school, Wilmore-Davis. We will miss him tremendously and are so grateful for all that he has done for Stober over the years! We wish you the best Mr. Petrafeso!

As we hit springtime, there will continue to be staffing adjustments and changes, and I appreciate your support as we welcome new members of our staff to our community.

2018-19 Early Release Days

I continue to be so proud and impressed with the dedication and passion in our teaching staff and their devotion to their own continued professional growth. At Stober we have educators who are committed to the success of every student, engage in innovative practices, and who strive for continual learning as professionals. It is my belief that when educators are more skilled, trained, and prepared, our students benefit exponentially. We have been able to engage in incredible professional learning at our weekly staff meetings as well as on the afternoons of our Early Release Days. Additional time for staff training, planning, and collaboration will only further our ability to meet the needs of our students and to refine our practices to ensure of Jeffco vision.

After meeting with our PIE committee as well as PTA, there has been great support for the idea of making all of our Early Release Days next year full-day non-student contact days. This will
allow for extended time for teacher professional learning and planning time to support the
differentiated needs of students as well as plan and implement authentic learning opportunities
for our students. With this change, our yearly instructional minutes will still exceed the state
guidelines for instructional minutes at the elementary level according to the Colorado
Department of Education.

YMCA child care will be available for those enrolled in the appropriate plan here at Stober. I
recognize that this will be a change for all families, and truly hope that it does not create a
hardship or issue. Hopefully, knowing the five dates in advance will help everyone to prepare for
having students at home for the full day on these particular Fridays throughout the year.

**These full-day Non-student Contact/Staff Professional Learning Days for 2018-19 are:**
September 21st, November 2nd, February 15th, March 15th, and April 26th. I will be
sending out additional communication regarding this change a few more times throughout the
remainder of the year, but please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.
The staff and I truly appreciate your continued support in our professional growth as a school so
that we can continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for your children.

**Student Birthday Celebrations 2018-2019**

Starting at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, student birthdays should only be
recognized with non-food celebrations. Many schools already have similar policies in place and
celebrate students through other types of fun recognition. This standard is in addition to the
guidance on healthy celebrations and non-food rewards in the District Wellness Policy and
Guidelines.

The Wellness Policy is based on federal requirements, community input, and addresses
nutrition, allergy, and equity concerns. Please let me know if you would like more information or
would like the link to the district policy. As a staff we have worked this year to develop ways to
recognize student birthdays, but beginning next year, food-based celebrations will not be
allowed in Jeffco. Thank you for supporting us in creating a healthy, equitable environments in
our schools!

Life here at Stober will continue to be a busy one in our remaining weeks of school as we wrap
up our state testing and enjoy continued grade-level and school events. Please be sure to check
our calendar for upcoming dates, as they are plentiful!

As always, it is my continued honor to serve as the Principal of this incredible community.

Thank You,
Anne DiCola